

Waldorf's Challenge To Mayor

It is the season for schmoozing. "Thank you," handshakes and standing ovations filled the Chapel Hill Town Hall as hors d'oeuvres circled around Monday night.

Chapel Hill held its changing of the guard as the new mayor and Chapel Hill Town Council members took their place and three political veterans departed from town government.

JONATHAN CHANEY
CITY COLUMNIST

Rosemary Waldorf, who held the role for six years.

Waldorf chose not to run for re-election this year, saying that local government needed some fresh faces and new blood.

And after six years, Rosemary deserves a break.

She was first elected mayor at a time when Chapel Hill was experiencing its own version of a spike in crime rates.

Though we aren't talking Detroit, residents were concerned.

Waldorf was a strong advocate for modernizing the town's police force, making Chapel Hill a little safer for residents as well as students. (Though recent armed robberies and break-ins are worrisome — especially as students leave their apartments for break.)

She has also overseen a revitalization of the downtown area, including widening the sidewalks.

But there's still room for improvement in this area, as some residents advocate turning parking lots into public squares.

Making Franklin Street more "European," or community-friendly, is not such a bad idea. It's a unique piece of property whose potential still hasn't been fully realized.

Rosemary also was a strong supporter of regional mass transit throughout her three terms — even though it has only recently become a hot political issue in the Triangle as a whole.

Though the political climate in the Triangle has not always heavily favored regional mass transit issues, the new leaders in Chapel Hill, Durham, Cary and Raleigh appear to be a group of pro-mass transit politicians.

But again, there's still a lot of uncertainty. Regional rail with the Triangle Transit Authority seems to be chugging along ...

... but speed bumps could derail the process. Federal funding for part of the project is still dangling. The state cannot afford to foot a huge bill for a transportation project with all the belt-tightening legislators have been forced upon it.

And where will the sites for the rail system be? This problem will be most visible in Chapel Hill, where residents will howl if a foot of train track is laid near their property.

Our town can preach about the environment all it wants, but when it comes down to it, Mayor Foy will have a lot of cajoling and pleading to get a rail system put down in the town.

But regional transit is an issue in which Waldorf has made great headway. With the favorable political climate in surrounding towns and cities, it's now Mayor Foy's job to continue with her same vigor.

As this part of the state expands, it's ludicrous to ignore mass transit as an absolute necessity to help alleviate some of our crippling traffic problems.

During the last two years, Waldorf had to deal with University expansion and its effects on the town. She and Chancellor James Moeser, along with other University and town officials, came together for several town-gown meetings.

Town growth, especially relating to the University, will be the most contentious issue for Mayor Foy's term.

In her parting words, Waldorf said something important. "Remember that you are representing everyone in town, including those who don't pay attention."

Students at this University have a lot of competing interests for their time — and following town politics isn't high on their list. Whether it be development plans or noise ordinances, officials must keep their interests in mind.

As Mayor Foy begins his term, it's important he remember that students at UNC are not Chapel Hill's adversaries.

They are 24,000 of his constituents.

Columnist Jonathan Chaney can be reached at jhchaney@email.unc.edu.

Crowd Supports Herrera, Carrboro Government

By HEATHER APPLE
Staff Writer

With only standing room left at Carrboro Town Hall on Tuesday night, Mayor Mike Nelson, incumbent Board of Aldermen members Jacquelyn Gist and Diana McDuffee and newcomer John Herrera were sworn into office.

More than 70 people of different ages and nationalities crowded the room to show support for Herrera and the returning officials.

"I haven't seen that many people,

unless they were mad, be in that room, so that was great," Gist said.

Herrera, the first Hispanic immigrant elected to a municipal government post in North Carolina, won the election over former Alderman Allen Spalt, who made a speech before leaving the meeting.

"John, I wish you the best as you join the board," Spalt said.

Spalt also said he would be continuing to participate in Carrboro's future.

"I'll help you when you ask and sometimes when you don't," he said.

"Carrboro is in great shape as long as so

many people care about it."

Nelson said he appreciated the work Spalt had done during his time in office.

"He has a deeper understanding of environmental issues than any other elected official in this county," Nelson said. "He's been a dear friend for 15 years. I will miss you."

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce made a donation in Spalt's name to the Orange Community Housing and Land Trust.

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John Herrera, with son Nelson Alejandro, receives congratulations from Ruth Zalph after being sworn in Tuesday as a Carrboro alderman.



Alison Lafferty, a senior psychology major, does work for her online Philosophy 034 class. Lafferty submits her homework and gets feedback from her professor via e-mail and the Internet. Lafferty also takes weekly quizzes and timed exams online.

Friday Center Gives Degree Options

By JOELLE RUBEN
Staff Writer

UNC student John Doe (not his real name) said it was difficult to focus on final exams last December.

Not only did exam week mark the completion of a four-month semester, it also signified the end of a nearly 10-year prison sentence.

During 2000, Doe, now 33, participated in the Correctional Education Program, which allows minimum-security inmates to enroll as full-time students on UNC's campus through the Orange Correctional Center in Hillsborough.

The Correctional Education Program is one of several opportunities available to unconventional students with unusual circumstances and schedules, said June Blackwelder, the associate director of publica-

tions at the Friday Continuing Education Center.

Other options include Continuing Studies, a program designed for participants who seek to enroll on a part-time basis. Applicants must first be admitted to the University before selecting from night or day courses held on campus.

UNC also offers Carolina Courses Online, a program that replaces a formal class setting with discussion forums and student communication via e-mail. Nearly 40 online courses featuring weekly readings and assignments are offered each semester.

Students seeking a less structured format can enroll in a self-paced online correspondence study that must be completed in nine months to a year. Blackwelder said different types of courses — offered anywhere from a prison to a student's own home — cater to a variety of people, including older residents who want to enhance their education, full-time students trying to graduate on time and students with medical limitations.

Correctional Education

For Doe, who was convicted of aiding and abetting second-degree murder, the Correctional Education Program allowed him to continue his pursuit of a University degree. He had completed two years as a chemistry and physics major at N.C. State University prior to

his arrest in the summer of 1988.

Doe, who started the Correctional Education Program in the spring of 2000, chose to immerse himself in his coursework, obtaining standing permission to study in the correctional center's educational trailer well after the 10 p.m. lockdown.

He said he would work until exhausted to spend as little time in his cell as possible. "I'm sure people at the (prison) had no idea who I was, and since I was able to wear street clothes all the time, I'm sure half of them didn't even know I lived there," he said.

Since his release from prison a year ago, Doe has been taking classes at UNC and plans to graduate in May. But Doe said people, both at UNC and in the prison system, were willing to help him with problems that resulted from his unique situation. Doe said state restrictions, specifically one mandate that prohibits inmates from using computers connected to the Internet, sometimes makes it difficult to complete assignments. "I'm a computer science major," he said. "It's kind of necessary for me to actually use computers."

But Doe said he contacted both his professor and the head of UNC's Department of Computer Science, who loaned him a copy of the necessary software to download onto prison

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Site Created for Parking Feedback

By TINA CHANG
Staff Writer

Student government officials have set up a Web site to open the lines of communication between students and administrators on contentious parking issues.

Student Body Vice President Rudy Kleysteuber said the Web site will provide a rapid mechanism for students to voice their concerns to UNC administrators. The Web site is located at <http://www.rjonesx.com/parking>.

Student government officials have argued that students' voices are under-represented on the Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee, which has 25 members, three of whom are students.

In October, Provost Robert Shelton and Nancy Suttentfield, vice chancellor for finance and administration, drafted a preliminary decision to eliminate on-campus parking for students living in residence halls in the near future. Although student representatives on TPAC were able to express their opinion, they played no role in the decision-making process.

On Nov. 28, TPAC held a meeting that frustrated Student Body President

Justin Young and Kleysteuber, who said the student voice was ignored again in removing night permit parking and the removal of on-campus resident parking.

"We are the largest faction on campus, and to be represented by the smallest faction at (the Nov. 28 TPAC) meeting was absurd," Kleysteuber said.

Kleysteuber said although he acknowledges the importance of TPAC and its existing decision-making process, he said he feels it is not the best way for the student voice to be heard.

The site, which also is linked from the student government Web site, offers students a direct way to e-mail three administrators — Shelton, Suttentfield and Chancellor James Moeser — as well as the 22 non-student members of TPAC. It also informs students about the details of the parking situation, Kleysteuber said.

"Students often feel that their concerns are not as critical as concerns of other faculty and staff and feel less comfortable contacting administration," he said.

The Department of Public Safety sent an e-mail survey to faculty, students and staff at the end of last week to gauge opinions on night permit parking. The

results of those surveys will be used to advise TPAC at their meeting today.

TPAC is the official mechanism to provide recommendations about parking to Shelton, who will make the final decision. Linda Carl, the TPAC chairwoman, said today's meeting will be for information only, although she said students might have a chance to ask questions.

Student government officials said they want a public acknowledgement of students' need for parking and their place at the discussion table.

"It's the responsibility of the administration to hear the voice of the students as well as the voice of the faculty, alumni and staff," Kleysteuber said. "We have realized that other groups on campus need parking as well, and we are very sensitive to that."

Young and Kleysteuber are using the Web site to urge students to fight for their voice to be heard by administrators. Kleysteuber said, "We're reminding them that students can feel strongly about issues, and that this one hits close to home for many of us."

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Elections Board Meets With Political Hopefuls

By RACHEL CLARKE
Staff Writer

About 20 students interested in running for student government posts came to the Union Auditorium on Tuesday to get copies of the Student Code — and to hear a warning about breaking it.

"This can be a whole lot of fun, and I know it is fun to look for the loopholes in the code," Board of Elections Chairwoman Emily Margolis told the crowd. "But just be very careful that you are not breaking the rules."

About 60 students came to the campaign information session, but only about 20 expressed interest in seeking posts. The rest were there to support candidates.

Margolis told the students the elections board was taken advantage of last year but that was going to change.

"We're cracking down," she said. Last year, campaigns with illegal posters got a \$5 total fine, she said. But she said candidates who post illegally now will face stiffer penalties. "This year we're going to charge you per poster."

Margolis distributed copies of the

Student Code to people interested in the positions of student body president, Carolina Athletic Association president, Residence Hall Association president, senior class president and vice president, and Student Congress. The position of Graduate and Professional Student Federation president also is up for grabs, although no one at the meeting expressed interest in the position.

Five students expressed interest in running for student body president. Juniors Jen Daum, Fred Hashagen, Will McKinney and Brad Overcash previously had indicated their intent to run, and junior Aaron Mesmer also said he plans to seek the position.

Campaigning cannot actually begin until the Jan. 22 candidacy declaration date, three weeks before the Feb. 12 general election. Until then, Margolis suggested that candidates read the code carefully in regards to posters and e-mails. "The biggest problem we had last year was with people sending out e-mails."

"I would just really recommend that

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