

Local Officials Claim Layoffs Unnecessary

By JAMIE MCGEE
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill and Carrboro officials say they do not foresee local government layoffs, despite an economic decline that has hit home for some N.C. businesses.

State officials recently announced that the state's economy is expected to grow more slowly this year than previously expected.

But Carrboro Town Manager Bob Morgan said careful budgeting will prevent the slowing economy from affecting town employees.

So far, Midway, U.S. Airways and some furniture plants have reported job cuts or are planning them.

But Morgan said statewide layoffs will not affect how business is conducted in Carrboro.

"We budgeted conservatively on revenues in anticipation there would be a slow down in state economy, and we haven't had to face shortages," Morgan said. "If we lay off, we'd have to reduce services."

Local news agencies have reported that U.S. Airways in Charlotte plans to cut 1,700 jobs, while the Raleigh-Durham based Midway Airlines, which filed for bankruptcy after the attacks, already has laid off 700 employees.

Another 1,000 employees at furniture plants in Hickory also have lost their jobs.

Bill Stockard, Chapel Hill assistant town manager, said that even though

the economy has suffered, there is no need to reduce town employees.

"The town, and government in general, still needs to provide services to the public," Stockard said.

"This involves keeping the staff available to do that."

Stockard said it is still important to consider the economic slowdown when assessing the budget, even though layoffs are not now a problem for Chapel Hill.

"Economic recessions are always a reality that might affect budgets," Stockard said. "The town tries to plan accordingly. It is important to retain employees, council and staff and try to address employee turnover issues."

Morgan said Carrboro eventually will have to face the slowing economy and will need to take action to avoid setbacks. "In the next years, the budget will be influenced by the state economy, and we will take a look at local economy when making the budget," Morgan said. "We need to be conservative about requesting any personnel needs."

"There will be very little expansion in next year's budget."

Mayor Mike Nelson said economic downturns tend to increase the need for government services, making layoffs unnecessary. "We haven't had to lay off anyone," Nelson said.

"The economy affects businesses and government differently."

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

Campus Calendar

Today

12 p.m. - Everyone is invited to celebrate United Nations Day with a free luncheon and roundtable discussion led by Dr. Jurg Steiner.

What is the role of the United Nations in combatting terrorism? Find out in Union 210. Questions? E-mail uno@unc.edu.

This event is sponsored by the United Nations Organization.

4 p.m. - Interested in careers in pub-

lishing or information technology? Come hear from representatives from UNC Press, Duke Press, Algonquin Books and the Department of Computer Science in Donovan Lounge, located on the second floor of Greenlaw Hall.

This event is sponsored by the Association of English Majors.

The Daily Tar Heel
P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515
Katie Hunter, Editor, 962-4086
Advertising & Business, 962-1163
News, Features, Sports, 962-0245
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Taliban May Be Hiding in Towns

Airstrikes in Afghanistan continued, with Air Force F-16G fighters being used in attacks for the first time.

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Taliban forces in Afghanistan may be hiding in residential areas, aware of the U.S. military's hesitancy to bomb where civilians might be hit, a senior military officer said Tuesday.

Rear Adm. John Stufflebeem, deputy director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he has seen anecdotal evidence of such a Taliban tactic, which he attributed to their realization that troops in the field or at military installations are vulnerable to punishing attacks by American warplanes.

U.S. airstrikes continued Tuesday with about the intensity of the previous day, in which about 60 carrier-based strike aircraft, 10 long-range bombers and 10 land-based strike aircraft hit 11 planned target areas, officials said.

Air Force F-16G fighters entered the fray for the first time on Monday, a

senior defense official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. A pair of F-16Gs, equipped with advanced navigation and targeting systems that enable precision strikes at night, flew missions from bases in the Persian Gulf.

Stufflebeem said U.S. airstrikes have hit every known training camp of the al-Qaida terrorist ring that is the ultimate target of allied military, financial and diplomatic pressure and that bombing has eliminated most of the ruling Taliban regime's air defenses and communications. As a result, he said, the Taliban and al-Qaida are dispersing what's left of their forces "to save them."

He said he did not know how many al-Qaida training camps had been hit, but British officials said Tuesday that nine had been destroyed. "There aren't going to be any camps that we're going to allow them to use, and when we find them, we'll strike them," Stufflebeem said.

Stufflebeem also cast doubt on the possibility of ending the air campaign before winter. "We don't think that's realistic."

U.S. officials have said repeatedly through 17 days of bombing in Afghanistan that care is taken to avoid striking targets that might result in inadvertent civilian casualties. But on Tuesday the Pentagon acknowledged two instances during the weekend in which errant

bombs apparently hit civilian areas.

On Sunday morning Afghanistan time, a Navy F-14 Tomcat dropped two 500-pound bombs that mistakenly hit a residential area northwest of Kabul, the Afghan capital, Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke told a news conference. The intended targets were military vehicles parked about one-half mile away. She said she did not know how many people may have been hurt or killed.

In the second instance late Sunday afternoon, a Navy F/A-18 Hornet dropped a 1,000-pound bomb in an open field near a senior citizens home outside the western city of Herat, Clarke said. The intended target was a vehicle storage building at an army barracks approximately 300 feet from the facility. Preliminary indications are that the weapon's guidance system malfunctioned, she said.

Clarke said she was not certain whether the second incident corresponded to one reported by the United Nations, which said U.S. bombs hit a military hospital near Herat. The Taliban had said a strike Monday hit a Herat hospital and killed at least 100 people. U.N. spokeswoman Stephanie Bunker said it was not clear whether the military hospital was in use and she had no information on casualties.

"As we always say, we regret any loss of

civilian life," she said. "U.S. forces are intentionally striking only military and terrorist targets. We take great care in our targeting process to avoid civilian casualties."

The Pentagon also disclosed new details about a mishap during Saturday's commando raids into Afghanistan, in which an airfield was seized and documents taken from a Taliban compound that included a residence of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar.

An Army MH-47 special operations helicopter struck an unknown barrier while it was taking off from Afghanistan after the raid, shearing off its front landing gear, Clarke said. It continued the flight without incident and returned safely to an undisclosed base. No one aboard was injured, she said.

The chopper's wheels were displayed on television by the Taliban, which claimed to have shot down an American helicopter and foiled Saturday's raid.

MH-47 helicopters are flown by the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, which specializes in low-level night operations in support of Army Rangers and Special Forces soldiers. The Pentagon acknowledged that Rangers and other special operations forces were involved in Saturday's raids, but it had not specifically mentioned the 160th, whose soldiers call themselves "night stalkers."

UNC Study Explains Beer 'Skunkiness'

By BRAD CHIASSON
Staff Writer

A new UNC chemistry study has the potential to eliminate one of the annoyances of many college students' lives - foul-smelling, "skunky" beer.

Malcolm Forbes, a UNC chemistry professor and one of the experiment's conductors, said the study revealed that the biggest factor contributing to some foul-smelling beers is sunlight.

Forbes said sunlight provides energy for a chemical reaction to occur within the beer. "We've figured out what's going on and what causes skunky beer," Forbes said.

Forbes said sunlight causes a free radical reaction in the beer, which involves breaking hop compounds in the beer. The broken bonds each contain electrons that create the free radicals.

Sulfur then traps the free radicals and creates the main culprit in creating rotten beer - thiol. Thiol produces a scent that most human beings identify as being "skunky," Forbes said, and most can't tolerate this odor even in small amounts.

Forbes said most beer is produced in brown or green bottles because they help shield sunlight. He said dark bottles prevent skunkiness more effectively.

"Brown and green glass prevent it to a large degree," said Forbes. "(But) I

think down the road you'll see beer in clear bottles."

Forbes predicted that there could be a movement toward clear and plastic bottles in the beer industry because of the study's findings.

He said modifying a beer's ingredients beforehand could help solve the problem, something already being done by manufacturers of Miller Genuine Draft.

"In Miller Genuine Draft, they chemically modify hop compounds," Forbes said. "They pre-extract flavor compounds and react them with hydrogen."

Forbes said beer manufacturers can then use clear and plastic bottles, which are better because they are cheaper to make and are easier to recycle.

Producers of Corona do not chemically modify any of the hops used in their beer, Forbes said. He said Corona's basic strategy is to keep the beer out of the sunlight for as long as possible.

Forbes also said Corona specifically


marketed the use of limes to hide any unpleasant odors. He said another strategy Corona uses to conceal the smell is by using longer beer necks. "It's a cleverly marketed product," Forbes said.

Forbes said representatives from Labatt Brewing Company have contacted him about the study and have requested that similar experiments be performed on their beer. But he said this might not be possible because hop compound concentrations are relatively low in beer.

Jon Connolly, the brewmaster at the Carolina Brewery, said the results of the experiment are good news to brewers around the world.

"We make every effort to make sure every part of the brewing process is done correctly," Connolly said. "We're excited about anyone who can get skunkiness out of beer."

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



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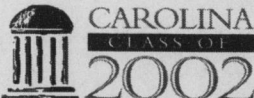
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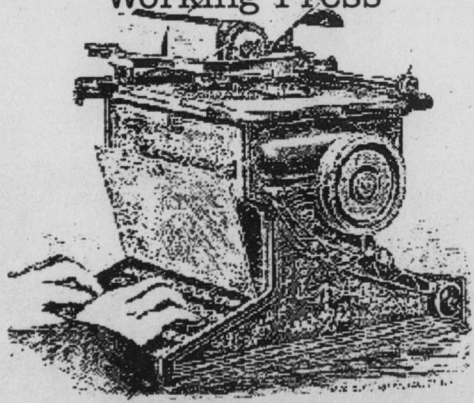
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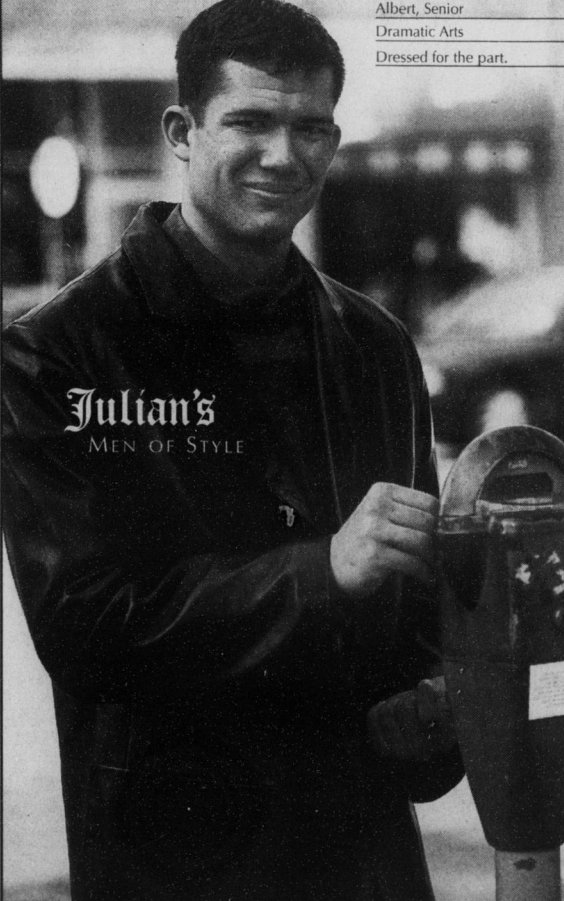
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