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Next Step

After winning the ACC tournament, UNC's women's soccer team prepares for the NCAA's
See Page 7

Thank You

The Tar Heel Brigade honors America's veterans.
See Page 3



Weather

Today: T-storms; H 62, L 40
Wednesday: Cloudy; H 54, L 37
Thursday: Partly Cloudy; H 58, L 39



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Residential Occupancy Guidelines Nearly Set

Plan changes limits on unrelated renters

By MICHAEL DAVIS
Assistant City Editor

In another step toward changes in town land-use standards, the Chapel Hill Town Council voted last week to clarify occupancy standards to allow no more than four unrelated residents per housing unit – or four per side of a duplex.

The final draft of the land-use management ordinance, which officials hope to adopt in December or January, must be passed before the limits go into effect.

The council voted 8-1 last week in favor of the increased occupancy limits, with council member Mark Kleinschmidt the lone dissenter.

The existing ordinance allows for only two unrelated people per residence, or four in an entire duplex structure. The move largely formalizes existing practice, bringing the ordinance in line with the interpretation of the law held by town officials until earlier this year.

Supporters of the occupancy limits – most notably longtime town residents – argue that traffic, noise and garbage problems caused largely by student renters are detrimental to neighborhood environments.

The brunt of opposition toward the limits has come from students and landlords worried that off-campus students would be pushed to the outer limits of Chapel Hill or Carboro.

But Kleinschmidt argued that other groups – including ethnic and sexual minorities – are being targeted with restrictions that limit the number of unrelated persons allowed to reside in one dwelling. “A lot of people are treated unfairly because of this,” he said.

Kleinschmidt also contends that the occupancy limits are largely useless. “I think unenforceable laws are an insult to ... citizens,” he said. “It’s asinine.”

But Mayor Kevin Foy said that while the limits are not enforceable, they still aim to “ensure that neighborhoods are respected.”

“We’re not going to inquire into people’s relationships,” he said.

Council member Edith Wiggins said that property owners must certify with the local renters association but that little else can be done to ensure that limits are respected. “We expect people to tell us the truth,” she said.

Kleinschmidt said using occupancy as a measure to limit other problems in See OCCUPANCY, Page 5



Chapel Hill Town Council member Mark Kleinschmidt voted against occupancy limits.

Officials: System Unlikely to Get Full Funds

N.C. legislators doubt chances for \$4 billion request

By FAYE FERNANDES
Staff Writer

State legislators say the \$4 billion, two-year budget request the UNC-system Board of Governors made for its 16 campuses has little chance of being fully funded because of last year's emergency budget measures.

The BOG requested the funds Friday to continue normal university operations, to increase fac-

ulty salaries and to expand and improve facilities.

The request has to be approved by the N.C. General Assembly and Gov. Mike Easley.

But legislators said the request is unlikely to be met in full because of the state's budget crisis.

It will be difficult to accommodate all areas of necessary funding because of the state's precarious budget situation, said Sen. Walter Dalton, D-Rutherford, co-chairman of the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

“It will most definitely be hard to provide all the requested funding because last year we preserved educational priorities through one-time initiatives,” he said. “This leaves a huge hole in the budget for this year.”

Sen. Charles Carter, D-Buncombe and co-chairman of the Senate Education Committee, also said he does not expect the BOG request to be funded fully. “It’s going to be a tough budget year coming up, so I imagine we’ll fund less than was requested,” he said.

But Carter emphasized that schools’ suffering will be reduced by allowing administrators to select which areas to cut within their budgets.

“The General Assembly does define certain appropriations, but universities have a great deal of flexibility with funding,” he said.

It is difficult to speculate on how much of the requested budget will be approved because not all the legislative races have been determined, said Rep. Margaret Jeffus, D-Guilford, vice chairwoman of the House Education Committee.

Budget decisions will be affected largely by the party that ends up gaining a majority in the legislature, politicians have said.

See BUDGET, Page 5

ELECTION 2004



DTH/BRIAN CASSELLA

U.S. Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., will become the state's senior senator in January with the retirement of Jesse Helms. Some believe Edwards, 49, is considering a presidential bid in 2004 despite having only one term of political experience.

2004 SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON DEMOCRATIC DARLING

By EMMA BURGIN / Assistant State & National Editor

Some have called him North Carolina's “golden boy.” Others have described him as “Kennedy-esque.”

There is no doubting the popularity of North Carolina's young, charismatic senator, John Edwards – a self-proclaimed “advocate for the people.”

And pundits and reporters have been speculating about a 2004 presidential bid for months.

After growing up in Robbins and attending the UNC School of Law, Edwards, D-N.C., came into the public's view as a successful Raleigh trial lawyer, claiming to have championed the state's less fortunate.

He was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1998, usurping Republican incumbent Lauch Faircloth by gaining 51 percent of the popular vote in

See EDWARDS, Page 5



DTH FILE PHOTO

Edwards, previously a little-known lawyer, upset incumbent Republican Lauch Faircloth to win election to the U.S. Senate in November 1998.

Energy Source Referendum in Congress Today

By ELIZABETH DANIELS
Staff Writer

Student Congress will vote today on whether to create a task force to study renewable energy on campus and whether to place a referendum on the February general election ballot asking students to approve a student fee increase to support further investigation.

The resolution calling for a referendum states that by creating a student fee for renewable energy, the University can fund projects such as developing solar energy on campus and purchasing alternative energy from outside sources such as N.C. GreenPower.

If the referendum passes in February, students will pay an additional \$4 per semester. This price would amount to \$192,000 per year. The fee would go into effect in 2004, and a similar referendum would be placed on the ballot every four years beginning in 2008 asking students to reapprove the fee and set its amount.

Members discussed the proposed bill and resolution at the Rules and Judiciary Committee of Student Congress meeting Nov. 5.

The Renewable Energy Special Project Committee, charged with creating and funding projects on campus that would encourage the use of renewable energy, would be made up of seven students appointed by the speaker of Congress, the student body president and the Graduate and Professional Student Federation president, along with nonvoting members of University administration.

At the moment, 67 percent of UNC's power comes from fossil fuel combustion and 32 percent comes from nuclear generation, according to proposed legislation. By implementing cleaner renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and small hydroelectric, the University would reduce pollution, as well as electricity costs, proponents said.

Carey Richter, chairwoman of the Student Affairs Committee of Student Congress, brought both pieces of legislation forward after a decision by the Student Environmental Action Coalition – which, as a student group, would have needed 2,700 votes to place the referendum on the ballot – to turn it over to Student Congress. SEAC members originally proposed and researched the issue and conducted a poll to see whether students would support a fee to pay for renewable energy.

“By going through Congress, it allows us to debate and discuss it more before going to the student body,” Richter said. “Also, with a re-election every four years, we would be able to see if the money continues to be needed or not.”

At the Nov. 5 meeting, some members questioned See RENEWABLE ENERGY, Page 5

“By going through Congress, it allows us to ... discuss it more before going to the student body.”

CAREY RICHTER
Student Congress

GOP Snags Southern Support

By JAMIE MCGEE
Staff Writer

Recent gains in the number of elected seats held by Republicans in the South are challenging the region's traditionally Democratic slant – but experts say they are not sure whether the trend will continue in the next election.

Republicans gained many high-level elected offices in Tuesday's midterm election, including the governorships in Arkansas, South Carolina and Georgia. Nationally, GOP candidates – including N.C. Sen.-elect Elizabeth Dole and Rep. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga. – won enough

Senate seats to shift the balance of power from Democrats to Republicans in both chambers of the U.S. Congress.

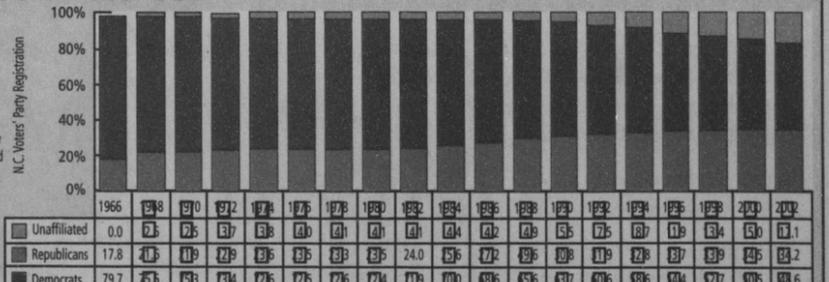
In North Carolina, Democrats retained narrow control of the Senate but Republicans triumphed in many state elections, gaining a narrow 61-59 majority in the House as of Friday's unofficial results. Several candidates have requested vote recounts in counties with particularly close races.

The trend toward Republican representation in the South did not begin with last week's election, said Ferrel Guillory, director of UNC's Program on Southern Politics,

See GOP, Page 5

The Rise of the GOP

Republicans won U.S. Senate elections in eight of the 10 Southern states Nov. 5. The GOP also took control of the N.C. House 61-59, making it the majority party for only the third time since Reconstruction. Democrats protected their majority in the N.C. Senate, though it narrowed from 35-15 to 28-22.



SOURCE: NORTH CAROLINA DATANET

DTH/MELISSA PIERONI & PRISCILLA TSAI

I said I didn't want to run for president. I didn't ask you to believe me.

Mario Cuomo