

# Giving the go-ahead

## Chapel Hill Town Council grants a special-use permit to Orange County Women's Center

By SANDY DIMSDALE  
Staff Writer

The Orange County Women's Center will relocate at 210 Henderson St. after winning a three-year battle with Cobb Terrace residents.

In a 7-2 vote, the Chapel Hill Town Council granted a special-use permit Monday that will allow the center to move from the Courtyard at 431 W. Franklin St.

Council member Nancy Preston

and Mayor James Wallace voted against the permit. At least seven council members' votes were necessary for the special-use permit because the neighbors had presented a petition.

"I believe this is a very sad day in Chapel Hill because it begins the destruction of one of the more fragile neighborhoods in downtown Chapel Hill," Preston said.

"As long as I've been on the

council, we've said the residential neighborhoods downtown would be scrupulously maintained. We're overstepping those bounds tonight," she said, drawing applause from residents who attended the meeting to protest moving the center into their neighborhood.

Preston had made a motion earlier to send the application back to the planning board for review and hold another public hearing, but nobody

seconded it.

Council member Julie Andresen said she thought the center would not threaten the neighborhood but would be an appropriate use for the house. No single-family units exist on the block anymore.

Verla Insko, who chairs the center's board of directors, said the center should be located downtown for several reasons. The new location will make the center accessible to women

by bus, and it will be easy to service students and conduct research because it is close to the University, she said.

The permit was delayed in part because of a recent N.C. Court of Appeals decision and because of opposition from residents in Cobb Terrace and other neighborhoods.

The N.C. Court of Appeals ruled in April that municipalities cannot require a detailed explanation of the proposed use of property when they consider granting a special-use zoning permit. Chapel Hill's ordinance required that the zoning request and special-use permit application specify the property use.

The council voted 9-0 Monday to amend the ordinance to coincide with the court's ruling.

Attorney Robert Epting, who spoke for the residents at the meeting, cautioned the council against a "rushed judgment." Because the ordinance was amended, he said it would be inappropriate for the council to make a decision on the Women's Center application without returning it to the planning board and calling a new public hearing first.

Wallace said he voted against the site because the planning board and the town manager's offices had not considered the newly-amended ordinance when they recommended last spring that the council approve the Henderson Street site.

"I'm not voting for or against the Center," Wallace said. "I'm voting for procedure."

"What you have done tonight in fixing the ordinance is only half the fix you will need to make before going to court (if this decision is challenged)," Epting told the council.

Insko said the board was relieved to finally be able to channel its energy and time into the center's other projects.

"It has drained a lot of energy from the board members to work so much on this," she said. "We hope now to move on to research in public policy issues affecting women, such as child care and affirmative action, and to our fund-raising efforts."

The Women's Center, established in 1976, was originally housed at 406 W. Rosemary St. with Women's Health Counseling Service and the Rape Crisis Center. It moved into temporary quarters in the Courtyard about a year ago.

## Town plans development of land near I-40

By WILL LINGO  
Staff Writer

The opening of new tracts of Interstate 40 has spurred increased interest among developers in the property around the I-40 interchanges.

The interest in this land has also caused concern to town planners in Chapel Hill and Durham.

The town of Chapel Hill has jurisdiction over the I-40/N.C. 86 interchange, which is scheduled to open in November 1988.

This land has been zoned for mixed-use development, said Roger Waldon, Chapel Hill planning director. "We are hoping for a blend of office, commercial and residential use for this land," he said.

The town is also hoping that development at this interchange will

occur in large tracts, rather than parcel by parcel, Waldon said.

Developers who buy more than 20 acres of property have more freedom in the way they use their land, he said. These developers are required to designate 60 percent of their space for office use, with the remainder available for commercial and residential use. Those who own less than 20 acres face a more limited range of uses, he said.

The Chapel Hill land-use plan also dictates that the south side of the interchange be used for urban development, while the north side be used for rural development. This is because the town's borders and services will eventually extend to the south side of the interchange, but not beyond it, Waldon said.

Durham is responsible for devel-

opment at the I-40/N.C. 54 interchange.

The north side of this interchange is planned for low-density residential use and open space, while the south side is zoned for a shopping center, multi-family dwellings and office space, said Keith Luck, Durham city planner.

Plans have already been approved for some developments along the interchange, Luck said. This includes the Quadrangle office complex, part of which has already been completed, he said.

Control over development around the I-40/U.S. 15-501 interchange is shared by Chapel Hill and Durham.

Some development has already occurred in this area, including the Omni Europa Hotel and Golden Corral Restaurant in Chapel Hill.

But planners are reluctant to approve more developments in the area, which is already congested. "Additional projects will overtax an already overburdened road," Luck said.

Many developers have assembled land and made plans for the area, but they are being put on hold until Durham approves a new thoroughfare plan, he said.

Both Luck and Waldon said the property around these interchanges is extremely valuable, having steadily increased in value since plans and construction of I-40 began. But neither planner could provide figures on property value.

"I expect that the property has changed hands at some pretty high prices," Waldon said.

## Sponge's works to absorb nightlife business

By AMY POWELL  
Staff Writer

Sponge's bar and dance club got off to a slow start, but going public has brought more business, the owners said.

Sponge's, located at 159 1/2 E. Franklin St. in the old Purdy's location, opened the beginning of October as a private club for people 21 and older.

Mark Altman and George Craver, co-owners of the bar and dance club, are former UNC students.

Two weeks ago, Sponge's changed to a public club. Memberships are no longer needed to get in, Craver said.

Altman said now the club offers only beer and wine. "To sell liquor, you must be a private club for members and their guests," he said.

"We weren't getting good response. People don't want to go through the hassle when they can go to any other bar on Franklin Street."

The busiest night had about 20 people when the club was for members only, Altman said. But since the change, as many as 200 people have come in one night.

Before the club went public, Altman said he turned down almost 200 people because they didn't want to buy a membership. Many of these people came to town for Chapel Hill's concerts, and they just wanted a place to go after the concert, he said.

"Now we're like every other bar on Franklin Street except we have a dance floor," he said.

Alan Mason, the manager and disc jockey, said there have been no

problems with underage drinkers. "The people who check ID's at the door are trained to recognize when people are underage," he said.

Since becoming Sponge's, the nightclub has undergone more changes than the age hike.

The new bar and dance club plays more classic rock 'n' roll and progressive rock, Craver said. No bands have played at the club, but there is a disc jockey working every night.

The club also stays open longer — noon until 1 a.m. Monday through Saturday.

The new owners added a 13-foot television screen. On Carolina game days, Sponge's offers drink specials for those coming in to watch the game.

Craver said there is no cover

charge, and the club is also available for private parties.

Gib Furgurson, one of the owner-managers of WFUN, a private dance club in Chapel Hill, said he isn't worried about competition from Sponge's because WFUN caters more to young professionals than college students. "I would definitely think Chapel Hill had room for two dance clubs," he said.

"I don't know why they (Sponge's) had to open to the public," Furgurson said. "Maybe they were forced to because of the 21-and-over drinking age and wanted a bigger core of customers to draw from."

Susannah Southern, a bartender at He's Not Here, said it was too early to tell if Sponge's would affect the bar's business.

## Campus libraries to hold used book sale

By GUINEVERE ROSS  
Staff Writer

Between 10,000 and 15,000 used books from UNC's libraries will sell for as little as 75 cents on Friday, Nov. 13 and Saturday, Nov. 14 in Wilson Library's main lobby.

The book sale will last from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. The sale is open to the public, and proceeds will go to benefit the Friends of the Library of UNC.

Most hardback books will sell for \$1, and paperbacks will be 75 cents. Topics of the books will range from

religion to make-up tips.

Eileen McGrath, N.C. collection cataloger at Wilson Library, said a library book sale is very rare. The last one was held in the 1960s, she said.

McGrath said the books for sale are from Davis, Wilson and the Undergraduate Libraries. The books are being sold because the libraries have too many copies of them or because they deal with topics not essential to students.

"For example, the library does not need a book about astrology or

'10,000 Questions On Gardening,'" McGrath said.

Textbooks are also being sold, on subjects that range from literature to economics. The textbooks could help students even if the texts are not being used by professors, McGrath said.

"Maybe reading a different book can help you see the subject more clearly, or maybe there is a book here that the teacher has suggested for outside reading," she said.

A small number of higher-priced books, including rare books or older

books that are hard to find, will also be for sale, McGrath said. "However, there are very few of these because it takes a lot of time to go through and figure the prices of these books."

The Friends of the Library of UNC provides extra funds to the libraries for books, materials and services. Privileges include entrance into the preview book sale Thursday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Membership is open to anyone and costs \$25. Those interested can register at the preview sale.

## Robertson promises welfare reforms

From Associated Press reports

RALEIGH — Republican presidential candidate Pat Robertson told supporters in Raleigh Tuesday that his administration would work to change the education and welfare systems in the United States.

"I don't want an America where old people have to eat dog food," Robertson told 250 to 300 supporters who gathered at a breakfast meeting in Raleigh. "I don't want an America where there are people sleeping on cardboard boxes or grates in city streets. I don't want an America where elderly people freeze to death because there's not enough money to

pay for heating and oil and electric utilities."

Robertson said, "There are some in our society who are truly needy, and a great society needs to help them. What I want to do is get the money out to the truly needy and the poor and take it out of the pockets of the bureaucrats."

One of his major priorities would be to reform the welfare system, which he said creates dependency and breaks up families.

"I think welfare is a disgrace like it is right now," Robertson said.

But he saved some of his strongest criticisms for public schools, saying

"education is a mess in America."

"I want to restore excellence in education . . . I want to bring God back into the public schools of America," he told the enthusiastic crowd.

One of the first steps to restoring excellence in American education would be to return control of the schools to the local teachers and taxpayers, he said.


"If we're going to restore excellence to our education, we've got to get back to local control, and we've got to take the power and control of education away from Washington, D.C., and away from national head-

quarters of a powerful teachers' union with leftist tendencies," Robertson said.

Robertson also said he would beef up U.S. military forces, including the Delta Force based at Fort Bragg, to protect Americans all over the world.

Robertson said he would send a message to terrorists that "if you put one finger on an American citizen any place in the world, there will be no place for you to hide."

Also attending the breakfast were state GOP Chairman Jack Hawke, Rep. Edgar Starnes, R-Caldwell, and Rep. Bill Boyd, R-Randolph, a candidate for lieutenant governor.



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