

Lousy Landlord

CHN-07

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Coffee shop lock-out leads to relocation

CHAPEL HILL -- A popular West Franklin Street coffee shop is moving to Elliott Road after its landlord filed eviction papers.

Lex Alexander, the owner of 3Cups, has been feuding with landlord Spencer Young over parking since last year.

On Wednesday, Young's attorney filed to have 3Cups evicted.

Young owns The Courtyard in the 400 block of West Franklin Street. But most of the parking there is owned by P.H. Craig.

Young won't pay Craig rent for the spaces, and Craig won't sell the lot to Young. Since the middle of 2007, Craig has blocked off his portion of the lot, cutting the spaces from 79 to 23.

Because of the parking dispute, 3Cups and its sister business SandwHich have been paying rent into an escrow account, instead of to Young. Last month, Young had the locks changed, locking them out for a day.

The parties were in court Tuesday over an extension to a temporary injunction that among other things would keep Young from locking out the business. The judge ruled in favor of 3Cups.

On Wednesday, a summary eviction notice was filed.

"We're not going to fight it," Alexander said.

Alexander has signed a new lease on Elliott Road near the Whole Foods, he said. "We hope to open in the early fall." The location is near where Alexander ran the Wellspring grocery before selling it to Whole Foods.

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Bill would require that students be mentors

RALEIGH -- A bill that seeks to honor slain students Eve Carson of UNC and Abhijit Mahato of Duke University would require those seeking a bachelor's degree in the state's public and private colleges and universities to spend 20 hours a semester tutoring or mentoring students in public elementary, middle or high schools.

Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand, a Fayetteville Democrat, said the legislation, which would be named for the two students, would serve a twofold purpose: to instill a sense of community and responsibility in college students and to provide help to struggling public school students.

"In our public schools, we always say if we could get the family involved how much better everything would be," Rand said. "Well, some of our children in public schools don't have families. Sometimes the family doesn't want to be involved. And so programs involving these college students in the schools would be a real boost."