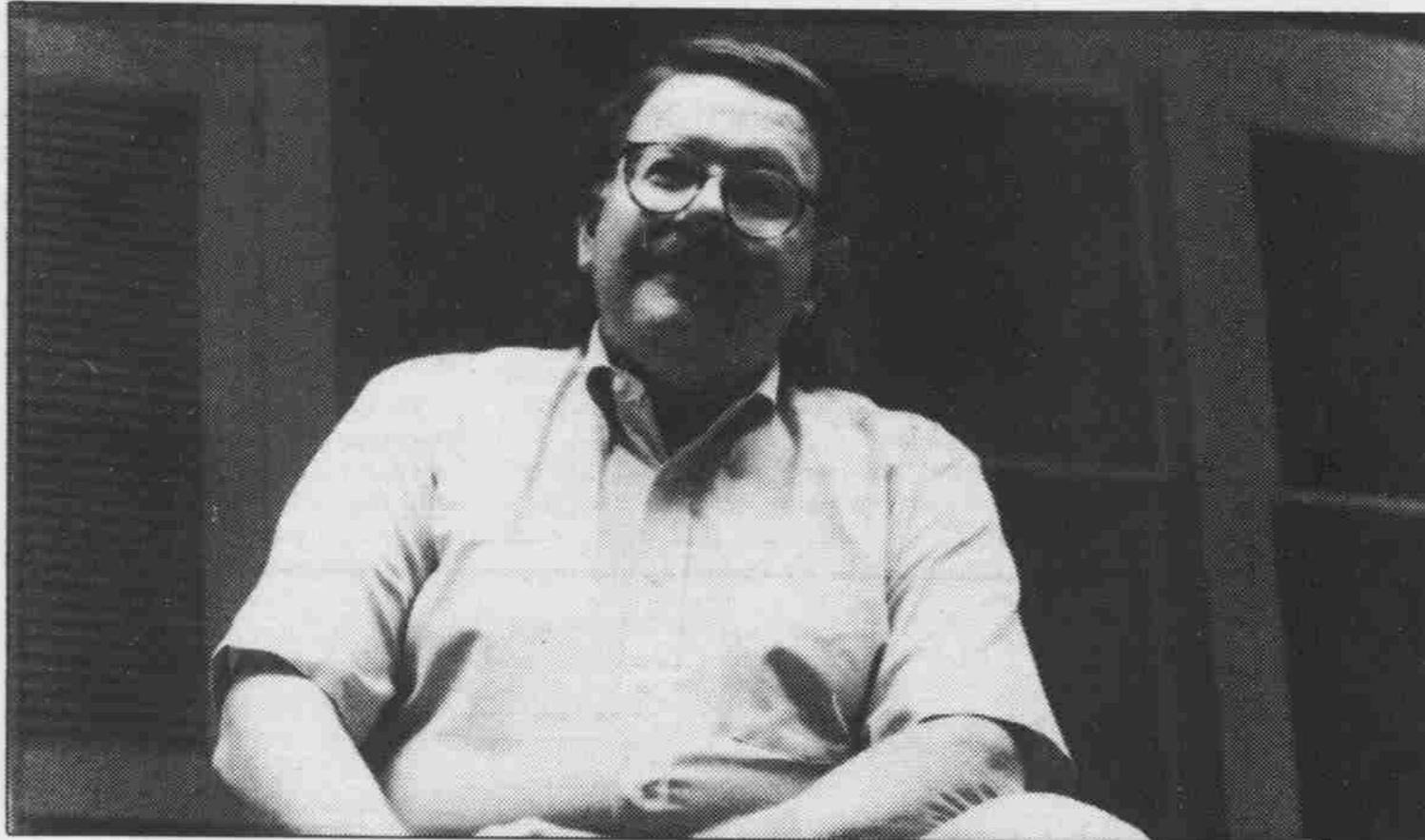


City

Herzenberg seeks positive growth for town



Council member Joe Herzenberg says he is in favor of 'good development' for Chapel Hill

For the fourth in a series of articles about the Chapel Hill Town Council, The Tar Heel talked with Council Member Joseph A. Herzenberg.

By **JIM GREENHILL**
Staff Writer

"The big issue in Chapel Hill is how we deal with the growth of the town," said Chapel Hill Town Council Member Joseph A. Herzenberg.

The council rarely tries to deal with the whole issue, Herzenberg said. "The votes are on specific issues which are much smaller — although sometimes an issue can take on immense symbolic value, like Rosemary Square," he said.

The proposed Rosemary Square development was canceled earlier this year, but now there's a new proposal for a different area of town. Jamestown Properties Ltd. of Atlanta, Ga., wants to build a \$100 million shopping mall and office development inside the city limits.

"Most of the mail is negative on Gateway," Herzenberg said of the project that would sit on a 50-acre site at the junction of U.S. 15-501 and Interstate 40. "Most of the people opposing it are basically opposed to the zoning that already exists. They should have opposed it at the time. Citizens don't get up in arms until there is a real and present threat."

Herzenberg, who was elected in

1987 for a four-year term, said he is "pro good development, against bad development." Potential developments in Chapel Hill are more likely to succeed if they are timed well, he said. "If too much is going on at one particular time, and unfortunately our economy encourages that, people have difficulty dealing with it," he said.

Tasteful design is also important in a project's success, Herzenberg said. "We have for some years been in the process of creating more and more design standards," he said.

Herzenberg said Chapel Hill sets the pace for the rest of the state, citing a comment he attributes to Town Manager David R. Taylor: "As far as North Carolina goes, we're on the cutting edge — the legislation we pass now other towns will be passing in the future."

The town council deals with many apparently minor issues in its daily work, Herzenberg said. "Little things often have very big impacts on people's lives," he said, using garbage collection as an example.

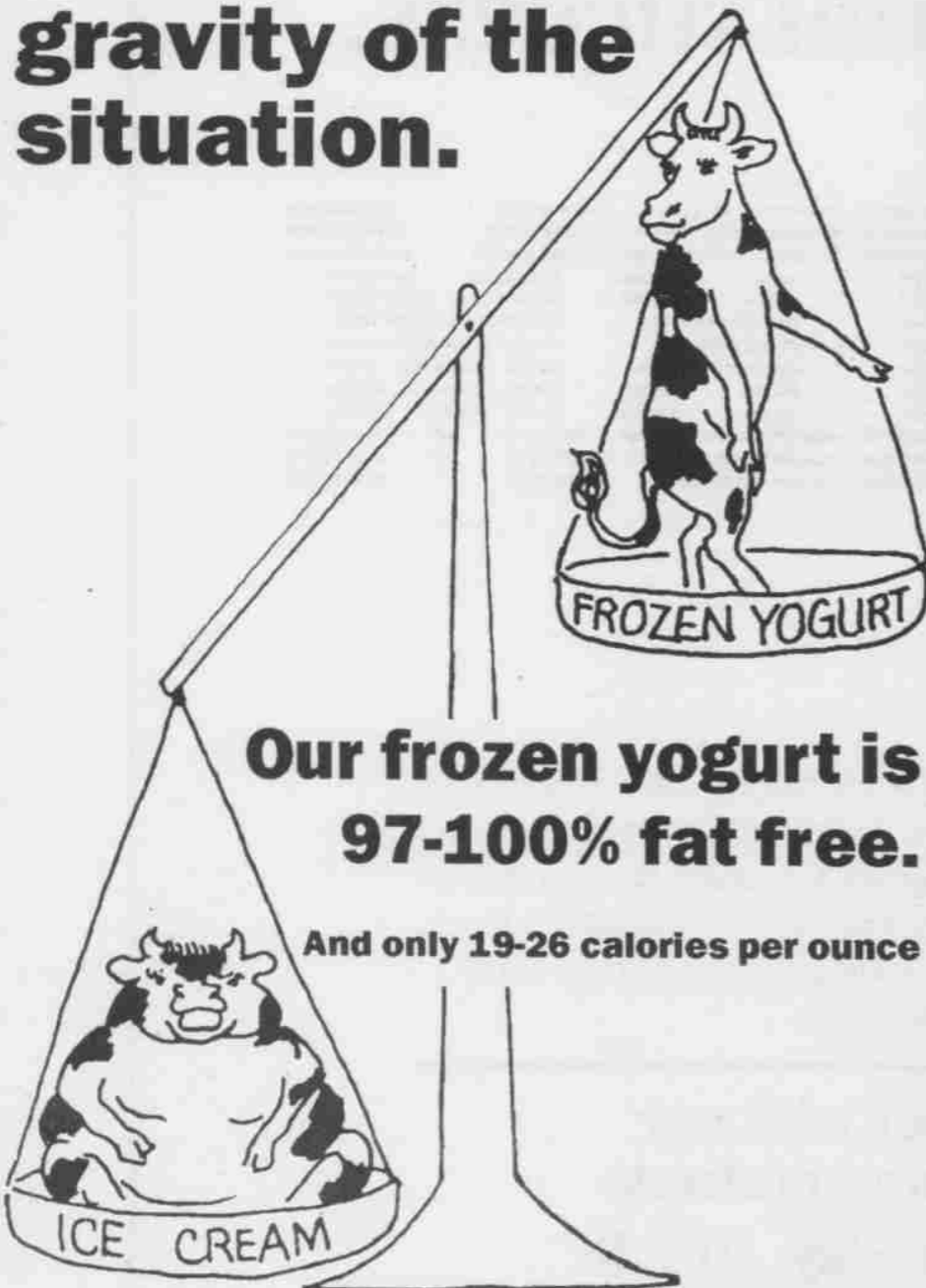
"The role of government in our society is to do those things which individual citizens aren't able to do for themselves," Herzenberg said. "I'm for as much government as is needed to get the job done."

The council can sometimes address national issues, too, as it did by refusing to do business with banks that invest in South Africa. "It is in our national tradition that when citizens feel very strongly about national issues, local government can play a role in conveying the citizens' views," Herzenberg said.

Herzenberg said he sees ethics as an important issue in local as well as national government. "There's a lot of suspicion out there. That's very American, suspicion of government — and it's healthy," he said. "It is very important in government that not only the end product be good, but also the processes."

The Chapel Hill Town Council is not corrupt in the way some other local governments are, Herzenberg said. See **HERZENBERG**, page 8

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