

Winston-Salem's getting some Dells

BY CAITLIN LEGACKI

STAFF WRITER

Dell Inc. will open its third domestic manufacturing plant today in Winston-Salem, less than a year after announcing its plans to build in the region.

The plant is expected to employ at least 1,500 people during the next five years, according to company estimates.

Bob Leak, president of Winston-Salem Business Inc., said growth probably will expand well beyond that number.

"Not only do we have the largest computer manufacturing facility in the world, but it also means there is spin-off opportunity that will take place around the plant," he said.

The 750,000-square-foot plant will produce Dell's OptiPlex and Dimension desktop computers, said Dell spokesman Richard Binhammer.

Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines said an economist hired by the city projected an additional 2,000 to 4,000 jobs will be created as a result of the facility.

"We are rebuilding our economy based on a wide range of economic sectors," he said. "The Dell facility represents one of those sectors, which is advanced manufacturing jobs."

Joines said many of those jobs will be created by Dell's suppliers.

"Dell doesn't have any inventory and requires all suppliers to be able to deliver within 90 minutes after they place an order," he said.

Leak said the plant already has spurred growth in the surrounding area.

He said developers have begun to construct about 800,000 feet of additional space for companies wanting to locate near Dell's facility.

Of that 800,000 square feet, 300,000 already has been leased by Dell suppliers, he said.

Michael Walden, an economics professor at N.C. State University, said Dell fills a hole in the local economy that was created by the loss of textile, furniture and tobacco jobs in the area.

"This is important for the Winston-Salem area and for North Carolina," Walden said.

More than just the numbers, it is the type of jobs being created that will benefit the region, he said.

"The bulk of the jobs that they have are jobs that don't require people coming in with a college degree," he said. "One of the reasons why the state was anxious to get Dell was Dell provided a lot of jobs for people with a limited amount of training."

Joines said the plant also is creating diversified job opportunities for Winston-Salem's citizens.

"The Dell plant offers a wide range of jobs from entry level up to engineers," he said.

Joines said he expects Dell to attract other high-tech companies to the area.

"Because of the Dell plant, we've had exposure in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times and USA Today," he said.

"I think it will get the attention of others who might not have looked at us otherwise."

Bill Canis, vice president of The Manufacturing Institute, recommended Winston-Salem for its efforts to bring Dell to the area.

"Any community with the right priorities would want a manufacturing plant over any other kind of facility," he said.

Canis said manufacturers tend to purchase significantly more goods and services than other industries and generate more revenue in their surrounding communities.

"For every \$1 a manufacturer spends, it will create \$1.50 in other business activities," he said.

Joines said ultimately the Dell plant is bringing a lot more than jobs to Winston-Salem.

"I think it has created a spirit of hope in our community," he said.

Contact the State & National Editor at stndesk@unc.edu.

Exhibit shows Hall's faces

BY WILLIAM FONVIELLE

STAFF WRITER

Because it now draws acts like Tony Bennett, it might be hard to believe that, for nearly three years, the Memorial Hall stage hosted a pile of rubble.

Local photographer Catharine Carter, a UNC graduate, chronicles the hall's three-year renovation process in "The Transformation of Memorial Hall," an exhibit on display at the Chapel Hill Museum through Oct. 22.

"Over my lifetime, I had seen so many fabulous things there, and I realized over the past 10 to 15 years that the acts weren't coming anymore," she said.

Carter said she wished to record the hall because it's a "beautiful venue with a sense of grandeur, but it's also intimate."

She said the concept was conceived when she viewed the renovation plans, which she said made her head swell with the memory of her father, former UNC professor Joe Carter.

"My dad was a music professor, and I attended the night when architects discussed the plans," she said. "I started because I was interested, and it morphed into a project."

Visitors to the museum will see about 40 black and white images of the hall, which Carter whittled down from about 2,000 negatives.

"I hope that they understand the process of what that building endured to become the shining jewel that it is," said Traci Davenport, the administrator at

the museum.

Davenport said this wasn't a planned exhibit, and Carter approached them because she wanted her piece to be housed close to campus.

Carter's photographic story starts in May 2002 with unassuming shots of Memorial Hall in a normal state. It then progresses to images of the hall being stormed by bulldozers, the floor blanketed with a mound of dirt.

By August 2005, Carter's visual tale reaches its end with a photo gazing out on the auditorium from the stage.

"I did always try to capture something recognizable," she said.

The task was difficult when working amid scaffolding that Carter said reminded her of a spaceship or a beehive.

Carter said she hopes her exhibit places the past three years of the hall's life into the bigger picture.

"I'm hoping that it's a link to the history of the building and the huge changes to come up to today's standards."

Contact the A&E editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

POLICE LOG

Curtis Lamont Singleton, 24, of 363 Brittany Lane, was arrested at 10:52 p.m. on possession of 19.2 grams of marijuana, reports state.

He is scheduled to appear in district criminal court Nov. 7.

A portable restroom was found vandalized Saturday, Chapel Hill police reports state.

A Port-a-John located at Culbreth Middle School, 225 Culbreth Road, was found damaged by fire at 4:54 p.m. Saturday, according to reports.

A Pittsboro woman's car was stolen Tuesday from the parking lot at 130 E. Estes Drive, Chapel Hill police reports state.

The employee reported \$150 in foodstuffs, a \$500 carpet cleaner and \$100 in electronic appliances missing, reports state.

A Schwinn bike, valued at \$100, was reported stolen from the bike racks behind Murphey Hall sometime during the weekend, according to police reports.

The bike was last known to be secure around 5:30 a.m. Sept. 30, reports state.

An employee of the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute reported suspicious conditions at 1:45 p.m. Monday.

A man entered the building asking for the Institute's phone records, but was denied access, and left without incident, police reports state.

The incident is still under investigation and no suspect has been found.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

■ The Chapel Hill Town Council committee on communications will meet at 8 a.m. today in the conference room of Town Hall to discuss the 2005-06 Communications Plan and to consider a request from the greenways commission for use of a pine cone logo.

■ Preschoolers and their adult friends are invited to take part in "Story Time" at 10 a.m. today at the Paul Green Cabin. Garden storybooks will be read followed by an exploration of the garden.

■ "What's New in Birth Control? Bonus: Watch Out for Powerpoint!" will be held at noon today in room

527 of the Health Sciences Library. Robert A. Hatcher, a professor in the department of gynecology and obstetrics at Emory University, will present the program.

■ Jimmy "Jimbo" Wales will give a public talk on Wikipedia at 3:30 p.m. today in Manning 209. Wales set up the project, which is the largest free online encyclopedia, in early 2001.

■ The committee on University government will meet at 4 p.m. today in Carr Building 202. The group proposes amendments to provisions of faculty legislation, among other things.

■ The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer-identified Office sponsors a weekly Social Hour and a Half for the campus community. Come from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. today to Union 2510 for free snacks and conversation.

■ The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, along with Empowerment Inc. and WCCHL 1360 AM, is hosting a forum for candidates in the Carrboro mayoral and Board of Aldermen races at 6 p.m. today at Carrboro Town Hall.

■ The Carolina Women's Center is co-sponsoring "Born Palestinian, Born Black" with

Suheir Hammad as part of the Hekima Reading Circle at 7 p.m. today in the Sonja Haynes Stone Center's library.

■ PlayMakers Repertory Company will open "The Front Page," directed by three-time Tony winner Gene Saks, at 8 p.m. today. The show runs through Oct. 30 and takes a bite at corrupt politicians, scheming editors and tabloid journalism during a night in 1920s Chicago.

To make a calendar submission, visit <http://www.dailytarheel.com> for a list of submission policies and contacts. Events must be sent in by noon the preceding publication date.

2005 Thomas Wolfe Lecture



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AUTHOR LEE SMITH

Thursday, October 6, 7:30 p.m.

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