Tuesday, February 26, 2002

POVERTY From Page 1

the significant black population close to the landfill, the area's persistent prob-lems caused black residents to feel rejected by the community.

"In the black community, we felt we were being overlooked," McMillan said. "Being a low-rate place to live, it was "Being a maybe like a project area because not only were we a black community, we

also had bad sewage and water." Similar complaints of water contamination have also come from residents around the quarry.

The quarry expansion is a project on N.C. 54 and Bethel-Hickory Grove Church Road, which is being drilled by the American Stone Company.

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THE Daily Crossword

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The drilling is not expected to be completed until 2030, when American Stone will turn the quarry over to the Orange Water and Sewer Authority. OWASA will transform the quarry

into a reservoir for local water needs. Orange County officials say the area will be in dire need of additional water

sources as it grows. In addition to water contamination, residents also complain that the blasting away of rock at the quarry is causing both undesirable noise and damage to their homes. They claim that this is low ering the economic status of the area.

The value of the land is going down," said Roy Belon, a homeowner near the quarry. "I don't know why anyone would want to come in and buy (the land)." But administrators for both of these

areas insist that the landfill and quarry

By Gregory E. Paul

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are not the causes of these problems. They argue that both land uses are ben-eficial to the community.

"We contribute jobs, good jobs," said Paxton Badham, vice president and assistant secretary of the American Stone Company. "We've been a real benefit to the county."

The administrators also contend that these land uses are not contributing to a lower economic class in areas around the quarry and landfill. "If you look at the census, the income is considerably higher than you would think," Wilson said, although he could not cite statistics pinpointing incomes within the area. Wilson also explained that the rapid

residential growth in the area around the landfill is evidence that the landfill is not causing a poverty-stricken area. "Over half of the houses have been

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built since the landfill was built," Wilson said. "If the landfill is so bad, why do people keep building houses around it?" people keep building houses around it?" Housing development has also blos-somed in the area around the quarry

From Page One

expansion project. Bethel Church and Hickory Grove roads contain new homes valued at several hundreds of thousands of dollars, Wilson said. But on the northern side of the quar-ry are 34 Habitat for Humanity homes,

which are houses provided for lowincome families The Orange County Habitat for Humanity organization has built more

than 90 homes in Orange County, and it expects to complete its 100th home in

homes for economically disadvantaged

set priorities."

Phillips also said BOG members must been called on to make some decisions.

people are located near the quarry

pansion project, Wilson said. Wilson explained that the locations of of the quarry and the landfill were prob-ably chosen because of the property val-ues in that area. "If you are looking to buy property, you are not looking for proper-ty values that are the highest," he said. Chapel Hill Town Council member Im Word exid ha thinks both the landfill

Iim Ward said he thinks both the landfill and quarry areas contain residents of a mic status. low

"I think there's a certain amount of disenfranchised people in the area, Ward said.

"I think land decisions are made without (the residents') full input, and that does contribute to their status."

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

REVIEW From Page 1

CONGRESS

From Page

increase passed with a vote of 4-2.

Larson said the proposal failed due to a lack of dialogue between Congress

and the three groups. WXYC, STV and CUAB members said that their groups

reserve seats on their boards of directors for Congress members to prevent fund-

ing requests from being a surprise but

Larson said much of the confusion came from Speaker Mark Townsend's failure to make these appointments to stu-dent groups' committees. "It's a shame he's slack in making his appointments."

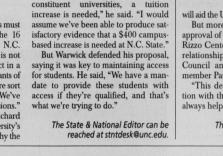
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that many of these seats are not filled.

will aid the University as well as the town. But more importantly, the council's approval of the expedited review for the Rizzo Center project shows a working relationship exists between the Town Council and the University, council member Pat Evans said.

"This decision shows our coopera-tion with the University," she said. "It always helps to have a helping hand."

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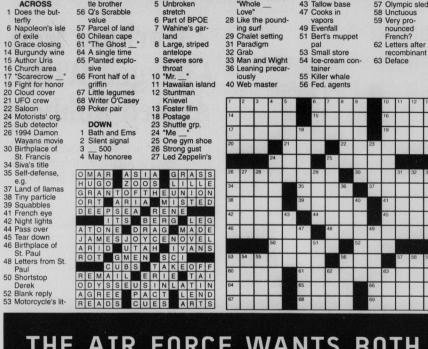


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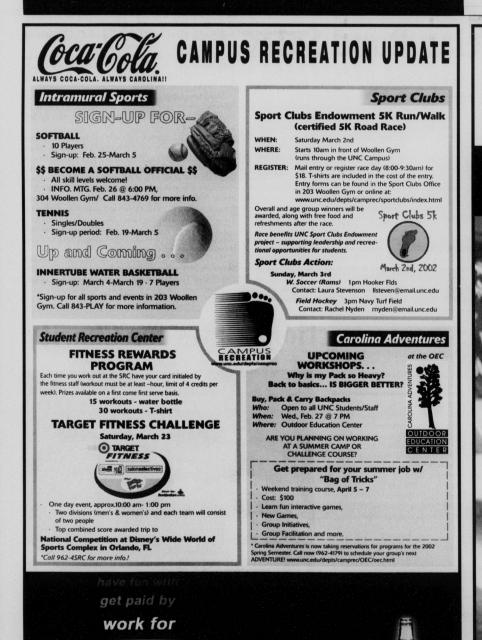
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the spring. But in the entire county, about one-third of the Habitat for Humanity

BOG From Page 1

act as intermediaries between the 16 UNC-system campuses and the N.C. General Assembly. He added he is not sure exactly how the BOG will act in a situation where its wants and the wants of individual campuses conflict. "We're sort of the middlemen here," he said. "We've N.C. State BOT member Richard Vaughn said he thinks the the university's

trustees presented a good case for why the Kudzu

"With recent budget cuts in Raleigh, which are being passed through to the constituent universities, a tuition increase is needed," he said. "I would

university needs a \$400 tuition increase.

FDD is a non-profit, non-partisan and nonideological think tank that promotes informed debate about policies and positions that will most effectively abolish international terrorism.

Questions?

Email fellows@defenddemocracy.org For additional details and application visit: www.defenddemocracy.org