

Howes won't seek third term; future includes travel, writing

By Lauren Chesnut
Staff Writer

Once the duties of mayor are behind him after next fall's election, increasing world travel and writing a book appear to be in the offing for Jonathan Howes.

Howes announced last week that he would not seek a third term as mayor of Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill resident Rosemary Waldorf is the only person to announce her candidacy for the position so far.

"One of the things that I want to do is spend a little more time writing... about local government and governance in general in our society. That's one of the things I do feel a need to reflect on," Howes said.

He has an outline for a book he is anxious to flesh out after his present term of mayor is completed, although, he said, it was too early to discuss the book's possible content.

Howes enjoys travel and is looking forward to going to Scotland and the Baltic Republics this summer, he said. After next fall, he said, he will enjoy being free to do more worldwide travel, perhaps to Asia and possibly Africa.

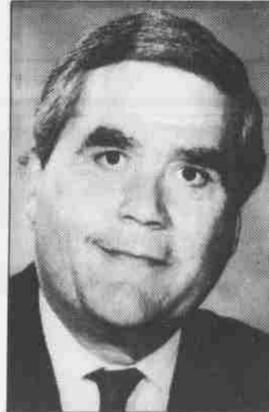
Howes describes himself as "a pretty keen observer of urban life in other parts of the world." Travel fulfills his interest in natural and manmade landscapes — how they fit together and how they differ. He likes to take photographs while traveling, he said.

He has no plans to leave Chapel Hill. His decision not to run for mayor will not affect his position as director of UNC's Center for Urban and Regional Studies, and he plans to maintain his present teaching load, he said.

"Teaching has been a good experience. It's been as close as I've been able to come to systematically reflecting on the experience," Howes said about being mayor. "I usually ran my classes so that there was a chance at the beginning of each class to talk a little bit about current affairs in an off-the-record way and to bounce ideas off students. I think it helped me to be a better mayor because students could raise questions that nobody else could raise."

Howes has called Chapel Hill home for more than 20 years. Before that, Howes lived and worked in Washington, D.C. He said he doubted he would return to Washington to work.

When asked about a comment he made last week that he might seek political office again, Howes said, "I think everybody who's involved in politics thinks that. One of the things I like to say is I don't think I could ever serve at a higher level of government. I think



Jonathan Howes

local government is probably the highest level of government in our society because it's closest to the people."

Howes said he has no specific political aspirations at this time. He conceded, however, "I will certainly look at other offices as they come along. When these things come along, you have to take a look at them."

Howes said he did not have any intention to become more active in the Democratic party.

"I don't have any plans to be any more partisan in the future, but if I were to seek practically any other office, they're all dealt with on a partisan basis, so I would probably have to become more active."

Howes said his best accomplishment as mayor was the staff he cultivated.

"We have a staff that is very responsive, to both the public and to the council, that provides an exceedingly high level of service in a very cost-effective way," he said.

Physical products of his tenure include sidewalks, paved streets, a storm water management system, the new town hall and the coming new library.

But Howes admitted that there were a few issues during his tenure not resolved to his satisfaction.

"I'd like to see the town be given a more flexible revenue base from which to operate," he said. "Right now the

Congress

conservative campus leaders have criticized throughout the last decade.

"It's well known that most, if not all, of the CGLA's members are homosexuals," he said. "That entails a viola-

tion of the law. "I think the question we have to ask ourselves is, are we going to continue to fund, support and encourage a group that encourages illegal activity? It's in (the CGLA's) title. It isn't the Oatmeal Cookie and Coke Club."

Moore said the CGLA was a special interest group that had received funding despite the wishes of most students. He cited a 1988 non-binding referendum in which most voters called for the cessation of student funding for the CGLA.

Moore brought the proposal before congress as a resolution for immediate consideration, bypassing the normal committee process for bills and resolutions. Moore said he asked for immediate consideration because he had been unable to determine which committee should receive the bill.

Cohen objected, saying, "Resolutions for immediate consideration are for issues that are so critical that any delay would hurt."

Zenick said the state law against consensual homosexual behavior and oral sex was outdated. "Under present state law, probably 90 percent of the students on this campus are felons."

Cohen was more adamant. "It's nobody else's business in what position and with whom people have sex," he said. "Mr. Moore has persuaded me that it is a felony for us to fund the CGLA. But I'm going to suggest that we all be felons, because this law sucks."

Colleagues of Howes said they were sorry to hear he would not run again and spoke highly of his performance as mayor.

"I enjoyed working with Jon very, very much," UNC Chancellor Paul Hardin said. "I think he was a good mayor, certainly a very open person, easy to talk with. I certainly feel that the relationship between the University and the mayor's office has been excellent during his tenure."

Raleigh Mayor Avery Upchurch said of Howes, "I considered him one of my greatest allies and friends as we discussed and worked in the region."

Chapel Hill Town Council member Nancy Preston said she felt Howes had been outstanding "in his wide experience and wide knowledge of people and by his very equitable handling of the meetings." She also praised Howes' "great ability to extemporize."

Town council member Joe Herzenberg said he liked the way Howes has presided at meetings.

"I think he's very fair and even-handed," Herzenberg said. "It's very important to members of the council that everyone think that and know that the mayor will treat each of our eight points of view evenly and fairly, and Jon is very good at that."

from page 1



DTH/Kathy Michel

Refresher course

Residents of Rock Creek Apartments in Carrboro play water volleyball Saturday afternoon in the complex's pool. The water was a welcome refreshment from the 90-degree temperatures which scorched the state. Rain followed for the next two days.

UNC Hospitals rates to increase to accommodate greater budget

By Sidney Gaskins
Staff Writer

Rates at UNC Hospitals will increase July 1 as part of a \$262.4 million budget approved last week.

The new budget is 10.1 percent higher than the \$238.2 million budget the hospital has operated under for the past year.

The budget includes a 9.6 percent increase in room rates. The price of a private room will increase from \$350 to \$395 per day, and a semi-private room will increase from \$340 to \$385 per day. The average rate increase for all services will be 5.9 percent.

Hospital Operations Director Todd

Peterson said most hospitals adopt a new budget every year, and rate increases are typical. The 5.9 percent increase was "substantially less than the inflation rate for the health industry," he said.

The hospital has to charge extra just to break even because not all patients can pay their bills, and government health programs pay only part, Peterson said. Those who pay their bills pay more to compensate for those who do not, he said.

Although the hospital receives 15 percent of its funding from the state, Peterson said the increased rates were not related to recent state budget cuts. State funding cuts do have an impact

on the hospital, but UNC Hospitals' operations are not as dependent on state funding as many other institutions are, he said.

Most of the hospital's budget is used to pay its 4,000 employees, Peterson said. "Salaries and fringe benefits are our largest single category of expense."

Hospital spokesman John Stokes said another expense was the expansion of the number of hospital beds from 606 to 660. The bed shortage denies some people medical care, he said.

The hospital also is expanding its organ transplant facilities, and a new neuropsychiatric building is under construction. Both projects are very costly, Stokes said.

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