

Bill proposes C average for financial aid

By HELENE COOPER
Staff Writer

State education officials are concerned about proposed Senate legislation that would require most students to achieve a C average by the end of their second year in college in order to remain eligible for federal financial aid.

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee recently approved the stiffer academic standards as part of legislation to renew federal higher education aid for five years. The legislation is now ready for a Senate vote.

According to Eleanor Morris, Student Aid director at UNC, students receiving financial aid should be concerned about the proposal.

Supporters of the legislation say that financial aid should go first to students with a sound academic background who have demonstrated a commitment to their education.

"It's thought by people in Washing-

ton that students without a C average are not serious about their education," Morris said.

A 1981 study found that 20 percent of students receiving financial aid had less than a C average.

People opposed to the legislation argue that having a lower grade point average does not necessarily mean that a student is not making satisfactory academic progress, especially if their academic standing is consistent with the requirements for graduation.

"At UNC, students receive aid as long as they are working toward graduation," Morris said.

North Carolina already has academic requirements tied to financial aid for some groups, like prospective teachers, but for most other college students, the state only requires that they meet some vague academic requirements.

"As we look at people we're considering for loans, we look for people to

have academic standing," said Reeves McGlohom, associate state superintendent for education.

At UNC, good academic standing after the sophomore year consists of having a 1.75 cumulative grade point average.

According to McGlohom, the proposed legislation, if passed, would not have an impact on the number of students who receive financial aid in North Carolina, but on the type of students receiving aid.

"There is potential here... (for) students from higher income families to receive aid, while students from poorer families won't," he said.

Financial aid, in the form of loans and grants, is based on need. Need is the overwhelming determinant in the amount of aid a student receives, or if the student receives aid at all.

"With this legislation, we have the potential for financial aid to be given

on a basis of performance, and not need," McGlohom said.

Although there is a possibility that the legislation may pass in the Senate, its passage in the Democratic-controlled House seems less secure. Last year, the House passed a higher education bill that did not include any new grade-average standards for recipients of financial aid.

Morris said she was hopeful that the legislation would not become law, but added that its passage was a possibility.

"It's a somewhat hidden agenda item," Morris said. "That's what makes it more dangerous — those hidden ones get passed."

"I would be very concerned if it happened," Morris said.

She urged students concerned about the issue to write letters to their congressmen expressing their views, adding that the matter was out of the hands of the student aid department.

AIDS victim may go to school

From Associated Press reports

FRANKFORT, Ind. — A county judge today lifted an order which had barred teen-age AIDS victim Ryan White from school.

The case centered on whether he is covered by federal law guaranteeing education for handicapped children, or by state law on communicable diseases.

Clinton Circuit Judge Jack R. O'Neill said he based his decision on the lack of evidence showing that Ryan's return to school would present a danger to other students. His ruling eliminated a trial scheduled to begin next Tuesday on a permanent injunction against Ryan returning to classes.

Drugbusters from the sky

ANDREWS — Foreign pilots are training in western North Carolina to become "drugbusters" who swoop over isolated fields and destroy drug trafficking at its source, a training officer for the program said.

Pete Lewis, a former U.S. Army helicopter pilot who is training manager for Ayres Corp. of Albany, Ga., which produces crop-dusting planes, said drugdusting has little similarity to cropdusting.

"The fields are so small you can't take your eyes off them," Lewis said. "The turns are difficult and it's just totally different from agricultural flying."

Helicopter crashes kill 8

HINESVILLE, Ga. — Two Army helicopters crashed Wednesday night at Fort Stewart Army Base,

State & National

Killing all eight soldiers aboard, an Army representative said.

A CH-47-D helicopter, known as a Chinook, crashed in a remote area of the post about 9 p.m., killing all six people aboard, said Col. James Arnold.

An AH-1S helicopter, known as Cobra, crashed and burned about the same time, killing both soldiers aboard, Arnold said.

"The crashes were probably related. They were close to each other. They happened at the same time. But how they occurred we don't know," he said.

U.S. conducts nuclear test

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — A nuclear test was conducted in the Nevada desert just after dawn Thursday following two days of weather delays and growing protests among peace groups.

The test, code-named Mighty Oak, went off without incident, said Energy Department representative Jack Campbell.

The Soviet Union has carried out a unilateral test moratorium since Aug. 6, and there has been pressure in Congress for the United States to join the test ban. The Reagan administration has said the Soviets imposed the moratorium because they have completed their tests. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said the Soviet Union would resume testing if the United States continues its tests.

Candidates talk at Sierra Club forum

By JEANNIE FARIS
Staff Writer

The importance of preserving a safe and healthy environment was the topic of a forum for the candidates of the 4th Congressional District Democratic Primary Thursday night at the Community Church on Purefoy Road.

The Sierra Club sponsored the forum, which was attended by about 90 people to hear discussion from candidates Kirsten Nyrop, David Price, Wilma Woodard and William "Woody" Webb.

The candidates are competing in the May 6 primary for the Democratic nomination in the 4th District. The primary winner will face incumbent Republican Rep. Bill Cobey in the November general election.

Nyrop, a resident of Hillsborough, said that unlike the other candidates, she was willing to go beyond eloquent

statements of environmental problems.

Nyrop said she opposed nuclear energy and waste generation in the 4th District. "I'm the only candidate who has said there's no future in nuclear energy."

She said she was also concerned about the source of funding for nuclear waste clean-up. The government should force polluters to pay for cleaning up the environment that they spoil, she said. But when they cannot be identified, she said that general tax revenues should be used.

Price, who is a resident of Chapel Hill, said that everyone should take a long-sighted rather than a short-sighted view of environmental preservation.

"A healthy environment and a healthy economy ought to go hand-in-hand and can go hand-in-hand," he said.

It costs less to prevent pollution than to clean it up, he said. "(But) it's not all just a matter of dollars and cents," he added.

A healthy environment would benefit everyone, because environmental protection is politics for the common good, Price said.

Webb, who is also a resident of Chapel Hill, said both federal and state governments should play significant roles in environmental protection.

He added that the government should place the environmental concerns of society's general interests over the special interests of the few who destroy or pollute the environment.

Webb said he thought government intervention was justified because it was important for his descendants to be able to enjoy a healthy environment.

Woodard, a resident of Garner, said

she was concerned about environmental protection because she was from an area where the waters have been polluted.

Because of this, she said, she has been working in local government to improve environmental safety.

She added that she was glad environmental issues have been taking the center stage of politics. She attributed this to recent conflicts over the location of nuclear waste dumps.

"People who never cared about the environment now do," she said.

All of the candidates said that legislation and action would be necessary to solve the problem of acid rain. They agreed that the knowledge and technology necessary to solve the problem already existed.

"This is an area where we've stalled and studied the problem long enough. We've got to do something," Price said.

U.S. appears poised for Libyan military strike

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Navy Thursday sent a second aircraft carrier to sea in the Mediterranean in case President Reagan decides to order a military strike against Libya, Pentagon sources said.

The carrier Coral Sea sailed from Malaga, Spain, early this morning Eastern time, and was steaming toward the Central Mediterranean.

But the sources, who demanded anonymity, said no orders had been issued for the Coral Sea and the

America, which left port in Italy a day earlier, to reform a battle group.

Navy Secretary John Lehman said Thursday that the fleet is ready to strike at Libya if Reagan orders it.

"Whatever tasks are provided to the Navy, the Navy is ready to do," Lehman said after a Capitol Hill hearing.

The Coral Sea had been scheduled to end a six-month deployment and sail for the United States. But that carrier and the America, which had been scheduled to sail from Livorno, Italy,

for Cannes, France, were changed, officials said Wednesday.

Military commanders say they must have at least two carriers in the Mediterranean to support any military operation against Libya, the sources said.

On Wednesday, the sources said, "options are now being maintained" to reform a battle group and head for stations off the Libyan coast.

The disclosure of the Navy actions came as President Reagan was telling

newspaper editors the United States is "not going to just sit here and hold still" in the wake of renewed terrorist attacks against Americans in Europe.

The president refused to say what he plans to do, other than continue to gather evidence about the incidents and seek the support of European allies.

Shortly before the president's appearance, a senior administration official disclosed that U.S. intelligence agencies had learned Khadafy was encouraging his embassies to guide new terrorist attacks against the United States and that Reagan administration officials had agreed there must be retaliation.

If a military strike is ordered, sources said, the Navy will have a total of 21 combat ships at its disposal, including the two carriers and five amphibious landing ships filled with Marines. The sources stressed, however, that the Marine task force was not part of the Pentagon's contingency planning.

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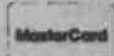
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