

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 112, ISSUE 42

WEEKLY SUMMER ISSUE

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2004

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Mayor Kevin Foy (left) and Town Council member Dorothy Verkerk discuss Monday night's agenda, including proposed UNC Master Plan changes.

Council faces UNC needs

CHANGES TO SOFTBALL FIELD, UNC MASTER PLAN PUT FORTH

BY JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ
CITY EDITOR

Sandwiched in-between the ACC Tournament and the NCAA Tournament was an event that UNC softball coach Donna Papa felt was just as important, if not more so, for her program: Monday night's Chapel Hill Town Council meeting. The night before the team was scheduled to travel to Waco, Texas,

Papa pleaded with the Council to accept plans for a special use permit for the softball field, several times noting that her players don't have the facilities necessary to compete at the Division I level.

To remedy such difficulties, UNC requested for the town to consider the creation of a 4,500 square foot building which would include a dressing room, restroom

facilities for players and fans, concession stands, a ticket office and a press room.

Papa noted that the absence of these facilities is in many ways a detriment to the program, as every other ACC team has their own dressing room.

"Right now we have Port-A-Johns," she said. "I've been here for 19 years and we've never had anything permanent."

Also lacking permanence is the UNC development plan.

UNC administrators and planners were on hand at the public

hearing to present and clarify several changes to the document.

The meeting began as an overview of the six changes to the plan:

- building a 130,000 square foot physicians structure;
- a 10,000 square foot addition to Morehead Planetarium;
- a 28,000 square foot addition to Fetzer Gym;
- a 1,600 square foot addition to 410 East Franklin St.;
- relocating the proposed

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Research facilities near OK

UNC may see cancer center; Black wants changes made

BY CHRIS COLETTA
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

RALEIGH — Supporters of a proposed cancer center at UNC-Chapel Hill scored a victory Tuesday when the N.C. Senate tentatively approved a bill that would fund the project.

But on the other side of the Legislative Building, questions loomed as to whether the bill would hit the House floor.

The 46-1 Senate vote approved \$180 million in funds for a new research and treatment center at UNC-CH, as well as \$60 million for a cardiovascular diseases center at East Carolina University.

Senators applauded the bill, saying it will help more N.C. citizens to get treatment for illnesses and attract top-notch professionals to the state for research opportunities.

"Today, I am proud to be a member of the N.C. Senate and a sponsor of this bill," said Sen. David Weinstein, D-Robeson, during debate before the bill's passage. "We are going to create the Mayo Clinic of cancer research."

Omitted from the bill, however, were funds for a bioinformatics center at UNC-Charlotte and an aging center at UNC-Asheville.

That doesn't sit well with House co-Speaker Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, who has thrown his support behind those proposals — particularly the center at UNC-C, located right in his back yard. When asked what the chances are of a bill without them being considered by the House, Black responded, "Probably not very good."

He added that he plans to introduce a bill next week that will feature funding for system projects. Despite speculation that such a bill would include funds for a NASCAR test track in the western part of the state and other projects, Black said he will focus solely on making sure the research centers receive funding.

He also said he's not worried that the UNC-system Board of Governors has yet to approve the projects at UNC-C and UNC-A. The board's cooperation has "improved since we left session," he said, referring to the BOG's approval of the ECU heart center.

The situation mirrors one that occurred last year, when the Senate passed a bill appropriating funds to the cancer center but couldn't reach an agreement with House leaders before session's end.

In order to avoid a repeat of that scenario, the two chambers must resolve their differences relatively quickly. Lawmakers want to end session early, in no small part so they can spend time campaigning for re-election before the July 20 primaries.

Details about a final Senate vote on the bill were unavailable at press time Wednesday.

SEE RESEARCH CENTERS, PAGE 5



DTH PHOTOS/GILLIAN BOLSOVER

UNC has once again come under allegations of animal mistreatment from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, an animal rights organization which carried out an investigation in the Thurston Bowles science building. An unnamed undercover investigator documented the alleged abuses over the span of nearly a year.

PETA PROBE SPAWNS ABUSE ALLEGATIONS

BY BRIAN HUDSON
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

UNC has once again come under fire from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which is requesting medical organizations to revoke federal funding to the University after evidence of laboratory animal abuse.

An undercover investigator for the animal rights group employed by the University documented the abuse in the Thurston Bowles science building, the same building where PETA had made similar allegations of abuse in 2002.

The investigator, who documented the abuse from January to November, was not identified because she is now participating in another investigation.

Her investigation revealed instances of animal abuse including mice with oversized tumors that had ulcerated and burst, seriously sick and injured animals

left to die without any veterinary care and severe overcrowding, leading to "cannibalism and suffocation."

The investigator also found instances of clipping animals' toes for the purpose of identification and improper euthanization techniques. In one instance, a guillotine blade was so dull that two fully conscious rats' necks were hacked twice in order to sever their heads from their bodies, said Mary Beth Sweetland, a PETA senior vice president.

"They are much the same as we found during our first investigation," she said. "You would think after that first investigation, the University would have learned they can't just put things on paper, make it look nice and walk away. It has to commit itself to animal care."

Some of the more graphic accusa-

SEE PETA, PAGE 5



PETA's report against UNC cites numerous instances of animal abuse, including improper veterinary care and mice with oversized tumors that had ulcerated.

Money woes impede parking project

Underground deck too costly to fund

BY JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ
CITY EDITOR

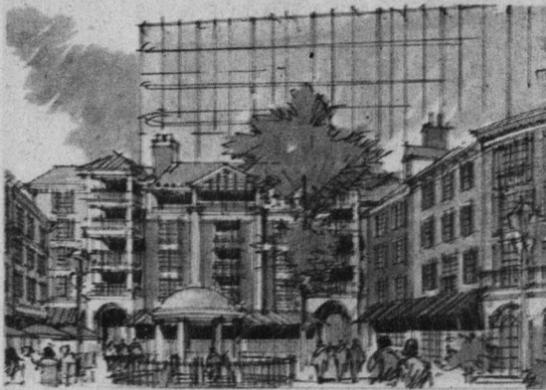
Despite recent cost estimates that foretell a grave road ahead, town officials and consultants remain firm in their resolve to explore not only revitalizing the town economy but changing the face of downtown Chapel Hill.

The initial stages of a project to convert downtown parking lots 2 and 5 — located behind Kerr Drug and opposite University Square respectively — into a multi-use area complete with underground parking, retail and affordable housing, took a step backward after a preliminary fiscal assessment.

Chief real estate consultant John Stainback, who was given the reins of the development project by the Town Council, reported to the body in a Thursday e-mail that the cost of building the two envisioned underground parking decks far exceeds the bond money in place — something which he described as a "fundamental problem."

The document outlined the pertinent figures that Stainback estimated based on industry standards and noted that it would cost the

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SOURCE: HKS ARCHITECTS

UNC bus tour shows commitment to state

BY BRIAN HUDSON
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

UNC officials and administrators hit the road last week, traveling to locations throughout North Carolina to highlight the University's relationship to the state as well as several outreach programs.

The privately funded Tar Heel Bus Tour began in 1997 and is aimed to help faculty and administrators better understand North Carolina issues.

The tour commenced May 10 with a visit to sites in Franklin and Craven counties, including New

Bern's Tryon Palace, the home of North Carolina's 18th century colonial governors, and farms in Bunn.

The trip concluded May 14 after a visit to a Greensboro elementary school which highlighted the Carolina Covenant, a new initiative at the University to allow low-income students to graduate debt-free.

The trip also included a visit to Grandfather Mountain and a NASCAR shop in Huntersville, and participants met with

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TOP NEWS

HOT ON THE TRAIL

President Bush's approval ratings lag, but his re-election race remains tight. PAGE 3

INSIDE

MIND THE GAP

Polk Place construction raises obstructions for first summer session students. PAGE 6

INSIDE

SKIRTING THE ISSUES

Brad Pitt learns the value of truth, fidelity, love and armored kilts in 'Troy.' PAGE 9

WEATHER

TODAY Partly Cloudy, High 86, Low 66

FRIDAY Isolated T-Storms, High 89, Low 68

SATURDAY Isolated T-Storms, High 87, Low 67

