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January referendum set on town transit question

by Jessica Hanchar
News Editor

The proposed campus-community bus system will be placed before the town's residents for a special referendum in January.

Chapel Hill's Board of Aldermen voted Monday night to place the issue before the voters following a public hearing in the Municipal Building.

If passed, the transportation system would be partially funded by a tax levy on local citizens, which would raise their property taxes about \$8 per year.

However, UNC students must first approve a \$5 per semester levy of themselves in a campus referendum in mid-November. If either the students or town fails to approve its share of support, the present bus plan would be in jeopardy, according to campus and community supporters of the plan.

In addition, the Carrboro aldermen are expected to decide within the next few weeks whether to set a date for the referendum.

The bus system proposed by the UNC-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Transportation Commission in August would operate about 19 buses on and off campus. Student passes would allow any student unlimited rides.

Community riders would be charged 15 cents per ride, including free transfers. A pass similar to students passes could be purchased at a yet undetermined fee.

In addition, the town would subsidize the system through taxes and bonds.

The entire local amount would be matched by Federal funds.

Proposed date for the start of the system is August, 1973.

Speakers at the public hearing were generally in favor of subsidizing the bus system. UNC law student Gerry Cohen said he was in favor of the tax levy and the bus plan although as a student and citizen he would be paying \$10 or \$15 a year in student fees in addition to property taxes.

He said two-thirds of the student body pay property taxes as part of rental fees in Chapel Hill and Carrboro apartments and houses.

Fred Davenport, student body vice president, who said he was representing the student point of view, praised the bus plan as benefiting the entire student body. Urging the town to cooperate, he pointed out students would be paying more than \$200,000 of the proposed

\$440,000 system.

Later, Davenport said he was pleased with the board's decision. "Now we can get to work on the student referendum in November," he said. "Until we knew whether the town was going to vote on it, we were in limbo."

He said he expects the campus referendum to pass.

UNC student Lee Corum, student member of the commission, said the bus system would help eliminate the parking problem both on campus and in the community since many students residing in apartments would rather use the bus.

Corum later said he was pleased with the board's decision. He will appear before Student Legislature within the next two weeks and present the bus system plan "so they can discuss it with their constituents."

He feels the four weeks between the October campus elections and the referendum "would give us plenty of time to educate the students, staff and faculty" on the merits of the system.

Corum predicted the campus referendum would pass. He said he thinks the town will also support the plan.

However, even if students vote for the

system, Corum pointed out, the raise in student fees would still have to be approved by the University's Board of Governors. If all three partners in the system approve, the plan would need federal approval for matching funds.

George Wheelis, a town resident, was doubtful the bus system would succeed. He based his remarks on the bus system that operated for five weeks in the spring of 1971. The system, which ran on a trial basis, failed from lack of use.

Transportation Commission Chairman Terry Lathrop said the proposed bus system is not expected "to break even from the fare box" but to run on student and town subsidies.

Corum later pointed out the two bus systems are not alike, and said, "I hope the town realizes this."

Phyllis Lotchin represented the town League of Women Voters by reading a statement that said the bus system would help solve the air pollution problem.

Preceding the transportation discussion, the board spent more than an hour discussing the Central Business District (CBD) and the Neighborhood Development Program (NDP). The question concerned whether CBD,

roughly downtown Chapel Hill, should be included in a request for federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development in an application due Oct. 1.

James Wallace, chairman of a CBD commission that will study downtown, voiced apprehension at whether being tied to the federal grant would limit their freedom in applying the study commission's suggestions.

The commission is presently trying to raise the remainder of the \$27,000 required for the study.

Wallace said he expects the funds to be raised by the end of this month and the study to begin in October.

It was decided boundaries of NDP and CBD should remain as originally planned, that is, separated, at least for the year during which the federal grant would apply.

The board also decided to establish a task force to study the effects on the town of UNC's decision to sell its utilities.

Also at the meeting were several town residents who complained about \$1,008.01 they were assessed in sewer lines.



A run with nature

Sometimes getting a healthy amount of exercise involves circling an asphalt track, but this man found a more beautiful place to jog—Battle Park.

(Staff Photo by Scott Stewart)

Aldermen disturbed by noise complaints

Weekend noise from fraternity houses in Chapel Hill is provoking complaints from residents to members of the town Board of Aldermen.

The reaction from board members may be to look for additional ways to enforce the anti-noise ordinance passed by the board this summer.

"I don't want to keep the bands from playing, but I also don't want them playing in the streets all night," said Alderman Joe Nassif at Monday night's meeting.

Mayor Howard Lee said he had been awakened as late as 2 a.m. by residents complaining of noise.

Aldermen said callers were disturbed both by the noise and by the fact police are not enforcing the code as tightly as the residents think they should.

Nassif said he had calls complaining about noise from three specific areas of town—the Delta Upsilon fraternity house, the Sigma Nu house and Fat City, a bar near Franklin and Columbia Streets.

The present ordinance defines noise as "any sound . . . that is of such volume

as to endanger the health, safety or welfare of, or which constitutes a public or private nuisance to the citizens of the town."

"Noise" itself is separated into two categories—necessary and unnecessary. Several categories in unnecessary noise, "boisterous celebration, radios, phonographs, juke boxes . . . amplifying devices operated in the open at high volume, combos performing in the open for private parties," could be applied to noise coming from fraternities.

Unnecessary noise is unlawful at any time, the ordinance states.

Whether the noise violates the standards is based on personal judgment rather than objective measurement.

DTH interviews today

The Daily Tar Heel will be holding interviews for staff positions today in the DTH office in the Carolina Union from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Positions open include staff writer, copy editor, photographer and wire editor.

Board of Health

Landfill site approved

by William March
Staff Writer

The State Board of Health has approved the use of the Eubanks Road landfill site, it was announced in a letter Tuesday from Sidney Ury, chief of the Vector Control and Solid Waste Division of the board, to Chapel Hill Town Manager Robert Peck.

Peck predicted the town would obtain title to the land "in the next few days," and would start preparing the site for use as soon as title is obtained. Total cost of buying the land, the necessary equipment, and preparing the site will be about \$300,000, of which \$235,000 will go to buy the land from R.J. Hancock, its present owner.

"The current proposal is that Orange County, Chapel Hill and Carrboro agree on a proportionate share of the cost of the venture, and that eventually, the three will own the filled land in those proportions," Peck said.

The University was asked to contribute to the original cost of the project but refused and will pay by the load for the privilege of using the site for dumping.

The approval granted by the state

board was for "Phase 1" of the town's plans for use of the site, involving only about 25 acres of the 202-acre site.

"In all, the landfill should serve for 40-50 years," Peck said. Eventually, the filled land might be used as a joint city-county park.

B.B. Olive, a Durham patent attorney who has fought the city's plan to use the land as a landfill site, said the board's decision was based on false and misleading information.

"There are conflicts in the geological evidence concerning the suitability of the land which have still not been resolved. As far as I'm concerned, the taxpayers whose money will be used have been deceived."

Olive said there remained "a serious question" whether an environmental impact statement was not required by law for such a project. "North Carolina law requires the filing of an impact statement for civic projects which may have an adverse environmental effect. Officials in Durham are under the impression a landfill project requires an impact statement, and to my knowledge, none has been filed for this project."

Olive said his appeal, which temporarily blocked use of the site, has

not yet been decided. "The first appeals conference has not yet been scheduled, and the appeals evidence has not yet been heard."

He said he was taking steps, in consultation with other lawyers and scientists, to "review the possibilities of other legal action."

Peck said Olive's objections to the site — he claimed to have found flowing springs and rock which make the site unsuitable — were based on faulty interpretation of geologic data. The firm which studied the site, Geotechnical Engineering Company, was quite experienced and reliable, Peck continued. The firm's report was considered by the board in its decision.

Weather

TODAY: Clear to partly cloudy, light winds; highs in the mid to upper 80s, lows in the 60s; probability of precipitation 20 per cent through tonight.

'Good, worthwhile experience'

Lyon Exchange members enthusiastic

by Ellen Gilliam
Staff Writer

"When the residents of Lyon, France, find out you're an American, they're likely to say, 'Ah! From North Carolina?'" Libby Henson, a Greensboro junior, back at Carolina after spending her sophomore year in France on the UNC Year-at-Lyon exchange.

Henson is one of 24 students—10 from UNC and the rest from other colleges and universities in North Carolina and around the country—who spent 10 months (from September, 1971 through June, 1972) studying at the University of Lyon.

The exchange program, now in its ninth year, is designed to give American students an opportunity to study French and other elective courses while living in France and learning the customs and habits of the native people.

"On the whole, it was a good, worthwhile experience," said Lyn Stout, a Charlotte senior. "By just being exposed to the people and the language, you learn a lot. Sometimes it was better to sit in the cafe and talk to French kids than go to class."

Lyon students are in class about 25 hours a week, but class attendance is not required. Instructors do not give pop quizzes and, of course, all classes are conducted in French.

"You get out of the year what you put into it," said Henson. "I knew I was responsible for the assigned work. We were all on our own."

When the exchange students arrive at Lyon, they undergo three weeks of intensive language study for which they are given three semester hours credit on a pass-fail basis. According to the 1971-72 Lyon group, they were then given a three-week vacation. Classes at the University do not start until early November.

Foreign students are then tested on their French fluency and placed according to their level of ability. They are required to take courses in French composition, pronunciation and civilization. In addition to the requirements, students may elect from three to nine hours in elective subjects each semester. Carolina students have no trouble with a course load of 15 hours each semester, one of the participants said.

Qualified undergraduate and graduate students in any field are eligible for the exchange.

American students are placed in the Foreign Students School of the large, urban university. "It's important to get to know as many foreign students as possible because you have a lot in common with them," said Bill Taylor, a senior from Rockville, Md.

What advice would last year's Lyon

exchangers give to UNC students applying for the 1973-74 program?

"The summer before you leave, learn your French vocabulary and when you get there take advantage of all the opportunities for travel that you can," Stout suggested.

"Buy a moped—a small motor bike which will cost about \$100. They're fun and you get tired of walking," said Stanley senior Jeff Freese.

Lyon, a city of about one and one half million, is located at the confluence of the Rhone and Saone rivers. "Lyon is in a good location for travel," said Henson. "You're about five hours from Paris and about two hours from Geneva and the Riviera and, of course, you're relatively close to most of the other European countries."

Students estimated they spent \$2,000 to \$3,000 for tuition and living expenses, depending on accommodations. Although the Year-at-Lyon handbook says students can stay in a dorm or with a family, these "family" quarters are usually on a boarding basis.

This year's Lyon exchange group of 35 students arrived in France last week. Dr. Yves de la Queriére of the Romance languages department accompanied the group and will serve as academic counselor and program administrator for the 10-month stay.



Conversation

Many times Forest Theater has echoed with the words of a classical tragedy. On these warm afternoons, however, the theater becomes a quiet place just to have a conversation.

(Staff Photo by Scott Stewart)