

# According to the Freshmen . . .

## "Out of State and Out of Funds"

By Rhyan Minter

"Well, here I go . . ." I thought to myself as I pulled up to my dorm at Carolina. I was about to walk into my first C-TOPS session having no clue what I was getting into. I was prepared to see no other colorful faces staring back at me.

However, when I entered the lecture hall for my Spanish placement exam, I was pleasantly surprised by the diversity among the students in the room. Within that week I met students from all over with varying backgrounds. As we got to know each other, I realized that there were a great deal of students, minority students in particular, from out of state.

So of course a recurrent topic of conversation was the massive amounts of our student loans. Then one morning while reading the Daily Tar Heel over my Mickey Mouse waffle in Lenoir, I realized that the possibility of a tuition increase is very real and will probably affect out of state students, like myself the most.

Although I am sure Carolina gave scholarships and financial aid to all well deserving students, during my visit last year I was given the impression that out of state students are judged by tougher standards. I was ecstatic when I got into Carolina, one of the best public universities in the nation, which is not too far from my home in Atlanta, Georgia.

Although I wouldn't change my decision for anything in the world, some students may give a little more consideration to the scholarship programs offered by their states such as the HOPE program in Georgia, the Bright Futures Program in Florida and various others.

Though nothing compares to a Carolina education, some parents and students as well may feel that paying the equivalent of a private university tuition for the hassle that comes with being an out-of-state student at a state university isn't worth it.

