

FROM A1

Noise

Continued from Page A1

erate the best they can and the residents get a peaceful night's sleep?" Councilman Zack Matheny asked.

Greensboro's present law prohibits "unreasonably loud noise."

It is unlawful for anyone to cause a noise above 65 decibels from the hours 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. in areas with residential property.

Clubs and event halls across the city have an-

noyed neighbors.

In the case of Greene Street, the club has at least one very influential neighbor: Mayor Robbie Perkins, who lives in the luxury high-rise Center Pointe about a block from the club.

Perkins said the level of noise that comes from the club — which advertises its rooftop bar as the largest in town — is unacceptable. The club's manager was cited for violating the noise ordinance twice in Decem-



Perkins

ber, according to Greensboro police. No other downtown-area clubs were accused of violating the noise rules in the past year.

Representatives of the club did not return calls for comment.

Last week, council members considered two versions of a possible noise ordinance amendment.

One would limit all amplified noise after 11 p.m. The other would limit outside music louder than 45 decibels and create civil

finances up to \$500 for violators.

Perkins said the changes are not anti-club; they are "adjusting to a downtown that is growing up."

Both proposed ordinances worry Orlando Botero, co-owner of the three-level Elm Street club Syn, Select and Sky.

Sky's open air dance floor can host upward of 800 people on a summer night, Botero said. The club is open until 2 a.m., well beyond the 11 p.m. limit the council considered.

"There is a state-of-the-art sound system on the roof up there that was obviously very expensive and a big investment," Botero said. "We would have never ever bought the place in July if we knew the rooftop wouldn't be accessible or usable."

The implications of an outdoor noise ban concerned council members, too.

"Some businesses don't even start until 10 or 11 o'clock at night," Councilwoman Marikay Abuzaiteer said. "I would be

the last one that would want to put a small business out of business."

The council will take the next three weeks to try to reach a compromise that both parties can accept.

"We suffer from our own success," Councilwoman T. Dianne Bellamy-Small said. "We say we want (to) live, work and play downtown; then those guys have got to learn how to coexist."

Contact Amanda Lehmert at 373-7075 or amanda.lehmert@news-record.com

Dating

Continued from Page A1

"Work it. Own it. :)"

The Pre-Dating staff, who organized the event, greeted all the women with red "Hello my name is" tags. The guys wore blue tags.

Mine read — you guessed it — Dioni #6.

Coordinator Daniel Richardson corralled us in the back of the restaurant, which was separated by black-shutter dividers.

Twelve square tables covered in black cloths with numbered placards awaited us.

He explained the rules: 1) Ladies, sit at the table that corresponds to your tag number. Sit on the side with the candy.

2) Gentlemen, sit opposite the ladies.

3) Once the bell rings at the end of six minutes, the men move to the next table in ascending order. For example, Badge No. 1 goes to Table No 2.

4) Each participant scribbles notes on the take-home sheet. If you like the person, circle "Let's Talk!" If not, circle "No Thanks."

5) Give the staff a second sheet with your selections. Just list those people who fall under the "Let's Talk!" category.

Richardson reminded the men to stick to the order so not to slow the pace.

"That's the only thing that can go wrong with this event," Richardson said.

"Dioni, don't do that laugh you do," my inner self said. "Yes, that one. And for heaven's sake, don't burst into song if your 'date' says something that remotely resembles lyrics you know."

So, it began. Badge No. 6 was waiting for me, but I couldn't see his face yet.

"Hi, my name is Dioni." I said, walking from behind him.

He was a good-looking, Indian man. Caramel skin. Dark hair. Kind, brown eyes.

Sigh. A bit reserved, but he opened up once he started discussing his hobby.

Whenever he travels, he takes pictures of the city's skyline. His favorite to capture was New York City.

His relaxed mood

DIONI'S TIPS FOR SPEED DATING

(Neither kid-tested nor mother-approved)

Try it: Don't worry that you'll look desperate for paying to meet people. Everyone else is there for the same reason, so no one's judging. If you don't nab a spouse, you might gain a friend.

Dress to impress: No T-shirts, unkempt hair, shabby shoes or hats at the dinner table. (Fellas, that last one was for you.)

Prepare a few questions ahead of time: Make the most of your time. Focus on one or two topics most important to you. They help weed out the least compatible.

Avoid divisive topics: Religion. War. Politics. UNC or Duke.

Don't get tipsy: You want to be sober enough to handle yourself appropriately. Also, beer breath is a turn-off.

Be yourself and have fun: Make sure people fall for you, not a false image you project.

calmed me, making the night less daunting.

I met 10 other men. A landscape artist who had visited Japanese nurseries. A salesman from Pittsburgh. An aspiring music professor reluctantly gaining experience with kids as a substitute teacher.

We talked about our hobbies and our jobs. Some were fascinated by my reporting on carnage and wreckage for the paper. I veered away from that to learn more about the men's passions.

Richardson said one of his favorite ice breakers is: "Describe your perfect day from sunrise to sunset."

Sometimes the six minutes flew by. At other times, they seemed to last forever.

Badge No. 10 wanted my opinion of his home country, a hostile Middle Eastern nation that shall remain nameless.

I sat there stumped. Ding. Ding. "Saved by the bell," I said, rushing to shake his hand.

The words flew out of my mouth. Where were my manners?

Another time, I mixed up Badge No. 2's location with Badge No. 1's. Information overload.

His face fell. I didn't expect to hear from him again.

During our playful banter, blue-eyed Badge No. 8 suddenly got serious.

He asked his deal breaker: "Do you date short guys or would you date short guys?"

"Yeah, that doesn't matter," I replied.

Then, I rubbed my left index finger over my right hand.

"Would you date women

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of color?"

I had to ask. Of the 11 men, three were of color.

When the final bell rang, I was mentally exhausted.

I ended up at the bar ... with two bubbly ladies.

I asked the straight-haired blonde and the curly-topped brunette what they thought.

They'd do it again, they said.

So would I. Why not? You meet people you know are single off the bat and have similar intentions.

As it turns out, four men liked me enough to circle "Let's Talk!"

I selected two guys, one of whom matched with me. Let's say our subsequent meeting didn't fare well.

But, Badge No. 6 — the cute, tall guy who takes photos of skylines — I like you.

Call me.

Contact Dioni L. Wise at 517-7680 or dioni.wise@news-record.com

Judge delays the hearing to remove Durham DA

The Associated Press

DURHAM — A special inquiry has been delayed on whether to permanently remove Durham District Attorney Tracey Cline after allegations of misconduct she leveled against the county's most senior judge.

Superior Court Judge Robert Hobgood granted the delay after Cline said she had been sick for a week and had been unable to hire a lawyer to defend her.

Cline arrived seven minutes late to Monday's hearing. Her voice creaking, she said she was not prepared to represent herself.

"I thought it was stress, but it was only pneumonia," Cline said when the judge inquired about her condition.

Hobgood rescheduled the hearing for Feb. 20.

Cline was suspended last month after Durham defense lawyer Kerry Sutton filed a motion seeking her removal, saying her ongoing disputes with Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Orlando Hudson has damaged the court's reputation.

Cline tried unsuccessfully in December to have Hudson removed from presiding over any proceedings involving her office after the well-respected judge had ruled against her in a series of criminal cases.

Though Hobgood agreed to delay considering Cline's removal Monday, he attempted to proceed with hearing a motion from a lawyer for The News & Observer to quash subpoe-

nas Cline issued for a reporter and two top editors.

The newspaper has published a series of articles using court records to show that Cline withheld evidence from defendants and made factual misrepresentations in arguments and legal filings.

Cline began rehashing a series of assertions she previously made in her effort to remove Hudson, alleging the judge had been part of a larger conspiracy of courthouse personnel, defense lawyers and the newspaper to make her look bad. Hobgood told her to stop, saying he was concerned her voice was not yet strong enough make her case well understood.

Hobgood said he would delay the motions a week, allowing Cline time to get a lawyer.

Filing

Continued from Page A1

seats.

The Southern Coalition for Social Justice filed a lawsuit on behalf of Guilford County voters in District 6, which will be left without representation until 2014 under the newly drawn district lines.

"You're going to have a lot of people that will be disenfranchised. It's taxation without representation," said Melvin "Skip" Alston, chairman of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners.

"It's over 43,000 people that will be without representation on the Board of Commissioners."

Legislators late last week offered a compromise: The redrawn districts would remain the same, but all the commissioner seats would be up for election in 2012.

Odd-numbered seats would hold four-year terms, and the even-numbered and the one at-large seat would hold two-year terms.

From 2014 on, all elections would be for four-

year terms.

Attorney Anita Earls, who works for the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, said the compromise solves the representation problem but is still not ideal.

"They do not support this," she said of her clients. "What should happen is that the county should redraw its own districts."

The plan also would mean that some commissioners elected in 2010 for four-year terms would have their tenure cut short.

On Monday, Osteen heard arguments from Earls, as well as attorneys for the legislature.

According to Alston, Osteen said he wanted to make sure he didn't do anything improper and

that he has the jurisdiction to straighten out the situation.

George Gilbert, director of the Guilford County Board of Elections, said candidates who file this week can seek a return of their filing fee depending on how Osteen rules.

"For instance, District 4, which is up for election right now, if that became a two-year term instead of a four-year term, that person would be given the option of going ahead with their contest, or getting a refund," he said.

Contact Robert C. Lopez at 691-5091 or robert.lopez@news-record.com

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