

Trouble is brewing for Starbucks

Starbucks has become a staple for many residents of Chapel Hill.

So Starbucks Corp.'s announcement last week that it will close 600 stores throughout the nation is troubling for those who get their daily java fix from the Franklin Street shop.

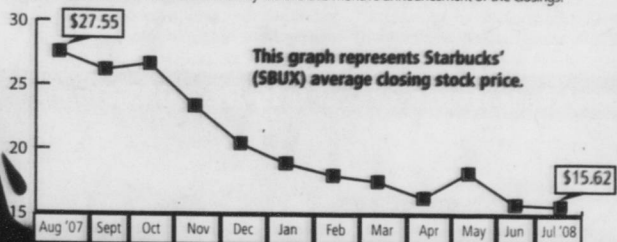
there are 200 Starbucks in the state, and 57 in the Triangle, that might be at risk.

Starbucks has seen rapid expansion during the past decade, but the franchise seems finally to have hit a wall.

The corporation's stock has been declining for the past two years.

Starbucks stock takes a spill

The Starbucks Corp. has seen falling stock during the past two years. The company scheduled several smaller scalebacks recently before this month's announcement of the closings.



Announces 9% rise in profit, the opening of 658 stores and plans to continue expanding at the same pace in 2008.

Reports a decline in same-store sales for the first time.

Eliminates 600 jobs and closes its stores for 3 hours to conduct employee training.

Announces it will close 600 stores in the U.S. beginning this year, subsequently laying off more than 12,000 employees.

U.S. president of company resigns and is succeeded by Cliff Burrows, who is the president of the company's business in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Entertainment President Ken Lombard leaves the company, and stores stop selling CDs.

Reports 28% drop in profit and announces it would open fewer stores in the U.S.

SOURCE: YAHOO FINANCE • ASSOCIATED PRESS ARCHIVES

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The Starbucks Corp. announced the closing of 600 shops across the country last week, 70 percent of which will be stores that opened after 2006. The 103 E. Franklin St. location, which opened in 1997, might be safe.

Obama names Farinella as N.C. political director

BY BRITTANY MURPHY
STAFF WRITER



Barack Obama named veteran campaigner Marc Farinella as his political director for North Carolina.

North Carolina's status as a political hotspot this election season was solidified last week when Barack Obama named a political director for his campaign in the state.

Obama gave the job to veteran campaign manager Marc Farinella, a New York native and Northwestern University alumnus, with master's degrees from the Universities of Chicago and Illinois.

"Naming someone as talented and experienced as Marc Farinella to lead the campaign in North Carolina is yet another sign that Barack Obama intends to compete and win in the Tar Heel state," stated Gov. Mike Easley in a July 7 press release.

Farinella has worked on campaigns across the United States, including Erskine Bowles' 2002 U.S. Senate campaign and Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue's campaign in 2004.

The hiring of the new political director drew some questions as to why the Obama campaign felt the need to shake up staff, but UNC political science professor Tom Carsey said it's common for campaigns to make changes in the transition between the primary season and general election.

"Different staff might have different strengths, changes in needs by

the campaign might lead to reshuffling of staff and individual staff members might have any number of personal reasons for wanting or needing a change," he said.

Carsey added that Obama still might be in for an uphill battle in North Carolina against Republican John McCain.

"I think Obama is looking at states where he feels the demographics have changed enough in recent years and where he feels he can mobilize new voters at a high enough rate to at least challenge McCain," he said.

Carsey said that Obama's campaigning in a traditionally Republican state, even though the odds are against him, can be beneficial because it spreads an opponent's resources thin.

"If he can force McCain to spend time, money and resources defending these states, it makes it harder for McCain to campaign in other swing states," Carsey said.

When Obama does make his

push for the state, he'll have plenty of youth support behind him.

Vivek Chilkuri, a member of UNC Students for Obama, said he expects cooperation between the group and Obama's campaign to continue.

"This campaign has always been reaching out to college organizations and youths in general. We worked extensively with them in the primary and will continue to do so in the general election," he said.

While North Carolina is abuzz with the appointment of Farinella, GOP members don't think it's quite time to count John McCain out.

Mario Diaz, a spokesman for McCain's southeastern campaign, said that despite the fact that McCain doesn't have a full-time N.C. political director, the Arizona senator will pay attention to North Carolina.

"Sen. McCain will have a presence in North Carolina, as he will throughout every state leading up to the election," he said.

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

DEVELOPMENT

FROM PAGE 3

The ArtsCenter of Carrboro, and Van Sant said part of the redevelopment will include more space for these Carrboro staples.

"Cat's Cradle and the ArtsCenter wanted more and improved space," she said. "And they will be getting it when the new buildings go up."

But not everyone thinks the increased development downtown is such a great idea.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen held a public hearing June 24 to discuss Gaylord's proposal.

And Alderman Jacquie Gist voiced concern for the potential consequences of the new development.

"My worry is that we will overburden our infrastructure," she said. "I'm scared the new development will detract from the livability of Carrboro. I'm worried that we'll lose the flavor of Carrboro."

She said the board has specific goals in mind for the development.

"The idea is to increase commercial development in order to try and alleviate the tax burden on individual homeowners," she said. "But it remains to be seen whether or not the development will meet our goals."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

LIBRARIES

FROM PAGE 3

said.

In order to meet the new building codes, Facility Planner Michael Pierce said UNC will be constructing two fire stairways attached to corridors located by the loading dock and mechanical area on the east side of Wilson Library.

"The drawings (for the stairways) will be finalized in the fall and construction will be completed by the first of the year," Pierce said.

He said the interior stairs in the book stacks will also be renovated.

Anna Wu, director of facilities planning, said a fire sprinkler system will be added to the building, but it will not be installed this year.

Pierce said Wilson Library was not up to current safety codes because the N.C. Department of

Insurance only requires buildings to be updated when they undergo interior renovations.

"In order to upgrade other portions of the building, you have to bring the whole building up to the current codes," Pierce said. "If you never do a renovation within the building then you don't have to bring it up to the current codes."

Wu said that while the amount of repair and renovations appropriations has not yet been finalized, the Wilson Library renovations are being included in University plans.

"Our planning funding has come from past repair and renovation appropriations, and I think we'll probably supplement that with some additional repair and renovations (money)," Wu said.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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