

SPRINKLER

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do something about fire safety, it should address the problem at all bars and clubs and that the proposal is a "death penalty for (the four) businesses."

Fire Chief Dan Jones said that the threshold of the proposal is reasonable but that he would have liked to see more bars and clubs with sprinklers. However, he said, it is important to recognize the balance between economic feasibility and safety.

Dorosin suggested options besides sprinklers, such as routine fire inspections. However, he said he does not think his patrons are in any serious danger.

"Everything was caused by the Rhode Island fire," he said. "It was a unique and unusual situation that could never happen (here)."

Lloyd Rippe, owner of Bub O'Malley's, also expressed anger at the town's proposal.

"Our patrons are safe," he said. The fire at the Station nightclub in Rhode Island that killed 99 was "an act of stupidity" and was caused by

fire code violations, he added.

If the bill passes, Dorosin said, he plans to decrease the capacity of his club so it will not fall under the new threshold because he is concerned about the cost of sprinkler installation, as well as the time it will take to install the sprinklers.

Rippe said his landlord will have to bear the cost of sprinklers, as he has no plans to decrease his bar's capacity, which is 255. However, he said that he knows the cost of installing sprinklers will affect his business and that he might have to increase prices as a result.

Virginia Knapp, director of external affairs for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, said she thinks it will be important for the town to work with owners to find ways to install sprinklers without putting bars out of business.

She suggested tax breaks or low-interest loans for businesses or building owners. Knapp said whoever ultimately bears the financial burden of installation will depend on how the leases are written.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

IRAQ

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Though it was not known if al-Tikriti had come under pressure from Syria to surrender, the news came as President Bush said the Damascus government was beginning to heed U.S. demands for cooperation against Hussein's inner circle.

"They're getting the message that they should not harbor Baath Party officials, high-ranking Iraqi officials," Bush said Sunday.

BUDGET

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Mecklenburg) and Richard Morgan (R-Moore), were under a lot of pressure. They had a strong incentive to show that they could work together and make the House work," said Ferrel Guillory, director of UNC-Chapel Hill's Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life.

He said Morgan helped build a Republican compromise that allowed a budget with bipartisan support to be passed quickly.

Syrian President Bashar Assad told two visiting U.S. congressmen Sunday that Damascus will not give asylum to war crimes suspects from Iraq and will expel any Iraqi who should cross the border.

The comments by both sides marked an easing of tensions that had escalated between the United States and Syria over reports that members of Hussein's deposed government had crossed the border. The accusations by Washington, D.C., led to speculation that Syria could become

Bush's next military target.

Al-Tikriti is married to Hussein's youngest daughter, Hala, and was deputy head of the Tribal Affairs Office. Dubbed by the U.S. military as the nine of clubs in its deck of most wanted, he ranks No. 40 out of the 55 top Iraqi officials sought by the allies.

He was being questioned Sunday by intelligence officers of the Free Iraqi Forces, the congress' armed wing, and would be turned over to the U.S. military soon, said Haider Ahmed, spokesman for the

congress, a London-based umbrella group of Hussein opponents.

Meanwhile, coalition troops arrested the higher education and scientific research minister, Abd al-Khaliq Abd al-Ghafur, on Saturday, the U.S. Central Command said in Doha, Qatar.

Abd al-Ghafur was designated the four of hearts in the U.S. military's deck and was number 54 on the coalition wanted list. The spokesman could not say where Abd al-Ghafur was arrested or provide additional details.

THE Daily Crossword

By Gerald R. Ferguson

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- ACROSS
1 Vended
5 Emotional doldrums
10 "Les Miserables" writer
14 Finished
15 Hair-raising
16 Fire-sale phrase
17 Cantrell or Turner
18 Avignon's river
19 Cincinnati team
20 1958
Spencer Tracy film, with "The"
23 Gelling agent
24 Showy showman
25 Rheostat
28 Surefire shots
30 R-V hookup
33 Actor
Morales
34 mater (brain covering)
36 Tin Pan Alley letters
38 America makers
41 Church

Grid for crossword puzzle with clues and answers. Includes words like 'Woodworker's tool', 'Piano adjuster', 'Load suitcases', 'Actor Alda', 'Stance', 'Movie: prof. or fruit', 'Input', 'Teheran's place', 'Poet Lazarus', 'Coarse file'.

"(Morgan's) speech was very significant," he said. "He got up and said, as a Republican, 'We have got to extend these taxes. Cutting further will hurt too much. We can't go there.' ... It said that almost all the Democrats and a significant group of Republicans had come together to say that there were limits on spending cuts."

Guillory added that the Senate could amend the tuition-increase proposal. "I'm confident that the governor will encourage the Senate to deal with the tuition increases. I wouldn't say that the increases are a done deal yet."

Morgan said the speed with which the budget passed indicates a consensus among the House, its committees and subcommittees. "The speed at which the budget passed showed that (the two coplayers) worked very closely together throughout the process

and our appropriations team worked very hard," he said. "The votes indicated that the coalition is very strong."

He added that although the budget passed quickly through the House, there was full deliberation in subcommittees.

"We had to build consensus in the subcommittees, then with the appropriations chairs, then in the entire House," Morgan said. "We had full and thorough debate."

David Miner, R-Wake, chairman of the House Finance Committee, said that the bill passed through seven subcommittees before reaching the House and that his committee had been discussing the budget for almost three months.

"We have been in session since February, and many people are very well-briefed on the budget," he said.

As Easley recommended, the House budget delays a half-cent

sales tax decrease originally slated to take place July 1.

Suggestions to increase the cigarette tax or to close corporate tax loopholes — providing tens of millions of dollars in additional revenue — also were not included in the House budget.

The House spending plan provides \$25 million for Easley's proposal to lower second-grade class sizes and \$8.6 million for his More at Four preschool program.

But Morgan said he expects the budget to be returned to the House with few changes. "Many of the House subcommittees meet jointly with their Senate counterparts — working together," he said. "Not a lot will be a surprise to the Senate. The Senate has made a pledge to return the budget in four weeks."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

SENATE

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Frustrations with the budget already are being voiced by senators. "We've raised tuition enough, and we need to stop. We've passed the point where it's practical," said Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange.

Tuition also is sparking debate among some Republicans, such as Sen. Richard Stevens, R-Wake, former chairman of the UNC-CH

Board of Trustees. "I hope to find a way to not raise tuition."

But Sen. David Hoyle, D-Gaston, co-chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said he might support raising tuition if funds go back into the UNC system rather than into a general state fund. He also said Senate budget drafters will try to provide education at the lowest cost.

Amy Fulk, spokeswoman for Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Dare, stated in an e-

mail that senators will review the House's budget recommendations while working toward a balanced budget. "The Senate's top priorities are making government more efficient and moving forward with important investments in education and economic growth."

Staff Writer Laura Youngs contributed to this story. Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

UCS Career Corner advertisement. Includes text: 'The Wendy P. and Dean E. Painter Jr. Career Center', 'CAREER CORNER', 'MAY GRADUATES!!!', 'Workshops & Special Events', 'Career Clinics'.

Spring Specials advertisement for Meineke. Includes text: 'BRAKES 50% OFF', 'PERFORMANCE EXHAUST 10% OFF', 'TUNE-UP only \$99', 'SHOCKS/STRUTS Buy 3 Get One Free', 'OIL CHANGE \$21.95', 'SPRING SPECIAL'.

Ram Book & Supply advertisement. Includes text: 'Question: What to do with your textbooks?', 'Option: A', 'Option: B', 'go to Ram Book & Supply and get the highest price for your textbooks, guaranteed!', 'It doesn't matter where you bought your textbooks, the best place to sell them is: Ram Book & Supply', 'Plus, get an extra 10% in Ram Bucks'.

King's Park International Church advertisement. Includes text: 'GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION APRIL 23-25', 'EACH NIGHT STARTING AT 7 PM', 'HOSTED BY PASTOR TAYLOR & ELIZABETH STEWART', 'WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS: PRAISE & WORSHIP BY: RICE BROOKS, TIM DILENA, RICK SHELTON, RON KENOLY, KEVIN SINGLETON', 'KING'S PARK INTERNATIONAL CHURCH'.