

Bond Committee to Inform Local Voters

The committee seeks to aid Orange County citizens in understanding the bond and its impact on taxes.

By STEPHANIE FURR
Staff Writer

Orange County's Bond Education Committee met for the first time Wednesday to discuss ways to help county voters make informed decisions about a Nov. 6 bond referendum. Local government officials, parents of school children, parks and recreation employees, and senior advisory committee members who make up the bond committee hope to educate voters about the referendum while remaining neutral on the issue. At the meeting, County Manager John Link made several presentations about the financial shape of the county and the bond's projected tax impact and



County Manager John Link reports excitement at engaging the public with issues related to the bond.

Members divided themselves into subcommittees for schools, parks, recreation and open space, senior centers, affordable housing, and information and outreach — the main areas the bond would fund. The job of the subcommittees is to organize bond information about their area of interest into an understandable format, such as brochures, videos or mailings, and to appoint public speakers to interact with community groups, said Rod Visser, assistant county manager. "There is \$15,000 in public funds set aside specifically for bond education," Visser said.

"So there is some money for this group to work with, as long as it's used for education and not advocacy."

Because public funds are being used for the group, committee members must keep any personal agendas regarding the bond referendum on the back burner.

Visser emphasized that being a committee member required completely objectivity when dealing with the bond issue.

"Factual information is a very important part of this, as opposed to an emotional attachment you may have to a particular issue," Visser said.

Members also were given the opportunity to share their own ideas for public presentations.

Some of the ideas presented included creating Web sites, handing out brochures at school fall festivals and ways to reach the area's fast-growing Hispanic population.

"I think it looks like dedicated people willing to do the work to educate the

public," said Dabney Grinnan, a parent of four children in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

Grinnan said she heard of the committee through her involvement with several school organizations.

Mike Becker, another committee member, said he heard of the group in an Efland newspaper.

"I figure if I am going to complain about county government, I should be a part of it, and this looked like a good thing to be involved in," said Becker, a parent of two in Orange County Schools.

Officials said any interested residents still are welcome to join the committee.

Link said he is optimistic about the group's goals.

"I'm excited about this part of the process," he said.

"This is where we can go out and engage the public in these issues."

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

Bush Administration Ceases Microsoft Fight

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a dramatic shift, the Bush administration on Thursday abandoned the Clinton-era effort to break up Microsoft. It suggested a lesser antitrust penalty that could still force changes to the company's new Windows operating system.

The Justice Department also dropped charges that the software giant illegally hurt competitors by tying or bundling separate features, like a Web browser, to its flagship computer operating system.

Microsoft had hotly contested those charges because the company's strategy calls for integrating more new features into products like the new Windows XP operating system, due in stores next month.

Officials said the legal shift was not an overture to Microsoft to settle. They suggested the government will ask the new judge handling the antitrust case to review the Windows XP software and seek a penalty that ensures the company doesn't operate as an illegal monopoly in the future.

But the news that reverberated from Wall Street to Silicon Valley was the decision to stop trying to break up an American corporate icon that helped fuel the technology revolution of the 1990s.

The 19 states that joined the government in suing Microsoft and seeking its breakup acquiesced, saying an appeals court decision earlier this summer would make a breakup more difficult to pursue.

"This is an industry that moves incredibly fast," said Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller. "The case has gone

on for quite some time now. It was time to move as quickly as we could to remedy."

Microsoft reacted with cautious optimism. "We remain committed to resolving the remaining issues in the case," said spokesman Vivek Varma.

Investors, however, showed some concern that the penalties the Bush administration will seek might still affect or delay next month's planned debut of Windows XP — which many on Wall Street hope will help invigorate the sluggish technology industry.

Microsoft shares finished the day down \$1.72, or 3 percent, at \$56.02 per share on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

Justice said it made the about-face to streamline the case and bring it to an end as quickly as possible. The goal, it said, was to "obtain prompt, effective and certain relief for consumers."

ZDNet editor David Coursey is skeptical of the Justice Department's claim that it's helping consumers.

The department said it would still seek a penalty that would open the operating system market to competition.

To that end, the government proposed a penalty similar to some interim penalties imposed by the original trial judge, U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson.

Those would, among other things, stop Microsoft from making certain exclusive deals with partners, force computer manufacturers to keep specific icons and programs on the Windows computer desktop, and give other companies more access to Windows blueprints.

who did not see the lot before she bought the space. "The contract said there were lights, but we didn't see any. It didn't look safe at all."

Guyton said she tried to cancel the \$300 check she had given Mueller, but it had already cleared. So the roommates went to Student Legal Services, who sent a letter to Mueller requesting a full refund.

They later found out Mueller was in violation of zoning, something Kinlaw said made her confident that they would get their money back.

Kinlaw said it never occurred to her that the lot might not be legitimate.

"It was pretty traumatic because this happened the first week of school," she said. "We thought it was legal because there were little fliers all over campus."

"I just want to warn all other freshmen to check out the parking space before they go out and buy it."

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

Campus Calendar

Monday
5:30 p.m. — **Coming Out RAP Group** — the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual support group — will have a session. It will be held in the Center for Healthy Student Behaviors conference room in the Student Recreation Center. Contact Marcie Fisher at 966-3462 for more information.

8 p.m. — Get ready to dance! **Mezmerhythm**, UNC's multi-genre dance group, will be holding auditions in the Great Hall.

Items of Interest
— Interested in becoming a student mediator at UNC? **Student Mediation Services** has application forms available in the Office of the Dean of Students in the basement of the Steele Building. Completed forms must be returned by noon Sept. 19 for consider-

ation.
— Interested in foreign affairs? Would you like to be a TA? **Great Decisions 2002** is accepting applications for its coordinating committee. Application forms are available at the Student Union desk and are due 5 p.m. Sept. 14.

For the Record
The Sept. 6 article "Chancellor: UNC Must Lead Nation" incorrectly stated that cuts ranging from \$3 million to \$7 million for UNC-Chapel Hill's budget are in the N.C. House and Senate. The figures for the proposed cuts are for the entire UNC system's budget. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

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RANKINGS

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the nation in salaries. But we fall to 49th when you look at total compensation."

She said the problem could be eased if the state legislature would allocate more money to pay faculty.

The state legislature has planned limited budget cuts to state agencies to cover a multimillion dollar financial shortfall.

Chancellor James Moeser announced Wednesday during his State of the University address that he will propose a five-year tuition increase plan this fall — partly to cover increased faculty salaries.

Moeser declined to comment after the rankings were released but said Thursday afternoon that he was not expecting any significant changes in the University's ranking. He said the report emphasizes certain parameters, such as the cost of attending a school and the size of its endowment, that favor private schools.

Moeser also addressed rankings during his Wednesday address. "If you must, read what the magazine has to say about us, but let us not for a second be diverted by these arbitrary and artificial ratings from the substance of our vision for excellence."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

BOG

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Wilson. "I'm assuming that the board will take a more serious look at the policy this fall."

Broad said the BOG could make plans to examine the policy during the board's meeting next week.

UNC Association of Student Governments President Andrew Payne — the only student member of the BOG —

said he has been told by Broad and several board members that no other campus-initiated tuition increases will be considered until the policy is re-examined. "I was told last year that nothing would be done until we take another look at tuition policy," Payne said. "And I'm not sad that (Moeser) and the UNC-CH BOT will have to wait a while before they can pass another tuition increase."

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