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Battle of the Sexes
A new column looks at differences
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N.C. Senate Drops UNC Zoning Exemption

BY AMA BOATEN
Staff Writer

The N.C. Senate has erased a budget proposal that would have exempted the University from Chapel Hill zoning laws, following talks between University and town officials.

The Senate Appropriations Committee previously approved a provision granting UNC exemption from town zoning laws so Master Plan construction could proceed as part of the state budget proposal.

Sen. Tony Rand, D-Fayetteville, a UNC alumnus, was a strong supporter of the exemption's inclusion in the bud-

get proposal. He said the town's zoning laws could make it difficult for the University to proceed with construction of badly-needed facilities.

"The University is not owned by the people of Chapel Hill or Orange County," Rand said. "It is owned by all the people in North Carolina and I don't think its future should be artificially limited."

Town-gown relations were strained when the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a bill exempting the University from town zoning laws May 28.

Special Assistant to the Chancellor Jonathan Howes said he thought the

deletion of the bill would restore good relations between the University and the town.

"The town and University are negotiating in good faith," he said. "We expect them to approve the rezoning."

But Town Council member Flicka Bateman said merely with-



Chancellor James Moeser says meetings with town officials led him to ask for the proposal's removal.

drawing the proposal would not wipe the slate clean.

"I think that there was some damage done with the bill," Bateman said. "It's going to take some time to get over that."

Chancellor James Moeser said in a statement that the University originally supported the legislative proposal to exempt it from town zoning "because we were convinced that the town would not approve the University's development plan in its entirety."

Under the town's zoning regulations, full implementation of the Master Plan would have required UNC to win a super majority vote by council members

in nine separate votes.

According to the statement, Moeser asked the Senate to delete the exemption following Chapel Hill Mayor Rosemary Waldford's assurance that the town will handle the University's rezoning request in a single vote instead of nine.

Howes said the University prefers a single vote rather than nine because the Master Plan covers the entire campus.

Said Howes, "We think it is appropriate that the rezoning covers the area of the Master Plan."

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Study: Jobs Available In Triangle

A preliminary report shows the region's unemployment rates are lower than other N.C. metropolitan areas.

BY DEMETRIUS GRIGOLAYA
Staff Writer

Finding a job in a restaurant downtown Chapel Hill was easy for Alexis Baker, an junior environmental studies major at UNC.

"I got it the minute I stepped in," she said Monday, her fourth day at The Coffee Mill Roastery.

Baker is among a number of students who were able to benefit from low unemployment.

Orange County enjoys the lowest unemployment rate in the state, according to preliminary data released May 25 by Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.

The unadjusted rate, which does not take into account seasonal fluctuations in employment, was 1.6 percent in April.

"We tracked unemployment for more than 15 years," said Dianne Reid, the director of Orange County Economic Development Commission.

"Orange County tends to be below the state's average."

The Triangle's unemployment rate was the lowest among the 11 metropolitan statistical areas in the state at 2.4 percent. North Carolina's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in April.

Overall, about 37 percent of people were employed by government, which includes the University, 16 percent in retail and 15 percent in service, Reid said.

"About half of total wages paid in Orange County are from state and local government," she said.

It also provides stability, she said, adding that she thinks it is relatively easy for students to find a job in Chapel Hill.

"There is always somebody looking for employees because unemployment is low," Reid said.

McAlister's Deli on Franklin Street had a "Now Hiring" sign about a month ago, when the spring semester was ending and students were leaving for the summer.

But the general manager at McAlister's, Keith Case, said he didn't have any problems filling the positions.

"There are a lot of students looking for something," he said.

Although unemployment tends to be higher during summer months in Chapel Hill, students say it's easier for them to find part-time jobs.

"It's pretty easy to find a job during the summer," Baker said. "But I was looking for a job last fall and I didn't get one."

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Trouble Brewing in Neighborhood

BY SALLY FRANCIS
Staff Writer

A familiar problem is rearing its head yet again in Carrboro, one that is pitting students against permanent residents.

An influx of student housing in residential areas has some Carrboro residents concerned about maintaining their neighborhood's close-knit feel.

Pine Street residents are worried that the traffic on the narrow and sidewalkless street will be increased by the stresses and strains associated with about 20 undergraduate college students living in four houses.

In protest of the construction, neighbors have posted signs in their lawns that read, "Now Showing: The Rape of Pine Street at 106 and 108," and "This Isn't a Dorm."

Although it appears the neighborhood has taken its frustration out on the 10 student renters now living on the street, residents claim that none of the signs are directed towards the undergraduates.

"Our concern is for town density," Pine Street resident Jennifer Hay said. "We are concerned that developers and landlords have no control over how many tenants live in their properties."

Residents claim that the two new student houses will cause an increase in noise, street traffic, late night activity and litter, negatively affecting the families and the Pine Street neighborhood.

Area residents believe that Pine Street landlord Armin Lieth is turning the neighborhood into a family-versus-student issue to avoid being at the center of the controversy. "He is trying to take the heat and focus off himself,"



Two-year-old Connor Hay plays in the driveway of his home on Pine Street. Connor's parents Andreas and Jennifer worry about the increased traffic that will result from additional two-story houses that will be added to lots across the street.

Hay said, "We are not anti-students."

But Lieth said the neighborhood behavior has turned into a discrimination issue against student housing.

"People are trying to find ways to complain about students," Lieth said.

"The problem is fueled by the fear people have about what a minority of stu-

dents have done."

Student renters on Pine Street

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THE FIRST PROBLEM:
Pine Street residents are worried that the building of two additional houses on their street will affect the traffic, parking, children's safety and the overall feel of the neighborhood.

THE SECOND PROBLEM:
University students who now live on the street or will live in the two newly-built houses have been blamed for the loss of the neighborhood's family atmosphere.

THE CATCH:
The landlord's actions are perfectly legal because the town of Carrboro has a zoning ordinance allowing more than one house per lot in order to promote density near downtown.

THE BREAKDOWN:
The neighborhood is pinned against the town, neighbors against neighbors, and the neighborhood against UNC students and their landlord.

DTH/CORI EDELSON AND EVANN STRATHERN

UNC Alumni Open Bar at Alma Mater

BY MICHAEL WOODS
Staff Writer

A few hours before the grand opening, the namesake of Lucy's rushes through the door.

It is the first time she has been to the new restaurant at the corner of Rosemary and Henderson streets, and she darts across the hardwood floors intent on conducting a thorough inspection. After moving inquisitively between the tables for a few seconds, Lucy abruptly ends her search.

"I think she's already found her favorite spot," says Bruce Mason, co-owner of Lucy's and sole owner of the red Doberman now sniffing around the kitchen.

Inside the walk-in kitchen, Mason's partner Norman Bullard is peeling shrimp and trying to keep an eye on the new visitor.

"I think she's trying to figure out her cut," Bullard jokes.

Considering that their establishment will be opening in mere minutes, Bullard and Mason are impressively relaxed. "It's a great new adventure," Mason says. "It's sort of like the first day out of school."

"This is my dream," Bullard says, pausing from his work in the kitchen to take a look around. "It is just so satisfying for it to be coming true."

The smile on Bullard's face belies the long and difficult road that preceded this moment. In fact at times, the

struggle to realize his dream better resembled a nightmare.

In 1994, while on vacation with his parents, Norman Bullard made a stop in Chapel Hill and decided at that moment to build a restaurant.

The property that is now Lucy's has been in the Bullard family since Norman's father purchased it in the 1950s. Originally a commercial building, a small apartment was later added to the property – an apartment that housed soccer superstar Mia Hamm during her senior year at Carolina. But over the last decade, the building grew dilapidated from disuse.

"This property had been neglected

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Patrons of newly-opened Lucy's, located on Rosemary and Henderson streets, fight for bar space to order a drink on Saturday night.

We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Loopholes Examined By House

The House does not agree with budget cuts made by the Senate, but will first need to find more revenue.

BY MATT VISER
City, State & National Editor

The North Carolina House of Representatives has started examining the budget proposal the Senate passed late last week and has indicated that there will be quite a few amendments.

"I think there will be big changes," said Rep. Verla Insko, D-Orange.

Senators voted along party lines to approve the budget, 33-15, but Democrats in the House are holding on to a slim 62-58 majority.

House Representatives began meeting in appropriations subcommittees Wednesday.

"We're going to focus first on the corporate loopholes," said Rep. Paul Luebke, D-Durham, co-chairman of the Finance Committee.

Loopholes are areas of special interest where taxes can be increased. Legislators have been careful to avoid a general tax increase, instead identifying areas to try and "close the loopholes" to raise revenue.

Once all of the proposals are fully implemented, in the 2002-2003 fiscal year, the loopholes would raise an estimated \$190 million.

The biggest generator of money would come from a 6 percent tax on out-of-state long-distance calls, which would produce \$68.7 million for the 2001-2002 fiscal year. But House Representatives say it's unlikely that provision will pass.

"I think it will be very difficult to get a 6 percent sales tax on long-distance phone calls through the House," said Rep. Gordon Allen, D-Franklin, co-chair of the House Finance Committee.

But Luebke has suggested adding a fourth income-tax bracket to raise more revenue. The tax would raise income tax from 7.75 percent to 8.5 percent for those making more than \$200,000 a year, or about 2 percent of the population.

"That single change could bring in \$119 million," Luebke said.

"We have to raise revenue so we can restore programs that were cut by the

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DTH/BRENT CLARK