

The Daily Tar Heel

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Candidates' diversity will not be a key issue in the 2004 election, pundits say
Look for more stories online.

Uprooted

This year's La Fiesta del Pueblo festivities will be relocated from Chapel Hill to Raleigh.
See Page 7

Party Line

Rep. Paul Luebke speaks to UNC's Young Democrats.
See Page 3



Weather

Today: Partly Cloudy; H 44, L 33
Wednesday: P.M. Showers; H 52, L 32
Thursday: Few Showers; H 42, L 31



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Council Adopts Development Ordinance

Effectiveness of plan to be evaluated in the next year

By **BILLY CORRIHER**
Assistant City Editor

After making final alterations to both strengthen and relax some of its most controversial restrictions, the Chapel Hill Town Council voted 9-0 Monday night to pass its Land-Use Management Ordinance.

The ordinance will regulate local development in a manner that preserves the town's atmosphere and minimizes environmental impact.

The council, having heard public comments throughout the two-year process of revising the ordinance, made several changes Monday to the fifth and final draft.

Many residents had expressed concerns about how existing structures would be affected by the more stringent provisions of the new ordinance, but Planning Director Roger Waldon said only new structures will be affected by the stricter requirements.

The approved draft makes it clear that existing homes and already-approved developments will be exempt from the new ordinance and that instead they will be

governed by the less-stringent ordinance that was in place at the time of their approval.

The draft also clarified contentious restrictions, such as the expanded Resource Conservation District, which prohibits development on land within 150 feet of a stream.

In addition to listening to residents' feedback Monday, the council responded to a request from Chapel Hill's business community. The council rejected a suggestion from the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce that would have allowed for more incentives to develop residential units in the downtown area.

Mayor Kevin Foy said a blanket program to provide incentives for downtown development might be too far-reaching. "Maybe we should give (incentives) where it's warranted," he said.

But council member Pat Evans said incentives are needed to counter the obvious downsides, such as higher costs and parking concerns, associated with trying to develop residential units downtown. "I think we need that, because it's too easy not to do a project downtown," she said.

The council has sought more high-density residential

development downtown and along transit lines, but it did not want to increase incentives as much as the chamber suggested. Council members voted to adopt a smaller incentive program and agreed that its effectiveness would be evaluated as part of the yearlong review process for the entire ordinance.

The council also relaxed some of the ordinance's most stringent – and controversial – regulations.

The approved draft requires developments that will disturb 5,000 square feet of land to adhere to stricter tree protection standards.

The council discussed lowering the threshold to 2,000 square feet of land disturbance but decided against it because the standards then would apply to nearly all homes. Council member Jim Ward said the 5,000 square foot threshold is "a reasonable compromise."

Town Manager Cal Horton said a lower threshold would have required nearly all homes to be inspected to see if they complied with the standards, thus creating more work for town staff. "If we set it at 2,000 square feet, inspections of each lot would become the controlling factor in each permit application process," he said.

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Mayor Kevin Foy (right) and council member Bill Strom vote on the final changes to the Land-Use Management Ordinance.

Panel Decides To Investigate Ethics Charges

By **MEREDITH NICHOLSON**
Assistant University Editor

Members of the Student Congress Ethics Committee voted 4-1 Monday to launch an informal investigation into allegations that Finance Committee Chairwoman Natalie Russell knowingly violated the Student Code by living outside of the district she was elected to represent.

Ethics Committee member Alak Shah brought charges before the committee last week after he discovered that Russell, who was elected to represent Craige and Ehringhaus residence halls, lives in Hinton James North Residence Hall.

"(Natalie Russell's move) did not physically ... separate her from the constituents who she was representing."

CAREY RICHTER
Congress Speaker

last spring. "It did not physically, or in any other manner, separate her from the constituents who she was representing."

Richter said that because Hinton James North is located close to the residence halls Russell was elected to represent, she still was able to represent her constituents.

Committee member William Teeter said that the location of her new residence is irrelevant and that there should be no distinction made between Congress members who move from their districts to the next building over or from their districts to the other side of campus. "I believe that when she moved, she moved out of (her district)," he said.

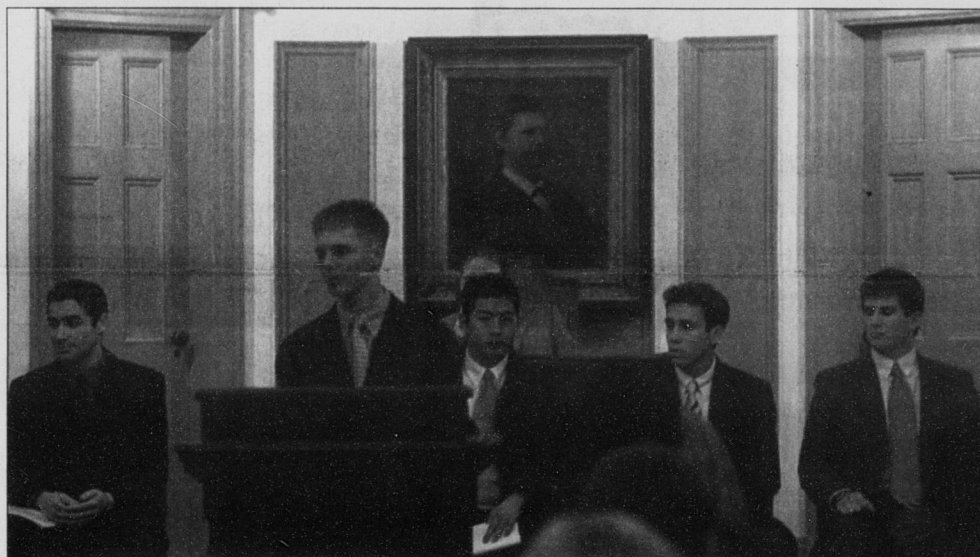
Teeter said the most worrisome part of the allegations is that members of Congress knew Russell was living outside her district and failed to compel her to resign or to bring the matter before the full Congress.

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DTH/MEREDITH HILL

The Student Congress Ethics Committee voted to initiate an informal investigation into allegations.



DTH/KRISTEN ASHTON

Student body president candidate Ben Pickett speaks while candidates Dan Pickel (left), Sang Shin, Matt Tepper and Nathan Cherry look on. The five attended a forum hosted by the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies on Monday night.

SBP HOPEFULS SHARE KEY CAMPAIGN GOALS

Oldest student groups host elections forum

By **NIKKI WERKING**
Assistant University Editor

Among the portraits of men who influenced the University's history, student body president candidates discussed their platforms Monday in a formal forum setting.

The Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, the oldest student organizations at UNC, hosted their annual student body president candidate forum Monday night in New West Hall.

The organization does not endorse a candidate, but it gives candidates an opportunity to discuss a variety of issues and to field questions from the audience.

Each of the four student body president candidates – Nathan Cherry, Ben Pickett, Sang Shin and Matt Tepper – and write-in candidate Dan Pickel had four minutes to present their platforms and then had two minutes to respond to questions from the audience. The candidates then had as much time as they wanted to make their closing remarks.

Pickett said his top priority is to make UNC a more fun place for students by organizing more events where they can meet

each other.

"I'm not running (for student body president) for ambition, power or pride," he said. "I'm here to have a good time. These are supposed to be the best years of our lives."

If elected, Pickel said, he would work to eliminate final exams on Saturdays and would try to create a scholarship to provide Spring Break funding for students with good grades.

Pickett said his platform includes progressive policy proposals that are geared to benefit everyone in the University community.

"I want to be able to come back to Carolina in 20 years and know that I truly made a change," he said. "I don't necessarily want people to remember the Pickett administration but just that someone made a change and truly made a difference."

Two issues Pickett promoted were his proposals for the Carolina Security Initiative, which would create a security affairs position in the executive branch of student government and work to increase security patrolling and lighting on campus, and the Equal Rights Initiative, which would aim to protect the mission statements of student organizations.

Shin said he is concerned with the student body president's accessibility and said increasing communication between students and student government would be a top priority.

"Students need to work together to convey University issues and concerns (to the administration)," he said. "I want to be more visible and let students know the student body president is there and can answer questions."

Shin also said he is committed to promoting diversity through his proposal for the Promoting and Understanding Diversity Initiative. The initiative would focus on giving all student groups an equal voice on campus.

Tepper said that of the student body president candidates, his platform is the most comprehensive and most feasible.

"I've been researching my platform for the past two months (to ensure that) my ideas can be done and are the best possible," he said. "All my ideas can be done and can be done during my tenure."

To increase the power of the student voice on campus, Tepper said, he plans to create a student wish list that would be available to potential donors to inform them of students' top desires and needs. He also emphasized the importance of the student voice in the University's ongoing curriculum review.

Cherry said he plans to improve accessibility by forming a satellite student government office on South Campus and to improve UNC's relationship with the town of Chapel Hill by creating a Cabinet-level committee on town affairs.

If elected, Cherry said, his passion for UNC and its students would drive his administration's commitment to serving students effectively.

"I love this place," he said. "I love it a whole lot, and I really want to see things get done."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

FBI Ups Dialogue With U.S. Colleges

By **BOBBY WHISNANT JR.**
Staff Writer

The FBI recently has increased communication with campus police departments to prevent terrorist activity at national colleges and universities, including institutions in North Carolina.

Rollin Donelson, director of police and public safety at UNC-Greensboro, said he met with the director of FBI liaisons in Chicago about a year ago to discuss FBI involvement with campus police.

"The FBI is seeking to be involved with all campus police departments, as they feel it will help tremendously with anti-terrorism efforts, especially since September 11," he said.

Donelson, an FBI National Academy graduate, said FBI training improves campus departments' capabilities.

"If needed, we are able to send officers from our department to be trained by FBI detectives, something called 'retraining,'" he said.

But Donelson said universities the

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Bush Must Sell War, Economy

By **AMANDA JEPSEN**
Staff Writer

President Bush has an opportunity today to garner public support for the war in Iraq and to promote his plan to bolster a faltering economy in his State of the Union address, pundits say.

The address will air at 9 p.m. on all major news channels and will serve as a forum for Bush to speak about the issues he might address while on the campaign trail.

James Stimson, UNC professor of political science, said the address will kick off Bush's re-election campaign. The president must gain some momentum before it's too late, he said.

Gallup polls show Bush's approval rating at 60 percent – his lowest rating

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Everybody has a chance to become president of the United States. I'll sell mine for a quarter.

Lawrence Lee