

Students' arrival helps businesses

BY NICKY JHABLAVA
STAFF WRITER

The culmination of summer has brought about a marked increase in business for many downtown shops and eateries.

Downtown no longer seems so barren as students got settled on campus this past weekend.

Franklin Street tenants have looked forward to the influx of students, as the summer months didn't provide nearly as much business.

The influx of returning students and freshmen bringing parents to help them move in jumpstarts downtown business every fall.

"Now that the kids are back, business has definitely increased and that's a good thing," said Patrick O'Neill, general manager of Carolina Coffee Shop, at 138 E. Franklin St. "This past weekend was great for us."

Scott Jones, assistant manager of Chapel Hill Sportswear, at 133 E. Franklin St., said the start of the semester brings in a different crowd, not necessarily more customers.

Whereas many of the customers were sports campers and folks from out of town, the start of classes brings in more locals, he said.

The sports apparel store is making an effort to promote its merchandise

to the changing population. More nontraditional items, such as University apparel in atypical colors, are made available at the store, as students are noted for favoring unique trends.

Carolina Coffee Shop and Starbucks Coffee, at 103 E. Franklin St., are both running food and drink specials in hopes of bringing in more business while crowds are large.

Still, as the town's population has increased recently, numerous downtown business tenants struggle.

Some businesses are not dependent on student spending, but summer can be detrimental to others.

"There is a natural amount of change and turnover we have every year," said Aaron Nelson, executive director of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce.

"What's anomalous in this cycle is that many of the businesses that leave are privately owned and do so by personal choice."

Some business owners say the lack of students seems to keep locals withdrawn from the town, as nearby shopping centers with more lively atmospheres are more appealing.

The Streets at Southpoint, Southern Village and Meadowmont compete heavily with downtown shops.



Taress Reyring, graduate student, left, dines with friends Lily Gold and Rob Shelton at Carolina Coffee Shop, where students' return is a plus.

Nelson and downtown business owners remain positive about the town's future, especially after the students moved in this past week.

"We are very optimistic that those spaces will fill soon," Nelson said.

"Downtown is a great place and will continue to be."

Tom Herzog, manager of Spanky's Restaurant and Bar, at 101

E. Franklin St., said the increased student population greatly enhanced the town's atmosphere.

"Everyone is back in town, not just students," he said.

"The start of classes adds a lot to the town."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

FDA chief resigns following protest

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The highly regarded women's health chief at the Food and Drug Administration resigned Wednesday in protest of her agency's refusal to allow over-the-counter sales of emergency contraception.

Associate Commissioner Susan Wood charged that the FDA's leader overruled his own scientists' determination that the morning-after pill could safely be sold without a prescription, and stunned his employees last week by instead postponing indefinitely a decision on whether to let that happen.

"There's fairly widespread concern about FDA's credibility" among agency veterans as a result, Wood told The Associated Press hours after submitting her resignation Wednesday.

"I have spent the last 15 years working to ensure that science informs good health-policy decisions," Wood, director of the FDA's Office of Women's Health, wrote in an e-mail about her departure to agency colleagues. "I can no longer serve as staff when scientific and clinical evidence, fully evaluated and recommended by the professional staff here, has been overruled."

It was an unprecedented public show of discord for the FDA and prompted lawmakers to call for congressional hearings into whether the nation's leading pub-

lic health agency allowed politics to trump science.

"It is time for the FDA to stop playing games with the health and well-being of millions of American women," said Sens. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y. "Day by day, the public's confidence in the FDA's ability to make decisions based on scientific evidence of safety and efficacy is eroding."

Sen. Michael Enzi, R-Wyo., who heads a Senate health committee that oversees the FDA, is considering their request for a hearing, and separately has asked the FDA to explain how and why it reached Friday's decision, a spokesman said.

FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford is out of town, but the agency issued a statement Wednesday saying Wood had helped make "significant strides" in advancing women's health and that "her decision to leave is unfortunate as we work toward solving the complex policy and regulatory issues related to Plan B."

The morning-after pill is a high dose of regular birth control that, taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex, can lower the risk of pregnancy by up to 89 percent.

The sooner it's used, the better it works. But because it can be difficult for women to get a prescription in time, Plan B's maker has been trying for two years to begin nonprescription sales, and the latest delay was a surprise.

Officials weigh county representation options

BY TED STRONG
CITY EDITOR

It's not often that an entire county rallies around one issue.

But at a public hearing on a proposal for district election of the Orange County Board of Commissioners, at least the general direction was agreed upon.

"District representation is the right thing for the county," said Chapel Hill resident Artie Franklin, who sought election to the board in last year's election.

No one in the room debated the point. Debate did lie in what configuration of district voting was best.

Residents of rural Orange county have often expressed concern that because all commissioner elections are countywide, the population cluster in the urban southeastern part of the county is disproportionately represented.

Later in the meeting, Keith Cook,

former chairman of the Orange County Board of Education, said that although he used to oppose district representation, he had decided that it was the right thing.

Moses Carey Jr., chairman of the board of commissioners, presented for consideration three rough proposals to be discussed.

Each of the processes calls for district voting in primaries, with at-large — or countywide — elections for the general election.

There was little consensus on whether to enlarge the board from five to seven members or on what arrangement of districts would be best — fewer districts with more representatives in each or more one-representative districts.

Many, however, expressed anxiety that definite lines for districts be drawn before an option is decided upon, calling the current proposals too vague.

"I think you need to be a little more specific and maybe hold another hearing," said Hillsborough Mayor Joe Phelps.

Still, even when offering criticism, all of the speakers at the meeting maintained civility, an important step in a process that has often seen rural and urban figures strongly divided.

"We don't want a process where we are arguing and fighting and talking ugly to one another," said Bob Strayhorn, a county farmer.

In February, Strayhorn, along with N.C. Rep. Bill Faison, D-Orange, presented a petition to the board calling for district representation.

Later, feeling that the board was moving too slowly, Faison introduced a bill in the N.C. General Assembly, still in committee, that could put the question to a vote in Orange County

using district elections in primary and general elections for six board members and at-large voting for one more.

Wednesday night, he urged the board to add a similar option to the list of plans it was considering.

But he expressed pleasure with what has already been done.

"After 13 years of this issue being on the deck, it's nice to have this meeting and this progress being made," he said, referring to a study the county completed on the issue in the early 1990s that was never acted upon.

Board members also said the meeting was productive.

"I think it was a good hearing," Carey said.

"People spoke their minds, that's what hearings are for."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Scrimmage fails to answer position-battle questions

BY JACOB KARABELL
SENIOR WRITER

Wednesday night's football scrimmage at Kenan Stadium did not settle either of North Carolina's key battles for starting spots — at least immediately after the intra-squad practice.

Coach John Bunting refused to identify a leader for playing time at the strong safety position, where sophomore Trimane Goddard and senior Mahlon Carey remain in a heated competition.

A similar stalemate remains at center between sophomore Ben Lemming and senior Steven Bell.

"I think we had a snap go over (quarterback Matt) Baker's head," said Bunting, who did not identify the culprit.

"After Saturday, we'll start making some decisions on where we're going. Hopefully, we'll have

a starting lineup when we start on Monday."

The scrimmage left Bunting with mixed emotions.

Baker, UNC's only available signal caller that has played a snap in college, completed seven of 10 passes for 120 yards on the night. The only other QB to complete more than 50 percent of his passes was walk-on Ben Johnson.

Meanwhile, starting tailback Barrington Edwards amassed 10 yards on seven carries, though Bunting stressed that Edwards still needs to improve his knowledge of the offense.

"There are a lot of things some times that have not transferred from the meeting room on to the field, and that's got to happen," Bunting said. "Because we know what's going to happen in the first three games — we know we're going to be blitzed off the bus."

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Walk-on TE impresses staff

A surprise tight end cracked the latest UNC depth chart Wednesday, and it wasn't flashy freshman Richard Quinn.

Instead, sophomore walk-on Rock Wells garnered the mention. He's now listed as competing with senior Justin Phillips to backup junior Jon Hamlett.

"I think Rock's had an excellent camp," said assistant head coach John Gutekunst, who also coaches the tight end position. "You always have to have another guy that can go in and block, because we use two tight ends a fair amount."

"He's got a chance. He's improved himself to the point where I think he can help us."

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