

## For Town, It's Not Easy Being Green

**M**onday night, the Chapel Hill Town Council passed the new Land-Use Management Ordinance – its pet project of the last two years or so.

In the largest accomplishment in the council's recent history, the ordinance has been a balancing act between business and environmental interests.

Council member Dorothy Verkerk said in a Monday Daily Tar Heel article, "It's going to determine what Chapel Hill will look like for at least the next 20 years."



**COLIN SUTTER**  
CITY COLUMNIST

What Chapel Hill will look like has a lot to do with how its economy will fare in these winds of change.

While Chapel Hill transitions from a small college town to a more developed area, the new code mandates

little niceties in hopes of at least putting a better face on growth.

The council emphasized the use of large buffer zones in between development projects in hopes of maintaining Chapel Hill's beauty and character.

However, the trade-off is what forms the base of the economic primordial soup – land.

Increasing the amount of green space reduces the amount of land up for development, thus reducing the opportunity for the greenbacks to come a-rollin' in.

And the economy, for those students who haven't been in the area all that long, myself included – but I've been told – it "ain't what it used to be."

It's even been suggested that Franklin Street play host to several national retail and restaurant chains to jump-start the Benjamins. Want to talk about losing the character of this town?

The largest impact the new ordinance has on development is the 150-foot Resource Conservation District surrounding streams.

The code states that buffers of this severity are needed to maintain water quality, minimize danger of flooding and to protect the environmental-sensitive character of the town.

Less land means less meat for developers to work with, resulting in fewer sales from developments and also fewer consumers in the area to support a lucrative economy.

But are we talking about drops in a bucket? Probably.

Other ways the "green" in the ordinance shines through is the use of buffers between development projects.

The buffers will be created on streets adjacent to developments, allowing for more environmental incursion into growth.

While a 25-acre apartment complex might spring up right next door, there'll be a nice little wooded area in between.

The zone will not be large enough for the animals that used to live there to remain, but you were probably running them over with your car anyway.

With the Chapel Hill mayoral and Town Council elections turning out a year ago in favor of slow or no-growth candidates, the degree to which those growth tendencies would influence this ordinance was expected.

Most voting residents in Chapel Hill, environmentally minded or not, worry about what the town could possibly expand into.

Traffic around rush hour is getting increasingly worse. Huge developments are becoming more and more common as urban sprawl begins to hit.

The quality of life that Chapel Hill attracts families with is becoming abused as more and more try to cram into Chapel Hill.

The members on the Town Council were certainly aware of this. And despite the need to appease all sides, the finished code should allow for both growth and the retaining of Chapel Hill's image.

Chapel Hill will inevitably change. Not any time soon, but someday large blocks of businesses will line Franklin and Rosemary streets. Large apartment buildings will dot the landscape.

Some people along the way will cry foul and demand a return to the olden days. By that time many of those that knew Chapel Hill as a sleepy idyllic college town will be gone. For them it will be a good thing; they would probably hate the way this town will develop.

But, in the words of novelist Robertson Davies, "The world is full of people whose notion of a satisfactory future is in fact a return to the idealized past."

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# UNC Student Charged With False Pretenses

### Accused of selling site he didn't own

**By JOHN FRANK**  
City Editor

A UNC junior business major was arrested Monday and charged with one felony count of false pretense after he sold a pornographic Web site he didn't own to a South Carolina Web master.

Peter Barnidge, 21, of 1408 Granville Towers West, turned himself in at the Chapel Hill Police Department a day after investigators served a search warrant on his fourth-floor room, where they collected substantial evidence to link him to the false sale of <http://www.persiankitty.com>.

Police investigator John Moore of the department's cyber crime task force was alerted by University police after they were contacted by the victim Jan. 16.

The suspect was charged with computer fraud after he received a \$1,000 down payment from the 58-year-old victim in Charleston, S.C., for the domain name he didn't own, Moore said.

In interviews Tuesday, the suspect said he didn't get the money, and the victim said the money was sent through the Internet to a third party's account at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., which was emptied soon after the transfer.

Police said they still are tracking the money trail and are requesting all correspondences from the suspect's UNC e-mail account.

Initially the suspect identified himself

as a business partner of the Web site's actual owner. According to a domain registry Web site, the domain name is owned by Meow Media of Tacoma, Wash. Moore contacted the owners, who said they didn't know the suspect.

Officials in Tacoma didn't return phone calls Tuesday night.

The suspect advertised the sale of the site through a mass e-mail to adult Web site owners, including the victim.

Through a dozen e-mails and two phone calls, the victim and suspect negotiated the price of the Web site as \$2,000,



**Peter Barnidge**

with a \$1,000 down payment and 25 percent of the earnings for the first six months.

Moore said he was told by the victim that the Web site in question is the oldest adult site in the country. Featuring an over-18 disclaimer above nude pictures and hundreds of links to other pornographic sites, [persiankitty.com](http://persiankitty.com) gets nearly 300,000 hits a day, he said.

The victim, who owns numerous adult Web sites, said his busiest site gets only 50,000 hits a day.

The victim said he became suspicious after the domain name wasn't transferred on the scheduled date. He unsuccessfully tried to contact the suspect many times.

Using tracking software, the victim traced the suspect to the UNC computer network and alerted campus police.

Police are looking into a connection to

at least two other people – the person who the money was wired to and another UNC student who called the victim last week to try to cut a deal in exchange for the charges being dropped.

The victim would not identify either person, and police refused to comment.

Because the crime took place over the Internet, the suspect could face federal charges. But Moore said he wouldn't ask for federal charges because of the suspect's cooperation and the small amount of money in question.

The suspect was released Monday on a written promise to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on March 28.

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).



Student body president candidate Ben Pickett officially kicks off his campaign Monday while Brad Overcash, his campaign manager, looks on. Pickett has said he will bring common sense to the presidency.

## Pickett's Platform Centers On Integrity, Sense

**By WILL AREY**  
Staff Writer

Were there such a thing, Ben Pickett most likely would run for student body president on the Common Sense ticket.

In his conversations and discussions, Pickett emphasizes the notions of common sense and honesty in student government's executive branch – things, he said, that have not always been present in past years.

He also wants to make sure that he does not forsake the future of the University to reach short-term goals.

Yet Pickett, a junior from Lexington, says he still is focused on what is happening at UNC – just not so focused that he's willing to compromise the future.

"I want my administration to gear itself toward making true and lasting changes here," Pickett said. "We want to focus on bettering the lives of all Tar Heels, both now and in the future."

A member of the Honor Court all three years he's been at UNC, Pickett said he wants to ensure that honor and integrity stay associated with the executive branch.

"I want to do what's right, to bring a sense of moral conviction to the office," Pickett said. "I don't really want my picture all over the place. I just want to get in here and make a difference."

Pickett's platform is full of issues such as security, race relations and gender issues that have troubled the University for decades. And he hopes that, if given a chance, his programs can help UNC escape these troubles for the long haul.

"I want my programs to be here in 20 years whether anyone remembers my name or not," Pickett said. "It's about bettering the lives of those at UNC."

One of the cornerstones of Pickett's platform is the Carolina Security Initiative, which aims to boost security on campus using mainly preventative methods.

"The main problem is that students are not as safe as they can be," Pickett said. "We want to focus on eliminating the person that lurks in the shadows but also on eliminating the shadows themselves."

Pickett is adamant in his opposition of student fee increases. On the February ballot, students will choose whether the student activity fee should be increased to \$19.50 per semester for all students.

"I don't want my administration involved in raises," he said. "Raises in student fees don't create a good aroma, and they also undercut the legitimacy of the administration."

As an alternative to raising student fees, Pickett proposed educating student organizations about the grants available through the Carolina Center for Public Service. "It's important that students know of the opportunities for money that are available to them, and we will use our communications outlets to help make all students aware of these opportunities," Pickett said.

But senior Jason Perlmutter, station manager of WXYC, said grants would not necessarily be able to satisfy the needs of student organizations. "The problem with grants is that you have to ask for everything you need before you

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## Local Police Hold Man Who Fled Assault Charges

### U.S. Customs Service received suspect at U.S.-Mexico border

**By ELIZABETH B. SHERMAN**  
Staff Writer

A monthlong search for a 36-year-old Chapel Hill man charged with stabbing his wife ended when he turned himself in at the U.S.-Mexico border and was arrested Monday by Carrboro police.

Antonio Miguel Perez of 211 Pinegate Circle Apt. 4, who had been charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, was returned to the Orange County Sheriff's Office at 2:10 p.m. He later was transferred to Carrboro police.

Police reports state that after the suspect stabbed his estranged wife in her Carrboro apartment, he stole a car and fled with the couple's 11-year-old twins.

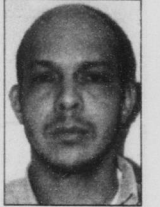
After being attacked by the suspect, his wife – who does not own a phone – went to the rental office of her apartment complex and asked employees to call 911. She was treated at UNC Hospitals for serious stab wounds to her abdomen.

Three days later, police had not yet located the suspect or the two children, but the vehicle he allegedly had stolen was found in Pasadena, Texas, reports state.

On Jan. 8, the suspect called an unidentified friend in Leominster, Mass.

He told the friend that he and the children were in Mexico

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**Antonio Miguel Perez**

## Fraternity Court House Must Stay Greek, Rules Say

### Code: House can only be rented to students in Greek system

**By JACK KIMBALL**  
Assistant City Editor

Fraternity Court will remain a completely fraternal niche near campus because zoning regulations on the now privately owned Pi Lambda Phi house place restrictions on who can live on the property.

After receiving complaints and concerns about changing the zoning of the house, the Chapel Hill town manager's office notified owner Guy Solie that the house is zoned for fraternity and sorority members only.

The zoning of the house states that it must be occupied and maintained solely by college, university or professional students who are affiliated with a social, honorary or professional organization.

"There was a concern that the property was changing," said Maggie Bowers, senior code enforcement officer for Chapel Hill.

Solie originally renovated the property without any specific type of tenant in mind.

"I had hoped and thought it'd be for any university student, but they have to be in a fraternity," Solie said.

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## Mock Election Chooses Sharon for Israel

### Carolina Students for Israel held vote

**By KELLY BLINSON**  
Staff Writer

Whether Tuesday's elections in Israel were determined by votes on UNC's campus or in Israel itself, Ariel Sharon was re-elected as Israel's prime minister.

With temperatures dropping to the mid-30s and the wind rustling an Israeli flag draped over their table, members of Carolina Students for Israel set up a mock election Tuesday afternoon in the Pit.

The mock election took place on the same day as Israeli elections for prime minister. Members of CSI began cam-

paigned Monday and continued with the election Tuesday. They used fliers, petitions and word-of-mouth to get the word out to students.

David Krusch, who organized the election, said that about 200 to 250 people voted in the Pit and that out of those people, 57 percent cast votes in favor of the Likud party, which Sharon leads. The Labor party finished with 31 percent of the vote. Krusch also said 10 smaller parties were represented on campus, with each party receiving a small percentage of the vote.

Although there are only two major political parties in Israel, Likud and Labor, there are more than 22 smaller parties for voters to choose from based on their preferences.

CSI members were pleased with the

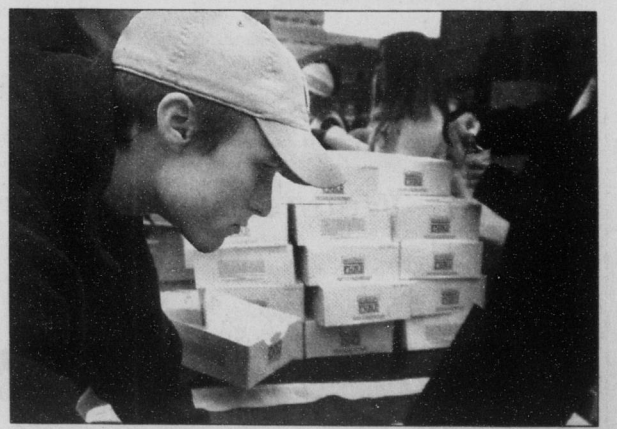
number of students who showed support for the election, especially students who were not part of the Jewish community.

In Tel Aviv on Tuesday afternoon, Likud supporters were celebrating their victory with songs and street celebrations.

Elections in Israel are held every four years for the national parties and every five years for municipal parties. Under democratic rule, the elections held are general, equal and secret.

Krusch, a sophomore religious studies major, is a member of three Jewish pro-Israel groups on campus: CSI, N.C. Hillel and Alpha Epsilon Pi. He said the University was one of 60 campuses in the United States and Europe involved in the mock elections.

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Freshman Richard Bean (left) votes Tuesday in a mock Israeli election held in the Pit by Carolina Students for Israel.

DTH/SHILPI PAUL