

omment that would feature national chains including Lonestar Steakhouse & Saloon and Starbucks.

And after three years at the drawing board, the \$10 million development is in the final stages before construction begins. Indigo Corners plans to break ground on the project in April and have the first tenants opening by the end of the year, said Durham developer



**Indigo Corners already has signed at least six of the project's 14 tenants, including Red Robin and Starbucks.**

Bill Ripley, a partner in Indigo Corners LLC.

"Persistence is the number one word," he said. "We'll break ground three years after we started. It's taken a while to get there."

Developers for years have

prized the site, located across Mount Moriah Road from New Hope Commons, for its convenience to Chapel Hill and Durham and for its proximity to Interstate 40. But critics have argued the area must be carefully planned to avoid fur-

ed to build a shopping center, hotel, offices and car dealerships on a 110-acre site at the same location. The company withdrew the request after facing heavy opposition.

And in 2002, Millennium Commercial Properties proposed building up to 110,000 square feet of commercial space on 13 acres containing "two or three" of the following

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that every campus needs money," board member Hannah Gage said prior to the committee's unanimous vote. "The question is, do we once again put it on the backs of students?"

The board, meeting this week at UNC Wilmington, reconvenes this morning and is expected to approve the freeze. The board won't discuss proposed increases in fees or tuition for out-of-state

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# Durham antiques dealer buys table at auction for \$8M

**BY CAROLINE KORNEGAY**  
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With his royal blue Sotheby's auction paddle in hand, 89-year-old Albert Sack bought America's most expensive table — for \$8.416 million.

The mahogany tea table garnered the second-highest price ever paid for a piece of American furniture.

"As long as it is great, there's no price too great for a masterpiece," the Hillsborough resident said Thursday.

Sotheby's Jan. 22 auction of Important Americana in New

York City created a buzz in the antiques collectors' world. It featured furniture created by renowned 18th-century craftsman John Goddard of Newport, R.I.

"So there was great excitement. You couldn't help hear about it," Sack said. "The Newport school is like the Rembrandts of American furniture — it's the height of achievement."

Sack bought the best of the only four tables of this type Goddard ever made, said Erik Gronning, assistant vice president and an American furniture spe-

cialist at Sotheby's.

"It's a masterpiece of the form, and I think the price illustrates how masterpieces are valued," he said.

Gronning said the elegant shape, the ingenious design and the excellent condition of the piece added to the value.

"The genius of the craftsman was he used the grain of the wood to create movement in the piece," Gronning said. "It was a work of art — it was a functional piece of sculpture."

"It went very fast, see there

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SUBMITTED PHOTO | SOTHEBY'S

Albert Sack bought an antique tea table for \$8.4 million at Sotheby's auction in New York City. The mahogany table garnered the second-highest price ever paid for a piece of American furniture.

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Wake Forest beats Wolfpack, stays tied with Duke, UNC atop ACC

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### Dating game

Will Smith debuts as dating coach extraordinaire in "Hitch"

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## COMING TOMORROW



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