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fifth. See Page 9



Four Fresh Faces
The DTH tracks four freshmen as
they make their way through
their first year at UNC. See Page 3



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The Daily Tar Heel

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Officials: Census Proves Local Housing Needs Data Shows Growth in N.C. Cities

By LEE SPEARS
Staff Writer

Local officials are looking for new ways to meet the increasing affordable housing demands that accompany the growing populations of Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

The 2000 U.S. Census report states that Chapel Hill's population has increased by 26 percent since 1990, and Carrboro's population has increased by 45 percent.

Orange County's total population increase in the past decade was 26 percent, to a total count of 118,227.

Chapel Hill Town Council member Flicka Bateman said providing affordable housing for the greater number of residents is not easy given the scarcity of undeveloped land in Chapel Hill.

"We're trying, but it's a very hard goal to meet," she said.

Bateman said Orange County will hold a bond referendum in November that will include \$2 million for afford-

able housing development.

Bateman said if the bond passes, nonprofit organizations like Habitat for Humanity will build the houses and that the cost of buying them will be subsidized by the bond money.



Alderman
Diana McDuffee

Bateman also said that not only people in the lowest income levels have trouble affording local housing.

"When we talk about affordable housing, we're talking about housing for nurses, firemen and teachers," she said.

Council member Pat Evans said the town's need for funding increases with the population and that officials are considering a tax increase in the near future.

"Even without the (budget) alarm coming from the state, we were looking into a tax increase," she said.

Evans added that Chapel Hill's high cost of living is a trade-off for the high quality of service from the local government.

Carrboro's population increase also has sparked concern about a need for more affordable housing.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen has been reworking Carrboro's Small Area Plan during recent years to accommodate the expected growth, Alderman

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N.C. district lines must be redrawn because of shifts in population so that each one has the same constituency.

By KRISTY JONES
Staff Writer

Recently released U.S. census results show that a large number of seats in the N.C. General Assembly will be in the hands of urban regions — a radical shift in a state traditionally known for agriculture.

The census results show that the state's overall population increased by 21.4 percent. But population in urban counties, particularly in the Triangle, Triad and Charlotte areas, increased by more than 30 percent.

According to state estimates, the counties in the three urban areas will have a combined total of about 24 seats in the N.C. Senate and 59 seats in the House — nearly half of both legislative bodies.

N.C. legislators have to redraw district lines after each census to reflect population shifts and to ensure that each House and Senate district has roughly the same population.

Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange, said the population shift will alter politics in the N.C. General Assembly.

"The balance of power will change," she said. "Urban interests will probably now dominate."

According to documents from state officials, the population in Senate District 16, which Kinnaird represents along with Sen. Howard Lee, D-Orange, has grown to 337,364 — about 15,000 more people than state Senate districts will have after they are redrawn this year based on the new U.S. census numbers.

This increase likely will cause District 16, which covers Orange, Moore, Chatham and parts of Lee and Randolph counties, to shrink.

But Amy Fulk, a spokeswoman for Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Dare, said the population growth in urban areas will not cause the rural areas' interests to be neglected.

"(Everyone) deserves fair representation in the legislature," she said. "It shouldn't be necessarily urban versus rural."

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Students File Suits Against Tow Company

UNC law student Wade Hargrove claims that George's Tow and Recovery illegally towed his car from his McCauley Street home.

By BEN GULLETT
Staff Writer

UNC students who claim their cars were towed illegally by George's Tow and Recovery are suing its owner, seeking compensation for the cost of retrieving their cars.

The suit alleges that company owner George King acted illegally by towing students' cars without the written consent of the owners of private parking spaces on and around Franklin Street.

North Carolina law states that private parking spaces must be marked in the parking space and by a 2-by-2 sign. The owner of the space must also give written consent to tow the car.

Wade Hargrove, a third-year Law School student, is one of the students who has joined in the litigation against King.

Hargrove had his car towed by King from his residence, Graham Court Condominiums on McCauley Street.

According to Hargrove, King towed his car on Feb. 10 despite having a resident tag hanging from the rearview mirror. The tag was a replacement for his resident sticker, which became invalid Feb. 15.

King has an agreement with Graham Court's management to come onto the property, but "he's not supposed to tow residents," Hargrove said. King charged \$100 for towing the car and \$15 for holding it until Feb. 12. Hargrove is seeking compensation for these charges.

Dottie Bernholz, director of Student Legal Services, said King and his girlfriend watch for students to park illegally and then tow their cars when they leave.

Three other students have joined the civil suit through Student Legal Services, and others have contacted SLS with complaints about King's towing practices.

Bernholz is handling the case against King. She said SLS notified King of the suit, and he has 30 days to answer their complaint. King has yet to respond or offer to settle out of court. He also refused to comment to The Daily Tar Heel.

Bernholz said one of the students involved in the suit, Jason Osborne, had assault charges brought against him by King after he shoved King in a dispute over the towing of his car. But a judge threw out the charges against Osborne, she said.

Bernholz said the charges against Osborne were unfounded. "You get a tired student who sees someone towing off their car at

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Sangam Nite Live dancers perform at the annual event held Friday night in Memorial Hall. The show blended traditional dances and music with Western influences. A member of the "SNL" band (below) plays a soprano saxophone.

Sangam Mixes Comedy, Culture

By ELIZABETH PARROTT
Staff Writer

Cheers and laughter erupted from a packed crowd in Memorial Hall on Friday night as Sangam presented its own version of "Saturday Night Live."

About 400 people enjoyed a traditional Indian dinner before joining another 700 people to attend Sangam Nite Live, which included parodies of "Saturday Night Live" skits and a variety of song and dance performances by Sangam members, complete with an SNL band.

The estimated \$400 to \$500 in proceeds from the event go toward "HEELing India," a relief effort sponsored by Sangam and the

Campus Y to support the tens of thousands of victims of the Jan. 26 earthquake in west India.

Freshmen Jayur Mehta and Udayan Seksaria organized the event. "Fund raising was especially done through the dinner that sold out of 400 tickets," Seksaria said. "The earthquake victims will get a huge profit from the dinner."

Seksaria said the SNL theme, mixed with an array of traditional Indian-culture shows, would help attract a more diverse crowd. "The 'Saturday Night Live' theme was chosen to support the concept of blending the East with the West," Seksaria said.

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Symposium Examines Changing Sex Laws

By CLIFF NELSON
Staff Writer

At a gathering billed as a "Privacy Rights Conference" held at the UNC School of Law on Friday, about 40 participants met in opposition to North Carolina's "crimes against nature" or CAN law — often called the sodomy law.

The law states, "If any person shall commit the crime against nature, with mankind or beast, he shall be punished as a Class I felon."

In practice, the statute makes all oral and anal sex a felony between nonmarried partners, whether gay or straight. Violations carry a possible one-year prison sentence.

North Carolina is among 13 states that have laws restricting private sexual activity, even among straight people. Five additional states have laws that target only homosexuals.

The attendees, which included attorneys, lobbyists, students and a superior court judge, met to exchange ideas on how North Carolina's crimes-against-nature law might most effectively be overturned, either through legal challenge or repeal in the General Assembly.

Participants agreed that a good deal of public relations work must be done to inform unmarried voters that the statute exists and applies to them.

While North Carolina's crimes-against-nature law makes no distinction between gay and heterosexual offenses, Steve Scarborough, a staff attorney with the pro-gay rights Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said the law was applied in a discriminatory manner.

"This statute is about keeping (gay people) in our place," he said.

The N.C. crimes-against-nature law has been cited in denying child custody,

employment, state licensing and housing to gay people.

In 1998, the N.C. Supreme Court revoked a gay father's custody award because the father admitted to a crimes-against-nature law violation, even though the mother admitted to a heterosexual violation.

"A lot of North Carolinians are criminals under the CAN law," said Gene Nichol, dean of the UNC School of Law. "But they are not concerned because the straight majority knows that enforcement will be driven by discrimination against gay men and women."

Many people said the crimes-against-nature law is an affront to basic civil rights. "How could any supporter of the CAN law claim to be for limited government?" Nichol asked.

John Hood, president of the John Locke Foundation, a conservative think tank, also agreed, calling the CAN law a

"crime against freedom."

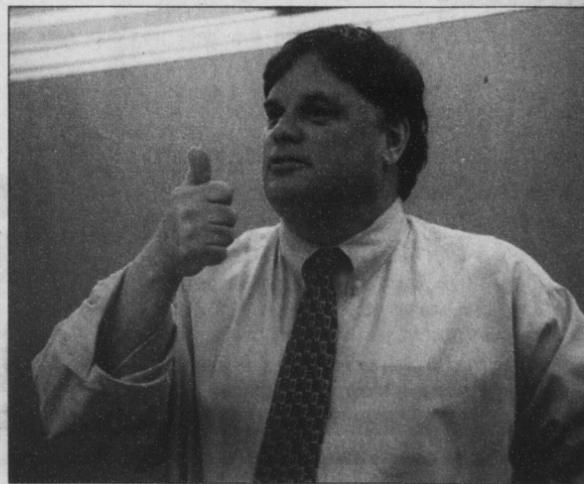
"I'm conservative on cultural issues, but I don't think the government should be legislating cultural norms," he said.

Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange, is currently sponsoring a crimes-against-nature reform measure in the N.C. General Assembly that would decriminalize private, not-for-hire sexual behavior between consenting adults.

While no one expressed optimism that Kinnaird's bill would pass this year, they did point with hope to perceived cultural changes.

Scarborough said recent polls show support for anti-gay sex laws among college freshmen has fallen to 20 percent from 30 percent. "You don't got to love us to think maybe you ought to leave us alone."

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Speaking at a Friday symposium, Gene Nichol, dean of the law school, argues that laws against sodomy in North Carolina are discriminatory.

Of the delights of this world, man cares most for sexual intercourse.

Mark Twain