

Sites set for hotel complexes

By CINDY BOWERS
Staff Writer

Alumni and parents of University students and other visitors to Chapel Hill will have an easier time finding hotel rooms in town when two planned hotel complexes are completed, Chapel Hill Planning Director Mike Jennings said recently.

"It appears that we could use more hotel rooms, especially on football weekends and things like that," Jennings said.

Mac Pearsall, a Rocky Mount developer, plans to build a 150-room hotel complex on West Franklin Street next to Shoney's restaurant, he said.

"We're working on the plans right now," Pearsall said. "We just recently acquired the old Norwood service station property."

The Norwood property is adjacent to Shoney's which Pearsall also owns.

Because Pearsall's hotel project would be located in the central business district, he will not need town approval to proceed with his plans, Jennings said. Although Pearsall does not need a special use permit to build a downtown hotel, he would be required to provide adequate parking for the complex, Jennings added.

In July, the Chapel Hill Town Council granted a special use permit to Dutch businessman Julius Verwoerd to build the Hotel L'Europe on the U.S. 15-501 by-pass.

Construction of the Hotel L'Europe, a 172-room complex, will begin in April, said Jim McComas of O'Brien-Atkins Associates, architects for the project. The hotel will be completed in August, he said.

The \$10 million Hotel L'Europe will be built on 5.5 acres of land near Mt. Moriah Church Road. The hotel

will include a convention center for up to 700 people, a European-style restaurant and a nightclub, McComas said.

But Pearsall said he had no idea when construction on his hotel might begin.

"It's predicated on the economic situation," he said. "But we've had the (local) market thoroughly researched and we do think there's a viable opportunity for a hotel in the Chapel Hill area."

The hotel probably will include meeting rooms and a cocktail lounge, Pearsall said.

"And the restaurant will probably be changed to something other than Shoney's," he said.

Chapel Hill businessman Watts Hill Jr. has postponed his plans to build a hotel complex on property he owns at Rosemary and Columbia streets.

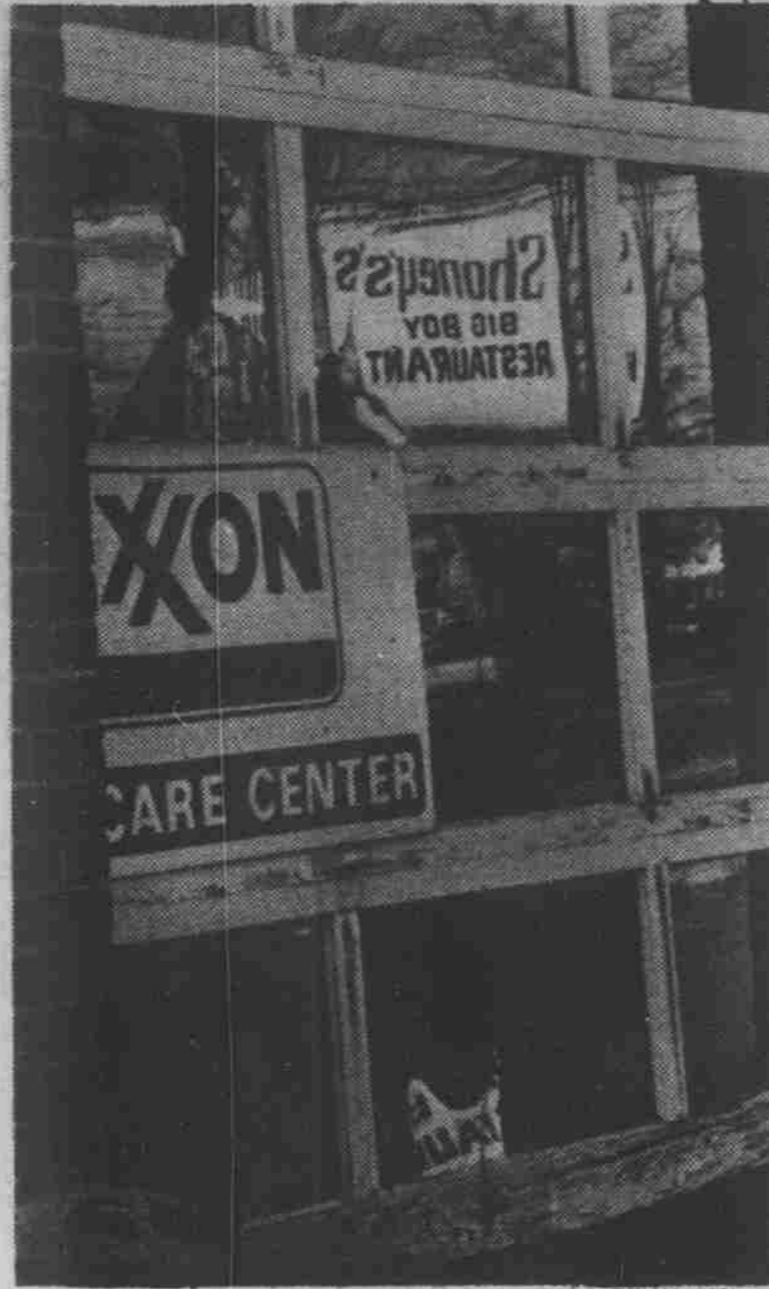
"The project is put on the back burner until the economic situation improves," Hill said. "There is no way anyone can build a hotel and come out on top of it financially."

"We can not even think about a hotel until the town does go ahead with a (parking) deck," he added. "It would make much more sense for all of our parking to be in one place."

Hill presented a proposal to the Town Council last spring of a joint public and private project that would include construction of a hotel on the corner lot, which currently is used as a municipal parking lot.

Hill suggested that the town link its plans to build downtown parking decks with his proposal to build a hotel and a convention center in the downtown area.

The Town Council rejected Hill's proposal and decided to proceed only with plans to build one downtown deck on the municipal parking lot on Rosemary Street near the Post Office.



Old Norwood station on Franklin St. ...proposed site of hotel complex

News In Brief

ABC official recommends permit denial

A state Alcoholic Beverage Control officer last week recommended that Elliot's Nest, a Chapel Hill nightclub, permanently be denied a permit to sell beer and wine.

The state ABC board will hear an appeal by Tony Gore, owner of Elliot's Nest, on March 14.

Gore requested a permanent permit for the club after he bought Elliot's Nest in December, but his application was rejected in January. The ABC officer's report released March 4 follows a Feb. 15 preliminary hearing of Gore's appeal.

In his report the ABC officer, Lowell L. Siler, said the club should not be granted an ABC permit because it is in an unsuitable location. Residents of South Graham Street who live near the club presented a petition to the ABC board in January requesting that the permit be denied. The petition claimed that the club disrupts the residential neighborhood by creating noise, traffic and parking problems and other nuisances.

At the February hearing in Chapel Hill, more than 20 residents of the neighborhood turned out to argue for the denial of the club's permit.

Elliot's Nest has been closed since its application for an ABC permit was denied in January.

Mondale assigned to handle criticism

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Walter F. Mondale has been put in charge of the Carter administration's effort to minimize political damage from the U.S. vote in the U.N. Security Council against Israeli settlements.

President Carter's political forces are braced for a wave of criticism over the way the administration handled the settlements issue. But, says one high-ranking member of the vice president's staff, it has not hit yet.

That may change when Mondale visits New York on Wednesday for a meeting with representatives of Jewish groups.

Carter is known to understand that his administration's errors in voting for the controversial U.N. resolution will have adverse political consequences.

The controversy began last week when Carter acknowledged that faulty communications led the United States to vote March 1 in favor of a Security Council resolution condemning Israel's policy of establishing Jewish settlements in occupied Arab territories, including east Jerusalem. Administration officials said the United States should have abstained as long as the resolution mentioned Jerusalem, which Israel annexed after the 1967 Middle East war.

After spending nearly a week in Illinois, the next crucial battleground in the race between Carter and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy for the Democratic presidential nomination, Mondale aide James Johnson said he had yet to see "a serious political problem resulting from the U.N. vote."

Firefighters go back to work

CHICAGO (AP)—Striking firefighters in the nation's second largest city gathered their gear and went back to the fire stations Saturday after ratifying an agreement that ended a bitter 23-day walkout.

The city's 4,350 firemen approved an interim pact at a midnight meeting of their union membership. Under the agreement, strikers will work for one to four days with no pay, and the city will recognize the union as bargaining agent during further negotiations and seek to have dismissed all fines and contempt citations imposed during the strike.

The vote followed bargaining sessions at which the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a civil rights activist and community leader, had mediated the dispute. His intervention got talks moving again, despite Mayor Jane Byrne's statements that she would not negotiate until the strikers returned to work.

Twenty-four killed in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Terrorists threw hand grenades into two movie theaters and an outdoor singing contest, killing at least 24 people and wounding more than 200 in two southern Philippines towns, the official news agency said Sunday.

President Ferdinand E. Marcos ordered Manila medical teams sent to Ozamis City and Iligan City and told the air force to bring critically injured persons to the capital for treatment.

The Philippine News Agency said the explosions were believed to be the work of the Moslem-led Moro National Liberation Front or the Maoist New People's Army. There was no indication of which group, if either, carried out the attacks.

The agency said 14 victims died and 200 were injured at theaters in Ozamis City, 500 miles southeast of Manila. Ten others were killed at a singing contest in the town plaza at Iligan City, 10 miles across Iligan Bay from Ozamis City.

t-board

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appointment this month.

Cohen also said he decided not to try to get the current vacancy because Dean's term and two other terms on the board expire in June. The terms were supposed to expire in February, but the council voted to extend them, he said.

When Cohen applied for a seat on the board, he said he thought there would be three vacancies and did not mean to oppose a student appointment. He will apply for a seat again in June when three seats will be open, he said.

"I have a continuing interest in expanding the service," Cohen said.

But he added, "I would remind students, however, that substantial pass price increases

will be necessary because items like fuel for the buses will have nearly tripled over a two year period. The town can't print money to pay for the gas."

The town Transportation Department has recommended increases in bus pass prices of up to 64 percent. Last week, the Transportation Board voted to recommend lower rate increases than those proposed by the town staff.

The Transportation Board voted to recommend an increase from \$48 to \$67, for a 12-month bus pass and an increase from \$40 to \$58 for a 9-month pass.

The Transportation Department recommended that the town charge \$79 for a year-long pass and \$65 for a 9-month pass.

Peaceful solution sought by Colombian president

BOGOTA, Columbia (AP)—Columbia's president said Sunday he favors a "bloodless solution" to the standoff at the Dominican Republic Embassy, where at least two dozen hostages, including U.S. Ambassador Diego Asencio, spent their 12th day in captivity at the hands of leftist guerrillas.

However, President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala declined to say what steps he would take to achieve a peaceful settlement, and he specifically refused to answer a question about whether he would meet the guerrillas' key demand—the release of hundreds of political prisoners.

"I want this situation to be resolved in

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the best possible way," Turbay Ayala told reporters, adding that the hostages' "safe release does not depend on the government alone."

Foreign Ministry sources said Sunday that negotiations to end the stalemate would resume within 48 hours. The first three rounds of face-to-face talks were said to have produced little progress.

On Saturday, American Charge d'Affaires T. Frank Crigler said at a briefing: "We have carefully noted the government of Colombia's assurances that it will avoid the use of force or provocative action unless the lives of the hostages are immediately threatened. We see no sign at this point that the use of force might be required."

The Colombian government has maintained silence on the progress of the negotiations with the guerrillas, who took over the embassy during a diplomatic reception Feb. 27 and took Asencio and 13 other ambassadors captive.

Sources have said the terrorists are growing impatient with the lack of progress in the negotiations so far and are considering breaking off talks if the government does not respond to their demands.

The government is believed to have offered safe conduct out of the country to the guerrillas in return for an agreement to release the hostages unharmed. But the government apparently has not budged from its position that it cannot meet the guerrillas' demands for \$50 million in ransom or the release of 311 alleged political prisoners.

Altogether, 24 hostages have been released since the guerrillas took over the embassy.

Costa Rican envoy Maria Elena Chassaoul was among the 18 women and wounded hostages who were set free in two days after the takeover following the government's refusal to open talks while such hostages remained captive.

Turbay Ayala spoke with reporters at a polling place in Bogota, where he voted in municipal and departmental state elections.

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