

Factors May Clear Path For Railway

For years, regional rail has held the promise of alleviating the crushing amounts of traffic on the roadways between Chapel Hill, Durham, Research Triangle Park and Raleigh.

Unfortunately, there always seemed to be obstacles in the way: financing, questions about whether or not the public would use it and reluctant politicians. After last week, however, the likelihood of a regional rail system within the next decade has improved markedly.

First, there's financing. Last week, the N.C. General Assembly siphoned off \$630 million from the 12-year-old Highway Trust Fund for new transportation projects.

The state has not been able to keep transportation projects up with the booming growth within the state — especially in the Triangle. Updating our roadways and mass transit system is long overdue.

Now, the state Department of Transportation has some extra cash to spend. It has allocated \$120 million to mass transit, of which \$86 million will go toward building commuter rail lines by the Triangle Transit Authority and Charlotte Area Transit System.

Along with locally raised revenue, the TTA regional project still needs \$100 million from the state. But this start-up money should help the state qualify for federal funds to begin construction by 2004.

But if they build it, will the people come?

Evidence seems to point toward rail travel's increasing popularity. After the Sept. 11 attacks, Amtrak ridership rose 15 percent.

Granted, people do not jump on a jet to get from Chapel Hill to RTP. But the South notoriously lacks mass transit enthusiasm, and the more rail travel becomes mainstream nationwide, the easier it will be for regional rail to catch on.

And anyone who has stared at the pavement of Interstate 40 for 45 minutes while trying to get home from work would gladly jump on a high-speed train if it got him from Point A to Point B fast and conveniently.

The desire for a better transportation plan in the Triangle is there. It's up to politicians to oversee the plans and make sure that regional rail doesn't turn into an expensive regional flop.

As for the politicians, the political climate in the Triangle underwent a dramatic change after Nov. 6.

Charles Meeker ousted incumbent Paul Coble for the position of Raleigh mayor.

In stark contrast to Meeker, Coble was not known as a regional thinker, and he did not support the TTA plan for a high-speed regional rail system. In Durham, Bill Bell was narrowly elected mayor over incumbent Nick Tennyson. Like Meeker, Bell supports regional rail, as does Cary Mayor Glen Lang.

And of course, Kevin Foy was elected as mayor of Chapel Hill, replacing a pioneer of regional thinkers in the Triangle: Rosemary Waldorf.

Foy voices support for regional rail, but I think that he remains the largest obstacle for a high-speed rail system left in the Triangle.

In his platform, Foy did not even give lip service to a regional rail system, but instead focused on environmental protection and controlling growth.

On the surface of things, regional rail seems like a politically safe thing to say, "yeah, I'm in favor of it."

But the devil is in the details. Where will the rail lines breach our town limits? Will we try to keep it out of Chapel Hill proper, perhaps trying to run the line in a more rural area so as not to soil the beauty of the town? But if that is done, will people be willing to travel out there to hop on the train?

A lot more questions than answers, and these are questions Mayor-elect Foy needs to begin thinking about and addressing soon, especially because he campaigned as "the environmental, smart growth candidate."

In a town where road expansion is greeted with vociferous opposition, plunking down a high speed rail line will be a monumental (read: hellish) task.

But it must be done — and will require dedicated leadership on behalf of all our area's mayors.

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JONATHAN CHANEY
CITY COLUMNIST

David Horowitz to Deliver Speech at UNC

BY AMANDA LEE
Staff Writer

Outspoken conservative David Horowitz will discuss UNC's response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks Nov. 28 in an event sponsored by UNC's College Republicans.

His speech will focus on the effect teach-ins and anti-war protests have had on student perception of the attacks.

National conservatives such as Horowitz criticized UNC's reaction to the terrorist attacks as being anti-American and demoralizing to the

nation's war effort. Horowitz, the editor of FrontPageMagazine.com, a conservative online magazine, first sparked a nationwide debate on college campuses last spring after he solicited college newspapers to run his advertisement denouncing slave reparations.

He said he wants the opportunity to speak to further clarify his opinions, which have generated criticism across the country. "I'm going to UNC so people can see the person who has been smeared and character assassinated," Horowitz said. He also challenged Chancellor James

Moeser, who has been an advocate of free speech despite criticism for the teach-ins, to support him in the same manner.

After The Daily Tar Heel published an op-ed piece by Horowitz denouncing slave reparations last spring, Moeser openly criticized Horowitz's views but defended his right to free speech. "This is an open invitation to Chancellor Moeser to come and introduce me in a civil manner," Horowitz said.

He added that he thinks UNC does not have an atmosphere that is accepting of more than one view. "This is the worst American universities have ever been, and

UNC is one of the worst," he said.

Stephen Brooks, director of operations for the Center for the Study of Popular Culture, of which Horowitz is president, said he thinks the speech will be an opportunity for naysayers and supporters alike to hear Horowitz's full argument. "No matter where you stand, it will be good to hear it straight from him," he said.

Rheta Burton, president of the College Republicans, said she expects Horowitz's speech to address anti-war movements on U.S. campuses.

She said he most likely will draw parallels between UNC and University of

California-Berkeley, where he protested in the 1960s. Horowitz is a former left-wing activist who participated in anti-war demonstrations in college. She said that although she expects some protesters, she encourages faculty members and students to attend the speech. The speech will be held at 7 p.m. Nov. 28 in Memorial Hall.

Burton said, "I'm hoping it will be more of an intellectual discussion that brings up the anti-war movements on college campuses, not his past arguments."

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Kinsey Christiansen, a junior Spanish and psychology major, takes a closer look at the art on display in Wilson Library, one of the stops along Tuesday's Hidden Art tour of campus.

DTH/ANNE MEADOWS

11 Positions to Be Cut Due to Tight Budget

BY BROOK CORWIN
Staff Writer

After budget cuts forced the elimination of 11 staff positions late last week, some concerned faculty members have offered to sacrifice their pay increases.

But officials say the reallocation of faculty salaries is not a feasible option and staff layoffs might continue.

John Heuer, chairman of the UNC-Chapel Hill Employee Forum, said 11 staff members have been notified that their positions will be eliminated at the end of the year because of a 2.7 percent cut the

"Every department had their budget targeted. They each had to make hard decisions about how to deal with that cut."

Laurie Charest
Vice Chancellor for Human Resources

University system's operating budget.

Heuer said the eliminated positions are in the Division of Facilities Services and Academic Technology & Networks.

He added that because University administrators are placing an increased focus on protecting faculty salaries, the elimination of positions among the 10,000-member UNC-CH staff is unavoidable and could continue.

"One of our concerns is that our state's budget cuts aren't over," Heuer said. "We're worried that more cuts will be coming in the spring."

Sue Estroff, chairwoman of the Faculty Council, said there is widespread support among faculty members to give up a \$625

across-the-board pay raise to save endangered staff positions. Nearly all state employees received the raise this year.

"The quality of the work we do as teachers and researchers is hugely dependent on the work of our staff members," Estroff said. "We respect them and don't want to see them take a disproportionate share of the cuts."

But Provost Robert Shelton said because the salary increases come from state budget appropriations, the money would be returned to the state if it was forfeited and would not go directly to staff pay.

Shelton said representatives

from the UNC-system Office of the President discussed the issue with the state budget committee and decided that forfeiting faculty pay increases was not a feasible option to retain staff positions.

Laurie Charest, associate vice chancellor for human resources, said employees who have their positions cut can utilize job counseling services in her department and might also be eligible for severance packages depending on their positions and length of service.

Charest said a number of positions at UNC-CH and other universities are vacant and can be filled by laid-off employees with skills suited to the posi-

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Tour Combs Campus for Covert Art

Points of interest included the Center for International Studies, Wilson Library and the Morehead Planetarium.

BY BROOKS FIRTH
Staff Writer

They number in the thousands, lurking in the corners, hanging in the shadows, just waiting for anyone to walk by — "hidden art" pieces are all around campus, ready to be discovered.

To showcase these various forms of art across campus the Carolina Union Activities Board held a tour of hidden art on Tuesday afternoon. The tour included oil paintings, charcoal works and etchings owned by the University, the artists or private donors.

"We decided to do this because there's so much art that goes unappreciated on campus because people just don't know about it," said Jenny Blankenship, CUAB committee member and art history major.

Blankenship and senior psychology major Lisa Wald organized the two-hour tour, which visited various campus loca-

Art All Around

A Tuesday afternoon tour of several different locations on campus featured various pieces of art that often go unnoticed. The event was organized by the Carolina Union Activities Board.

- **Ackland Art Museum**
Masters of the Medium Exhibit
- **University Center for International Studies**
"India: A Journey into the Heart of Devotion" by Laura Farrow
- **Morehead Planetarium**
"Portrait of Rembrandt's Sister" by Rembrandt van Rijn
- **The N.C. Collection Gallery at Wilson Library**
Audubon prints, portraits of Inglis Fletcher (N.C. novelist) and Joseph Caldwell (first president of UNC), landscape by Zeldia Fitzgerald
- **Other locations on campus not included on the tour with noteworthy art:**
 - School of Law
 - Graham Memorial
 - Kenan Center
 - George Watts Hill Alumni Center
 - School of Pharmacy
 - Health Sciences Library
 - Phillips Hall
 - Institute of Government
 - Hanes Art Center

tions that showcase artwork. The walk began at the Ackland Art Museum, and other stops included Morehead Planetarium and Wilson Library.

But many went unvisited because of the vast number of galleries and exhibits at UNC. "We're talking about doing this again in the spring because there are so many places we can't get to in one day," Wald said.

The tour shuffled across North and Middle campuses and found a portrait from Rembrandt's studio in the Planetarium's rotunda.

Another stop on the tour was the Center for International Studies Gallery, which hosts InternationArt, an ongoing rotating exhibit. Local artist Laura

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Congress Denies Funding For 2nd LGBT Position

BY JOE MONACO
Staff Writer

Student Congress rejected an appropriations request Tuesday night that would have allowed the hiring of a second UNC lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender coordinator.

The first LGBT coordinator position, which is new this semester, is allocated a \$1,500 stipend. Members of several LGBT groups asked for a second \$1,500 stipend to create a second position.

The students whose request was denied said they were upset by the decision. "(Congress is) an extraordinarily irresponsible group," said Fred Hashagen, the current LGBT coordinator.

"They didn't let us respond to the concerns we could have responded to very easily."

Glenn Grossman, Carolina Alternative Meetings of Professional and Graduate Students chairman, said that a second coordinator is desperately needed because Hashagen has been overworked all semester.

"Five to 10 hours a week is what Student Congress gave us money for (last semester), and there are some

weeks when (Fred's) working 30 hours or more," said Grossman.

"So he's already maxed out, and we really need more support."

Grossman and Hashagen said a second coordinator is needed to address the safety concerns of the LGBT community because of two recent murders in Durham that involved allegedly gay victims.

"Basically what we're looking for is someone else to devote their time specifically to a response to the murders in Durham," Hashagen said.

No Congress members were available for comment Tuesday night.

In addition, a lengthy debate by Congress members over whether to place a referendum on the spring election ballot was still unresolved at press time Tuesday night.

The referendum urges N.C. lawmakers "to pass meaningful campaign finance reform this coming legislative session."

If put on the ballot by Congress and passed by the student body, an official copy of the referendum would be sent to

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Students Give, Take Feedback in Advising Forum

BY RUTHIE WARSHENBROT
Staff Writer

A forum Tuesday night offered students a chance to voice opinions and concerns about academic advising at UNC to department officials.

The event was planned by the Student Academic Advising Board, a student government committee started last year to increase communication between students and the advising office.

Student Body Vice President Rudy Kleysteuber said the event — which took a little more than a month to plan — is something student government has wanted to do for a while. "Up to this year, there's never been any formal structure for student input and feedback on advising."

Carolyn Cannon, associate dean of academic advising, was present at the forum with more than 10 academic advisers to answer students' questions. She said

the dialogue was a way to open up communication between students and advisers. "We hope that students and advisers will find ways for students to communicate better with us," Cannon said.

Cannon said the theme of partnership in planning was the reason for Tuesday's forum, which Kleysteuber said he hopes will send administrators the message that students do have strong feelings about advising.

"(Academic advising) has a large potential right now for being helpful, but for many people right now it's not," Kleysteuber said. "We want everyone's (advising) experience to be positive."

Erin-Ashley Ross, a junior communications major, said she came to the forum because she feels she has not had adequate advising. "Before I declared a major, I had a lot of problems with my advisor," Ross said. "I'm interested in the revision of advising here at UNC."

Sophomore Kim Sexton, a member of the new advising board, moderated the forum. "I hear things from students all the time about advisers," she said. "Deans honestly cannot wait to hear suggestions and comments because they want to make advising good at Carolina."

Officials from the Offices of the University Registrar also attended the forum, addressing students' concerns about the registration process. Freshman political science major David Barbour voiced his concerns about registering, saying he was forced to sign up for classes different than those he discussed with his advisers because classes became full.

Students also asked questions regarding the different advising systems in the General College and the College of Arts and Sciences and brought attention to problems they say stem from Honors

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DTH/REBECCA O'DOHERTY

Sophomore Kim Sexton, junior Brad Overcash and senior David McGibbon discuss advising with UNC officials at a forum Tuesday.