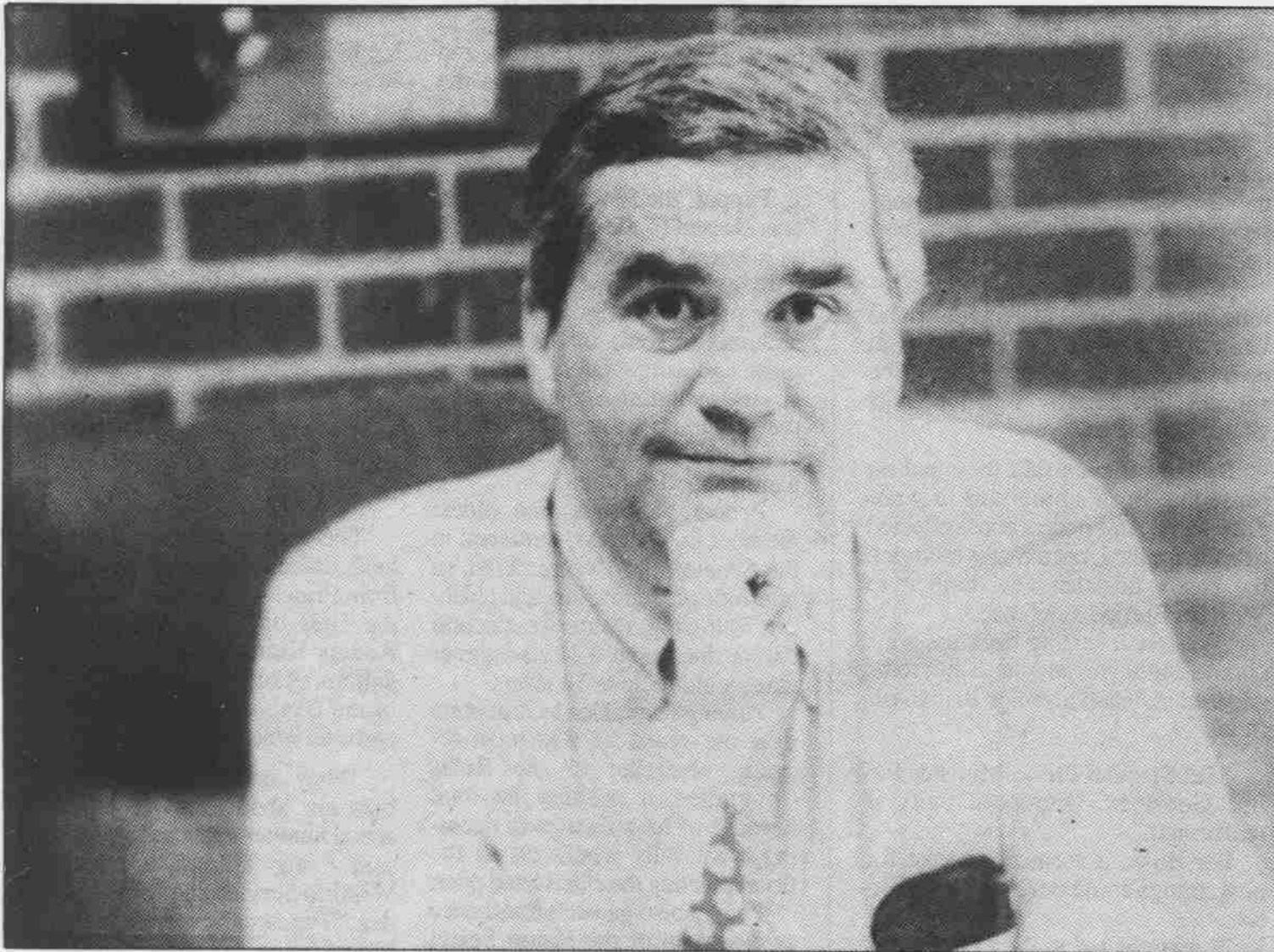


# City

## A look at Chapel Hill with Mayor Howes



Tar Heel/Sarah Cagle

Mayor Jonathan B. Howes takes a close look at the relationship between UNC and Chapel Hill

*This is the first of a series of articles outlining the issues facing the Chapel Hill Town Council, profiling its members and examining the relationship between the town and the University. For this article The Tar Heel spoke with Mayor Jonathan B. Howes and asked him to outline the issues that currently face the town.*

**By JIM GREENHILL**

Staff Writer

"This town's principle function is to serve as an environment in which the University of North Carolina can prosper," said Jonathan B. Howes, mayor of Chapel Hill, in an interview with The Tar Heel May 26.

The special relationship between the town and the University is underscored by the fact that Howes is also director of the University's Center for Urban and Regional Studies. With Chancellor Hardin, Howes created the town and gown Coordination and Consultation Committee, with a mission to improve communications between the two. Former Student Body President Brian Bailey's administration proposed the idea for the position of student liaison to the Chapel Hill Town Council.

Howes discussed issues ranging from the demise of the Rosemary Square project to future growth of the University.

"It's tragic that this positive project for downtown is unable to go forward," Howes said of the cancellation of Rosemary Square, a condominium/hotel development that was to be built on the parking lot between NCNB Plaza and the post office.

"It didn't go forward because people found ways to delay it to the point that, if it was economically feasible originally, it wasn't any more," he said.

Rosemary Square survived constitutional and political tests, but the project couldn't survive the final market test, Howes said. This is because the 1986 federal tax reforms

made the type of investment proposed less attractive and because "litigation brought by members of the community made the atmosphere poisonous," he said.

Howes cited Town Council member and former Mayor James C. Wallace and former Chapel Hill Newspaper publisher Orville B. Campbell as major opponents of the project.

"I continue to believe it was a good thing and I continue to believe it was needed," Howes said. "The resistance to change in this community is much stronger now than it was when I first joined the council."

Chapel Hill's citizens are liberal on national issues but conservative about their own community, Howes said.

Parking and the noise ordinance are two issues facing both the University and the town, Howes said. "The University kind of systematically eliminated (parking spaces), now it's starting to put them back," he said.

Of the noise ordinance the mayor commented, "I don't think there's as much of a problem as there used to be, but from time to time it does flare up." There will never be a solution to this issue beyond managing a compromise, he said.

At the direction of the town and gown committee, the mayor is working to form a committee to examine access to the University campus and find ways to divert people from using private automobiles to using public transit. Howes wants the committee to examine the effectiveness of park and ride lots and of routing buses through residential areas. He plans to include the student liaison on the committee.

"The expansion (of the University) to the south has probably gone about as far as it can go," Howes said. Access from the north is far

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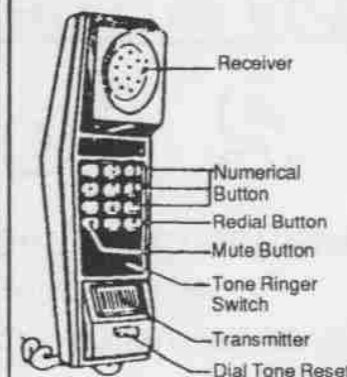
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