

Commissioners Upset Over Role in UNC Plan

By **STEPHANIE GUNTER**
Staff Writer

Some Orange County commissioners say they have been excluded from participating in UNC's Master Plan, which county officials fear will affect more than Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

The Orange County commissioners will have a chance to air their concerns about UNC's blueprint for campus growth tonight at the Southern Human Services Center. University officials will present their plan to the commissioners.

"We have tried to get them to show us the Master Plan, but they have postponed it," said Commissioner Margaret Brown. "They have not asked us to be involved." But Nancy Sutenfield, UNC's vice

chancellor for finance and administration, said the University did not intend to slight the commissioners.

"This is just one in a series of local governments," Sutenfield said.

This will be the first meeting with University officials and the commissioners concerning development.

"We're presenting the Master Plan in a number of venues and we're about halfway

through," Sutenfield said. "We started in January or February, and it just depended on when we could get on the calendar."

Sutenfield also said UNC officials have made presentations concerning the Horace Williams tract to the Chapel Hill Town Council, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, local school boards and to groups on campus. "It provides an opportunity for people to ask questions and make suggestions," she said.

Brown said she hopes this meeting will establish communication between campus leaders and county officials.

"I would hope that we would start a dialogue with them about the infrastructure and long-term planning for the county," she said. "We need to be a part of this."

Brown also said she hopes that coun-

ty's involvement in the plan will be equal to that of the Chapel Hill Town Council. Some members of the council, along with University officials, serve on the town-gown committee.

But Sutenfield said the meeting is designed to keep the county aware of what is going on. "It's really to keep them informed," she said.

Sutenfield said the officials do not see a reason for the commissioners to be involved in a committee similar to Chapel Hill's town-gown committee.

"Thus far, there really hasn't been a need for a group of that kind for the county," she said.

But Sutenfield said she felt the commissioners would be receptive to the information UNC officials will provide.

"They accepted our invitation, so I'm sure they'll be interested in what we have to say," Sutenfield said.

Sutenfield said that because the Horace Williams tract is located in Chapel Hill and Carrboro, she foresees that Chapel Hill and Carrboro officials will play a greater role in development than the commissioners.

But Brown said she disagrees. She said Orange County is a part of the community and should be involved in the process as well. "They don't lie in an isolated box there at the University," she said. They do have effects and impacts on the community."

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

POLICE ROUNDUP

University
Sunday, April 15

■ A Fayetteville resident reported the larceny of her purse to University police at 7:20 p.m. She said she left her purse in the kitchen on the fourth floor of Carmichael Residence Hall. When she returned to the kitchen, her purse was gone. There are no suspects at this time, reports state.

■ At 9:19 p.m., a student who lives in Ruffin Residence Hall reported receiving harassing telephone calls and voice mails. She asked the suspect to stop, but the calls have continued. The calls have not been threatening in nature, reports state.

■ At 11:30 p.m., a resident assistant in Morrison Residence Hall reported a suspicious male on the eighth floor of the hall. University police responded to the call and found the suspect on the ninth floor. He told the police he was waiting for a friend and he worked for Carolina Dining Services. The suspicious male was issued a written trespass warning and was escorted from the building, reports state.

Friday, April 13

■ Two Classic Food Service Vendors reported the larceny of food from vending machines in Ehringhaus Residence Hall. The report was made a 7:28 a.m. The suspects used a coffee table to smash the window of the vending machine, and then took \$70 worth of food. University police took two items of evidence for further processing, reports state.

■ At 11:19 p.m., University police responded to a fire alarm at Hamilton Hall. A pull station was activated but no fire was found. The pull station and the alarm were reset.

Thursday, April 12

■ A UNC employee reported the larceny of her parking permit at 2:26 p.m. She said the permit was last secure at 2 p.m. April 8 and that she left her windows rolled down on April 9, reports state.

■ At 2:34 p.m., a UNC employee reported that his parking permit was stolen between 7:45 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. on April 11. There are no suspects at this time, reports state.

■ At 4:01 p.m., an employee of the Totten Garden Center reported the larceny of a flower pot from the herb garden. It was stolen between 5 p.m. April 11 and 11 a.m. April 12. The pot, worth \$100, was one of two designed for the center. There are no suspects at this time, reports state.

City

Monday, April 16

■ Chapel Hill police cited Samuel McDaniel, 25, of 309 Laurel Ave., Apt. B, for public urination.

Reports state that officers saw McDaniel urinating against the door of the Caribou Coffee Shop on Franklin Street.

McDaniel is scheduled to appear May 8 in Orange County District Court in Chapel Hill.

Sunday, April 15

■ Ray Anthony Hill, 22, of 303 E. Main St. was arrested by Chapel Hill police for carrying a concealed weapon.

Reports state that officers found a handgun clipped to the inside of Hill's shorts in a holster while patting him down at a traffic stop. The gun also contained a round of ammunition, reports state.

Hill was released on a written promise and is scheduled to appear May 21 in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough.

Saturday, April 14

■ Chapel Hill police were notified of damage to property at the Chi Psi fraternity house on Cameron Avenue.

Reports state that an unknown subject stripped the bark off the bases of two tree trunks, causing \$1,500 in damage.

The case has been closed.

Friday, April 13

■ Carrboro police arrested Duncan Eugene Miller, 23, of 3607 Phyllis Drive in Raleigh, for DWI, transporting open spirituous liquor and for possessing an open container of alcohol.

Miller was released on a written promise and is scheduled to appear May 22 in Orange County District Court in Chapel Hill.

■ Chapel Hill police responded to reports of an armed robbery at Highlandwoods Drive.

Reports state that the unknown subject stole \$350 from the victim after assaulting the victim with a knife. The case is under further investigation.

Technology

State Struggles to Bring Equal Access to Rural Areas

fastest possible way, and if you can, it'll mean more jobs, more business, more income and more opportunity."

A 1999 study released by the U.S. Department of Commerce ranked North Carolina 46th in the nation in providing Internet access to its citizens.

The report, "Falling Through the Net: Defining the Digital Divide," reported that only 19.9 percent of the state's households are connected to the Internet.

State officials say they are working to ensure efficient technology access and opportunities for all residents.

The N.C. Senate established the N.C. Rural Internet Authority last year to improve Internet access in the state during the next three years.

Charlie Clark, network access technologist for the authority, said the group's first goal is to ensure that all North Carolina residents have dial-up access to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) by August of this year.

The authority also wants residents to have access to high-speed Internet connections by December 2004.

Clark said the authority is contacting all ISPs and telephone companies with customers in the state and will provide residents with the names of ISPs within their local calling plans.

He also said a lack of education in rural areas about the Internet and other technology partly contributes to the digital divide and said the authority hopes to reduce those gaps.

Clark said the digital divide causes problems for communities when businesses want to move to the state.

"When companies or industries or businesses look to relocate to an area, they look at how educated the work force is," he said. "If they're up to speed with the technology that is available, they would be more appealing."

Clark said he believes the authority will help make all communities statewide more equal in terms of Internet access. "Ultimately, the reason behind all of this is to lessen the digital divide and give the rural areas the same advantages as the urban areas."

Bridging the Gap in Education

N.C. leaders say they are looking to public education to help bridge the state's digital divide.

Reid Hartzoge, assistant press secretary for Gov. Mike Easley, said the governor also hopes to continue efforts made by former Gov. Jim Hunt to reduce the technology gap.

"The governor has made it his priority to see that every child has access to a good, quality education. In the governor's inaugural address, he pledged to continue Governor Hunt's efforts to close the digital divide."

Under Hunt, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction required every public school to submit a four-year Education Technology Plan to ensure that each meets technology guidelines established by the state Board of Education, including making their schools Internet-accessible by 2005.

Easley encouraged residents to live out the state's promise to improve education in all corners of the state so all students have an equal

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A State Divided
A four-part series examining the social and cultural differences in North Carolina.
Today: Technology
Wednesday: Economy
Thursday: Politics
Friday: Racial Makeup

Sen. **Ellie Kinnaird** says she favors calling for a moratorium on the death penalty.

Racial Bias In Penalty, Study Says

The School of Law study examines 502 murder cases that took place in the state between 1993 and 1997.

By **MICHAEL DAVIS**
Staff Writer

A study released Monday suggests that race plays a major role in determining the guilt of defendants in death penalty cases in North Carolina.

The research for the study was conducted by eight UNC School of Law graduates and sponsored by the Common Sense Foundation, a libertarian foundation and the North Carolina Council of Churches.

The study examined 502 murder cases out of approximately 4,000 held in the state between 1993 and 1997.

Chris Fitzsimon, executive director of Common Sense, said the study discovered that those found guilty of killing a white individual in North Carolina are 3 1/2 times more likely to receive the death penalty than if the victim was not white.

"It appears that our criminal justice system values white lives more than black lives," Fitzsimon said.

He added that the study - the largest investigation of race and the death penalty in state history - is scientific proof that the issue of race has bled into the determination of guilt in these cases. "Race has infected our capital pun-

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Bill Aims to Upgrade Low-Performing Schools

By **KOEN DE VRIES**
Staff Writer

Smaller classes, a longer school year and increased teacher incentives would aim to upgrade the state's lowest-performing elementary schools, under a bill proposed last week in the N.C. Senate.

The proposal, sponsored by Sen. Howard Lee, D-Orange, would give the state's 38 lowest-performing public schools an additional \$33.6 million during the next two years. None of the schools targeted by the legislation are located in Orange County.

"This bill is designed to recognize that a number of our schools need additional resources in order to help students achieve at a higher level," Lee said.

The bill is targeted at schools where more than 80 percent of the students receive subsidized lunches and fewer than 55 percent pass state tests in reading and math.

Lee said the bill provided for reduced class-sizes, capping all K-3 class sizes at 17.

He added that teachers would be required to sign 11-month contracts, instead of the standard 10 months, and the school calendar would be extended by 20 days during the next two years.

The bill also includes incentives, such as subsidized housing and day-care service, to lure teachers to the targeted schools.

"This will cost \$12 million a year," Lee said. "But in light of the budget trouble we are having, we'll have to find as much money as we can."

"We'll have to reduce the number of schools we can cover, maybe start with

12 or seven schools, probably the lowest-performing schools."

Lee added that the program could impact more schools if the fiscal situation improves in the coming years.

"This will have a positive impact on these schools," Lee said. "I'm sure the program will grow over time."

Sen. Wilbur Gulley, D-Durham, was pleased with Lee's bill.

"I think it's a great thing we perhaps should have been doing for several years," Gulley said. "Accountability only works if these schools get additional resources to make good grades."

Gulley said he expected the bill would gain bipartisan support, despite budget troubles. "We have to make a start anyway," he said.

But some legislators say the state's nearly \$800 million budget deficit renders new programs fiscally irresponsible.

Sen. Robert Carpenter, R-Buncombe, said he recognized the need for education. But he said the state could not spend more money than it has.

"The attitude of our leaders is, we gotta pay what we gotta pay," Carpenter said. "A budget shortfall will not be acceptable."

But John Poteat, research director at the N.C. Public School Forum, a non-profit educational research advocacy group based in Raleigh, said he expected the bill to pass.

"It would mean reallocating some resources, and it wouldn't cost a whole lot since this bill is only aimed at 38 of the schools."

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Marshall Describes Post, Goals

N.C. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall spoke to students of her job and her hopes of a U.S. Senate seat.

By **TALLEY SERGENT**
Staff Writer

Working for the people of North Carolina as secretary of state is a goal for Elaine Marshall every day, she told UNC Young Democrats on Monday night.

Her dream, she said, is to work for North Carolinians in the U.S. Senate - a seat she plans to run for in the 2002 elections.

"It's time to send Jesse Helms home," Marshall said to an applauding crowd of more than 20 students. "I talk the talk and walk the walk."

Marshall said she hopes to cap off her state government run, from winning a state Senate seat in 1993 to becoming the first female secretary of state in 1996, by winning a U.S. Senate seat in 2002.

She would be vying for the Senate seat currently held by Republican incumbent Jesse Helms.

Helms has not said if he has decided to step down or run again after his term expires.

Marshall said she would run on a platform that would reach all areas of North Carolina and its people - not just the highly industrial and populated areas - increasing the use of technology in historically agriculture-based areas.

"Technology is essential in every part of the state," she said. "Agriculture has got to be contemporary."

Chris Brook, president of the Young



DTH/SEFTON IPOCK

N.C. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall tells Young Democrats about what she saw in the flooded area of the state after Hurricane Floyd.

Democrats, said he thought it would be interesting to see the Senate race in November 2002.

"(Marshall's) a public official who's not going to hide from questions and the people," Brook said. "You can recognize North Carolina in Elaine Marshall."

Marshall also discussed her job as secretary of state and what it entails.

Her office maintains public records and certifies election results. It also certifies notaries public and oversees all accounting and law firms in the state.

Sophomore James Haltom of Rockingham said he was impressed with Marshall and found her to be very informative.

"It's important to see what the secretary of state does," he said. "It's also

important to show the relevance of her position to young people."

But Marshall said it is a good time to be involved in politics - especially for women. "Sometime about 10 years ago a light went on and women realized the best person to represent them is another woman."

In 1996, Marshall defeated NASCAR icon Richard Petty to become the state's first female secretary of state.

But she said the fact that she is a woman was not the first thing she mentioned while campaigning. Instead she said she focused on real issues pertinent to her constituents, and the fact that she was a woman was not the dominant factor.

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