

# UNC Student Government to lobby state legislature

By CATHERINE COWAN  
Staff Writer

Student Government representatives from UNC will join representatives from other N.C. campuses next Tuesday through Thursday in Raleigh to lobby the General Assembly on several issues, including Gov. James G. Martin's proposed tuition increases.

The lobbying effort is being coordinated by the UNC Association for Student Governments and will be the third time in the past two years students have directly approached the state legislature to express their opinions.

Gary Mauney, president of the UNC-ASG and student body president of N.C. State, said the main topic of concern to students will be Martin's proposed tuition hikes. Martin is proposing an across-the-board increase of 12.3 percent for out-of-state students and 3.2 percent for in-state students. In contrast, a proposal by the UNC Board of Governors includes a 12.3 percent increase for out-of-state students, and no increase for in-state students.

"This increase could be one of the last straws for some families," Mauney said. "Federal financial aid is being cut, and student fees have

increased at a rate dramatically exceeding the inflation rate.

"In light of this, if a student is turned down for a Pell grant and applies for a loan, the loan covers only \$2500, but the estimated costs of going to the University are \$5000. That's a big gap for a student whose family is working class or not very well off."

Tuition increases coupled with cuts in federal aid to education could mean that some students will not be returning to school next year, said Bryan Hassel, UNC student body president.

"Reagan's theory is that the federal government shouldn't be footing the bill for education, that it is the state's responsibility," Hassel said. "This blows that theory right out of the water."

Martin's proposal is to free up money for highway programs by

transferring the responsibility of paying for driver education from the highway fund to the general fund and then to increase tuition in order to make up for the strain this will put on the general fund, Hassel said. Thus, besides the issue of whether or not there will be a tuition increase, Martin's proposal raises the issue of whether the money will go to the general fund or back to the University, Hassel said.

Mauney said he felt Martin's reasons of keeping up with inflation for the tuition hike were not justified. "If the General Assembly decides to adopt the philosophy that they will increase tuition with inflation, what happens when inflation is 10 percent? In three years, they will increase it by 30 percent. We're not only worried about what's happening now, but also in the future."

While the focus of the lobbying effort will be on tuition increases, students will also address the issue

of barrier removal for handicapped students.

"At N.C. State, 75 percent of the buildings were built before the 1975 law mandating that buildings be available to handicapped students," Mauney said. "In order to get from the north end of campus to the south end, a handicapped student has to go a half mile out of his way. A student may be academically capable, but just not able to get to the buildings."

Although nothing has been appropriated for handicapped barrier removal for five years, this year, partially because of work by the Association for Student Government, Martin is proposing \$2 million for this project, while the UNC Board of Governors is asking for \$4.3 million.

"This is significantly better than anything from the previous five years, but we feel the governor's request

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## Gas line ruptured

By MATT LONG  
Staff Writer

A one-inch deep gash in a main natural gas line in downtown Carrboro forced nearly a two-hour evacuation of businesses and detoured traffic Monday night.

The gas line was accidentally ruptured at around 7:30 p.m. by workers who were installing a new water line beneath West Franklin Street, according to Carrboro Fire Chief Robert Swiger. The Public Service Company, which provides gas service in the area, stopped the leak at 9:25 p.m., he said.

A square block area was evacuated by the fire department and the people were told not to start their cars but to leave. Nice Price Books employee Ed Hicks said, "A guy came in and said, 'Get out. Don't shut down, don't lock up, don't start your car, just get out.' I didn't know what it was. I thought it was a bomb."

Jane Gump, an employee of Family Dollar, said one of the road workers came into the store, bought something and said a gas line had been nicked.

"Ten minutes later, a fireman came in and told us to get out," Gump said. "He didn't say it was a gas leak, he just said 'get out.'"

The weather helped control the spread of gas, Swiger said. "There was no wind blowing, fortunately. The gas didn't carry. It bottled up underground and the pressure sent it straight up."

The gas company shut off the gas flowing through the line and the damaged pipe was removed and replaced. The line was fixed completely at about 11:30 p.m., said Hal Brafford, district manager of the company.

## Bush plans trip to state

Vice President George Bush will be in Raleigh June 27 to campaign for 4th District Rep. Bill Cobey, who is running for reelection.

Bush will arrive at a private fund-raising event for Cobey at the Raleigh Radisson Hotel. Afterward, the vice president will attend a public rally for Cobey at the Raleigh Civic Center, according to a press release from the congressman's campaign office.

"I'm very excited that Vice President Bush has decided to visit North Carolina and campaign on my behalf," Cobey said in the release. "In the 1984 election, the Reagan/Bush ticket received a majority of the popular vote in the 4th District, and that popularity has grown even more in recent months."

## Abby reunites ex-sailors

From Associated Press reports

ST. LOUIS — Columnist Abigail Van Buren helped reunite 35 former crewmen of a Navy minesweeper that sank during World War II and in the process helped a man learn about his brother who died when the ship went down.

The gathering Sunday was instituted by Wayne Shafer, of Sheperdsville, Ky., who wanted to learn more about his older brother Ralph, who died when the USS Salute exploded and sank June 8, 1945, off Borneo, killing nine.

"I wanted to know what kind of sailor he was, what kind of man he was," Shafer said.

Shafer, now 48, decided to seek his brother's crewmates after reading one of Van Buren's "Dear

Abby" columns last year. In it, she told a man who held possessions of a dead German soldier that he should return the materials to the soldier's family.

"She was absolutely right. The family never forgets," Shafer said. He then wrote to Van Buren, asking for help, and she printed his letter on Sept. 5.

By noon that day, Rex Hodges of Rockport, Ind., who was captain of the Salute, read the letter in the Evansville (Ind.) Courier and called Shafer.

Van Buren was keynote speaker Sunday aboard the USS Inaugural at a dinner attended by 35 of the Salute's crewmen, their families and more than 20 relatives of Shafer.

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