

# N.C. keeps health care rates low

By MATT BIVENS  
Staff Writer

Room rates for N.C. hospitals are less expensive on the average than in any other state except Mississippi, hospital officials said.

Good hospital management and a low cost of living in North Carolina allows hospitals to offer lower rates, said William Erwin, director of public relations for the N.C. Hos-

pital Association.

Hospital occupancy in North Carolina dropped 18 percent from 1981 to 1985, Erwin said, resulting in lay-offs of staff members and nurses. This has also helped to decrease health care rates in North Carolina, he said.

Although North Carolina is second only to Mississippi in flat room rates, the average cost per day

of all hospital care is lower in North Carolina than any other state but New Jersey, he said.

"The cost per day in the hospital is a more valid measure (than the room rate), because it includes all hospital expenses during a stay," he said.

The low cost of health care is a recruiting advantage for North Carolina, because businesses con-

sider the cost and availability of health care for their employees when planning to establish a new operation, Erwin said.

Retirees who know they will probably need health care as they grow older also consider the cost of health care when moving, and N.C. health rates make the state attractive to the elderly and to those planning retirement communities, he said.

# Land surveyed for collider project

By MEG CRADDOCK  
Staff Writer

North Carolina has started to take geological samples at the proposed site for the Superconducting Super Collider, the largest federal science project ever.

The super collider is a particle accelerator that will make it possible to study what protons are made up of, said Bill Dunn, project manager for the super collider. The super collider will be a circular tunnel roughly 57 miles in circumference through which protons can be shot at very high speeds, Dunn said.

It has not been decided if North Carolina will host the project.

The land for the project has been decided on but doesn't actually belong to the state yet, said Tim Pittman, Gov. Jim Martin's press secretary. The land won't actually be bought until North Carolina is certain it will be the host for the project, he said.

The proposed site for the project is located in Granville county, between Oxford and Roxboro, Pittman said.

The site's proximity to the Research Triangle Park is a great

advantage in North Carolina's bid for the project, Dunn said, along with the presence of Duke University, N.C. State University and UNC, three major research universities.

The easy access to major highways and Raleigh-Durham airport are also beneficial to the project, Pittman said.

If the project comes to North Carolina it will have a tremendous effect on the state, said Rep. Billy Watkins, D-Granville.

"The economy will be the big thing, along with the research connected with Research Triangle

Park," Watkins said.

The universities in the area would also benefit from the project, Dunn said, because of the new technology brought in by the project.

"Certainly it would have a significant effect on the physics curricula at the universities," he said.

The project has support from both parties in the N.C. General Assembly, said Sen. Ken Royall, D-Durham. Although bi-partisan support has been strong, the Republican governor will benefit politically because the bid for the project was started under him, Royall said.

# Panel criticizes negative report on state

By PAUL CORY  
Staff Writer

A panel of UNC professors, state officials and other experts Wednesday criticized the report issued by the Corporation for Enterprise Development that called North Carolina one of the five worst states for economic growth and development.

During the annual meeting of the N.C. chapter of the American Planning Association, the six panelists told about 25 people in the UNC Institute of Government that the "report card" was an attention-seeking ploy.

The Corporation for Enterprise Development released a report grading states in four areas: economic performance, business vitality, economic capacity and policy strength.

North Carolina received a "D" in all categories but business vitality, for which the CED gave the state an "F."

The panelists said the grades did not equate with what the CED said in the body of the report itself and questioned the criteria and research

methods used by the CED in preparing the report.

Emil Malizia, a panelist and professor of city and regional planning, questioned the indicators used by the CED in the category of business vitality.

The two criteria were competitiveness and entrepreneurship, Malizia said. The CED did no original research in determining competitiveness, and the indicators used for determining entrepreneurship were misleading, he said.

In determining the grade for policy strength, the CED did not use original research, said Billy Ray Hall, a panelist and executive director of the N.C. Commission on Jobs and Economic Growth. The category was also misnamed, he said.

"The person who prepared this report card had something else in mind (other than policy strength)," Hall said. "The category only measured the presence or absence of programs."

Michael Luger, the moderator and professor of city and regional planning, questioned the CED's approach to determining economic

capacity.

Luger said some of the criteria used by the CED were suspect because the research did not cover a long enough period of time or address all issues within the categories. In the case of financial resource capacity, the criteria were of questionable value because of the nature of the economy, Luger said.

Stuart Rosenfeld, panelist and director of Research and Programs Southern Growth Policies Board,

said that the CED also made a mistake in evaluating the human resources of states. The CED made no attempt to measure the level of skills in the labor force, or the number of two-year technical colleges in each state, Rosenfeld said.

Other panelists were Harvey Goldstein, professor of city and regional planning, and Julianne Tenney, executive director of the N.C. Technological Development Authority.

# County searches for ambulance franchise

By HUNTER LAMBETH  
Staff Writer

The Piedmont Ambulance Service provided non-emergency transportation for patients in Orange County until December 1986, when financial troubles forced it out of business.

Since then, Orange County has been operating the service and searching for a replacement.

The county has been providing the non-emergency ambulance transportation free of charge over the past four months while advertising for a

replacement. No franchise has replaced the old Florida-based Piedmont Ambulance Service.

The Piedmont service was charging non-emergency patients \$60 for each ride, but the number of calls was not off-setting the amount it was costing to operate the service.

Orange County manager Kenneth Thompson said that if a new replacement is not found, the county will find another alternative.

One alternative would be to expand the present Orange County

# Soviets display spy devices, accuse U.S. of espionage

From Associated Press reports

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union put on display Thursday microphones and other gadgets it said were dug from the walls and the floors of its U.S. missions and claimed the devices prove Soviets are victims of American spies.

The devices, some crammed with miniature electronics and no bigger than a pencil, are "material evidence of who is really intruding into the sovereign territory of others," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Boris Pyadyshev at a news briefing.

The Soviet counterattack came as American officials were trying to gauge a sex-and-spy scandal that allegedly involves U.S. Marine guards who became sexually involved with Soviet women and were enticed into allowing KGB agents inside the American Embassy.

Reagan arms proposal dead?

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's proposal at the Iceland summit to scrap all U.S. and Soviet ballistic missiles over 10 years is a dead issue, said nuclear arms control director Kenneth L. Adelman Thursday.

He told reporters the U.S. proposal is still on the negotiating table in Geneva. But, he added, "I don't think it's going to come on the radar screen on arms control again, if you ask me."

Reagan proposed a two-stage, ten-year plan to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Reykjavik, Iceland.

House approves budget  
WASHINGTON — The U.S.

## News in Brief

House yesterday approved a \$1 trillion Democratic budget that would raise \$18 billion in new taxes, cut President Reagan's military build-up and block White House plans for sharp decreases in domestic programs.

The House endorsed the plan 230-192, with no Republicans voting for it.

The House plan features a call for \$18 billion in unspecified new taxes plus \$1 billion from increased tax enforcement and another \$2 billion from fees and premiums for government services.

President Reagan has threatened to veto any tax rate increase.


Deputy shoots teenager

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif. — A deputy sheriff was taken off duty and counseled Thursday after fatally shooting a teenager who was using a toy laser gun in mock combat with friends in a dark schoolyard.

The unidentified six-year veteran of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department had been called to Central Elementary School at 10 p.m. Tuesday after a passer-by reported armed prowlers, sheriff's spokesman Jim Bryant said Thursday.

Leonard Joseph Falcon, 19, who had been playing Laser Tag with three friends, was shot to death after he fired flashes of light from the toy gun at deputies, Bryant said.

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emergency system into a fully public service, serving both emergency and non-emergency patients.

A second alternative would be to purchase another non-emergency ambulance and hire two employees to run it, which would cost about \$80,000 next year.

About \$275,000 was budgeted for emergency medical responses this year. If another ambulance is added, the budget will increase to about \$355,000 next year.

The county now has four ambulances, plus rescue squad vehicles, staffed weekdays by county employees from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Another ambulance serves as a backup, and volunteers staff the service during off-hours.

The county is having trouble finding a new ambulance franchise because there is not enough demand for a non-emergency service in the area.

"There are not enough calls to be profitable," Thompson said.

Thompson said a non-emergency service is not a "life or death" public necessity, but some citizens must have assistance.

He said most calls come from people who are without cars and people who must recline while on their way to the hospital. Elderly people living in convalescent centers often call for rides because they do not have transportation, he said.

The county is advertising for a new ambulance service in newspapers from Burlington to Raleigh, Thompson said.

**Student wins \$100 meal plan**

From staff reports

Freshman Kenneth Barber of Durham won a \$100 meal plan from Marriott Corp. in a drawing Wednesday.

Senior Jessica Johnson of Chapel Hill, student liaison for Marriott, said Tuesday that about 125 students entered the drawing by returning Marriott questionnaires.

To be eligible for the drawing, students had to fill out the last page of a questionnaire about dining service needs and the quality of food in campus cafeterias.

Barber will receive the money on his meal card immediately, Johnson said.

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