## RWS

## State legislators try to end marathon budget session

## By BEN PERKOWSKI Tar Heel Staff Writer

The N.C. General Assembly approved a \$12.6 billion, two-year state budget last Thursday but still had to settle hundreds of pending bills including a proposed sales tax increase and hazardous waste disposal before they could adjourn at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday.

A joint conference committee met Tuesday to work out a compromise over the House and Senate's differing versions of a one-half cent sales tax increase. Under the Senate version, the tax would have been statewide, and could have generated \$113.1 million this year, with

the money earmarked for public school construction, and water and sewer projects. But the House bill would have let each county decide whether to levy the tax, and local officials could spend the money as they wish.

Under the compromise, counties would be asked to spend 40 percent of the additional tax money for the first five years on schools. That amount would decrease to 30 percent for the following five years.

Cities would be asked to spend a similar amount on water and sewer projects.

Hazardous waste disposal is another matter that lawmakers and Gov. James B. Hunt Jr.'s administration hope to settle this session.

The 1983-84 budget raises the pay of state employees and teachers by 5 percent and raises legislators pay by 10 percent. It raises the governor's present salary to \$60,768 this year but sets the salary of the next governor at \$85,000 a year.

Proposed allocations for the 1984-85 section of the budget will be made next year.

Federal funding totals \$1.3 billion for the fiscal year and includes money to fund social services programs and federal funding for highway projects.

Another \$5.43 million would come from, fees paid to various state agencies. The money includes tuition fees charged by state universities and community colleges; patient fees at state-operated hospitals and other receipts that schools but redistributed to needy students. are dedicated to specific uses.

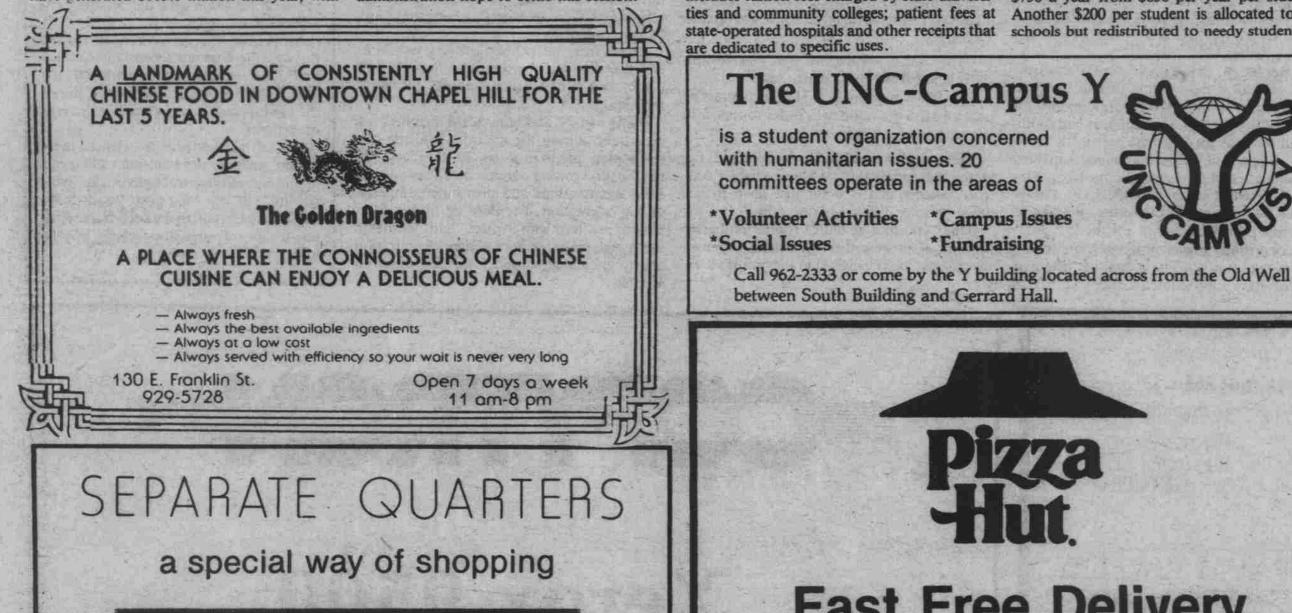
Specific proposals in the budget include:

 \$23.8 million to the UNC system to fund operating priorities set by UNC Board of Governors. The board will be required to provide another \$10 million by increases in tuition charges paid by students.

 \$750,000 for planning of a new computer science building at UNC-Chapel Hill.

 \$7 million for a new critical care center at N.C. Memorial Hospital.

 \$2.4 million to provide an increase in state assistance for North Carolinians attending private colleges and universities. The money will raise the program of direct tuition assistance to \$750 a year from \$650 per year per student. Another \$200 per student is allocated to the





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