

Panel eyes cash for art, trash

BY CHRIS CARMICHAEL
STAFF WRITER

Parties charged with finding a way out of a projected 10-cent property tax increase for the town might be on a collision course with a host of unpleasant decisions and political conflicts.

Members of the citizens subcommittee of the budget review advisory committee met Thursday to review their recommendations in an effort to achieve some consensus before presenting them to the Chapel Hill Town Council on April 11.

During the meeting, subcommittee member Gene Pease called for the group to pursue definitive recommendations.

"If you don't set some goals for savings, you're never going to get there," Pease said.

But confusion about figures in a preliminary report made March 23 by Maximus Inc., the town's budgeting consultant, and time constraints have stifled the process of finding actionable items.

But on one issue — commercial

garbage removal — the subcommittee seems to be gravitating toward a definitive response, backing off of one of Maximus' key recommendations.

The firm recommended that the town eliminate garbage collection for commercial and multi-family apartment complexes.

But some members seem to be leaning toward retaining the service, while levying fees on entities such as schools, churches and nonprofits that now receive commercial pickup for free or at a reduced price.

"The major concept was that the town should not get out of business, but rather charge everyone in order to cover the costs of the business," said subcommittee member Joe Capowski.

For some business owners who have voiced concerns over the fairness of eliminating the service or imposing additional fees, this might come as a relief.

"Merchants and property owners pay a lot of taxes, more than we as property owners do," said Downtown Commission member

"It seems to me that our duty is not just to limit the tax rate for the town but also to reduce the expenses for the citizens."

MAC CLARKE, GROUP MEMBER

Pat Evans. "They should receive comparable services."

Officials have speculated that turning over commercial garbage pickup to private companies would increase the cost of pickup for businesses. But under the subcommittee's recommendation, collection fees would not change.

"It seems to me that our duty is not just to limit the tax rate for the town, but also to reduce the expenses for the citizens as a whole," said subcommittee member Mac Clarke.

Another recommendation that might face public scrutiny revolves around funding for public art at the new town operations center, which, at 1 percent of the facility's budget, might cost up to \$460,000.

"Our job is to find savings,"

Capowski said. "And in my opinion, this is profligate spending based on the amount and location."

The subcommittee has recommended that the project be capped at \$100,000 and moved to a more prominent location.

But Janet Kagan, chairwoman of the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission's Percent for Art program, said the money for the project is not derived from the general fund and is not eligible for any other use.

The council will consider the subcommittee's advice before drawing up the fiscal year 2005-06 budget, scheduled to be passed June 27.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Schiavo dies Thursday after protracted battle

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. — With her husband and parents feuding to the bitter end and beyond, Terri Schiavo died Thursday, 13 days after her feeding tube was removed in a wrenching right-to-die dispute that engulfed the courts, Capitol Hill and the White House and divided the country.

Cradled by her husband, Schiavo, 41, died a "calm, peaceful and gentle death" at about 9 a.m., a stuffed animal under her arm, flowers arranged around her hospice room, said George Felos, Michael Schiavo's attorney.

No one from her side of the family was with her at the moment of her death. Her parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, were not at the hospice, Felos said. And her brother had been expelled from the room at Michael Schiavo's request moments before the end came.

The death of the severely brain-damaged woman brought to a close what was easily the longest, most bitter — and most heavily litigated — right-to-die dispute in U.S. history.

"Mr. Schiavo's overriding concern here was to provide for Terri a peaceful death with dignity," said Felos, who was also present at the death.

But the Rev. Frank Pavone, one of the Schindlers' spiritual advisers, called her death "a killing," adding: "And for that we not only grieve that Terri has passed but we grieve that our nation has allowed such an atrocity as this and we pray that it will never happen again."

Schiavo suffered brain damage in 1990 and fell into what court-appointed doctors called a persistent vegetative state, with no real consciousness or chance of recovery, after a chemical imbalance caused her heart to stop.

She had left no written instructions in the event that she became disabled.

Her husband argued that she would long ago that she would not want to be kept alive artificially. Her parents disputed that, and held out hope for a miracle recovery for a daughter they said still laughed with them and struggled

to talk.

Pinellas County Circuit Judge George Greer sided with her husband and authorized the removal of the feeding tube keeping her alive. It was disconnected March 18.

During the seven-year legal battle, federal and state courts repeatedly rejected extraordinary attempts at intervention by Florida lawmakers, Gov. Jeb Bush, Congress and President Bush on behalf of her parents.

Supporters of her parents, many of them anti-abortion activists and political conservatives, harshly criticized the courts.

Many religious groups, including the Roman Catholic Church, said the removal of sustenance violated fundamental religious tenets.

About 40 judges in six courts were involved in the case at one point or another. Six times, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to intervene.

As Schiavo's life ebbed away, Congress rushed through a bill to allow the federal courts to take up the case, and President Bush signed it March 21.

But the federal courts refused to step in.

The case prompted many people to ponder what they would want if they, too, were in such a desperate medical situation, and many rushed to draw up living wills.

The case also led to a furious debate over the proper role of government in life-and-death decisions, and whether the Republicans in Congress violated their party's principles of limited government and deference to the states by getting involved.

In Washington on Thursday, the president was careful to extend condolences to Schiavo's "families" — meaning both Michael Schiavo and the Schindlers — even though he backed efforts to reconnect her feeding tube.

"I urge all those who honor Terri Schiavo to continue to work to build a culture of life where all Americans are welcomed and valued and protected, especially those who live at the mercy of others," the president said.

"We're still breathing, and we're not just a rubber stamp."

Johnston also said the ordeal helped him focus on his weaknesses, especially in communication.

"I'm just affirmed in my desire to be very upfront and open," Johnston said.

"I really want to make sure that they know I appreciate the work they are doing."

Congress member Anisa Mohanty — one of the main opponents of Johnston's nomination

and one of three members to vote against his appointment Tuesday night — said she was pleased with his efforts to take her criticisms to heart.

"I feel that since people's attention has been drawn to this, I think he is going to make a more conscious effort to make sure no barrier exists," Mohanty said. "The public eye will be on it."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

EDITOR

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Unsuccessful bidders sometimes became bitter and wouldn't come back the next year, Rothacker said.

Objections to the election process appeared in the editorial pages of the DTH as early as 1933, but for a long time, there was overwhelming sentiment that taking back the student body's right to vote was an attack on campus democracy.

Opponents of a committee argued that editors served an important public role since they were respon-

sible for disseminating issues to the student body, Gilmer said.

It wasn't until Jean Lutes took office in 1988 that the modern movement to end elections began to cover some ground, Rothacker said.

Lutes told the DTH in 1993 that through her own campaign, she came to the conclusion that what it took to get elected did not correlate to what it took to be a good editor.

She wrote her senior thesis on the issue, and under Rothacker's leadership, the staff spearheaded the call for change and submitted a proposal to student government.

In February 1992, voters passed the referendum, 752-417, to begin the selection process.

Chang said that although the first committee selection was controversial, the paper remained resilient.

Rothacker regrets the possibility of losing some degree of student voice but said she believes the end of elections was a necessary step for a healthy paper.

"I hope that it is now a better process and a safer process."

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

PRICE

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the state minimum wage to \$8.50.

Thursday's group, which at one time was so large that people had to stand outside the meeting room, also talked about the environment, taxes and Medicare.

The outcome of November's presidential election became a topic of discussion as well.

Audience members applauded after Chapel Hill resident David Janowsky asked Price about why Democrats seemed to be scared to take a stand for what they believed in — something that he said hurt 2004 Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

"(Democrats are) going to lose until we have a position that appeals to the people," Janowsky said.

But Price says he is not afraid to challenge the president. "I don't hesitate to take this guy on on Social Security or on many other things."

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DISTRICTS

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but the concept of 'justice delayed is justice denied' is well ingrained in our society," Faison said.

Both Carey and Faison support district representation, but in markedly different forms.

Carey holds that commissioners should be elected by the entire county, as the five are now.

Faison has proposed that it be put to referendum that six commissioners live in and be elected by the districts they represent. The seventh would be elected at-large.

Carey's letter calls for Faison to remove his bill from the legislature, a move Faison said he would make if commissioners act quickly.

"The view of the folks in the county is that, I think, the county commissioners are slowing this issue down and deliberately dragging their feet," Faison said.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

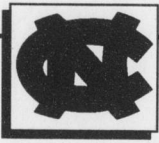
LEADERS

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has otherwise been a smooth transition between the old and new administrations.

Congress members said the snafu will bring more respect to their body and remind people that student government is more than just executive officers.

"I think this let the executive branch know that Congress is still around," Rep. Luke Farley said.



THIS WEEKEND AT CAROLINA

Friday, April 1

Women's Crew - Williams Scrimmage
3:30pm - University Lake, Carrboro

Women's Lacrosse vs. Oregon
6pm - Fetzer Field

Baseball vs. Virginia
7pm - Boshamer Stadium

The Bosh is a wireless internet facility

Saturday, April 2

Women's Tennis
Cone Kenfield Tennis Center
10am - Florida State
4pm - Elon

Men's Tennis vs. Virginia Tech
2pm - Cone Kenfield Tennis Center

Men's Lacrosse vs. Johns Hopkins
1pm - Fetzer Field

Baseball vs. Virginia
1pm - Boshamer Stadium

Post Game - UNC Baseball Trading Card Day

Softball - Softball Complex
4:30pm - Liberty
7pm - Florida Atlantic

Sunday, April 3

Softball - Lipscomb
11:30am - Softball Complex

Baseball vs. Virginia
1:30pm - Boshamer Stadium
The Bosh is a wireless internet facility

Women's Lacrosse vs. Georgetown
1pm - Fetzer Field

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