

Speaker calls for cut in medical interns' working hours

By JAMES BURROUGHS
Staff Writer

The long working hours of medical interns and residents should be constantly monitored and evaluated to protect the well-being of the students and their patients, said Dr. Stuart Bondurant, dean of the UNC School of Medicine.

"I do see a need to assure that interns and residents' working hours are appropriate for their health needs and the effectiveness of their learning experience," he said.

Dr. Janet Friedman, former president of the New York-based Committee of Interns and Residents, spoke at UNC on Dec. 1 about the need to limit interns and residents' working hours. The Committee of Interns and Residents is a nationwide labor union for medical house staff.

In most hospital programs, the residents may be on call throughout the night, but there are opportunities to obtain much-needed sleep during

that time, Bondurant said. Although fatigue slows the learning process, he said he has never seen inappropriate medical practices result from long working hours.

A recent study released by another university indicated that on-the-job performance did not decrease as long as the intern or resident had four hours of uninterrupted sleep every 24 hours, Bondurant said.

If a proper working period cannot be set by the residents and the individual hospital program, then an outside agency might be needed to set working limits as a last resort, he said.

Dr. Robert Cefalo, assistant dean of graduate medical education, said an evaluation of the stresses associated with interns and residents is needed. Each hospital program should allow for "night-float residency," in which the residents could work during the night after resting all day, he said.

But any limit on working hours should come from within the hospital and the specific program, not from an outside agency, because there is great diversity between resident programs at different hospitals, he said.

John Stokes, director of institutional relations at North Carolina Memorial Hospital, said the hospital conforms with all governing regulations and a respectful relationship

exists with all employees. Each department sets its residents' hours individually, he said.

The problems involving long working hours are more common in the Northeast, where unions exist for the protection of residents and interns, Stokes said. NCMH is not unionized, he added.

On the average, medical residents in New York state work more than 80 hours each week, but no evidence

shows that patient care is suffering, said Barbara Green, vice president for education and research of the Greater New York Hospital Association.

Although interns' and residents' working hours are set by the specific staff program, New York state recently adopted new regulations to prevent the exploitation of employees, she said.

The regulations, to take effect in July, limit residents and interns to 80

hours per week, with no more than 24 hours of work at one time, she said.

"It doesn't make sense for people to work continuously for 36 hours at a time," she said.

The Association of American Medical Colleges issued a nationwide recommendation suggesting that working hours be limited and used the New York regulations as a role model, she said.

The DTH may expand to Durham, Carrboro

By SARAH CAGLE
Staff Writer

The Daily Tar Heel will place drop boxes in new locations on South Campus and is considering expanding circulation to Carrboro and Durham next semester, according to DTH general manager Kevin Schwartz.

The DTH purchased 10 new drop boxes at \$152 each, Schwartz said. Six of those will go to new locations on South Campus, particularly around North Carolina Memorial Hospital, he said. The rest will either replace old or stolen drop boxes, he said.

"We decided we needed to better distribute the papers," Schwartz said. "We never kept up with the growth of South Campus."

The DTH has also received phone calls from Carrboro and Durham residents who want access to the paper, he said. There is now only one

drop box in Carrboro at Carr-Mill Mall.

"In the past, we assumed that people in Carrboro would probably come to campus," Schwartz said.

Businesses that advertise in the paper are particularly interested in having drop boxes located in the community, he said.

By placing the drop boxes in Durham and Carrboro, the DTH would increase circulation by 2,000 at first. Drop boxes would be placed around South Square Mall and in downtown Durham. This would place copies of the paper near Durham advertisers, Schwartz said.

Jean Lutes, DTH editor, said she supports the expansion. "Having more drop boxes and possibly increasing circulation will make us more accessible to more students and members of the community," she said.

Center

the CAA does plan to confer with officials. "I think it could only help," she said. "I think a lot of students use Student Mental Health. We're only trying to pick up the students that don't."

Judith Cowan, director of SHS, said she was not aware of the CAA's plans to have a psychologist on duty at the proposed center.

"I think we would be extremely interested in understanding the pro-

posal better," Cowan said. "I think we really make every effort for people to know about it (the mental health services available on campus), and it is a very well-utilized facility."

Bleattler said a mental health service would be a useful addition to the proposed facility. "Nobody wants to admit they have to seek help for mental health," he said. "This would be more informal setup."

Ceremony to honor December graduates

By BRENDA CAMPBELL
Staff Writer

UNC students graduating in December will be honored during an informal ceremony in Memorial Hall on Dec. 18, according to organizers.

The ceremony is being organized by Kathleen Benzaquin, associate dean of student affairs; LuAnn Hyatt, a senior class marshal; and Marilyn Metcalf-Whittaker, a Graduate and Professional Student Federation representative. Representatives from the senior class have also helped decide who will speak and address envelopes, Whittaker said.

All students who filed to graduate in December will receive invitations

to the ceremony.

"For a number of years, a reception has been held for students who file for graduation in December," Benzaquin said. "All the students who do file receive invitations to the ceremony. They can also bring family and friends."

The ceremony is not a formal commencement ceremony with caps and gowns, Benzaquin said.

"It is hard to do a formal commencement ceremony because people are leaving for the holidays and the records have not been finalized," she said. "In the invitations, the graduates are encouraged to attend the formal graduation ceremony on May 14."

But many students are not able

to come to the ceremony in May, so the December ceremony attempts to recognize those students.

"This is an intimate ceremony not to take place of the formal ceremony, but to recognize people's accomplishments," Benzaquin said. "Many students appreciate this type of ceremony because they will not be able to come back in May."

In the past, the ceremony has only been for undergraduate students, Metcalf-Whittaker said.

"This is the first year that the graduate and undergraduate students have been involved in the planning," she said.

The ceremony will include brief speeches by Chancellor Paul Hardin; Steve Tepper, president of the

senior class; and Donald Boulton, vice chancellor and dean of student affairs, Benzaquin said.

The guest speaker will be English professor Doris Betts.

Throughout the ceremony, a brass quintet composed of faculty members will play music, Benzaquin said.

"They will be playing many selections, along with 'Hark The Sound,' during the ceremony," Benzaquin said.

Following the ceremony, a reception will be at the Carolina Inn, Benzaquin said. The reception will include food, music and a receiving line of officials involved in the ceremony.

Economic growth to slow in state, experts say

By JOHN BAKHT
Staff Writer

North Carolinians can expect a seventh consecutive year of economic expansion in 1989, but the growth rate may be slower, economists said Friday.

The performance of the state's economy — measured in gross state product (GSP), the total retail value of all goods and services produced in the state — will be only 2.4 percent higher in 1989 than in 1988, according to a projection released by the UNC-Charlotte-First Union North Carolina Economic Forecast.

The average growth rate for the last six years has been 5.8 percent.

"We never did say the 'R' (recession) word," said John Connaughton, director of the forecast. But the

expansion rate's decline will mean more plant closings, he said.

Connaughton predicted a decline because the state has already reached full employment — unemployment is only 3.6 percent. The Federal Reserve Board has also tightened the money supply by raising interest rates to avoid inflation. That causes businesses to think twice about expanding, he said.

But UNC finance Professor James Smith said a much slower rate was highly unlikely, predicting 5 percent growth and the best job market in 17 years for 1989.

"We're still getting tremendous benefits from the decline of the dollar in '86 and '87," he said. The coming year should at least equal 1988's growth because the summer drought

hurt expansion, he said.

Manufacturing and high-tech industries will prosper in 1989, Smith said. "The bad news is I've got a recession coming in '90."

Despite conflicting opinions about the degree of economic change the state will undergo, economists agreed 1989 shouldn't be a dramatic departure from 1988.

"The average person on the street probably won't notice it," said David Orr, vice president for economic research at First Union Corp. in

Charlotte.

Textile and furniture businesses are likely not to expand in 1989, Orr said. "The textile industry is not going to have the gangbuster year that it had the last two. It's primarily a fashion thing."

The furniture business, one of the state's major industries, will probably decline in 1989 because higher interest rates will limit the number of new houses built and bought — and furniture sales are tied to new home sales, he said.

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