

Exemption bill hits barrier

Students met with state opposition

BY ERIC JOHNSON
SENIOR WRITER

Student advocates have hit a roadblock in their efforts to exempt textbooks from state sales tax but remain hopeful about the prospect for future proposals.

The UNC-system Association of Student Governments began lobbying this year for a bill that would have moved the state's tax-free weekend to coincide with the start of the fall semester.

The hope was that students could trim the cost of their fall textbooks by at least a few dollars, and Rep. Jennifer Weiss, D-Wake, agreed to sponsor the measure.

"I thought it was going to be a sweet little bill we could do that would make everyone happy," Weiss said. "But the Retail Merchants Association has been strongly opposed to it."

The lobbying group argued that moving the tax holiday would cause havoc for North Carolina retailers and advertisers. The current dates, Aug. 3-5, coincide with tax holidays in Virginia and South Carolina, and any change would be problematic for border communities and for

news outlets that advertise across state lines.

"They've got good reasons," said Andy Willis, UNC-system vice president for government relations. "Moving the holiday is not as easy as it sounds."

Weiss has gotten a better reception for a measure to increase the maximum tax exemption for textbooks. The current cap of \$100 for any single item failed to cover many of the more expensive texts and coursepacks, so Weiss expects to increase that amount to \$300.

As long as students can get their shopping done early, they should be able to use the existing tax-free weekend to cover even the priciest books.

"I've definitely had books that were more than \$100," said Stephen Moore, ASG vice president for government relations. "We think this ought to help students who have the larger, more expensive books."

The ultimate prize, however, would be a year-round tax exemption for all textbooks.

Senator Harry Brown, R-Onslow, introduced just such a

measure in March, but it died in committee.

That doesn't mean it's gone for good.

UNC-system officials indicated they might add tax-free textbooks to their list of priorities for next year's legislative session, which would give a strong political boost to the student representatives already lobbying lawmakers.

"We'll debate that over the next six or seven months and hopefully bring it back to the legislature," Willis said. "I'd really like to see textbooks tax-exempt all the time."

The main hurdle to permanently removing sales taxes on college texts is the projected loss of revenue. No formal calculations have been done, but most state and university officials think the total would fall somewhere between \$5 million and \$10 million dollars.

Even Weiss said the issue would have to be closely scrutinized before she could sign on.

"Anytime we do a tax exemption, that is money we can't spend on something else," she said. "It's kind of a zero-sum game at the end of the day."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

BASEBALL

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"I'm not sure I've been in too many games where a team's gotten three hits and still was able to win," Fox said.

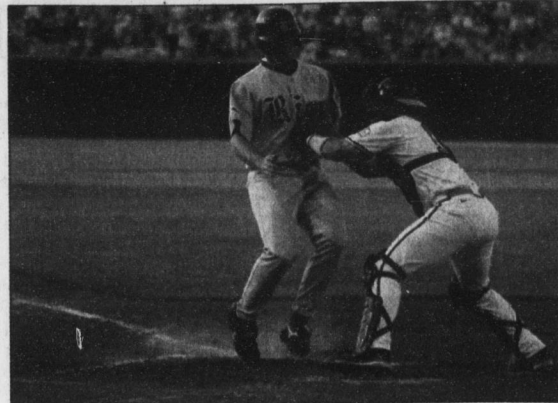
Actually, this was a first for Fox and the Tar Heels. In the history of the Fox era that began in 1999, no North Carolina team had ever won a game with three or fewer hits.

Two of those hits came in the second inning with UNC down 1-0 after Louisville second baseman Logan James hit an opposite field home run in the first inning.

North Carolina designated hitter Kyle Seager hit an infield single to advance right fielder Tim Fedroff to third base. Then center fielder Seth Williams lined another single — this time to right field — to drive home Fedroff and tie the game at one.

Considering their inability to get hits against the Cardinals, it's not a huge surprise that the biggest offensive play of the game for the Tar Heels was an error.

With the score tied at one and runners on third and first, second baseman Garrett Gore chopped a ball down the third baseline. Hurried by Gore's speed, Cardinal third baseman Chris Dominguez rushed his throw, which skipped past the first baseman and allowed both runners to score, giving UNC a 3-1 lead — its first early lead of two runs of



DTH/TIMOTHY REESE

Catcher Tim Federowicz completes a double play tagout at home plate against Rice in the second game of the College World Series.

more since June 4 against Western Carolina.

The 3-1 lead stood for the remainder of the game but faced Louisville threats in the sixth and eighth innings. But North Carolina was able to squeeze out each time thanks to crucial strikeouts. The most recent featured UNC junior Andrew Carignan, who logged his 17th save of the season, fanning Isaiah Howes with two runners on to end the eighth.

"I take a lot of pride in inheriting runners," he said. "There were two runners on, and I wanted to

come in and clean it up." Carignan then pitched a scoreless ninth, striking out right fielder Pete Rodriguez to end the game — a fitting end to an unusual win for UNC this postseason.

"This game is crazy," Fox said. "You can go from scoring a lot of runs to none. It is all controlled by the guy on the mound. Good pitching beats good hitting any day of the week. Today was a good example of that."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

STUDENT LOAN

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of recent revelations of improper relationships between a number of prominent universities and lenders.

Though no N.C. schools have been involved, the national fallout likely has helped shift Congressional debate toward grants.

"The politics now are such that you've got lenders at some institutions that have really cast a bad light on the industry," said Kimrey Rhinehardt, UNC-system vice president for federal relations.

The effort to reconcile the Senate and House proposals is likely to take several weeks, during which lenders and universities will be watching closely.

"Whatever happens, we're doing the absolute best we can not to charge students more," Brooks said.

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FRIDAY

FROM PAGE 1

1960s through marches, sit-ins and strikes as legislators wrestled with how to prevent ideas they didn't agree with from being spread on the state's campuses.

"Originally, there was virtually no debate about the bill," Friday said of the speaker ban, officially known as an Act to Regulate Visiting Speakers. "I don't think we realized the possible impact it could have. Our legislature didn't take into account what this country really stands for," he said.

"It was a convenient vehicle because everyone was against Communism," Friday told the crowded room.

He recalled the turning point, the notorious appearance of two controversial members of the Communist Party, Herbert Aptheker and Frank Wilkinson. Under the speaker ban, they weren't allowed on campus so arrangements were made for them to speak from behind the stone wall separating Franklin Street and the town of Chapel Hill from the campus. The law proved to be useless in preventing speakers from delivering their messages to students gathered on the campus side of the wall.

"Fear was the controlling force, and we couldn't dent the wall of fear," Friday said. "It's an event like this that makes you realize how precious freedom really is."

After retiring in 1986, Friday became the head of the William R. Kenan Jr. Fund and the Kenan Charitable Trust, campaigning to improve literacy rates. More than 20 years after his retirement, Friday continues to emphasize freedom of speech and the power journalists possess.

"Outside of the press, we didn't have a voice. Remember that students play a powerful role."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

POSTCARDS

FROM PAGE 1

He said it is rare for a collector to try to collect in a category as broad as a state, but he became interested in different types of cards and his collection kept expanding.

"That's a lot to collect, for the whole state," he said.

Barbour, who started collecting postcards in 1982, said he searched for materials that were scarce, such as "real photo postcards."

"They'd take a photo and then they'd make 10 or 12 (copies) for a buck or something like that and they would put it on postcard stock," he said.

Barbour said he decided to donate his postcards to N.C. Collections because "they asked and they kept asking."

He added that he thought the collection would be well-used and taken care of in Wilson.

"I just kind of got attached," he said about his collection. "I didn't want to see it broken up."

He said that one of his favorite postcards depicts an outdoor movie theatre in the 1930s.

"There were no drive-in theatres that far back," Barbour said. "As far as an outdoor theatre, this place was the first one in the state."

Jacobson said the postcards are a resource for researchers.

The postcards not on display have been archived and a digitization project that would make the cards accessible online is under way.

Barbour will give a speech about his collection in Wilson at 5:45 p.m. July 12.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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27 WE ROONEY / The Rewinds / Boxbomb** (\$12/\$14)

29 FR RADIO BIRDMAN w/ The Effes, Awesome Color** (\$18/\$20)

30 SA REGGAE JAZZ BASH: TRIANGLE JAZZ ENSEMBLE, JAH LUTHEIN' AND THUNDER, DUB ADDIS

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6 FR Bowling For Soup, Melee, Quietdrive, Army of Freshmen (\$13)

14 SA MC Chris w/ The Secret Handshake** (\$10/\$12)

15 SU RICHARD BUCKNER & SIX PARTS SEVEN

19 TH SLINT** (\$18/\$20)

20 FR An Evening With ARROGANCE** (\$16/\$18)

21 SA GRAVY TRAIN!!! w/ VIP (\$8)

23 MO Frank Marino & Mahogany Rush** (\$20)

24 TU DETROIT COBRAS w/ Willowz** (\$8/\$10)

27 FR HOT TUNA w/ Oteil & The Peacemakers** (\$25/\$28)

29 SU Kelly Willis

30 MO PELICAN, Clouds, Priestbird (\$10)

31 TU Stan Ridgeway / Wall Of Voodoo** (\$18/\$20)

AUGUST

8 WE GURU'S JAZZMAZZA

10 FR TED LEO AND THE PHARMACISTS w/ BIRDS OF AVALON** (\$12/\$14)

11 SA COLOUR REVOLT, Manchester Orchestra

17 FR ENDLESS MIC CD Release show

22 WE WOLF PARADE** (\$17)

24 FR PIETASTERS** (\$12)

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