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CITY COLUMNIST

## Challenges stay during summer

As the summer comes into full bloom, Chapel Hill soon will descend into a hibernation.

Soon "the Hill" will feel almost vacated with the absence of students.

But business will go on. For the Chapel Hill Town Council, members will be facing elections in the fall.

In addition, the constraints a sluggish economy has imposed on their budget will hit hard during the summer.

It was last year that state government ran into trouble by retaining tax receipts that were meant for municipalities to shore up their own budget shortfalls.

With economic forecasts calling for little improvement in the next five years, the town possibly could be cutting more into municipal services.

The Town Council also is facing a drop in Franklin Street business viability — not good for an already-declining market.

With newly developed shopping centers such as New Hope Commons and the Streets at Southpoint and with the renovations of University Mall, there is increasing need to revamp Franklin Street.

The Downtown Commission, charged with this task, has done some work. But its calls for a facelift of shops have yet to be heeded.

Also taking effect over the summer is the ban on nighttime panhandling in Chapel Hill.

While the ordinance was imposed for safety reasons, the first months will be indicative of whether this ban is merely lip service to problems that need serious attention.

In education, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools will have to continue expanding facilities to match increasing growth.

While elementary and middle school plans lie on the table, the big issue will be dealing with the criticism of the new high school, proposed to be built on the Rock Haven Road site.

During the preliminary hearings, many residents came forward and expressed their dissatisfaction with the proposed site.

But with local high schools reaching 110 percent capacity, decisions must be made to head off even bigger enrollment problems.

Another key issue on the city schools' plate will be the possible option to merge Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and Orange County Schools into one working organization.

What the board must deliberate is whether a merger would still maintain the progressive education system that is highly regarded nationwide.

And as always, minority student achievement gap issues raise feelings of resentment among local minorities, most recently in a Youth Creating Change forum.

Each year the Minority Student Achievement Report is released, there is an incredible discrepancy in test scores between white and minority students. It has been an issue for the past 15 years or so, since the report was first released, and it will continue to be one.

While minorities are struggling for academic quality in the classroom, the Northside neighborhood, where a large part of the town's minorities reside, will try to preserve its community from students who occupy cheap duplex housing.

The neighborhood's zoning ordinance concerning duplex housing could greatly affect the availability of affordable off-campus housing.

So if you're staying in town this summer, working a job or taking classes, the town still will operate. While we vacation there is still a town to be run.

And there is still fun to be had. Bars still stay open late. Cosmic Cantina is still the choice of late-night revelers. Concerts on Sunday mornings still take place at the Weaver Street Market.

To those returning next year, a caveat: The town you left in the spring might have transformed when you return.

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# Outstanding students, faculty honored

BY SARAH DERREBERRY  
STAFF WRITER

In the wood-paneled Alumni Hall, students, parents, administrators and faculty participated Tuesday in an event Chancellor

### ONLINE

View a list of all students who received Chancellor's Awards.

James Moeser referred to as "one of the great occasions for the Carolina family."

Three professors and six graduate teaching assistants received Student Undergraduate Teaching Awards, and 66 students were recognized with academic Chancellor's Awards.

Teaching awards are bestowed by students. The monetary prizes, \$5,000 for professors and \$1,000 for teaching assistants, are funded by student activity fees.

Recipient and English Professor

Thomas Stumpf said student initiation and funding take on special significance for those selected.

"It means a lot to be chosen by students for their perception of good teaching," Stumpf said.

Chancellor's Awards recognize student excellence in academics and student activities.

Students nominated their peers for the majority of the awards. As a result, most were surprised when they learned of their selection.

David Chapman, a senior recipient of the Walter S. Spearman Award, was no exception. "I was very surprised when I received a letter ... saying I had won," he said. "I found out that someone I nominated also nominated me."

Along with students' surprise came their pleasure at recognition for their work.

Carl Fisher received the Edward

McGowan Hedgpeth Award, which is presented by Alpha Epsilon Delta. The International Premedical Honor Society's award honors outstanding service on campus and in the community through the society.

"I was president of Alpha Epsilon Delta this year, and it was a real goal of mine to look more to the outside community and provide service while trying to take a more active role on campus," said Fisher.

Katie Lilley, recipient of the Undergraduate Prize in Art History, also found her award gratifying. "Art history has always been a passion of mine. It's special to be acknowledged for my work," said Lilley.

In addition to the pleasure of recognition, humility also characterized the awards ceremony.

John Hobach received both the

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Senior Germanic languages major Megan Youmans accepts the Ernest H. Abernethy Prize in Student Publication Work at Tuesday's ceremony.

DTH/LUCAS HAMMONDS



DTH FILE PHOTO

Despite a longstanding tradition, the Commencement Committee is considering not allowing students onto the field at Kenan Stadium during graduation ceremonies this year. Students were allowed to walk across the field last year.

## Construction may prevent graduation field gathering

BY AUSTIN MORRIS  
STAFF WRITER

Graduating seniors might not be invited onto the field at Kenan Stadium after this year's Commencement exercises, as has been the tradition in years past.

The Commencement Committee is considering not inviting graduates onto the field because of construction on the Ramshead parking deck and concerns for attendees with mobility problems, said Bernadette Gray-Little, University executive associate provost and Commencement Committee chairwoman.

Gray-Little said construction on the Ramshead deck will complicate normal pedestrian flow into and out of the stadium's entrances and pose mobility problems.

"In the past, students have been invited onto the field following Commencement exercises," Gray-

Little said. "This year they may not be invited onto the field ... because of construction issues on the east side of the stadium."

Jennifer Rine, director of University events and a member of the Commencement Committee, gave a different reason for not allowing graduates on the grass. Rine pointed out that guests whose mobility is limited are seated on the field and driven off the field in golf carts and therefore might be gridlocked by student congestion.

"There is going to be congestion no matter what they do," Rine added.

Paymon Rouhanifard, senior class president and committee member, said that although he wanted this year's graduating class to have the chance to walk on the field, he since has become convinced that keeping the graduates off the field is the best

solution.

"I pushed for us on the field, but I became resigned to the fact that this is the best way and there is no other way around it," he said.

Gray-Little, who believes the committee will decide not to invite seniors onto the field, said a decision will be made May 5, at the committee's last meeting.

The recommendation then will be sent to Chancellor James Moeser for final approval, Gray-Little said.

But some seniors said they are upset about the possibility of being banned from the traditional romp on the field after Commencement.

"It just doesn't make sense not to let us go down to the field," said graduating senior Dave Margolis. "I've been to a couple of graduations in the past, and it always seemed like

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## Governments may lose cash meant to aid fight on terror

Orange County could lose \$55,000 in federal grants

BY JOHN FRANK  
CITY EDITOR

A change of priorities in the federal government's recent budget discussions could mean the loss of thousands of dollars already designated for local emergency preparedness, Dan Jones, Chapel Hill's fire chief, said Tuesday.

Local governments nationwide were slated to receive federal funding for domestic terrorism preparedness programs in the wake of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

But Jones said Tuesday that some of the money to fund those grants has started to disappear.

"The Washington (D.C.) establishment made lots of promises to local governments ... that have just not materialized," Jones said at a community forum at Chapel Hill Town Hall sponsored by WCHL and The Peoples Channel.

"Some of the program's money is now being shifted," Jones said. "And some departments started with preparations under the assumption that the money was coming."

The Triangle expected multiple grants that would pay for disaster-response training and emergency equipment to cope with any possible biological or chemical attacks.

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## Tepper's e-mail urges students to dispute hikes

BY ELIZABETH DANIELS  
STAFF WRITER

Student Body President Matt Tepper sent an e-mail to the student body Monday night encouraging students to e-mail comments to their state senators about how a 5 percent tuition increase would affect them personally.

The N.C. House included the tuition increase last week in its version of the state budget, and the bill now is set to be deliberated by the Senate.

In his e-mail, Tepper provided a link that allows students to select their home county and type a personal message or submit a provided statement. With the Senate set to consider the budget this week, any messages will be received before a vote is taken.

As of Tuesday afternoon, more than 500 UNC students had responded to the e-mail, sending a letter to state senators in response to the pending tuition increase, Tepper said. "Different lobbyists that had worked in the (N.C.) General Assembly before suggested this approach to me," Tepper said. "It gives peo-

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## Officials comb campus for poorly lit corridors

BY JOE SAUNDERS  
STAFF WRITER

University officials and a representative from student government took a lighting tour Tuesday night to identify areas on campus that are not well-lit at night and that pose safety risks.

The tour is held twice a year — once each semester.

Phil Mazarick, an engineering technician at UNC Electric Systems, organized the tour and planned this year's route.

He said he focused this year's tour on areas frequented by students.

"I'm concentrating on the undergraduate area and where people cut through to get to Franklin Street at night," Mazarick said.

In addition to Mazarick, only five other people attended this year's tour: University Police Chief

Derek Poarch; Tim Saunders of University police; Wayne Sink of UNC Energy Services; interim General Counsel Glenn George; and junior Mary Hauser, co-chairwoman of student government's Student Services Committee.

Mazarick said that he would have preferred to have more input and participation from the student body but that the scheduling of this semester's tour conflicted with many students' heavy schedules.

"This late (in the semester) we don't get the students to participate that we would like to," he said.

Beginning at South Building, participants walked through North Campus and down to South Road.

They identified several lights on campus that either are burned out or obstructed by objects such as tree limbs.

They also pointed out other

areas on campus that are not illuminated sufficiently.

One of the areas complained about most by students is the walkway between Davis Library and Lenoir Dining Hall.

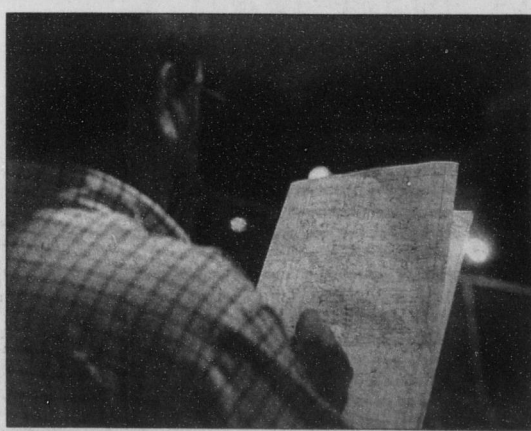
Mazarick said that there is no place to install a street lamp there but that lights attached directly to Lenoir's exterior could brighten the area.

He said problems with lights penetrating the wall of Lenoir prevented them from being installed previously, but he said the problem should be resolved soon.

Other areas walkers noticed included the parking lot by Caldwell Hall and the front of the Undergraduate Library at night, after its interior lights have been turned off.

Mazarick said the large amount

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Wayne Sink, engineering manager for Energy Services, marks a lamp post on his map during the lighting tour that is hosted every semester.

DTH/JOANIE TOBIN