

Chamber President Harper Steps Down

By KELLIE DIXON
Assistant City Editor

A local official who has served on the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce for eight and a half years is moving on to another occupation.

While it is not yet clear who will take over his vacated post, Joel Harper, who served as president of the chamber, will start working with International Business Machines on Nov. 17.

"I've accepted a position at International Business Machines at the Research Triangle Park," he said. "I was asked to come (there) about six weeks ago."

Clain Anderson, program director responsible for marketing development and alliances for the company, said Harper would be working as a Net-Vista Program Manager.

"Joel is an outstanding individual," Anderson said. "His job will be putting together alliances with other companies who produce hardware and software."

Anderson said he hand-picked Harper to be a program manager.

"I was fortunate enough to know Joel because I live in Chapel Hill," Anderson said. "I knew what his skills and capabilities were, so I asked him."

"It's a fantastic job. It will give him a lot of opportunities for (mobility)."

Robert Humphreys, executive director of the Downtown Commission, said members of the chamber would miss Harper, but they said they were proud of him. "He's done a tremendous job for the Chapel Hill (Chamber of) Commerce," Humphreys said. "When he came here, (the Chamber of) Commerce was in a real low point."

Humphreys said Harper was responsible for fixing most of the broken parts within the chamber. "He pretty much turned things around and got it back in good financial standing and restored the

credibility of the organization," he said.

Humphreys said he thought the transition would be a nice change for Harper. "I think it will be a new challenge for him, and that had something to do with his willingness to entertain a new position," Humphreys said. "Joel is young enough and energetic enough."

"He's the person who is looking for that challenge," he said. "It's a new drag-on he'll be able to slay."

Harper said the one thing he would miss from working with the commerce was helping business people make connections.

"The best part is watching business

people improve business," Harper said.

Harper got his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University and received a masters degree in Public Administration from UNC.

Although he said he had mixed emotions, Harper said he is ultimately optimistic about joining IBM.

"I'm very sad about leaving a wonderful job, but I'm excited about the new responsibilities that await me," Harper said. "I'm going to stay where IBM puts me and go from there."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

POLICE ROUNDUP

University

Wednesday, Nov. 1

■ A female resident of Carmichael Residence Hall reported to police that her IBM 600X laptop computer was stolen. According to reports, the victim was studying on the fourth floor of Carmichael when she left her computer unattended for a few minutes.

Reports state that upon her return, her computer and power cord were missing, at an estimated value of \$2,020. The victim reported that there was no one else present at the time.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

■ A larceny of a computer from the Academic Technology & Networks office in Wilson Library was reported to police by an ATN employee.

According to reports, a laptop computer was taken from the ATN office sometime after Oct. 2.

The employee reporting the theft told police this was the third computer stolen from ATN in a two-month period.

■ An employee of the Orange County Board of Elections reported to police that a 50-year-old white male entered the Morehead Planetarium and threatened him.

According to reports, the man told the victim that if there were any political buttons or banners in the area, "he will come back to get them."

Police searched the area but were unable to locate the suspect.

City

Wednesday, Nov. 1

■ Reginald Jermaine Wood, 21, of 4004 N. Guthrie Ave. in Durham, was arrested by Chapel Hill police for reporting a law enforcement officer.

Reports state at 1:20 a.m., Wood allegedly elbowed an officer in the eye and then spat on him outside Kinko's at 114 W. Franklin St. Wood was released on a written promise and was assigned a Nov. 27 trial date in Hillsborough.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested Jonathan Lindsey Dickerson, 24, of 221 Northampton Terrace for possessing marijuana.

Reports state that after being called to Dickerson's residence to check on a domestic dispute, officers found 1.2 grams of marijuana in Dickerson's living room. Dickerson was released without bond and is scheduled to appear in court Nov. 13 in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough.

■ At 2:28 a.m., Carrboro police reported to The Music Loft at 116 W. Main St. when the business's alarm was activated, reports state.

Reports also state that the suspect broke the front window of the business with an unknown object but did not gain entry. The damage caused to the window is valued at \$200, reports state.

■ Robert Joseph Sullivan, 21, of 1308 Gorman St. in Raleigh, was arrested by Chapel Hill police for being drunk and disruptive.

Reports state that after cursing loudly and refusing to leave the area outside First Union at 100 E. Franklin St., officers placed Sullivan under arrest. Sullivan was released on a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court on Nov. 20.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

■ Chapel Hill police arrested Holly Coleen Tuten, 21, of 1707 Arthur Minnis Road in Hillsborough for disorderly conduct.

Reports state that Tuten was outside Bub O'Malley's bar at 157 E. Rosemary St. when she began shouting obscenities at Alcohol Law Enforcement officers.

Tuten was released on a written promise and was assigned a Dec. 18 trial date in Hillsborough.

■ Jeffrey Rawe West, 18, of 4025 Huntscroft Lane in Winston-Salem, was arrested by Chapel Hill police in the Granville Towers parking lot for underage possession of a malt beverage and spirituous liquor, resisting, delaying and obstructing an officer and damaging property.

Reports state that when West was approached by an ALE officer and asked to show his ID, West sprinted away.

West was released on a written promise and is scheduled to appear in court on Nov. 28 in Orange County District Court.

■ Carrboro police arrested Quinton Lyle, 30, of 110 N.C. 54 Bypass, Apt. 20-G, for hit and run, stalking and assault with a deadly weapon.

Reports state that Lyle fled the scene after he chased and struck the victim's vehicle with his car.

Lyle is being held without bond at Orange County Jail and awaits a Nov. 27 court date in Hillsborough.

Political Power at Stake in N.C.

Senate Hopefuls Make Education Top Priority

By CHERI MELFI
Staff Writer



DTH/RYAN VASAN

State House candidates John Bauman (left to right), Joe Hackney, Verla Insko and William Towne share their views on state issues.

State House Candidates Seek Partisan Majority

By CHERI MELFI
Staff Writer

A slim Democratic majority, coupled with the fact that federal and state district lines will be redrawn in the next legislative session, has rendered party affiliation a crucial factor in the local N.C. House of Representatives race.

Candidates for District 24, which includes Orange County, say they realize the importance of party affiliation in the race and are touting the House's slim Democratic majority as an incentive to vote for their particular party.

Currently, Democrats claim only 10 more seats in the House than Republicans. The slim House majority is common and subject to change with nearly every election, said Thad Beyle, UNC political science professor.

District 24 has two seats in the N.C. House, which are both currently held by Democrats. The seats — for which five candidates are vying this year — go to the two candidates who receive the most votes in the election.

Incumbent candidate Rep. Verla Insko, D-Orange, said the House's Democratic majority during her most recent session made it easier to obtain influential positions. "For individual

voters, party affiliation doesn't make as much difference as it used to, but when serving, it makes it much easier to work and discuss issues within your party."

Insko said working beside Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, made it easy to collaborate. "We work well together and represent the county well," she said, adding that their mutual Democratic affiliation was an advantage.

But Republican candidate William Towne said Orange County's long-standing tradition of having two Democrats represent the district is a disadvantage. "There hasn't been a Republican representing Chapel Hill in the House since the Reconstruction — that's over 120 years," Towne said.

Beyle said each party also has more stake in gaining control of the House this year because the majority party will control redistricting. "This year (legislators) are redistricting congressional seats and redrawing all of the (district) lines for the state House and Senate," Beyle said. "These lines will remain in place for the next decade, so the House and Congress want districts that are going to be compatible for them."

Despite walking different party lines,

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Republicans to overcome in the Senate," Beyle said.

He said the biggest issue for Orange County in the Senate election is higher education.

And all four candidates listed education as their primary issue.

Lee said his main focus is University issues, such as the \$3.1 billion higher education bond referendum and increasing faculty salaries.

The bond, if passed next Tuesday, will fund renovations for N.C. public colleges and universities.

"I'm including reference to the bond in all the literature I'm giving out, and in my speeches I've stressed the need to support the bond campaign," he said.

Kinnaird also said the bond is her top campaign focus.

But the bond isn't the only major topic in the Senate race.

Lee said another big focus for him is obtaining greater flexibility for UNC-system chancellors so budget decisions could be made more easily.

"By giving this flexibility to the chancellors, the university administration would have the freedom to

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DTH/RYAN VASAN

Senate candidates William T. Boyd (left to right), Vickie Hargrove, Ellie Kinnaird and Howard Lee discuss the bond issue.

BCC Hosts Election Discussion

Although representatives from both political parties were invited, only Young Democrats showed up.

By TYLER MALAND
Staff Writer

While the Pit buzzed outside at lunchtime Wednesday, more than 15 students gathered in the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center to discuss minorities' concerns and the upcoming presidential election.

The UNC chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People invited members of the Young Democrats as well as the College Republicans to voice each candidate's goals.

But representatives from the College Republicans did not attend the event.

"The purpose of the discussion is basically to address the concerns that people have about this year's election and to see where candidates stand (on specific issues)," said junior Stacie J. Graves, co-chairwoman of protection of civil rights for UNC's NAACP chapter.

The open forum discussed such issues as affirmative action, racial profiling, monetary reparations for minorities, health care and the death penalty. Organizers also provided the NAACP's top 10 list of election issues and the top 10 reasons to vote.

Some students voiced their disenchantment with the presidential campaigns. But Erica Smiley, a junior from Jamestown, responded to this concern by saying students should vote even if they are unhappy, but they should still find ways to express their displeasure.

"You should be disenchanted, and you should be mad because the system is messed up," she said. "It is a choice between the lesser of two evils — who can accomplish the things we want to accomplish in the next four to eight years?"

Young Democrat Dan Harrison, a freshman from Fayetteville, brought up the topic of race relations, saying individual action was crucial to making a difference. "Government can provide the means for dialogue," he said. "Government can bring us together, but once we are together, it is up to us to make the connection."

Another major concern raised by some students at the discussion was the issue of voter apathy.

"I just feel like the whole mind-set of the American people right now is to not care," said Mala Evans, ambassador chairwoman for the BCC.

Some students said they were concerned about the increasing inaccessibility of government. "When we speak of government as this great distant being, that is really scary because it is supposed to be a part of us," said Elnett Sull, a junior from Hillsborough.

But other students saw the upcoming election as essential for the American society. "This election is quite possibly the most important election for minorities," said Sasha Bernier, a sophomore from Mapletown, N.J.

The circle discussion allowed students to voice their opinions about the election and receive some immediate feedback from other students.

"Hopefully, people walked out of here with a broadened understanding of the candidates' topics," Graves said.

"I hope they understand that this is a critical election, and I hope that every-one knows that their vote does count."



Student activist Erica Smiley said students should still vote even if they are disenchanted with the candidates.

N.C. Hillel Building Promising for Jews

By JENNY MCLENDON
Staff Writer

A "dream tour" of the newly constructed N.C. Hillel building last week gave students a glimpse of a physical enhancement of Jewish life at UNC.

Hillel is a student organization that provides a center for Jewish life on campuses across the state.

Construction of the facility began in the middle of October 1999 after a \$3.6 million fund-raising campaign. While the completion date is slated for November, this preview gave Hillel members an opportunity to explore the facility and consider possible functions, activities and furnishings for each room.

"We wanted to brainstorm all of the great things that can be done here," said Or Mars, executive director of Hillel. "The building needs to be alive, and students will bring life into it."

The two-story building is located on Cameron Avenue. The first floor includes administrative offices, a great room, dining area and state-of-the-art kitchen designed to accommodate individuals who practice a kosher diet.

Hillel hopes to operate the kosher kitchen as a UNC ONE Card-compatible dining option for students in the future.

The second floor offers a game room, lounge and study areas available to students during the day and night.

And a sanctuary on each floor will

meet the worship needs of both Reform and Conservative Jews.

"We're building a place for people to be, not just a place for programs," Mars said.

Students also say they look forward to taking advantage of the building's amenities. "It will be a great place to come during the day to hang out between classes," said Hillel member Alex Stein, a junior history and music major from Mapletown, N.J.

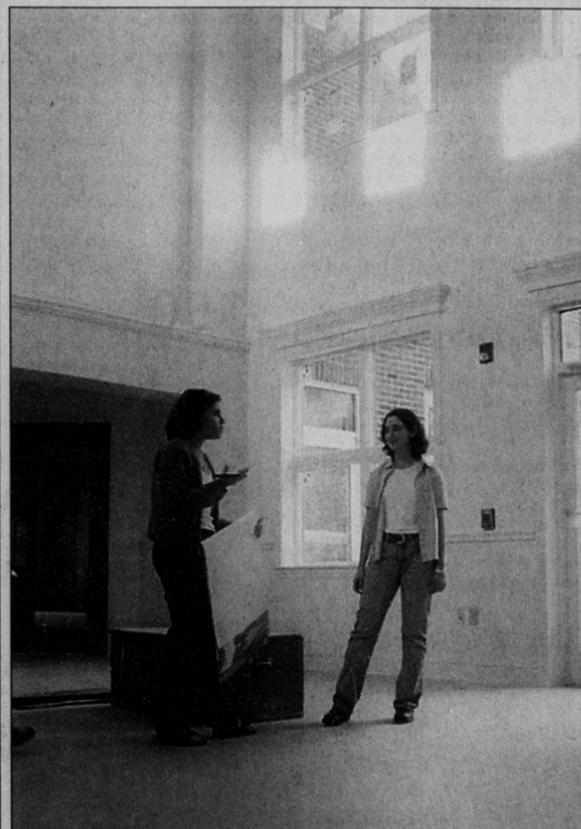
Although the building's primary function is to serve Hillel members, the organization hopes its use will extend to groups throughout campus and Chapel Hill. "We constantly have to dream and use the building in the best ways we can," Mars said. "The building will be an important force in the student body as well as the community."

After temporary relocation to the Wesley Foundation during the construction process, Hillel members are eager to move to their new home on Nov. 13.

Hillel members are confident that UNC Jewish students will be able to benefit from the new facility. "I think it will really facilitate great things for Jewish life on campus," said Adina Dubin, Hillel treasurer and member of the building design committee. "It will be a space for Jewish students to call home."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

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DTH/VALERIE BRUCHON

Shoshana Kaufman, N.C. Hillel program director, shows the great room, a multipurpose facility, of the new Hillel house to members.