

Carrboro Resident Fights Town on Traffic Pole Installation

By JAMIE DOUGHER
Assistant City Editor

Carrboro officials want to build traffic signals at the crossing of Rosemary and Main streets to make the area safer and more pedestrian-friendly, but one resident has voiced opposition.

Ted Bleecker, the owner of Bleecker Street Studios at 406 E. Main St. in Carrboro is upset because the town wants to build one of the traffic signals in front of his property.

The other two signals will be located

near the Kentucky Fried Chicken and the Performance Bike Shop.

"I've put a lot of effort forth, so I don't want this great, big ugly pole there," Bleecker said. "I don't like poles."

Bleecker said he wants town officials and the N.C. Department of Transportation to consider building the pole directly across the street from his building, an art studio.

"I find it aesthetically very disturbing," he said. "It's a 35-foot pole when my building's only 28 feet."

Carrboro Town Manager Bob

Morgan said the town is replacing the traffic signal because business owners expressed concern about the safety of pedestrians crossing the street in a busy downtown area. "The other alternative is to cut down our oak tree," he said.

The oak tree Morgan refers to is located across the street from Bleecker's property and is about a foot in diameter and 25 feet tall. Bleecker said the tree is a white oak tree under power lines that the town has to trim to keep the tree from getting too tall. "They're destroying the whole essence of the tree," he said.

Bleecker suggested the town cut down the tree and landscape the area or customize a more expensive pole that could go around the tree. "You can build a pole that's going to do anything," he said.

At the Carrboro Board of Aldermen meeting Tuesday night, Bleecker asked for compensation if the traffic light is built on his property.

He wants the town to either relieve him of paying his property taxes for 10 years or simply offer him \$50,000.

"I don't want the damn money, I just don't want the pole," Bleecker said.

Morgan said that the DOT is required to offer Bleecker some form of compensation but that it will be closer to market value and nowhere near \$50,000. "The DOT has to buy a portion of his land to build the poles," he said. "He'll be given fair market value."

Morgan said Carrboro will not provide any further compensation for the land beyond what the DOT offers.

Bleecker said that when the DOT initially approached him about building the pole, he was told it would be 6 to 8 feet high and would not be a traffic sig-

nal, so he agreed.

But he said when workers came to put in the pole, they dug a hole for the 35-foot-tall traffic signal instead. "It's manipulating and lying - deceit," he said. "The DOT is the biggest gorilla in the state."

Alderman Mark Dorosin said the board requested a report from the town staff to be presented at next Tuesday's meeting so the aldermen can have all the information available to discuss the issue.

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

INVESTING

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Yusko said.

This year any endowment that comes out positive or even stable will outperform most funds, said Damon Manetta, a spokesman for the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

Manetta said that nationwide he expects endowments to drop between 1 and 3 percent, although official numbers for 2001-02 are not yet available.

"If there are any increases, they will be so slight that they won't make much of a difference," he said.

According to the fiscal year 2000-01 survey, funds in college endowments fell on average by 3.6 percent.

The size of UNC's endowment that year went from about \$1.1 billion to about \$1.05 billion - roughly a 5 percent decrease.

UNC is one of 43 schools that invested more than \$1 billion dollars in the 2000-01 fiscal year.

Jud Koss, managing director at Commonfund, which oversees two private funds for UNC, said endowment losses nationwide are reeking havoc on campus projects.

"Shoot-for-the-lights-out returns from past years are now at negative levels," Koss said.

At UNC, officials didn't have trouble allocating 5 percent of the interest used to fund campus improvements and scholarships.

But Koss said, "Most investment committees are experiencing their first bear market in a long time, or the first time ever."

But Yusko said the University's Foundation Investment Fund board of directors anticipated the downturn.

He hopes to look past the recent troubles of the market and pull even with long-term endowment increases.

Over the last five years the fund has increased 9 percent, and over the last 20 years it is up 14 percent.

"We are still plunging forward and continuing to invest," Yusko said.

Manetta, the association analyst, said universities have adapted their investments to reflect the state of the economy and are being optimistic about this fiscal year.

"2003 is off to a choppy start," he said. "But that doesn't mean we can't have a positive year."

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TENURE

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they can be sued for it. That's chilling."

Tenure is designed to promote freedom of teaching and research while guaranteeing economic security, she said.

Tenure at UNC is a guarantee of employment and protection from loss of position on the basis of academic freedom, said Executive Associate Provost Bernadette Gray-Little.

"Historically, the idea was to guarantee employment so a faculty member couldn't be fired for teaching something," she said. "The idea was to preserve the freedom and the diversity of professors and the university."

According to last year's records, there are 945 tenured professors at UNC, 406

SAT

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within a couple of weeks."

Dishmon said the setback will not deter Orange County High School's dedication to excellence. "We will continue to push forward and look to increase our scores year after year."

In the Chapel Hill-Carrboro district, officials say the gains made by black stu-

tenured associate professors and three tenured assistant professors. The latter are a rarity at all universities.

Typically, a faculty member can opt for the tenure act after working at UNC for about 12 years, Gray-Little said.

A professor's request for tenure goes through three UNC committees, the third being the Chancellor's Advisory Committee, she said.

Gray-Little said that once a professor is tenured, it is permanent.

"Practically, it means a faculty member is guaranteed security of employment on the basis of good performance," she said. "That's why it's known as 'permanent tenure.' It's rare for a faculty member to lose tenure."

But they undergo a post-tenure review every five years, Gray-Little said. UNC faculty members can lose

tenure for gross misconduct, incompetence or neglect of duty and can be either discharged, suspended - with or without pay - or demoted.

The UNC Provost's Office formed a special task force last year to look into possibly revamping the tenure process. The Appointment, Promotion and Tenure Task Force, formed at the request of Faculty Council Chairwoman Sue Estroff, is expected to present a report to the Faculty Council and the provost as early as September.

Estroff said the firing of a tenured professor at UNC is not a common occurrence - she knows of only one such case. She declined further comment on the issue.

The State and National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

House OKs Continuing Resolution

Staff Report

The N.C. House passed a resolution Wednesday prolonging the state's operation under the 2001-02 budget, simultaneously delaying a provision cutting off lawmaker's expense allowance.

The N.C. Senate passed a similar resolution Tuesday continuing state spending at last year's level until Sept. 30 or until a budget for the 2002-03 fiscal year is approved.

The Senate resolution also contained a provision severing lawmakers' \$104-a-day allowance starting Sept. 1.

But the House version of the resolution set the end date at Oct. 1. Because the House altered the resolution, it will return to the Senate for another vote.

If the resolution is not approved by Sept. 1, state spending could halt as the two chambers have yet to agree on a budget for this fiscal year.

The budget proposals contain significant differences - both in revenue calculations and suggested appropriations.

But the two chambers must reach a consensus in conference committee in order to craft a final budget.

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