

# Low Down On Local Elections

A week from today, there will be a new mayor in Chapel Hill for the first time in six years.

Mayor Rosemary Waldorf will not be seeking re-election this year, and Chapel Hill Town Council members Kevin Foy and Lee Pavao are battling for the seat.



**JONATHAN CHANEY**  
CITY COLUMNIST

In Carrboro, we'll know if Mayor Mike Nelson, who has been in office since 1995, will get a chance to finish up "one last term" to see several projects come to completion. What's the low down on Local Elections

2001? First, Chapel Hill:

### Style Over Substance

There are some issues where the two Chapel Hill mayoral candidates – Foy and Pavao – differ, but only to a small degree.

Both men see value in the Schools Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which would control school overcrowding by linking residential development to open space in schools.

However, Foy fully endorses it, saying he would make its passage a priority if elected.

Pavao, while working on the ordinance for 2 1/2 years in committee, worries about its detrimental impact on affordable housing and says that getting all the governing bodies needed to sign on will be difficult.

Both men talk about "smart growth."

Foy believes in a stricter development philosophy, while Pavao favors more give-and-take with developers.

This slight schism is reflected in Meadowmont, the mega-development project that Foy abhors and Pavao believes is turning out exactly as planned – which is far from perfect, but not a disaster. After all, the town managed to get a school site, park land and land for 32 affordable housing units from its developer (i.e. give-and-take).

In the end, I think that Chapel Hill will be in good hands, whether they be Foy's or Pavao's.

Sitting at the candidate forum Monday night, I was struck by the lack of strong disagreement on issues between the two candidates. I heard a great deal of "I agree with ..."

That's reflected in the general consensus that this is a close election. Though there isn't any real polling for local races, most seasoned town politicians believe that the race is still a toss-up.

That's not surprising, in my opinion. There are three keywords in Chapel Hill politics: environment, smart growth and transportation.

Neither candidate has given radically different opinions on them that veer from the status quo.

The two candidates differ in style, not substance. So pick the personality you like best – the town will progress the same either way.

### One More Term?

Mayor Mike Nelson is running for a fourth term. He wants to have a chance to finish up three main projects: preserving the Bolin Creek Corridor, keeping an eye on affordable housing and renovating the Century Center.

His challenger is Stacy Smith. She's held no Carrboro office previously and admits jumping into the race because no one else did. She didn't want to see the race go uncontested, as it did two years ago.

Though a political newbie, she has gained a great deal of knowledge and has become quite a formidable politician. Her fiscal ideas are especially interesting. Citing the exorbitantly high taxes in Carrboro, she promises to closely look at the town's spending and see if there are any ways to lower residents' taxes without lowering the quality of the town.

Hmm ... Could there actually be a Republican living in Carrboro?

All kidding aside, her appearance in the race has heightened the public debate on Carrboro issues, and I believe that though she lacks formal experience, she would make an excellent mayor.

It will be very difficult to unseat the incumbent, however. Nelson has a lot of successes under his belt, as well as six years of experience.

I hope that Smith remains an active part of Carrboro town government if not elected. Her viewpoint is a breath of fresh air that could be extremely useful as Carrboro expands into the future.

Columnist Jonathan Chaney can be reached at [jhchaney@email.unc.edu](mailto:jhchaney@email.unc.edu).

# Assailant Robs UNC Hospitals Employee

The victim was robbed of \$500 in cash as she walked to the Key Food Mart to purchase a money order.

By KRISTEN HEFLIN  
Staff Writer

An unidentified assailant robbed a Chapel Hill woman as she walked through an alley on West Rosemary Street on Monday morning.

The robbery occurred behind the Key Food Mart, located at 325 W. Rosemary St., at 9:23 a.m., police

reports state. The victim, an employee of UNC Hospitals, reportedly had \$500 in cash stolen from her as she neared the store. Lt. Jeri Cole of the Chapel Hill Police Department said the woman was on her way to purchase a money order from the Key Food Mart at the time of the incident.

Reports state that the suspect approached the victim in the alley near the Gotham nightclub and placed a sharp object against her back to obtain the victim's money.

Khalid Mahmoud, manager of the Key Food Mart, said the victim then entered the store and asked him to call

the police. Cole said this kind of crime is unusual for the area around the Key Food Mart and that most calls to police pertain to loitering or minor disturbances. "We usually don't have robberies in that area," Cole said.

Mahmoud said the majority of problems spring from complaints about panhandling in the parking lot, adding, "there is not much crime."

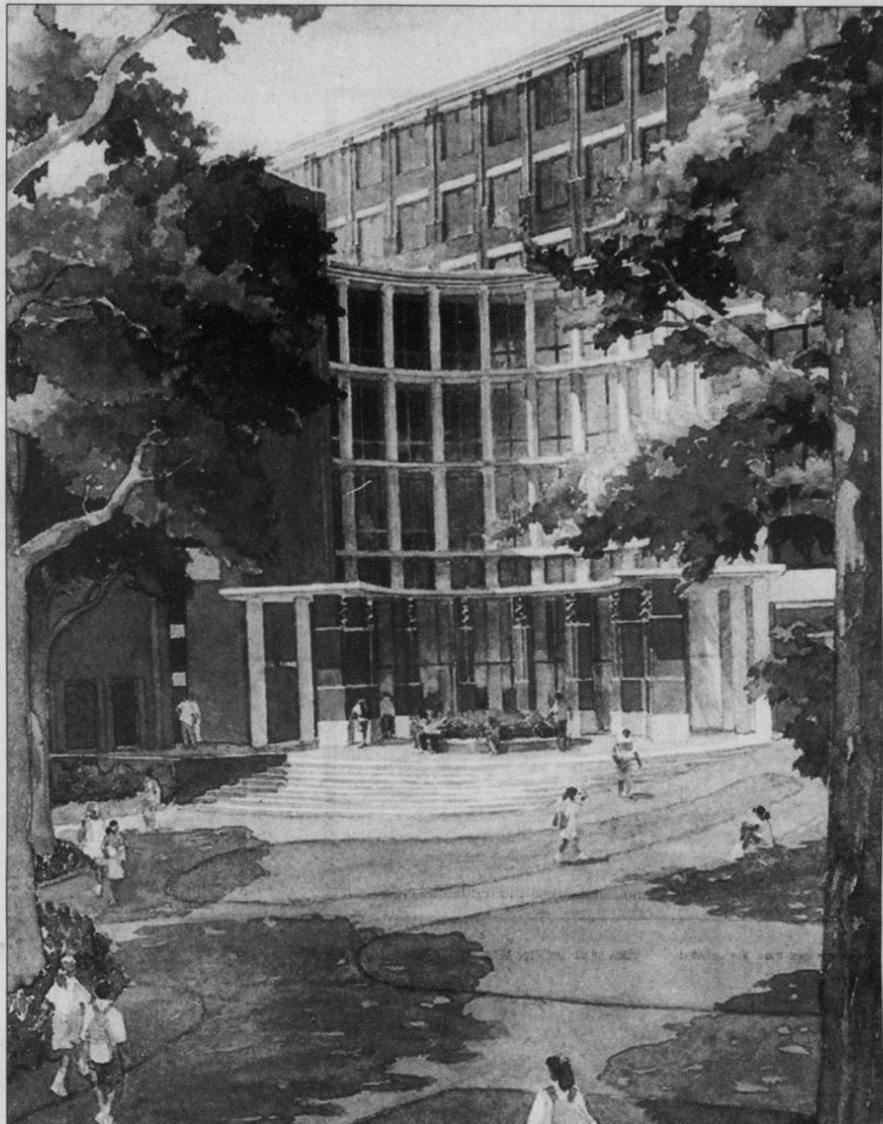
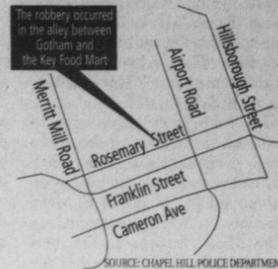
*"Chapel Hill is very peaceful. The police are in and out."*

KHALID MAHMOUD  
Manager of Key Food Mart

"Chapel Hill is very peaceful," he said. "The police are in and out." Mahmoud also said major problems rarely occur in the area but added that drug-related crimes usually increase

around the holidays. The case is under further investigation with police looking for a male suspect.

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The medical biomolecular research building, an eight-story research facility that will be built along South Columbia Street, is a proposed addition to the medical school. Construction is set to be completed in May 2003.

# Plan to Construct 41 New Buildings

By JENNY HUANG  
Staff Writer

Eight years from now, the face of UNC's campus might be unrecognizable. New building additions proposed as part of the recently approved Development Plan aim to expand academic, research and residential facilities on campus.

On Oct. 3, the Chapel Hill Town Council approved UNC's eight-year Development Plan that allows the University to initiate campus expansion. The Development Plan is the first phase of the Master Plan, a 50-year blueprint for campus growth.

While many discussions concerning the Development Plan have addressed its impact on transportation and housing, the most fundamental issue of the plan is the construction of new on-campus buildings.

Proposed building projects will add approximately 5.9 million square feet of new development to the campus landscape. In the end, a total of 41 new buildings will be constructed for academic, research and student life programs.

### Academic

The Development Plan proposes several additions that will improve academic facilities and expand student resources.

A key academic addition is the science complex, the most expensive project of the Development Plan.

The three-phase project is projected to begin in March 2003 and end in September 2008. The projected budget for all phases of the science complex is approximately \$187 million.

During Phase I of the project, two new sciences buildings will be erected on the

existing site between Kenan Laboratories and Wilson Library.

The science buildings will provide updated facilities and additional space for basic science departments including physics, astronomy, chemistry and mathematics. The new buildings will offer undergraduate classrooms, teaching and research laboratories and a science theater.

During Phases II and III of the project, Venable Hall and the ROTC building will be demolished, and a 500-space parking deck will be constructed to replace the space eliminated by other construction projects.

A third sciences building, which will offer a combined science library and provide expanded teaching, office and research space, will be built during Phase III to replace the demolished Venable Hall. "I think what's envisioned is a tremendous positive transformation of the site," said Peter Krawchuk, design manager of the science complex.

Another Development Plan project, the digital multimedia instructional center music library, is another academic addition that will be built as part of the Development Plan. Construction on the \$23 million multimedia center is projected to occur between March 2005 and August 2007.

The multimedia center will provide new buildings to accommodate existing space deficiencies for the UNC Music Library located in Hill Hall and will provide new space for expanding programs within the College of Arts and Sciences.

The center will include educational classrooms, faculty offices, multimedia teaching laboratories, studios and library spaces.

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### Building for the Future

A four-part series examining UNC's Development Plan

- Oct 10: Analysis
- Oct 17: Transit
- Oct 24: Housing
- Today: Additions

# Senior Class Vice President Submits Resignation

By LIZZIE BREYER  
University Editor

Senior Class Vice President Ursula Dimmeling resigned from her post Tuesday night, citing an inability to continue working with Senior Class President Ben Singer.

Dimmeling announced her resignation via an e-mail, which she said she unintentionally sent to the senior class listserv instead of the senior marshals. "This is not something I intended to tell

anyone publicly, but I basically was forced into resignation by Ben and was tired of trying to fight him," she said.

Dimmeling said that although the e-mail appeared to have been written by Singer because of a technicality with the listserv administration, she is the author.

Dimmeling said the conflict with Singer arose because he wanted to make all decisions for the senior class on his own without incorporating her input.

"I guess he considered me too big of a barrier into making decisions by him-

self," Dimmeling said.

But Singer said a rift between himself and Dimmeling occurred when senior marshals expressed displeasure about Dimmeling's decision to not include the marshals in meetings with the administration. "We had a lot of discussion about it because we were divided on that issue," he said. "The marshals wanted to be in the meeting to hold her accountable, and I felt the same way."

Singer said the allegations Dimmeling made in her letter about his leadership

style and unwillingness to incorporate other viewpoints are false.

"Basically, she took all the allegations that the marshals and myself had confronted her with and turned them against me," he said. "A lot of times she misinterpreted what I wanted and what the marshals wanted."

A new vice president will be elected Sunday from among the 32 senior marshals, and Singer said several already have expressed interest in taking the position. The post of chief marshal – which was

vacated by Annie Peirce last week – also will be filled at that time.

Singer said he thinks it was unfortunate that Dimmeling's resignation was aired so publicly and with such bitterness. "I apologize for the situation – I think it's a gross charade," he said. "The seniors need to realize we're working our tails off for them, and this should allow us to move forward and get rid of internal strife."

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# House Republicans Release Plan

By MICHAEL MCKNIGHT  
Staff Writer

RALEIGH – Members of the N.C. House Republican Caucus, calling for immediate debate on the U.S. House redistricting plan, unveiled their district map Tuesday.

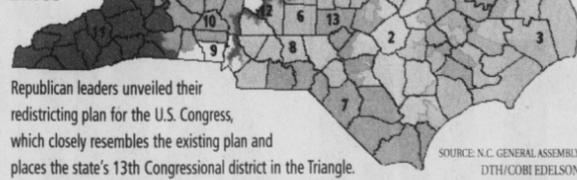
The proposed map contains a 13th U.S. House district containing portions of Chatham, Lee, Harnett, Wake and Cumberland counties.

North Carolina received a 13th district as a result of the state's population growth during the last decade.

Rep. Ed McMahan, R-Mecklenburg, said the new district was placed in the Triangle area because it was the fastest-growing area in the state. McMahan, co-chairman of the N.C. House's Congressional Redistricting Committee, said 53 percent of registered voters in the proposed district are registered Democrats and 41 percent Republican. The N.C. Congressional Delegation consists of 7 Republicans and 5 Democrats.

Rep. Thomas Wright, D-New Hanover, the other co-chairman of the Congressional Redistricting Committee, said the issue of congressional redistricting was unlikely to move forward

### Drawing the Lines



Republican leaders unveiled their redistricting plan for the U.S. Congress, which closely resembles the existing plan and places the state's 13th Congressional district in the Triangle.

until the chamber completes discussion of the N.C. House redistricting plan.

Democrats, with a narrow four-seat majority, have been unable to build a consensus on redistricting for the N.C. House. McMahan said House Republicans do not understand why Democrats have delayed redrawing the congressional districts. "We are deeply disturbed by the direction the congressional redistricting process is taking," he said. "We would like to move on and get the job done, and we really feel it should have been done months ago."

But Wright – in an interview following the Republican press conference – said House leaders agreed at the beginning of the legislative session to finish

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# Group Sponsors Talk On Money, Politics

By ELIZABETH MICHALKA  
Staff Writer

The recently created UNC Campaign Finance Reform Coalition held a forum Tuesday night to discuss "fat cats" and big money in politics.

Three speakers informed an audience of about 20 people about issues dealing with the campaign finance system and its reform.

Speakers included Cynthia Brown, a self-described "grassroots candidate" running for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Jesse Helms, and environmentalist Dan Coleman, an author and member of the Sierra Club.

Frances Ferris, a UNC sophomore and the third speaker on the panel, conveyed a student perspective on the issue.

"I feel that we're just students in the eyes of lawmakers," Ferris said. "There's a lack of access to lawmakers, and I don't feel that they respond to me because they cater to the interests of big money." Ferris said she joined student govern-

ment last year and acts as a liaison between student government and other government agencies. She also has been working against tuition increases.

Coleman spoke after Ferris, describing several instances in which the government has avoided legislation to improve the environment because of corporations' contributions of millions of dollars to the government.

"There is a very large number of Americans who believe that the environment is important," Coleman said. "But last year the government passed 53 anti-environment laws."

As a candidate running for the U.S. Senate, Brown, who spoke next, said her views regarding finance reform are seen as progressive. "This issue is at the heart of my campaign," Brown said.

"As long as we have so much money involved in the political and economic process ... basic needs won't be addressed."

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