

# Legislature opposes Martin's proposed education cuts

By KARI BARLOW  
Staff Writer

Gov. Jim Martin's tentative proposal to cut the Basic Education Plan (BEP) while supporting salary increases for teachers has received staunch opposition throughout the state and in the General Assembly.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Bob Etheridge does not agree with cutting the BEP, said Tony Copeland, executive assistant to Etheridge.

"We think the people who are serious about education in the state will not cannibalize the education in the state," Copeland said.

Martin campaigned for bringing teachers' salaries up to the national average, and the state leaders will make the necessary changes, Cope-

land said.

N.C. public schools and teachers will both suffer if legislators decide to cut the BEP, said Karen Garr, president of the North Carolina Association of Educators.

"If we lose our public schools, we'll lose our democracy," Garr said. "I think we'll see more and more empty classrooms. I think we'll see more demoralized teachers."

"We believe that the governor and the General Assembly should find the money to pay for both salaries and programs," she said.

Legislators do not want the BEP in competition with a salary increase for teachers, said David Diamond, D-Surry.

Diamond said the program's merit should be evaluated halfway through

its span.

"I think we need to re-educate legislators on why we started it in the first place," Diamond said. "I don't think that looking at it means we're going to slow it down."

Martin will have to increase state revenue to bring about a salary increase for teachers.

"I think the governor is going to have to come forward with some kind of tax package," Diamond said. "You can't squeeze blood out of a turnip."

"I'm optimistic. The General Assembly is going to look at the base budget and make some cuts," he said.

The governor will try and come up with dollars he does not have, said Rep. Jim Crawford, D-Granville.

"I think we should keep the BEP intact," said Crawford, who is on the

Education Subcommittee. "I prefer to keep it on schedule."

The General Assembly began funding the eight-year program in 1985, said Peter Leouis, director of policy research for the N.C. Public School Forum.

"In constant dollars, it's going to take about \$800 million dollars to fund (the BEP)," Leouis said. "We're about halfway through the program." The program defines the education that should be available to every child in the state, he said.

"I think the BEP is very important because it sets a bottom-line standard for public schools in the state," said Kathy Travers, director of the Atlantic Center for Research in Education.

The BEP also provides money for teaching and secretarial positions

throughout the state as well as for principals, psychologists, counselors and extra courses in public schools.

Another problem the BEP is facing is the supplanting of the funds it provides to the counties in the state, Diamond said.

BEP money is supposed to fund new positions, but several counties have used it to fund existing positions. The local money that previously had funded the positions is used on projects outside the school system.

The BEP is designed to equalize the funds given to all counties in the state, but wealthier counties sometimes violate these guidelines, said Travers.

"The more rural counties just don't have anywhere near the funding to

run the kind of school system we'd all like to in the state," Travers said. Wealthy counties have an advantage because of higher tax revenue, Travers said.

There is not enough information to determine which counties are supplanting funds, said Leouis. "You'd have to do a detailed analysis of each county's budget."

There is a compelling argument for giving educators at the school level more flexibility and autonomy in how they use their school resources, Leouis said.

But the General Assembly has a good argument as well, Leouis said.

"When the General Assembly is passing 70 percent of the bill, you can understand why they want some kind of accountability," he said.

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As a kick-off to the campaign, a large granite etching of the University seal was installed in Polk Place Feb. 14, but the class is concentrating on the endowment, Tepper said.

"Maybe that's indicative of our class, but maybe it's also indicative of students in general," he said. "They like a physical gift, but let's not make it a priority."

Members of the class were glad the class gift would strengthen the academic side of UNC, he said.

Allen Eidson, co-chairman of the Senior Class Gift Committee, said: "We were very concerned about the quality of teaching, and we have given it a push in the right direction."

The gift is also meant to send a message to other groups, Tepper said. "The faculty needs this kind of support. In the long run it is not the students' responsibility to provide this support, but if that's what it takes to get other groups committed, then we are proud to have been able to serve as an inspiration."

"I hope that our success will set a precedent for state and alumni giving."

# South Carolina restricts dumping of N.C. waste

By JENNIFER JOHNSTON  
Staff Writer

South Carolina closed its doors to hazardous waste from North Carolina Wednesday, forcing N.C. legislators to speed up the search for a solution to waste disposal problems in the state.

In late January, S.C. Gov. Carroll Campbell told all states using the waste disposal facilities to send South Carolina a statement showing either that an effort was being made to get waste disposal facilities, or that there was no ban or prohibition on creating such facilities. Failure to send the statement would result in loss of access to the S.C. facilities, said Becca Mercer, spokeswoman for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

The deadline for the statement was March 1, she said.

North Carolina was one of the states that failed to meet the require-

ments for using the waste disposal facilities.

North Carolina is not the only state affected by the ban. Other states that failed to meet the criteria are Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee. North Carolina contributes the most waste to the GSX site — 30 percent of the waste the GSX disposes of, Mercer said.

South Carolina now allows only non-hazardous waste from North Carolina, such as solvents and paint waste, to be disposed of in its facilities. In order for North Carolina to be allowed to transport waste again, the state would have to prove that action was being taken to set up its own facilities, Mercer said.

"North Carolina has been trying to set up its own facilities for a long time, but public opinion and a vague bill hampered efforts," said Hope Lucas, community relations coordinator for the governor's Waste Management Board.

A moratorium was placed on the issue last year after repeated attempts to find a place for a waste facility met with no success and public outcry.

The criteria for a proposed hazardous waste site were vaguely defined in the bill, and the public was worried about safety, said Lucas.

A new bill, sponsored by Sens. Lura Talley, D-Cumberland, and Leo Daughtrey, R-Johnston, has just been introduced that they hope will solve this problem.

The new bill would absolve the N.C. Hazardous Waste Treatment Commission and create the North Carolina Industrial Waste Management Commission, said June Simpkins, assistant calendar clerk. The new commission would have two representatives, two senators and five people appointed by the governor.

The bill would also differ from

the old one by calling for more regional facilities. The old bill suggested one comprehensive facility.

"There was no clear explanation of what comprehensive meant, and there was confusion about it," Lucas said.

There are also more criteria in the new bill to ease the public's mind about safety, she said.

Environmentalists are glad more emphasis is being put on safety criteria, but they would like the government to pressure industries to cut back the waste that is produced.

"Our main concern should be preventing (waste), not storing (waste). The bill does not even mention it," said Edward Harrison, land-use chairman for North Carolina's Sierra Club.

While the legislators are trying to straighten out the bill, businesses have to deal with the waste they

have now.

"Large industries have had back-up plans in place in anticipation of this kind of situation," Lucas said. The businesses ship their waste to another facility farther away.

Smaller businesses might not be able to afford the cost of transporting waste across the country. They have the option of applying for a temporary permit to store the waste on the site for 30 days, she said.

The legislators will have another deadline to worry about soon. On Oct. 17 of this year, the Environmental Protection Agency will stop money from Superfund for any state which does not have a plan for waste disposal. Superfund is money the government allots to states to clean up hazardous waste sites.

"The state will have to prove to the EPA that it can handle its waste for the next 20 years," said Carl Terry, public affairs specialist for the EPA.

## Yearbooks from page 1

Nancy Monsinger said. The student government along with the student senate handles distribution of the fees, while a publications board allocates the exact funds.

The University of Missouri at Columbia does not receive any student funding, although the yearbook staff has requested money from the student senate this year, said editor Matt Basta. "Right now the yearbook is funded strictly through book sales, portrait rebates, group sale space and advertisements in the yearbook."

Yearbooks at Cornell University, Northwestern University and the University of Virginia are self-sufficient and have not requested any funds from student government, according to the editors of those yearbooks.

The University of South Carolina does receive a share of the student fees, although discussion of taking funding away has been mentioned, said Josie Williams, editor.

Buchenu said that when he said most other college yearbooks did not receive student funding, he was using second-hand knowledge. But he said he supported the decrease in funding for other reasons, also.

"I personally would have to see the format of the yearbook change," he said. The yearbook does not fairly represent the entire student body such as foreign student groups and other minority groups because it charges organizations a fee to have their pictures in the yearbook, he said.

"All organizations are not wealthy enough to afford their pictures in it."

He also said the Finance Committee asked the yearbook staff if raising the price of the yearbook by \$1 would hurt the subscription rate. The yearbook staff, he added, denied that the increase would hurt sales.

"We gave them funds," he said. "It's not like we don't fund the yearbook. I made the motion (to decrease the Yack's funding request) with the understanding the yearbook would survive."

Buchenu said he would consider increasing the yearbook's funds if the Yack altered its format.

Kelly Sherrill, business editor of the Yackety Yack, said the Yack would lose editorial freedom if the staff conformed to the requests of Student Congress. She said the Yack would rather not use ads because, "We think it would hurt the quality of the book."

The yearbook does not understand the logic behind the past two years' decrease in Student Congress funding, Sherrill said. "Overall, we have never been cut this way."

Until the 1988 Student Congress budget, the Yackety Yack was given \$15,000 to \$20,000 each year, she said.

Sherrill said the yearbook staff did say the \$1 increase in price would harm the future of the yearbook because it has been forced to raise prices in the past.

"We didn't feel they were very receptive to us."

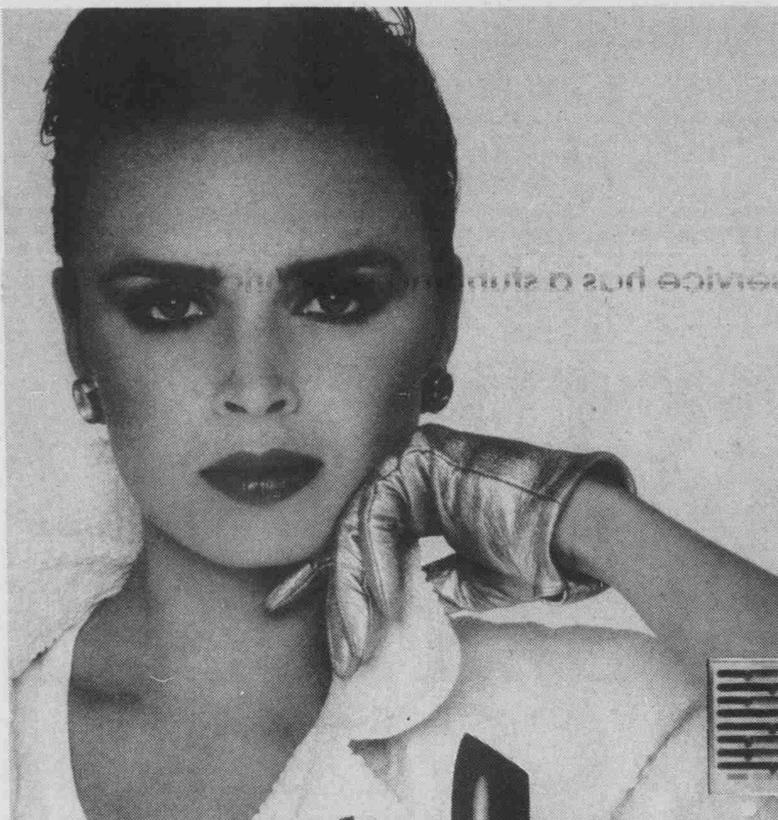
John Lomax (Dist. 13), a member of the Finance Committee, said, "The number one reason we cut funding by that much is because we asked the representatives of the Yack what a \$1 increase would do to their sales, and they said it would not hurt much."

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