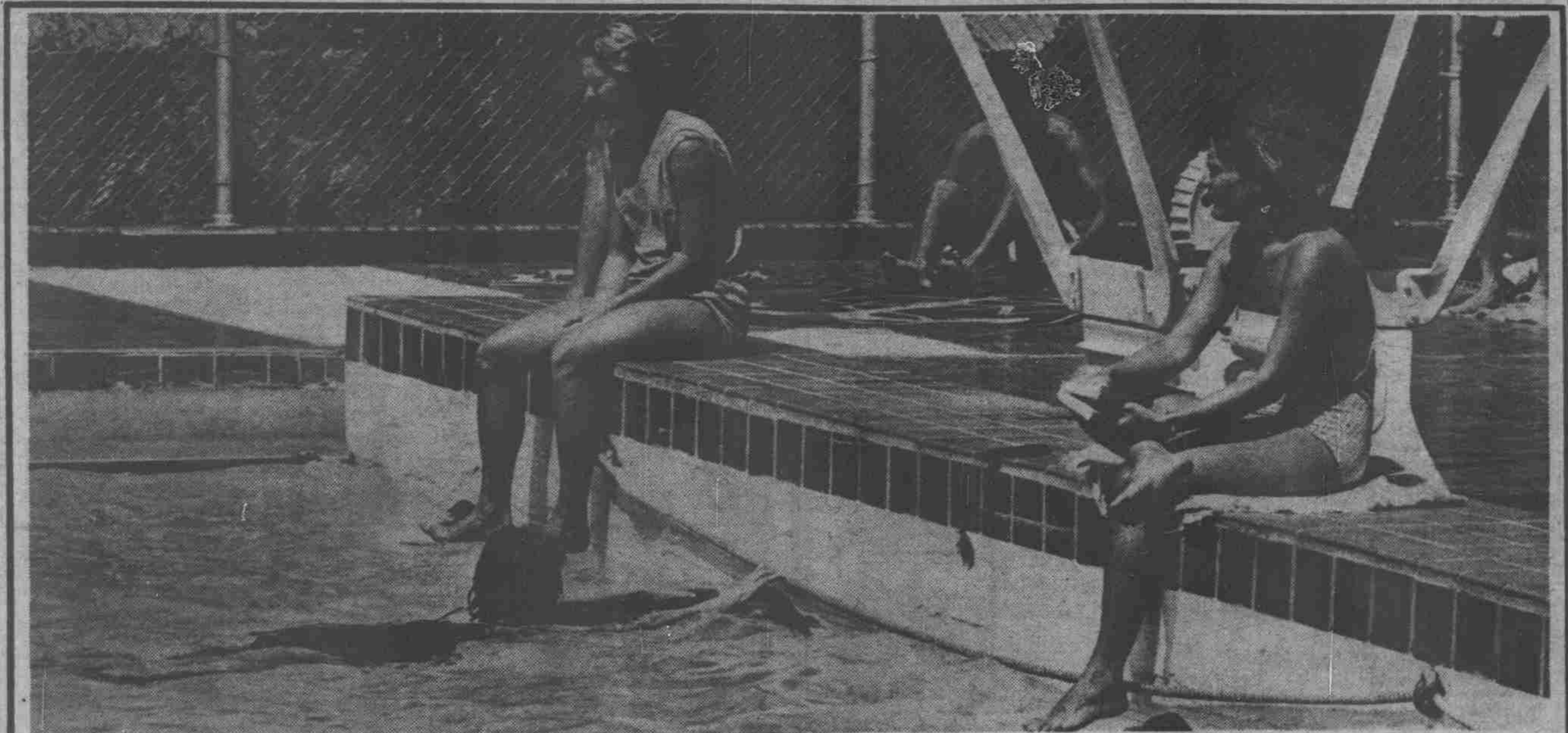


THE TAR HEEL

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#4



As scorching temperatures continue, students find the best way to beat the heat is a visit to Kessing Pool. Staff photo by Scott Sharpe.

Orange county legislators support the gas tax plan

By KENNETH MINGIS

Gov. Jim Hunt's gas tax proposal, approved by the N.C. Senate last week, approaches another vote, this time in the State House of Representatives. The plan, which has been slightly revised, has been the subject of statewide controversy.

State Sen. Charles Vickery, D-Orange, voted for the measure last week.

"I voted for the plan for several reasons," he said. "I think that Governor Hunt's plan is a courageous program. It deals with a problem that the governor feels must be dealt with."

"The governor told me that if the problem (of bad roads) was not addressed soon, it would be beyond the ability of the state to cure it within 10 years," he said.

"The governor also said that he would personally take charge of the Department of Transportation and see that it was run in an efficient and lawful manner."

Rep. Patricia Hunt, D-Orange, said she also planned to support the bill when it came up for a vote in the House.

"I'm going to vote for it," she said. "I think the revised plan

now before the House is better than the one passed by the Senate.

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The House version would cut the proposed tax increase on a gallon of gas from 3 cents to 2 3/4 cents. It would eliminate the tax rebate included in the governor's plan, and would prevent the immediate transfer of money from the General Fund to DOT.

"I like it because it requires that the \$59 million not be removed from the General Fund until it is raised," Rep. Hunt said. "Of course, that means that if the governor's plan passes, there will be an automatic deficit (to DOT)."

The proposed alcohol tax alone would not make up the difference, so additional sources of money must be found," she said.

"I'm in favor of a tax on cigarettes. "I think it's fair to put a tax on luxuries, and a cigarette tax could raise \$22 million. Even then, we would still be \$10 or \$12 million short."

Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, has not yet decided which way to vote on the gas tax proposal. "I've made no decision

one way or the other," he said. "I will probably do so immediately before voting."

Hackney said he agreed with Hunt's view of a cigarette tax. "I think a cigarette tax is a good idea, especially as a means of replacing money from the General Fund," he said. "It would have a salutary indirect effect."

Hunt said the gas tax was fair. "I think a user tax is the proper tax. The people who use the roads would pay the most." Vickery said that if the revised version passed in the House and came up for a vote in the Senate, he would probably support it.

Both Hunt and Vickery agreed that Gov. Hunt planned to oversee the operations of the DOT closely.

"He's convinced me that he plans to clean out DOT, cut waste and do as he has promised," Hunt said. "I think he has done what he felt needs to be done."

Vickery also believes that the plan could be a political plus for the governor.

"I told him that if he was able to get control of DOT, and convince the people that he had straightened it out, he would be a hero. The people will see his leadership qualities and reward him," Vickery said.

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Building fund boosted

By LYNNE THOMSON

An anonymous donor has given \$1 million to the new Student Activities Center Building Fund, UNC Board of Trustees President Hargrove "Skipper" Bowles announced at the board meeting Friday afternoon.

The trustees also approved a change in the design which would save \$400,000 of the project's \$30 million cost. The project includes a basketball arena, swimming pool, gym, dressing room and offices. The center is expected to open for the 1984-85 basketball season.

The project's change would lower the roof that covers the pool, making it flat rather than dome-shaped.

The anonymous gift is the building fund's second \$1 million contribution. The first

came from retiring trustee Walter R. Davis, a Texas oil man who will be serving on the UNC Board of Governors.

The building fund has raised \$11 million of its \$30 million goal and is using the high demand for basketball seating as a donation motive.

For \$5,000, a member of the Educational Foundation who has donated \$150 per year can buy two tickets. A Big Ram, one who has given \$750 per year, may purchase four tickets and an additional \$350 donation grants an assigned parking space.

Athletic department officials had planned to name the center after the first \$1 million contributor, but said that this second (anonymous) contribution complicated the matter. The limit may be raised to a \$2 million contribution, they said.