

Marchers speak against crime, drugs in neighborhoods



Residents of public housing gather at town hall Sunday before marching in protest of poor living conditions and low wages

Residents blame low wages, high housing costs

By Emily Russ Staff Writes

Residents of subsidized housing, University housekeepers and town officials and residents marched through some of Chapel Hill's low-income neighborhoods Sunday demanding better living conditions and higher wages. Public housing residents addressed about 100 people who gathered at Chapel Hill Town Hall with concerns about the drug and crime problems in their neighborhoods.

Speakers asked town and University officials to pay more attention to their needs

"We are looking for better-paying jobs so we can afford the so-called affordable housing in Chapel Hill," said Maxecine Mitchell, chairwoman of the Residence Council.

The Residence Council is a group of people elected by residents of each public housing community in Chapel Hill and Carrboro to address the communities' unique needs. Each of the 12 lowincome communities elects a president who serves on the Residence Council. Mitchell said the council identified

common problems and decided to bring them to the public's attention.

"We are hoping this will open everybody's eyes up," she said. Mitchell said Chapel Hill's low-in-

come developments were nice public housing units, and she was fighting to keep them clean and drug-free.

The marchers called for more affordable housing in Chapel Hill, improved recreation areas for children, and better-paying jobs in the town and the University.

Sareeta Thompson, an 8-year-old public housing resident, said she wanted a nice playground with swings. She said the violence in her neighborhood scared her, and she usually played in her house, "People are breaking stuff," she said. 'They throw rocks around.'

Pat Davis, a public housing resident, said low-income communities needed to cooperate to solve neighborhood drug and crime problems.

Davis also said the maintenance and public works for public housing was virtually non-existent. Trash dumpsters were inadequate, and roads needed repair, she said. Carl Fox, Orange-Chatham district

attorney, called on the marchers to protect their neighborhoods and fight for their rights as citizens.

"We need to dare ourselves to accept

responsibility for our own communities

and neighborhoods," he said. Chapel Hill attorney Al McSurely said skyrocketing prices of Chapel Hill housing caused problems in low-income neighborhoods. University employees who make \$11,000 a year cannot afford to live a decent life in Chapel Hill, he said.

"All of us must come together and find some damn decent jobs," McSurely said. "This town has a long and systematic legacy of holding black people down.

Marsha Tinnen, a University housekeeper, said the housekeepers also had complaints. She said the housekeepers wanted higher wages, better continuing-education programs and better supervision. Housekeepers have presented their concerns to Chancellor Paul Hardin and other University officials.

Annie Pettiford, another University housekeeper, said, "We just want more money for all this work we are doing.' Mitchell said that with additional

funding, the communities would like to offer part-time jobs to residents. Scholarship programs for students also would be established. A teaching program would be initiated to teach adults how to seek job advancement.



By John Broadfoot Staff Writer

Students who are helping housekeepers petition the University for better wages and working conditions will hold a forum Tuesday to publicize the workers' problems.

The Sonja Stone Task Force and the Campus Y are sponsoring the noon forum in the Pit to bring the housekeepers' problems to the attention of the entire campus.

Marsha Tinnen, a housekeeping assistant; Scott Wilkins, co-chairman of the task force; Denise Matthewson, coers will speak about workers' problems. "We want to bring it to the forefront of issues on campus," Wilkins said. Tinnen said she thought students

needed to be more aware of housekeepers and their work in the University. "We would like for more students to

talk with housekeepers when they see them," she said. "I will talk on money and also how we would like to have a program so we can have classes for tousekeepers after work hours."

The housekeepers' fight for higher pay will be discussed during this week's observance of Human Rights Awareness Week

Housekeepers receive \$11,000 a year, and their salaries have not increased in the past two years.

Wilkins said the housekeepers' prob-

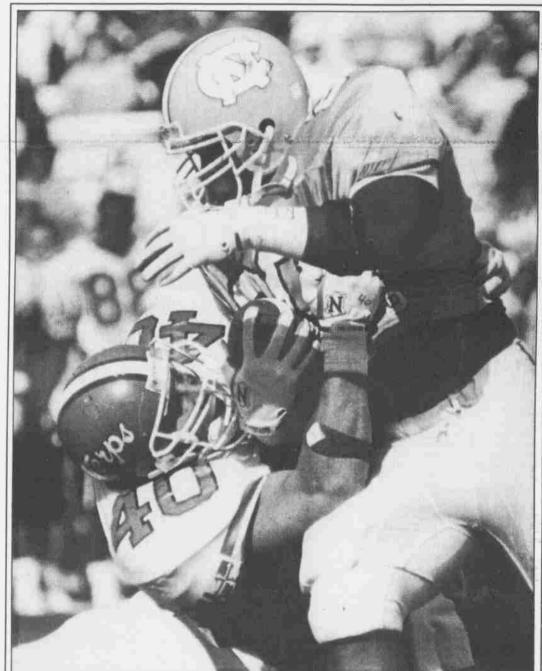
up to delay things as long as possible," Wilkins said.

A group of housekeepers filed a grievance in the spring, which is now at Step 3 of the grievance process. At this step, the employees and their supervisor will appear before a panel of one faculty and two staff members appointed by the chancellor.

Meetings held this past week between housekeepers and their supervisors failed to resolve the conflicts.

Housekeepers and students participated in a march Sunday protesting the lack of low-income housing in Chapel Hill

Tinnen spoke during the march about



lems had not been addressed quickly enough by administrators. Housekeepers now are trying to reach administrators through UNC's grievance process. "We feel the grievance process is set

housekeepers' low pay and work hours. The march began at the town hall and continued through low-income neighborhoods.

Caller threatens BSM president for work with Stone task force

By Stephanie Johnston University Editor

An unknown caller has repeatedly threatened Black Student Movement President Arnie Epps because of his involvement in the Sonja Stone Task Force

"There have been threats on my life because of my involvement with the asking of the three goals on the University," Epps said Sunday night.

The threats began in late August when students decided to ask the University to rename the Black Cultural Center for Stone, establish an endowed chair in her honor and give the African and Afro-American studies curriculum departmental status.

Stone, an African and Afro-Ameri-

can studies professor, died Aug. 10 after having a stroke. The Board of Trustees recently renamed the BCC for her. The caller said basically the same

thing each time and then hung up, Epps said. All but one of the calls were made to him in the BSM office in the Student Union. Epps said this was strange because he rarely was at the office for extended periods of time.

"They seemingly knew where I was," he said.

The last threatening call he received was Tuesday. "I do think about it a lot," he said. "It's scary. I take the Lord with me and go on."

Epps said he didn't think the caller was a student because the voice didn't sound like a student's. The same person called each time, he said.

He has not officially filed a complaint with University police, but has talked with officers, Epps said.

"If it happens again I will file a complaint," he said. Police officers told him to document all of the calls and not to walk alone at night, Epps said.

Sibby Anderson-Thompson, assistant dean of students and BSM adviser, said she has met with Epps to discuss the phone calls.

"We do keep records, and these records stay on file for three years," she said. "I asked him to keep records and encouraged him to talk with University police.

Anderson-Thompson said there were about 22 cases of racial harassment reported to the dean of students' office last year.

Can't hang on to this!

UNC tailback Natrone Means plows over Maryland linebacker Mike Jarmolowich on his way to a 101-yard afternoon. Means

and the Tar Heels shut out the Terrapins in Saturday's Homecoming contest, 24-0, for UNC's first Homecoming win since 1988.

Broun criticizes Gardner, Waldorf for approach to economy

By Amber Nimocks Assistant City Editor

Chapel Hill mayoral candidate Ken Broun called his opponents' approaches to the town's economic problems simplistic and short-sighted in a statement released Saturday.

Broun stated that he would support an investigation of the efficiency of town government, but was opposed to across-the-board hiring freezes.

"My opponents - both of them believe in simplistic, short-sighted attacks on our town's personnel budget,' Broun said in the statement. "They call for the so-called 'TaxWatch' solution



hook, line and sinker."

Chapel Hill mayoral candidates Tommy Gardner and Rosemary Waldorf are members of TaxWatch, a local group whose purpose is to monitor and audit the expenditure of public funds.

Broun said the TaxWatch solution inaccurately blames the town's financial problems on high salaries for town employees and excessive numbers of bureaucrats in town government.

Gardner said he was not in favor of across-the-board hiring freezes, but added that the town manager should be able to consider whether vacant positions should be filled on a case-by-case basis.

Waldorf said Broun had misinterpreted her position on the issue.

"I said I thought we ought to have a moderate hiring freeze," she said. "The manager needs to consider the open positions with the mayor and the council and possibly eliminate some of them by attrition."

Waldorf said he did not want to cut

back on services offered by the town. "The town's obligated to perform certain services and we need to con-

tinue to perform them," she said. Waldorf also said she had addressed the possibility of redesigning the town's

merit-pay system. Broun said concern for affordable housing would be forgotten if Tax Watch gains control of town government.

He also criticized Gardner and Waldorf for their failure to focus on the town's lack of affordable housing.

Broun said in an interview Sunday that TaxWatch's involvement in the campaign had diverted attention away from issues that should be important.

like the environment and affordable housing

"I have talked about affordable housing throughout this campaign," he said in the statement. "You haven't heard my opponents talk about it much because, under the 'TaxWatch' philosophy, there's little concern for affordable housing."

Gardner said he had suggested estab-lishing a private foundation which would help people buy homes.

He said that affordable housing should be the focus of public agencies such as the Public Private Partnership and that he was in favor of the PPP's establishment of a support group on

affordable housing.

Waldorf said Broun was not being honest about his approach to affordable housing

DTH/Grant Halv

"Every time the question of affordable housing came up, all candidates said they were for it," she said. "The only true difference is that most of us were honest and said we didn't think the town alone would be greatly able to increase the amount of affordable housing stock."

Waldorf said she would encourage the town, the University, the Orange Water and Sewer Authority and the private sector to work together to address the lack of affordable housing.

A hand up, not a hand out. — Habitat for Humanity slogan