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**Joyce Smith**

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**From:** Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2003 10:13 AM  
**To:** 'Robert E. Stipe'  
**Cc:** Pat Evans; Bill Strom; Dorothy Verkerk; Ed Harrison; Edith Wiggins (sandewiggs@yahoo.com); Flicka Bateman ; Jim Ward (W) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins (rr)'; Toni Pendergraph; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Sonna Loewenthal; Kirsten Olson; Bill Stockard; Emily Dickens  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed University Plan Modification

A copy of your email message has been forwarded to each Council Member.

*Carol Abernethy  
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office  
Town of Chapel Hill*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Robert E. Stipe [mailto:bobstipe@mindspring.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2003 9:20 AM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Subject:** Proposed University Plan Modification

**ROBERT E. STIPE**

100 Pine Lane  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514-4331

Telephone (919) 967-2448  
e-mail: bobstipe@mindspring.com

June 15, 2003

Chapel Hill City Council  
Municipal Building  
305 North Columbia St.  
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I ask that this letter be distributed to members of the Town Council and that it be made part of the record of the Council's public hearing tomorrow evening regarding the University's request for a modification of its campus master plan. As you know from my earlier letter, my wife and I own family graves in the cemetery itself.

When I first learned of the University's proposed plan modification, I characterized it as a <sup>3</sup>wanton act of vandalism<sup>2</sup> insofar as the cemetery is concerned.

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I wish to apologize to the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor. The word 'wanton' implies a deliberate intention to do harm. Upon reflection, I think no harm was intended, and that while the present proposal does have some highly undesirable impacts, with good will on the part of the town and the university and a bit of give and take on both sides, some of these impacts can be minimized.

The public hearing before the planning board last week was a special disappointment. I sensed that both sides were playing defense, which is a no-win situation. I was disappointed that much of the discussion centered on quantitative issues of marginal importance -- on numbers, if you will -- with relatively little attention to the qualitative aspects of the project.

Our present planning processes do not emphasize these design and cultural issues. While it is the council's decision to make, I would urge you in spite of the time constraints you face to give special consideration to the views of the Historic District and Community Design Commissions, neither of which appears to have been specially consulted. To do so may also positively address in advance some of the concerns that the North Carolina Historical Commission will undoubtedly have in its required review of the project under G.S. 121-12(a).

With special attention to reducing the footprint of the parking deck, perhaps by re-orienting it, and having special sensitivity to the issues of color, texture, apparent scale, and landscaping of the south-facing façade of the deck, some of the more harmful impacts on the cemetery as seen from South Road and within the cemetery may be reduced. The wintertime view of the project from South Road is critical. I am confident that the University's highly competent design professionals are very sensitive to these and related issues and will make every attempt to resolve them.

Special attention to operational details during and after construction, such as noise during the occasional funeral, the operation of the chiller, and lighting will also be important.

I continue to believe that to concentrate automobile parking with its attendant pollution so close to the cemetery can and will be especially harmful to its gravestones and monuments and to the cemetery as a whole, given the level of air pollution in the Triangle. It is also hard to imagine that the view from the windows of the five surrounding dormitories and the operation of a parking deck will be pleasing to the students who occupy them. I believe a better solution would be to locate a larger parking deck at the visitors lot on South Road, perhaps supplemented with a frequent jitney service to locations that would otherwise be serviced by yet another on-campus deck, as well as special attention to the impact of such a deck on the nearby Gimghoul Historic District.

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Stipe

Cc: Chancellor James Moeser, University of North Carolina  
Dr. Jeffrey Crow, N.C. Department of Cultural Resources