

# The Daily Tar Heel

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200 DAYS UNTIL  
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

## Council picture remains unclear

### CHAPEL HILL LEADERS UP FOR RE-ELECTION



Foy



Harrison



Kleinschmidt



Verkerk



Wiggins

BY ADAM W. RHEW  
STAFF WRITER

Less than seven months from now, Chapel Hill voters will cast their ballots and determine the town's leadership.

Though some incumbents keep saying it is too early to know whether they will run, a few fresh faces are already adding to the field of candidates.

Rumors are flying on campus about potential student candidates for seats on the Town Council. But the UNC junior who seemed most likely to take a stab at local politics bowed out of the race long before it started.

Former student body president hopeful Tom Jensen — who expressed interest in running for council after his defeat in the campus race — said Wednesday that he will not seek a seat in November.

"I just can't make a commitment to be in the area until 2010," he said.

He will, however, be involved behind the scenes with one to three campaigns, he said.

Thursday, Jensen confirmed rumors that he will be working on Mark Kleinschmidt's campaign, if the council member seeks re-election. The junior said he is not sure which other efforts he'll join.

But he'll have faces new and old from which to choose.

Town transportation board member Laurin Easthom confirmed Thursday that she will seek a seat on the council. "For me, yes, it is something I want to do," she said.

"I want to make sure Chapel Hill remains a beautiful and charming place for citizens to live," said Easthom, who graduated from UNC's dentistry school in 1998.

Easthom also is a member

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 7

## Felton, May, Williams to reveal plans



Raymond Felton



Marvin Williams



Sean May

Press conference will be held today

BY DANIEL MALLOY  
SPORTS EDITOR

North Carolina's post-championship saga of rumors and innuendos will come to an end today as Raymond Felton, Marvin Williams and Sean May announce their plans to either stay in school or jump to the NBA.

The three men's basketball players will hold a joint press conference at 1:30 p.m. in the Smith Center, the Department of Athletics announced Thursday.

Felton, Williams and May are the final three question marks for the Tar Heels, who have lost Jackie Manuel, Melvin Scott and Jawad Williams to graduation and junior Rashad McCants to the NBA.

McCants held a press conference April 13 to announce his

SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE 7

## Candidates likely to spice up race

### ASPIRING ALDERMEN COULD BE A CHALLENGE TO THE STATUS QUO

BY EREN TATARAGASI  
STAFF WRITER

Election Day is 200 days away, and for the four Carrboro officials whose terms expire in December, speculation already has begun.

The race's makeup won't be entirely clear until after the Aug. 5 filing deadline, but it's clear that candidates will come from a variety of backgrounds — and that some of those hopefuls will look to challenge the status quo.

The Nov. 8 election will include the seats now held by Mayor Pro Tem Diana McDuffee, aldermen Jacquelyn Gist and John Herrera, and Mayor Mike Nelson.

Among the possible candidates are a UNC alumnus who got his start in local politics as an undergraduate, as well as a slate of fresh — and unhappy — faces.

Alderman Mark Chilton, whose seat expires in 2007, said Thursday that although he is still undecided, he is considering a run for mayor.

"It's a job that demands a lot of one's time," said Chilton, who won a seat on the Chapel Hill Town Council while still enrolled at UNC. "I want to see how the feel of the race and other candidates is going to shape up."

Chilton said he'll know his intentions for sure once he examines the position's demands and speaks with his family.

An alderman whose term is not yet up is still allowed to run for mayor, according to Board of Elections Director Carolyn Thomas.

Candidates also could come from outside the town's existing ranks. Residents angry with their recent annexation into

### CARRBORO LEADERS UP FOR RE-ELECTION



Gist



Herrera



McDuffee



Nelson

the town are looking for candidates.

Randolph Ryan, a member of a recently annexed subdivision, said he and others on an action committee are interviewing possible candidates.

"Our plan is to back, financially and politically, a slate of candidates that would remove the incumbents and any other new candidates taking the same stance as the aldermen on unchecked expansion," he said.

Ryan also hopes to involve UNC — and its students — in this year's race.

"The University is an important segment we want to appeal to," he said.

Students have not shown excitement about local elections in the past. In the 2003 Chapel Hill elections, only 10 percent of registered 18- to 22-year-olds voted — and because more students live

SEE ALDERMEN, PAGE 7



DTH/GILLIAN BOLSOVER

Town and county leaders, representing civic as well as citizen-led organizations, meet for AM radio station WCHL's third annual public forum Thursday afternoon. The 10-hour forum began with a discussion about town-gown relations, during which University leaders and town officials had heated debate.

## MAKING WAVES ON THE AIRWAVES

BY CHRIS CARMICHAEL  
STAFF WRITER

For Orange County political junkies, Thursday was a smorgasbord.

During this year's WCHL-AM 1360 Chapel Hill-Carrboro-Orange County Forum, entitled "Building Bridges," town and county leaders ran the gamut, discussing a wide variety of area issues — overturning some stones while leaving others untouched.

The 10-hour forum kicked off Wednesday with a discussion of town-gown relations, a topic that generated heated discussion last year and provided much headline fodder.

During this year's forum, town and University leaders seemed committed to quelling the perception of strained relations between city and UNC officials.

"I think town-gown relations are much better than they are often portrayed," UNC Board of Trustees member Roger Perry said.

Perry, also a member of the Downtown Economic Development Corporation, said there is little basis for the community's apparent suspicion of all University motives.

Both sides cited ongoing talks about changes to the Office/Institutional-4 zoning district as evidence that either party is willing to compromise.

The changes, which both sides will discuss further next month, would give the town more review power over University development applications, mandating a 120-day review period. The town now only has 90 days to review applications.

"I think OI-4 represents a three-quarter-

full glass that works," Chapel Hill Town Council member Bill Strom said.

But the pace and intensity of the University's planning efforts for its proposed satellite campus, Carolina North, continue to be a source of tension between the town and gown, Strom said.

"Trust gets questioned when a plan that's developed on the campus gets promoted in a way that says, 'This is the only option,'" Strom said. "We have to have an intellectually robust conversation about what the options are without the threat of the legislative end shaking the foundation all the time."

Strom criticized the University's planning process as not living up to what Chancellor James Moeser referred to as

SEE WCHL, PAGE 7

*"Trust gets questioned when a plan that's developed on the campus gets promoted in a way that says, 'This is the only option.'"*

BILL STROM, COUNCIL MEMBER

## BOG agrees to open search for president



BOG Chairman Brad Wilson said any finalist must accept public scrutiny.

### Board approves 13-member panel

BY ERIC JOHNSON  
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

BOONE — The task of selecting the next UNC-system president officially got under way Thursday, and university officials promised to make the process more open than it has been in the past.

The system's Board of Governors approved the 13-member search committee that will choose a suc-

cessor to President Molly Broad, who announced earlier this month that she will step down within the next year.

All 13 are members of the Board of Governors, including the student representative, Association of Student Governments President Amanda Devore.

In a break with established policy, the board also enacted a

resolution that calls for publicly identifying contenders for the job before a final decision is reached.

Under the new guidelines, the committee will announce the names of "one or more finalists" before submitting its official nomination to the full board.

BOG Chairman Brad Wilson, who put forth the resolution, told the board that a public disclosure of potential candidates was the right thing to do. He also noted that public scrutiny is an inevi-

table part of the job.

"The president of the University of North Carolina lives in a public world in all matters and all things," he said. "Someone who is coming into that position might as well get used to it."

A number of board members raised concerns that announcing a list of finalists might discourage some candidates from applying. Applicants not selected for

SEE BOG, PAGE 7

### INSIDE

**EARTH SONG**  
Local kids learn the value of nature through hands-on activities **PAGE 8**

### INSIDE

**VALUE FOR NONPROFITS**  
Aid groups get major benefits from their volunteer corps **PAGE 2**

### SPORTS

**MAKING A RACKET**  
Tennis team rebounds from poor showings to beat NCSU **PAGE 11**

### WEATHER

**TODAY** Scattered T-storms, H 79, L 60  
**SATURDAY** T-storms, H 70, L 41  
**SUNDAY** Partly cloudy, H 57, L 39