

Business

Most business owners OK downtown revitalization tax

By KATHRYNE TOVO
Staff Writer

A new proposal that would increase taxes for downtown building owners to raise money for downtown revitalization has produced generally favorable reactions among local owners.

If approved, the proposal would create a municipal service district in the downtown areas of Chapel Hill and Carrboro. The building owners in this district would pay an additional tax which would be used for downtown improvements.

Chapel Hill Town Attorney Ralph Karpinos said municipal service districts are created if a city determines that an area is in need of additional services.

The money generated by the tax is used exclusively to provide a higher level of service in the district, he said.

The local government in a municipal service district determines how the money will be spent, but the N.C. General Statutes cite improvements in parking, traffic and transportation as appropriate uses for the additional revenue, Karpinos said.

The tax can be applied toward any service which will help to promote the economic health of the district, including street festivals and markets, Karpinos said.

Joe Hakan, chairman of the Downtown Chapel Hill-Carrboro Commission, said the money would be used to fund different projects for the downtown revitalization program.

If the town approves the additional tax, an annual or semi-annual meeting would be held to inform downtown building owners how the money is being spent, Hakan said.

The commission anticipates the budget for the revitalization program will be between \$100,000 and \$125,000 per year, he said.

The program received more than \$100,000 in public and private dona-

Downtown: A Changing Scene

tions this year, but members of the commission hope the program can be funded in the future through the creation of the municipal service district.

Bob Julian, owner of Logos Bookstore and a member of the downtown commission, said revitalization began because the commission was looking for ways to save the downtown.

"There are a lot of people shopping in town but not buying," Julian said. "If we don't watch out, Franklin Street will be nothing but bars and restaurants."

Chapel Hill Mayor Jonathan Howes said although stores do not stay vacant very long in downtown Chapel Hill and Carrboro, there has been less variety among the businesses in recent years.

Julian attributed the problems of the downtown area to the perceived parking shortage and to the increase of student apartments on the outskirts of town.

"There are not as many students walking along the streets as there once were," he said.

Hakan said the downtown commission recently hired two directors to lead the revitalization effort, and part of the budgeted money will cover the \$36,000 salary they share.

Chuck Helpingstine, owner of Johnny T-Shirt, said although he supports revitalization, he does not understand why individual owners should be taxed for something that will benefit the town and the University as a whole.

Helpingstine said while his business in the past few years has not decreased, it has not increased greatly, either.

"We are doing well, but average, not spectacular," he said. "The rents are skyrocketing, and it's difficult to stay in business in this town."

Helpingstine cited the UNC Student Stores as a major competitor with downtown businesses. "They take so much business away from the town," he said. "They should go back to being a book supplier and leave the T-shirts, computers and greeting cards to the downtown merchants."

Mickey Ewell, owner of Spanky's, said he would support the tax if it went directly into revitalizing the downtown area.

One downtown Chapel Hill merchant who requested anonymity expressed strong opposition to the proposal.

"We are burdened with enough taxes right now, and it is not fair to tax one section of town and not the other," he said. "I have no objection to revitalization now that it has begun, but I have not noticed a decrease in the amount of business in recent years."

Career Corner

Resumé Drop Oct. 11/Open Sign Up Oct. 26

PRESCREENING COMPANIES

Date	Company	Job	Major
10/31/88	American Greetings Corp.		ACCT/BS
10/31/88	First Atlanta	Accounting	BU/BS;ECON/BA;COMP/BS
10/31/88	NCR Corporation	Sales	BU/BS;ACCT/BS
10/31/88	NCR Corporation-USDPS Div.	GMgt.	ANY/BA,BS
10/31/88	NCR-Business Forms Div.	Sales	COMP/BS,MS,PHD
10/31/88	Princeton Information	Prog.	BU/BS;ACCT/BS
10/31/88	Sun Banks, Inc.	Bnkg.	BU/BS;ECON/BA;INDR/BA;
11/01/88	Cone Mills Corp.	Mfgm,Chem.	CHEM/BA,BS
11/01/88	Internal Revenue Service	Accounting	ANY/BA/BS
11/01/88	Mead Corporation	Sales	BU/BS
11/01/88	Merck & Company, Inc.	Chem.	CHEM/MS,PHD
11/01/88	Personal Products	Sales	BU/BS
11/01/88	Ralston Purina	Sales	ANY/BA,BS
11/01/88	Steelcase Inc	Mktg, Sales	BU/BS;LIBA/BA
11/02/88	Barnett Banks, Inc.	Bnkg.	ANY/BA,BS
11/02/88	CIA		ANY/BA,BS,MS
11/02/88	J.C. Penney Co, Inc	RMgt.	BU/BS
11/02/88	Roadway Express	GMgt.	BU/BS;ACCT/BS;INDR/BA;
11/03/88	Athletic Attic	GMgt.	INDR/BA;LIBA/BA
11/03/88	US Gen. Acctg. Office	Accounting	ANY/BA,BS
11/03/88	Wallace Computing Services	Sales	BU/BS;ACCT/BS;ECON/BA;
11/04/88	Westvaco	Chem.	POLI/BA;PUPA/BA;PUAM/BA
			ANY/BA,BS
			CHEM/PHD

OPEN SIGN-UP

10/31/88	Harvard Business School	Any	ANY/BA,BS
10/31/88	Hoechst Celanese	Chem	CHEM/MS,PHD
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11/03/88	Prudential Insurance Co.		

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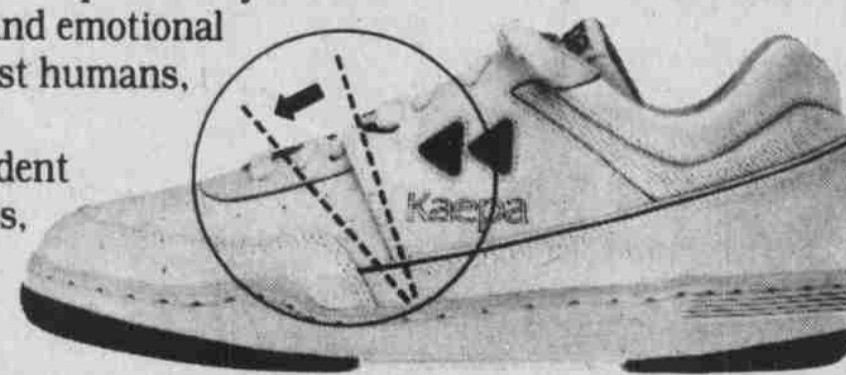
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Elections

from page 1

unopposed.

The seat in District 6 was filled by a write-in candidate, **James Taylor**, who won with 38 votes. His opponents were Adam Wilson, Jim Wright and Jonathan Williams. Wilson received seven votes, and Wright and Williams each received one. District 6 is a graduate district that represents students in the schools of Medicine and Nursing.

Two write-in candidates tied, with one vote each, in District 7. This was the only district not certified Tuesday night, and elections board officials will check with **Erik McMillan** and **Tom Elliott** to determine their interest. Graduate students in Public Health and related fields are represented in this district.

District 8 will be represented by **Sonia Abecassis**, a graduate student representing Languages, Linguistics, Library Science, Philosophy and Religious Studies.

Danielle Adams won the seat in District 11, representing Granville Towers, with 25 votes. Her two opponents, Archie Barnes, and Amy Sheppard, received 13 votes and one vote, respectively.

The seat in District 14 was filled by **Caroline Pham**, who received 154 votes. Pham represents students in STOW Residence College. Her only

non-write-in opponent was John Lindsay, with 43 votes. She had nine write-in opponents.

John Lomax will represent District 15, Ehringhaus. He received 126 votes. His opponents Alan Davidson and Jason Kelly received 22 and 14 votes, respectively.

Two seats in District 16, which consists of Morrison, Craige and Hinton James, were filled by **Nick Kontogeorgopoulos**, with 103 votes, and **Michael Archey**, with 90 votes. Their three official opponents were Mark Garrison, with 26 votes; Elizabeth Mills, with 28 votes; and Stephen Miss, with 46 votes. There were eight write-in opponents.

District 18 will be represented by write-in candidate **Scott Hardin**, with three votes. All undergraduates living southeast of the intersection of Franklin and Columbia Streets are included in this district. Six write-in opponents had one vote each.

Jill Gilbert won the seat in District 19, with 40 votes. Gilbert represents students living southwest of the intersection of Franklin and Columbia Streets. Her official opponents were Greg Camp, with 23 votes; Rodney Honeycutt, with 10 votes; and Paige Dembicks, with 5 votes. She had four write-in opponents.

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