

Disco Inferno
Mostly sunny, high 88

Coming this fall: your
parents — page 4

Medical issues take
center stage — page 5

Campus Y membership
drive starts today
11-2 in the Pit

The Daily Tar Heel

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

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Volume 96, Issue 40

Tuesday, September 13, 1988

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

News/Sports/Arts 962-0245
Business/Advertising 962-1163



Greek sneak peek

Costumed members of the Pi Beta Phi sorority converse with students during the second round of formal rush Monday. Rushes will receive bids on Saturday.

DTH/David Minton

Town council extends deadline on Rosemary Square proposal

By WILL LINGO
City Editor

The Chapel Hill Town Council extended the life of the Rosemary Square project again Monday, but guaranteed that the latest closing date extension will be the last one the developers receive.

By a 5-4 vote, the council moved the closing date for the project to Sept. 30, 1989, the developers' fifth extension. The previous deadline for the closing had been Nov. 30 of this year, and the original deadline was Dec. 31, 1985.

Council members Julie Andresen, David Godschalk, Jonathan Howes,

Nancy Preston and Roosevelt Wilkerson voted for the extension, while Joe Herzenberg, David Pasquini, Jim Wallace and Art Werner voted against it.

Rosemary Square is a controversial hotel-condominium development proposed for the area behind the Franklin Street Post Office at the corner of Rosemary and Henderson streets.

To ensure that this is the last time the council will have to deal with the question of whether or not to extend the project, they included a termination clause in their resolution.

The clause would release the town

from "any and all obligations to close," and would terminate the agreement between the town and the developers if the new deadline is not met.

The clause also guarantees that the project will receive no more extensions, and includes a "covenant not to sue," which protects the town from any possible legal action by the developer if the development falls through.

During approximately two hours of discussion on the issue, council members expressed a great deal of

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Religious controversy draws attention to 'Temptation' film

By STACI COX
Assistant State and National Editor

Although the controversy has begun to diminish, Universal Studio's "The Last Temptation of Christ" remains at the center of a national debate that has given the film more publicity than many original protesters expected.

"It's getting more attention than it deserves," said Father Joseph Vetter, director of communications for the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh.

The Roman Catholic Church has a movie review service that gave "The Last Temptation of Christ" an objectionable rating, but the film is one of hundreds to receive such a

rating from the service, Vetter said.

"Our position in the diocese has been we don't like the movie and encourage people not to see it," he said. "We think the film is bad theology and bad art."

Vetter stressed that while the diocese objects to the film, "We are not trying to deny people's right to see it. We think freedom of expression must be respected."

If the film was intended to be blasphemous, a public stand would be warranted, Vetter said. But "The Last Temptation of Christ" is meant to portray director Martin Scorsese's view of Christ, and is unintentionally offensive to many Christians, he said.

The movie is not based on the New Testament, but on a novel, which is made "very clear" at the beginning of the film, said Bill DuPre, movie reviewer for The (Raleigh) News and Observer.

"I would say the thing that surprised me was how literal much of it was," DuPre said. "I was expecting it to be on the whole more daring than that."

Larry Hartsell, campus pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Chapel Hill, said the film is an excellent starting point for discussion of the New Testament.

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Enrollment drops in ROTC program

By CEDRIC RICKS
Staff Writer

Enrollment in UNC's Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program has dropped about 50 percent, according to Colonel J. Harry Stow, commander of the detachment.

The enrollment decline is a result of last semester's announcement that 37 detachments, including UNC's, would close or be consolidated in 1989. The program was reinstated after the secretary of the Air Force placed a two-year delay on the detachment closings, but many students had already left the program.

Following the initial announcement, freshmen and sophomores were given the option of transferring to another school offering ROTC, or dropping from the scholarship program without any obligation to serve in the Air Force.

"A lot of people opted out, even though we tried to encourage them to stay through the semester," Stow said.

"Because of his (the secretary's) strong interest in keeping programs open, he decided to delay his decision and review it again in two years, using the same criteria," he said.

The program will continue until at least 1990, when the Air Force will decide whether to close the UNC program or keep it in operation.

Stow estimated that about 40 percent of sophomores enrolled in the program last year have not returned. About 40 percent of freshmen originally chose not to return, but about 10 percent of those who were going to leave changed their minds after they learned the detachment would remain open.

Although the program has experienced a decline in enrollment, the

number of first-time cadets has increased slightly. Since the beginning of the semester, the number of sophomore first-time cadets increased by about 10 percent, Stow said.

"Enrollment is on the upswing," he said. "We are looking forward to having a good number of sophomores and freshmen by the beginning of the spring semester."

Stow said he did not think the decline in the number of cadets would hurt the future of UNC's program.

"The group we have right now is very enthusiastic, and I think once students become aware that the program is remaining, they will continue to join the program and our enrollment will increase," he said.

The program will be reviewed in two years. If it is scheduled to close,

See ROTC page 5

Traditional businesses struggle to stay in town

By JEANNA BAXTER
Staff Writer

The traditional small, individually-owned Franklin Street businesses are beginning to disappear and give way to larger, national franchises.

Downtown merchants attribute these changes to spiraling rent, lack of parking and increased competition from UNC Student Stores.

Spiraling Rent

"East Franklin Street has traditionally been considered the 'golden block' and there has been a preconception that all Franklin Street merchants are millionaires," said Mark Fisher, secretary of the Downtown Chapel Hill Association and owner of Small World Travel.

"This notion has caused a great demand for this space," Fisher said. "When national franchises started moving in, landlords began charging exorbitant rent."

"Now there is a rent war to see who can get the most rent. Lots of smaller businesses are moving or folding because they can't afford to pay their overhead."

Mickey Ewell, president of the Downtown Chapel Hill Association and owner of Spanky's, said it is easier for a national firm to move in, because they have staying power,

Downtown: A Changing Scene

unlike a "mom-and-pop" operation that does a certain amount of business.

Fisher, whose rent has tripled since 1973, said that unless a cap is put on the rent, Franklin Street will eventually be comprised of fast food restaurants and national chains such as Rite Aid, which have the means to meet their overhead costs.

Wallace Kuralt, owner of Intimate Bookshops, said rapidly increasing rent played a role in his decision to buy the building his store occupies. He said if he had not had the resources to buy the building, he probably would have had to close his store.

Kuralt said that 10 or 15 years ago, most of the merchants on Franklin Street had been there for 20 years. Now, he only knows of a few who were there 10 years ago.

Parking Woes

Limited parking has also put a damper on downtown business.

According to Fisher, many Chapel Hill residents no longer shop down-

town because of the limited parking available.

"I lose customers daily because they don't feel they will be able to park," he said.

Ewell said student-related businesses can do well downtown, but businesses relying on Chapel Hill residents are not doing as well because of the parking situation.

Fisher and Ewell both attributed the parking problem to the University's expansion over the last several years.

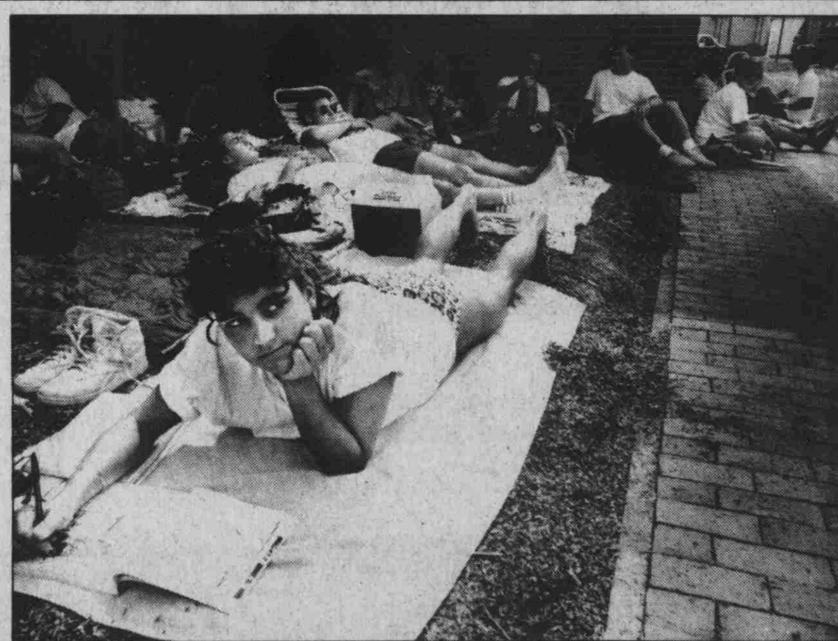
Kuralt supported their theory by noting that during the summer months when the majority of the students leave there is no parking problem.

"The University has not put in adequate parking as it has grown," Fisher said. "In the early '70s when I was a student, the Undergraduate Library and business school extension were parking lots."

"The University has built buildings on its parking lots without replacing the lost parking."

Ewell said the University has let the town down by not building parking. He said he believes the University owes the town a parking deck or some other solution to the

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Lying in wait

Brook Davis, a sophomore RTVMP major from Murphy, catches some rays while patiently waiting in line Monday for a chance to purchase a leftover parking permit (see story, page 4).

DTH/David Minton

I always start writing with a clean piece of paper and a dirty mind. — Patrick Dennis