

Airport site search provokes worry over procedure

Some claim neglect of local interests

BY KATY DOLL
SENIOR WRITER

The search for a replacement site for Horace Williams Airport has some questioning the state's involvement.

An Aug. 8 bill passed by the N.C. General Assembly gives the UNC-system Board of Governors the power to form an airport authority that can select and seize through eminent domain a location for a new airport.

The airport is closing its doors to make way for Carolina North, UNC's research satellite campus.

The Board of Governors hasn't taken any action toward forming the authority, but a local group already says that the state has disregarded local input in the project.

Bonnie Hauser, a member of the Concerned Citizens Against the Abuse of Eminent Domain, has spoken against the process because UNC was empowered to create the authority by the N.C. General Assembly, not Orange County officials.

"The real issue is that the airport authority is being formed in a way that bypasses input from the community and our elected officials," she said in an e-mail.

In June, Barry Jacobs, chairman of the county's board of commissioners, asked the county's state representatives to fight the House's version of the bill. Verla Insko and Bill Faison, two Orange County legislators, sponsored and co-sponsored the House legislation.

The authority approved by the legislation will find the new location and purchase the land from the owner at market value, which is called eminent domain.

People who support the use of eminent domain in this case have suggested opening up the new airport to small commercial flights.

The new airport could then help the county by bringing in revenue, Board of Trustees Chairman Roger Perry said.

"If done properly, and done sensibly, and done sustainably, it could be an asset to the community," Perry said.

But Hauser said this plan seems to benefit UNC, not the county.

"The legislation ignores our zoning and land use ordinances as well as our own environmental and economic plans. The claims of

economic benefit are suspicious — particularly since there is no economic plan related to this project," she said.

Horace Williams, located at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and North Estes Drive, has served as Chapel Hill's primary landing site for 77 years. The airport is scheduled to close soon due to the continued construction of Carolina North.

Horace Williams serves mainly medical flights, such as the N.C. Area Health Educator Centers, and small planes, said Paul Burke Jr, general manager for Horace Williams.

Those programs would move to the new airport.

"The county needs one," he said of a local airport.

"There's a need for aviation. There's a lot of business that comes through that comes to

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ROGER PERRY, CHAIRMAN OF THE UNC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Orange County or Chapel Hill and they fly. It's easier for them to get here — a more efficient and quicker means of transportation."

Perry said securing the best possible location for AHEC is the number one priority of the UNC-CH Board of Trustees.

An airport nearby also is crucial to accommodate University partners, he said.

The Board of Trustees has asked the BOG to create the authority, Perry said.

The BOG will decide whether to form the authority in the next few

months, Perry said. If they decide to, they must form a committee with members from the University and community to receive input.

"This will also be a public body subject to all of the open meetings and open records law," said N.C. Sen. Richard Stevens, R-Wake, who co-sponsored the Senate's bill.

Hauser said she and the group are mobilizing and continue to talk to local officials.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Professor's DNA study 'Two Masters' misses mark

Social factors also believed to play part

BY DAN BYRNES
STAFF WRITER

Some boys may really be bad to the bone.

A study published by UNC professor Guang Guo and his team last month in the American Sociological Review isolated three genes that predispose people to violent behavior.

The findings could explain why some men raised in underprivileged neighborhoods become violent criminals, while others do not.

"Both genetic and social influences contribute to delinquent acts," Guo said.

This new finding could influence the criminal justice system, though it's too early to know how, Guo said.

"Teens may not be held responsible for criminal acts," he said.

Traditionally, predispositions based on character are not included as evidence in court, said Eric Muller, a professor in the UNC School of Law.

But Muller said that could change.

"This more scientific evidence of character might warrant a new approach in the future," he said.

The Carolina Population Center, a group that tries to advance understanding of population issues, interviewed individuals in 1996, 2002 and 2008 for this study. The participants provided their IQ, age and ethnicity.

Participants were students in the seventh through 12th grade who were continually observed into their 30s.

The study used males of every ethnic group to represent the U.S., Guo said.

"We controlled for ethnicity, and did not notice many differences in delinquency by race," said Guo.

About 1 percent of the participants contained the gene that increases propensity to violence, Guo said.

The gene can be found on the X chromosome. There are several different forms of the gene, but one variant contributes to delinquent actions.

It regulates several chemicals called neurotransmitters that convey information for aggression, emotion and thought.

In the study, participants would self-report their delinquencies through an electronic voice recorder, and were guaranteed that their names and voice would not be revealed, Guo said.

Some social factors that correlated with peaceful behavior were religious identity, friends, education and having two biological parents in a household and eating regular meals with them, Guo said.

Guo and dozens of his graduate students composed the hypothesis that the gene is linked to violence through the reward system, a collection of brain structures which attempt to regulate and control behavior by inducing pleasurable effects.

The variant Guo studied is linked to a deficiency of dopamine, the neurotransmitter which induces those pleasurable effects. Without it, the person is angrier and more prone to violence, Guo said.

The researchers started out testing mice before testing humans. Mice share more than 90 percent

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GUANG GUO, UNC PROFESSOR WHO ISOLATED THREE GENES THAT PREDISPOSE PEOPLE TO VIOLENT BEHAVIOR

of genes with humans. The mice with the variant genotype acted more aggressively.

"We would see the behavior change, especially in aggressiveness," Guo said.

Guo will continue his studies of genetics and violence by looking at other genes in animal models.

"It is impossible to manipulate human behavior, but animal models can be controlled," said Guo.

The work of Guo and graduate students Michael Roettger and Tianji Cai have had their work published in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, China, Columbia, India, Germany, and more.

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

BY ALYSSA GRIFFITH
STAFF WRITER

Masquerading as her dead brother is the least of Beatrice's woes as one of the stars of Deep Dish Theater Company's production of Carlo Goldoni's "The Servant of Two Masters."

The theater's season opener, which plays Aug. 21 to Sept. 13, is a fast-paced and humorous type of Italian comedy known as commedia dell'arte.

The clichéd plotline of doomed marriage, mistaken identity and the quest for true love is comedic when mixed with speedy entrances, witty banter and several pratfalls.

The cartoon-like characters are made to appear even more animated than their personalities. Unfortunately, some cast members are overly enthusiastic and exaggerated, forcing their jokes on the audience.

Think the 18th century version of "The Three Stooges" with far more eyeliner and tights.

The play features a broad range of stereotypes: the bully, the princess, the goof and the outcast. One might even think John Hughes, writer of the cult classic "The Breakfast Club," took a few hints from Goldoni.

The lines are comical, but the jokes aren't properly delivered. On

more than one occasion cricket chirps could have filled the silence following the jokes.

Although this type of show is by no means supposed to be subtle, the amount of extreme facial expressions, overly enthusiastic laughing and obnoxious antics is enough to wear out the audience within the first 20 minutes of the performance.

The real beauty of the piece is the way in which each of these characters and their conflicting desires drives the plot forward and offers continuous surprises.

Audience members are immediately introduced to Truffaldino, a con-artist of a servant wreaking havoc along the streets of Venice, and his master Beatrice, a woman on a quest to find her lover while scamming her brother's betrothed.

Ironically, Beatrice's brother was killed by her lover, Florindo.

Florindo, a bully who is far from a genius, becomes Truffaldino's second master.

Each character's personality is unique, but only one of the actors gives a memorable performance.

Laurie Wolf, who plays the servant Truffaldino, nails her character's crafty and devious nature. Wolf's outlandish and conniving performance is the glue that holds the show together.

THEATER REVIEW

THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS
DEEP DISH THEATER
SATURDAY

★★★★☆

Physical comedy is not missing from this rendition of the show. Several talented cast members could even audition for jobs in the circus as jugglers or gymnasts.

The actors fly across the stage at such breakneck speeds it appears that they barely have a chance to breathe.

The stage is set very basically with a backdrop of a villa with an abundant amount of doors that the characters quickly pop in and out of.

The big, puffy sleeves and bright stockings appear as overdone as some of the actors' performances.

This rendition's modernization of the show does not fit the Old English-like text.

Although Goldoni revamped Italian renaissance theater with "The Servant of Two Masters" 300 years ago, the team behind this production makes the slapstick comedy seem dull.

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