

# Towns oppose orders

BY KATHRYN GRIM  
CITY EDITOR

Communities in North Carolina are joining the nationwide movement to pass resolutions opposing portions of the federal Patriot Act.

On June 25, 2002, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen was the first governmental body in North Carolina to pass such a resolution.

On May 20, 2003, the Orange County Board of Commissioners passed unanimously a resolution calling for the repeal of portions of the Patriot Act, also known as the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act, and the rejection of the upcoming Domestic Security Enhancement Act, or "Patriot Act II."

The Greensboro City Council passed a similar resolution in February.

Under the Patriot Act, which was passed shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, the U.S. attorney general may subject citizens of other nations to indefinite detention or deportation even if they have not committed a crime.

Among other things, the act grants power to the attorney general and the secretary of state to designate domestic groups, including religious and political organizations, as "terrorist organizations."

The act creates a new crime, "domestic terrorism," which groups such as the Board of Commissioners say can be so broadly interpreted as to be applied to acts of civil disobedience. It also authorizes eavesdropping on confidential communications between lawyers and their clients in federal custody.

Parts of the act significantly expand the government's ability to access sensitive medical, mental health, financial and educational records and lower the burden of proof required to conduct secret searches and telephone and Internet surveillance.

The written purpose of the Board of Commissioners' resolution is "to preserve and protect the civil rights and liberties of Orange County residents and to oppose those portions of the USA Patriot Act and any other related executive orders that fundamentally alter those rights and civil liberties."

Parallel efforts are under way in Asheville, Charlotte, Durham and Hendersonville, as well as in Cabarrus and Wake counties. Resolutions have passed in the states of Hawaii, Alaska and Vermont.

The Durham Bill of Rights Defense Committee held its first public forum May 22 to discuss perceived infringements upon constitutional freedoms in the Patriot Act and its successor.

N.C. Sen. Paul Luebke, D-Durham, attended the forum. "The Patriot Act is on many levels a threat to civil liberties," he said. "I'm urging several additional members of Congress to oppose it."

Speakers at the forum included Gene Nichol, dean of the UNC School of Law, and UNC alumna Michelle Laws, professor of sociology at N.C. Central University and first vice chairwoman of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Nichol said that he understands the need for the nation to protect itself against terrorism but that he is not prepared to make the sacrifices included in the Patriot Act. "We say in the U.S. that it's not race or ethnicity or soil but a common commitment to liberty that makes us a nation," said Nichol. "We can be both staunch and fearless and resolved in protecting ourselves and democracy."

Under the Patriot Act, local police officials are authorized to act as immigration officers, Angelina Schiavone, speaker and director of Durham's El Centro Hispano. "The city has worked very hard to build trust with immigrant communities," Schiavone said. She said immigrants who felt monitored by the police would regain their hesitance to report crimes.

The government also is overstepping its bounds in allowing FBI officials to obtain records of books recently checked out or purchased by citizens not accused of any crimes, said speaker Tom Campbell, owner of the Regulator bookstore in Durham.

The Patriot Act calls for the imprisonment of booksellers who tell anyone that the FBI even has been to the store. "The freedom of speech doesn't have much meaning unless you have the freedom to learn," Campbell said.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

# Memorial Hall construction presses on

Project has been delayed, over budget

BY ELLIOTT DUBE  
SENIOR WRITER

Renovations of Memorial Hall will take more time and money to complete than first was estimated. However, officials involved in changes to the 72-year-old University staple insist that they will follow up on everything they promised during planning stages.

Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for planning and construction, said the new, rough estimate for a completion date is September 2004. The hall originally was scheduled to be available for use several months earlier.

The total projected cost of the renovations is \$16.6 million, up from the original estimate of \$15

million. \$10.8 million of that amount has been made available through the state's higher education bond, passed by voters in 2000, and an additional \$800,000 is being supplied by the state. A \$5 million portion of the budget has been tied to private fund raising.

Of the 11 bond program projects under way, Runberg said, Memorial Hall's renovation is the only one that has gone over budget. "Each project is unique, and

we're always trying to put 13 pounds in a 12-pound bag."

George Ann Bissett, who directs the Memorial Hall Transformation Campaign, said the newly renovated hall will have an extended lobby with room for a gallery in addition to air conditioning, more restrooms and a greatly enlarged stage.

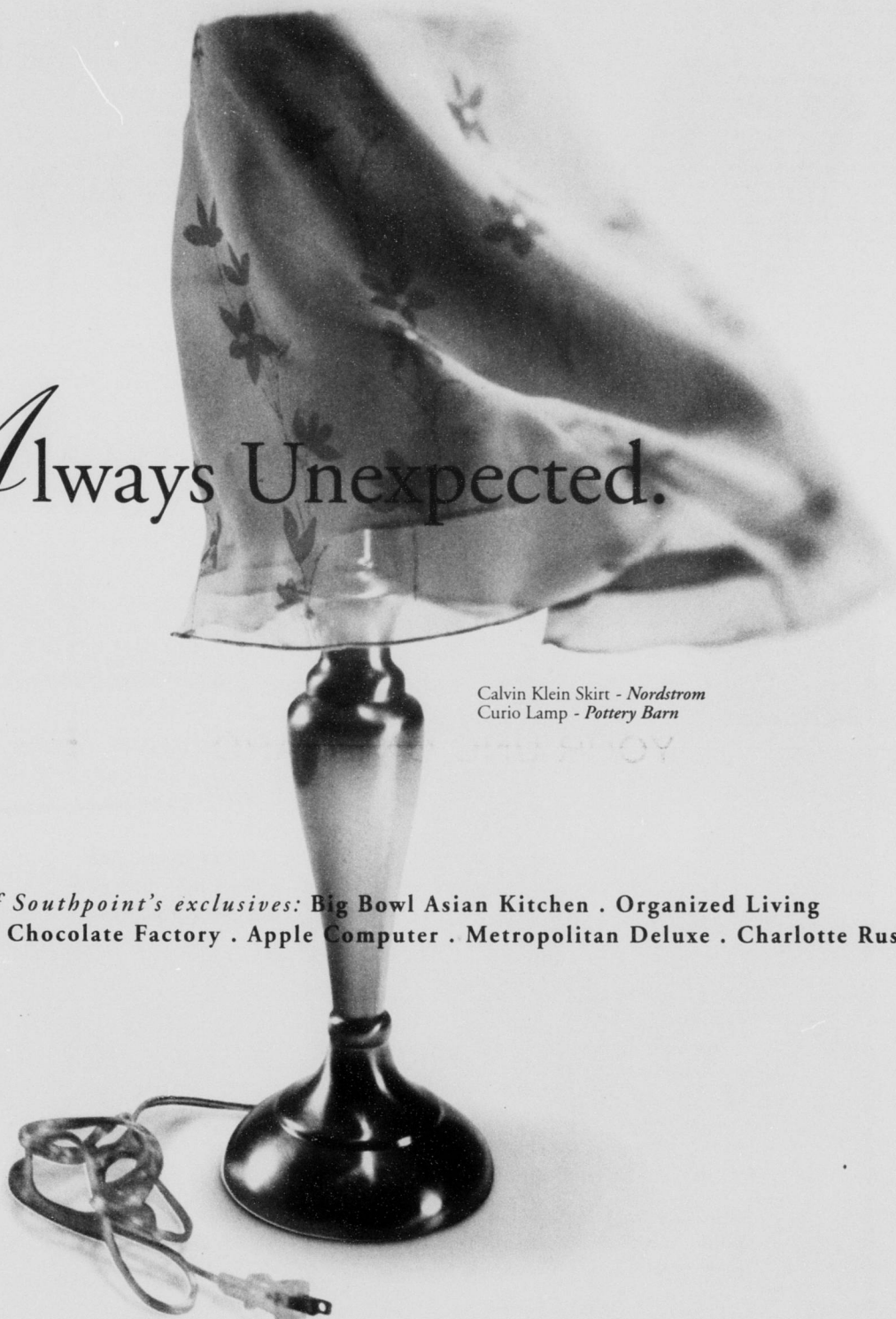
University officials are trying to plan an entire season's worth of activities befitting the reopening of the hall, said Carolina Union

Director Don Luse. Many of the plans involve the participation of prominent UNC alumni and North Carolina natives in what Luse called a "celebration of the University and the state."

"The real important thing to stress in my mind is that the hall is going to be everything we have told people it's going to be," he said.

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

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