

## SAPFO's Plans Leave Questions

**G**R-O-W-T-H. That word haunts the dreams of anyone following Chapel Hill news — myself included. Late last year, mayoral candidates debated the different ways to manage growth in the town.



**JONATHAN CHANEY**  
CITY COLUMNIST

The effects of unchecked growth on the environment has been a swan song for local leaders.

In the last few weeks, the Chapel Hill Town Council effectively put a halt on all new growth in the town until a comprehensive development ordinance could be hammered out this fall.

Now another facet of "growth management" has re-emerged: tying new growth to school capacity.

At its meeting last week, the Chapel Hill Town Council held a public hearing on the Schools Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance.

Although the name is complicated, the ordinance's underlying idea is not. Under the new rule, if a new housing development wants to be built in Chapel Hill, developers would have to prove that the influx of new kids would not overcrowd available school space at the elementary, middle and high school level.

Before it can be enforced, this ordinance must be approved by both the Chapel Hill-Carboro and Orange County school boards and the governing bodies in Chapel Hill, Carboro, Hillsborough and Orange County.

So far, both school boards have given their approval. Although nothing definitive was laid out at last week's Town Council meeting, the ordinance was referred to the Chapel Hill Planning Board for further study. The board should have its recommendations ready for the council's March 25 meeting.

The idea is simple and appealing. No new housing developments are allowed to be built if there aren't sewer lines, water lines or roads to accommodate them. Why shouldn't developments be forced to prove that there's enough space in local schools?

Because the proposal looks so good on paper, most of those speaking before the council at the meeting last week spoke in favor of rapid adoption.

A little too rapid, I'd say. SAPFO, as the ordinance is known, is riddled with lingering questions.

And despite the fact that this ordinance has been through the political mill for years — passing from board to board and attorney to attorney — and it has been rewritten and revised, fundamental questions still remain.

First, how will SAPFO affect affordable housing in this area (another swan song of local politicians)?

This concern has been present since the ordinance first began circulating. After all, if you begin issuing certificates to developers based on school capacity, the reduction in housing stock would raise the price tag of any new home built in town.

Of course, affordable housing has always been a high priority for local leaders. I doubt this ordinance would severely reduce the amount of affordable housing available — especially if the council follows through on its proposal to stipulate a certain amount of affordable housing per new development.

Another concern is how to project school enrollment figures. It's not as easy as looking into a crystal ball and anticipating how many kids will be in 10th grade three years down the road.

How will UNC factor into this as it expands its base of students and adds new faculty and staff (who will probably be tugging along children with them)? Will the Horace Williams development be exempt from school capacity certification?

But perhaps the biggest concern should be the willingness of the county to open up its checkbook.

If the idea behind SAPFO is to balance growth with school capacity, will school capacity continually be paced with growth?

This was a problem pointed out by council member Bill Strom last Monday night. To pace school construction with growth, Orange County must keep a steady stream of funding for new schools — not bulk school building via a multimillion dollar bond when overcrowding hits the breaking point.

School overcrowding is a problem. But before passing this ambitious ordinance, it would be best to answer a few of these pending questions to avoid a host of future troubles.

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

# Durham Man Arrested for Area Burglaries

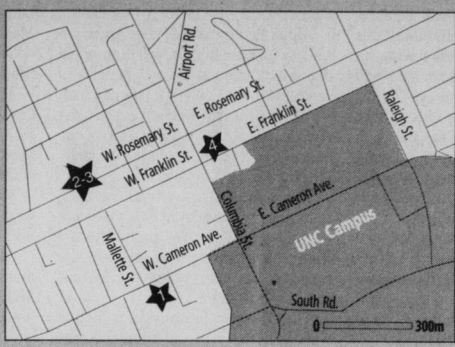
## Burglary Suspect Nabbed

On Saturday, the suspect stole two IBM laptops and a fleece pullover from 321 W. Cameron Ave.

The suspect attempted to steal a laptop from the residence of two UNC students at 1:17 a.m. Monday at 316 W. Rosemary St.

Police arrested Devon Jacob Withers at 4 p.m. Monday at 325 W. Rosemary St. in connection with the crimes.

When arrested, the suspect was in possession of two phones. Police find the boxes of two cordless phones at Kerr Drug at 109 E. Franklin St. on Monday.



SOURCE: CHAPEL HILL POLICE REPORTS DTH/GARY BARRIER

By KELLIE DIXON  
City Editor

Chapel Hill police arrested a Durham man Monday afternoon in connection with a first-degree burglary that occurred at a UNC student's residence Monday morning.

Shortly after being arrested, police linked the man to another recent crime in the area.

Devon Jacob Withers, 25, of 3311 Shannon Road, 19-D in Durham was arrested Monday at 4 p.m. at 325 W. Rosemary St., reports state. Withers is being charged with two felony counts of first-degree burglary, two felony counts of larceny and one misdemeanor count of larceny, reports state.

Withers was incarcerated at Orange County Jail at 5:30 p.m. on a \$40,000 bond, reports state.

Withers was arrested shortly after a burglary that reportedly occurred at 1:17 a.m. Monday at a residence located at 316 W. Rosemary St.

The residence's two inhabitants — both UNC students — called police to report that they saw the suspect attempt to steal a laptop from the residence, said Chapel Hill Police spokeswoman Jane Cousins. One of the victims — both of whom were at home during the incident — said she heard a noise that prompted her to investigate, Cousins said.

"She saw a black male in her house holding her laptop, and she yelled for her roommate to come in the room," Cousins said. "(The victims) told (the intruder) to wait there and they would go to the security office."

Cousins said the suspect threw the laptop and ran out of the residence.

When officers arrived at the scene, they couldn't locate him.

Cousins said based on the information the victims provided, officers investigated the incident fur-

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# Resident May Face 2nd Blindness

After one surgery to restore his vision lost in an accident, a high school sophomore awaits another to help him keep his sight.

By ERIKA HEYDER  
Staff Writer

A year after technologically advanced surgery gave him the gift of sight, Francisco, a soft-spoken high school sophomore, is slowly watching the miracle fade.

Today, Francisco is finding himself closer and closer to darkness, the way he lived his life for six years before science offered him the chance to see again.

Seven years ago, a young Francisco picked up a bottle of sulfuric acid while walking along a stream near his home. The bottle exploded in his face, leaving him completely blind.

Since the incident and even after the surgery, Francisco's life has revolved around struggle — educationally and financially.

After his surgery, some elements to his day had to be reworked to accommodate his hectic schedule. Francisco's family decided to have him home-schooled by Carol Klein, a guidance counselor at Chapel Hill High School, where Francisco attended as a freshman despite vision problems.

Although a school day is rarely, if ever, normal for Francisco, he says he believes learning at home suits him better.

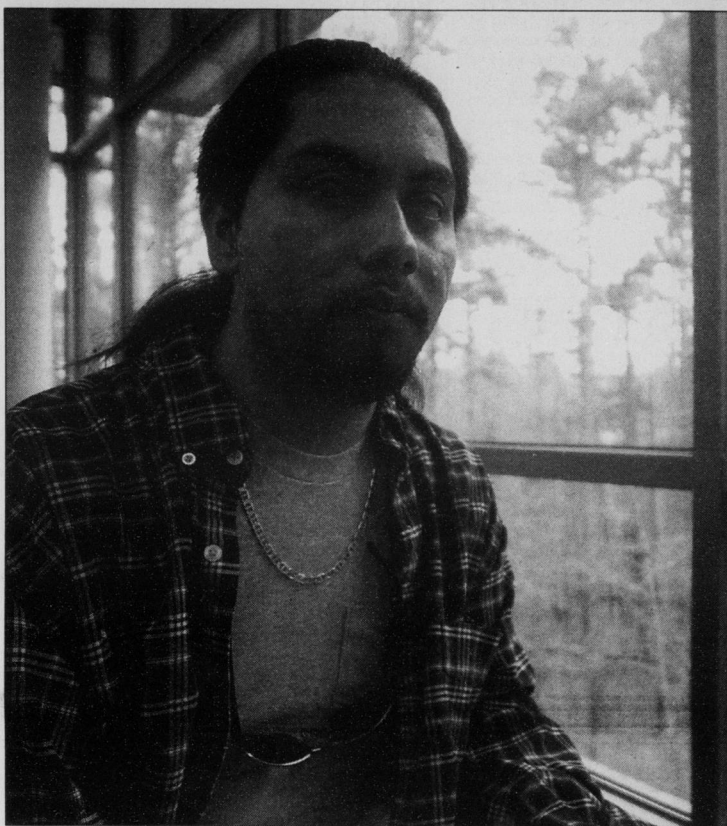
Klein, who works with Francisco and his family outside of her job as guidance counselor, said he performs better than he did in a school setting because he is receiving individualized instruction.

Although schoolwork is a daily tribulation for Francisco and his family, his life is further complicated by his weekly treatment in Nashville, Tenn. "Going to Nashville once a week makes school hard, but he is doing well in school despite having new challenges with his harder coursework," Klein said.

But the most hidden problem facing Francisco and his family is the financial burden of the treatments.

Last year, the family received community donations and grants that eased the burden. But the funds have been depleted, and imminent surgery and trips to Nashville are expensive.

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DTH/BRENT CLARK

Francisco continues to face the challenges of losing his eyesight, enduring delicate and expensive surgery, and patiently working through the recovery period.

# UNC to Lose Sorority, Gain Fraternity

Like Delta Sigma Phi did successfully, Phi Mu plans to rent out its house for a few years and then regroup.

By WILL AREY  
AND RACHEL CLARKE  
Staff Writers

UNC's Greek community will soon welcome back a fraternity — but at the same time, it will have to say goodbye to one campus sorority.

Delta Sigma Phi, a fraternity that operated at UNC from the mid-1920s until 2001, will be fully operational again in the fall of 2002.

But Phi Mu sorority will close in May

— a victim of the same financial woes that forced Delta Sigma Phi to shut down last year.

Delta Sigma Phi voluntarily closed in May 2001 because the chapter had difficulty recruiting new members.

Jay Anhorn, director of Greek affairs at UNC, said Phi Mu was unable to recruit enough members to pay the rent and upkeep of the group's main house, a smaller house and a house director's cottage.

"Last week, the chapter voted themselves to close down," Anhorn said. He

said the decision was made by the chapter alone and not by the national Phi Mu organization or by the University.

"A lot of times organizations feel it's better to close on good terms and try to come back later," he said.

Anhorn said the local Phi Mu chapter plans to rent out its house on Henderson Street for two or three years and then try to regroup — just as Delta Sigma Phi successfully did this semester.

At the same time, Anhorn said he was excited about Delta Sigma Phi's come-

back. "I am really looking forward to their return to Greek campus life," he said.

"The amount of success they achieve will be a true sign as to whether there is still interest in the Greek community at UNC."

Kyle Roslund, a member of Delta Sigma Phi at the national level, emphasized the fraternity's strong values. "Delta Sigma Phi was founded on the principle of religious equality, and it continues to promote values of leadership, learning, service, friendship, diversity and respect and fun," he said.

Roslund said Delta Sigma Phi advocates the responsible use of alcohol, pointing out that the fraternity's house —

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*"Numerous fraternities around the nation have to fold every year because of membership and recruitment problems."*

MAIT O'BRIEN  
Interfraternity Council President

# Video Showing Offers Perspective on Al-Jazeera

By GRAHAM PARKER  
Staff Writer

Students and faculty will get a rare inside look at the Arab world today, courtesy of a unique presentation by UNC Professor Gorham Kindem.

Kindem, a communication studies professor at UNC, has put together a video presentation about al-Jazeera, a little-known Arab television network, and its view of the terrorist attacks, women in the Arab world and the ongoing war in Afghanistan. "Al-Jazeera, An Arab Voice for Freedom or Demagoguery? The UNC Tour," will show at 2 p.m. today in the Carolina Union film auditorium.

Al-Jazeera came under intense global scrutiny after Sept. 11.

The network's broadcast of Osama bin Laden's militant diatribes brought the network into the global spotlight and raised new questions about freedom of the press in the Arab world.

On Nov. 4, an entourage of UNC officials toured the Doha, Qatar base of al-Jazeera and spoke with the station's producer. Kindem was among the fac-

ulty members to visit al-Jazeera, and he said he found the tour informative.

After the trip, Kindem interviewed other UNC officials from the tour, asking their opinions of the network's people and ideas. "I think that most people who went on the tour found it very valuable," he said.

Kindem combined this interview footage with an interview of a station producer Samir Khader and some al-Jazeera broadcasts.

"He's added other perspectives," said Christine Ogan, who will respond to Kindem's production.

Ogan is a professor of journalism at Indiana University and a Park professor of journalism at UNC.

The al-Jazeera broadcast footage is vital because it shows an Arab perspective on things like the conflict between Israel and Palestine and the growth of women's movements in the Middle East. But Ogan said Khader's interview is the most important part of the film.

The interview includes Khader's views of bin Laden and the attacks — views Kindem says represent popular Arab opinions "on the street."

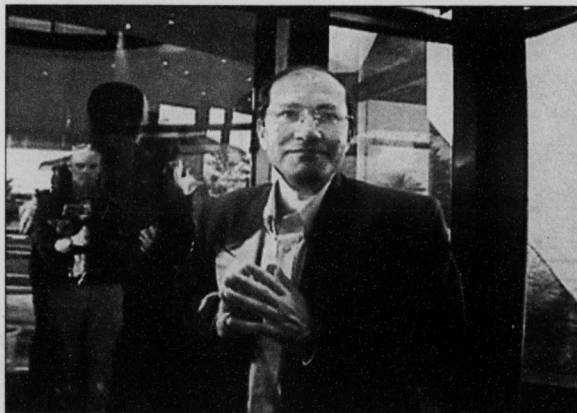


PHOTO COURTESY OF GORHAM KINDEM

UNC Professor Gorham Kindem (reflection) interviews Samir Khader, producer of Qatari television station al-Jazeera, for a film showing today.

"These were rumors that (Khader) refused to either air or reinforce or deny them," Kindem said. "His personal opinion was that it was an inside job."

A discussion will follow the video.

The Art & Entertainment Editor can be reached at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

# Legislators Talk Deficit With Town

State legislators who call Orange County home came to the Town Council meeting to discuss budget cuts.

By ADRIENNE CLARK  
Staff Writer

Emotions flared Monday night at a meeting between the Chapel Hill Town Council and Orange County's four state legislators as the two groups debated the pending budget situation.

The meeting focused on Gov. Mike Easley's decision to withhold money from municipalities to help deal with a \$900 million state deficit.

The withheld funds will spell a \$1.4 million cut for Chapel Hill.

Town Council member Mark Kleinschmidt said it is the responsibility of the legislators to stand up for the town government.

"The legislators should step up, advocate for better decisions, prevent ridiculous tax cuts," Kleinschmidt said. "The money from the tax cuts would more than have paid for (the deficit)."

Mayor Kevin Foy said one of the objectives of the meeting was to plan ways to prevent this situation from recurring.

"We discussed ways we might participate to make sure it doesn't happen again," Foy said.

"We're asking the legislators to guarantee our money won't be used and to give local governments direct authority."

The local legislators responded to the council members' claims that the state, not the municipalities, should be held responsible for the deficit.

Rep. Verla Insko, D-Orange, said Tuesday that town governments should not have to bear the state's load.

"The cities and counties shouldn't subsidize the state," Insko said. "They have their own shortfalls to deal with."

Insko said Easley is aware of the situation but has to balance the budget any way he can.

"He has to take any steps necessary and pull in available sources," Insko said. "He has that authority."

Insko said the best way to provide for local governments is to give them autonomy in determining tax rates, a power Chapel Hill doesn't have. The town needs state approval to raise taxes.

Insko said a real estate tax or an impact fee, a charge that would apply to residential developers, would be the best way to help the town governments.

Kleinschmidt said the problem is that the state is withholding money already budgeted for the fiscal year.

"This isn't about planning for the future," he said. "It's important the state understands what it's done to our situation."

But council member Flicka Bateman said Easley has promised local governments a return in revenue should the state not need the money.

"If things get better, local governments will be the first to get money he releases," Bateman said.

Kleinschmidt said he isn't certain that the funds would be returned to the town. "(The legislators) seem to think we'll get our money back," Kleinschmidt said. "I'm not sure."

Council member Pat Evans said that although she is not sure of the amount the council will get back, she believes the legislators will try to release as much as they can.

"Will they make every effort to give back the money? Yes," she said.

Bateman said she is not sure the money will be returned. "I have no idea," she said. "At this point, we have to plan for the worst and hope for the best."

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