

# UNC to take look at supplier Chapel Hill hands off annexation discussion

Panel investigates possible breaches

BY LINDSAY MICHEL  
STAFF WRITER

University officials have pledged to continue making strides in uncovering information regarding the alleged infringements of workers' rights by a major supplier of UNC licensees.

Investigations by the Fair Labor Association and the Workers' Rights Consortium found last month that Gildan Activewear, a Canadian company that supplies blank T-shirts to UNC licensees — as well as to the licensees of more than 55 other universities — has not met the labor standards set by these organizations.

The company's El Progreso plant in Honduras reportedly violated its workers' rights to freedom of association, failed to pay 39 workers'

back wages and allegedly harassed and abused workers.

The University's Licensing Labor Code Advisory Committee now is gathering information from the FLA and WRC, as well as from other universities whose licensees source from Gildan, to decide whether the company should remain a major supplier to University licensees.

But because Gildan could be in violation of the University's code of conduct, it is likely that UNC will ask licensees to cut ties with the company, said Melanie Stratton, a member of Students United for a Responsible Global Environment.

The group is working with the committee to investigate the claims. "(UNC was) so instrumental in bringing other schools into the WRC," she said. "UNC knows its responsibility to uphold its code of conduct. It will really show a precedent that we support our code of conduct and that we ask our licens-

ees to do the same."

Derek Lochbaum, UNC's director of trademarks and licensing, said it is possible — though unlikely — that the University will experience large financial fluctuations from the case. "It is possible that we could see a decline in revenue."

All UNC Student Stores revenues go to scholarships. Last year, \$2.3 million, or 75 percent of the money, went to academic scholarships. About \$868,000, or 25 percent, was allocated to athletic scholarships.

But Lochbaum said the more pertinent issue is making sure the UNC logo represents standards upheld by the University community.

UNC last investigated workers' rights infringements in 2001, when the committee looked into labor conditions in a Mexican Nike Corp. factory. The investigation was prompted by an 800-employee strike at the Kukdong International factory in Puebla, Mexico.

Nike eventually demonstrated its compliance with workers' rights laws and incorporated UNC's code of conduct into its contract.

Lochbaum said the Gildan situation is much different because the company is not a licensee of UNC, but rather a supplier to the University's licensees.

He said that the labor committee will most likely meet in early December to debate labor issues, and that members ultimately will make a recommendation to the University about whether Gildan should continue to supply to its licensees.

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

BY JENNIFER FAIR  
STAFF WRITER

By the end of Monday night's Chapel Hill Town Council meeting, residents of two Orange County neighborhoods were one step closer to knowing the town to which they will belong.

The two subdivisions, Highlands and Highland Meadows, sent petitions to the town of Chapel Hill in October requesting a voluntary annexation after learning that the town of Carrboro had issued a resolution of intent to annex the areas.

The Town Council unanimously passed Monday a motion to refer all comments and material received from residents to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and to inform the aldermen that they are open to conversation if Carrboro initiates it.

On Sept. 14, Carrboro issued an intent to annex what it called Area A and Area B.

The Highlands and Highland Meadows neighborhoods are part of Area A. Area B includes neighborhoods on the northern portion of Rogers Road.

"I think we're seeing the dance municipalities play," said Highlands resident Brian Voyce. He added that there are issues of respect between the different town governments that are being addressed.

"The burden of the issue is on the town of Carrboro," Voyce said.

Chapel Hill Town Manager Cal Horton said there are legal

restraints that prevent the council from taking action.

Terms of agreements between the towns do not allow Chapel Hill to annex areas located in the Carrboro transition area, and the areas do not meet the requirements to be considered a satellite area, according to Horton's recommendation to the council.

Carrboro also has jurisdiction over the area because it was the first town to adopt a resolution of intent to annex it.

"What may have looked good on paper nearly two decades ago is not the best plan for citizens today," said Highlands resident Sharon Cook at Monday's meeting.

Other residents present at the meeting talked about reasons why they want to be annexed by Chapel Hill instead of Carrboro.

"My life revolves around Chapel Hill," said Highlands resident Rickard Faith.

Nancy Salmon, another Highlands resident, talked about the response times of the Chapel Hill and Carrboro fire departments. It takes 12 minutes for Carrboro's fire department to get to the neighborhoods when there is no traffic, compared to the three-minute response time of the Chapel Hill department, she said.

"Highlands is much closer physically and philosophically to the town of Chapel Hill," she added.

Other Highlands residents echoed

her sentiment and said there is a difference in values between their neighborhoods and the towns.

"The question of annexation remains one of values," Voyce said Monday. "I will ask Carrboro officials to begin a dialogue with you, a dialogue to do the right thing."

Carrboro Planning Director Roy Williford said Tuesday that the department has not yet received information from the council.

Charlie Buckner, a resident of Area B, has written a letter that he will deliver to the aldermen and to the Chapel Hill mayor stating his opposition to annexation.

"We prefer not to be annexed," he said. "But if we have to, we want it to be in Chapel Hill."

Carrboro will hold a public forum on the proposed annexation Tuesday.

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

## Aldermen won't shift grave site

Developers can't find next of kin

BY TED STRONG  
STAFF WRITER

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen unanimously denied Tuesday a developer's request to relocate a group of graves off Merritt Mill Road.

The graves, whose occupants are unknown, would have been moved to make way for a 164-unit apartment complex proposed by the South Atlantic Group.

"It was exhilarating. I'm glad," said William Gattis, a local resident who has spearheaded the resistance to the relocations.

"I didn't think it was going to turn out this way," he said, adding that he was concerned that the aldermen would accept the developers' proposal. "It was like the one against the many."

Steve Simpson of South Atlantic and Boscoe Fulcher of Woodlawn Memorial Gardens, the firm Southern Atlantic employed to manage the disinterment, both declined comment after the aldermen's decision.

Before the aldermen made their decision, Gattis gave an account of the black community that had existed in the location before Ready Mixed Concrete in Chapel Hill moved in.

"It's been sad to watch how it's been destroyed over the years," Gattis said.

After Gattis and two other community members spoke to oppose the idea, Alderman Alex Zaffron proposed that the board make a decision. "I've heard enough. The questions that have been raised confirm the questions I raised last time."

Mayor Mike Nelson commended the developers for responding to the aldermen's earlier request that the company do more to identify the interred individuals, but agreed with the aldermen that more research was needed and that efforts should be made to preserve the graves.

In order to move the graves, the developers need the consent of the next of kin, permission from the town of Carrboro and a permit from the Orange County Health Department.

But the developers have had difficulty in locating the next of kin because the exact identity of the people interred is unknown.

Gattis' 93-year-old mother and Randy Bright, of Bright Funeral Home and Cremation in Wake Forest, disagree about how many graves exist.

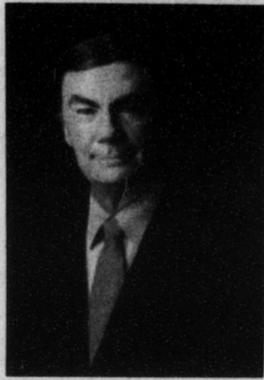
Bright found evidence of an adult and a child, but Martha Gattis told William Gattis that three people with the last name Strowd — Mama, Lou and Callie — were buried there.

When town officials called, she said she was uncertain who was buried there.

If developers make an effort to locate the next of kin and are unsuccessful, the town can grant them permission to move the bodies.

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

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