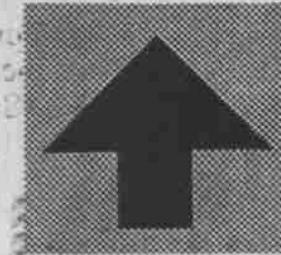


# BUSINESS

The Daily Tar Heel/Thursday, April 27, 1989/5

## Stocks

### DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE



**2389.11**

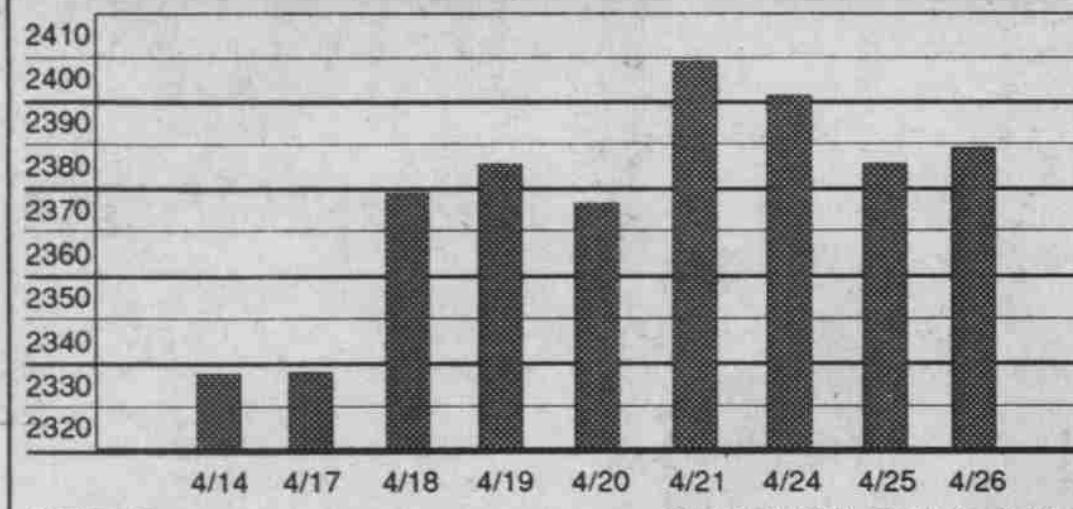
UP 2.20

Volume: 146.90 million shares

### NORTH CAROLINA STOCKS

COMPANY	CLOSE	CHANGE	HIGH	LOW	WK. AGO
BellSouth	44 7/8	+	3/8	44 7/8	44 3/4
Duke Power	45 5/8	+	1/4	45 5/8	45 3/8
Food Lion	11 1/8	+	1/4	11 1/8	10 7/8
NCNB Corp.	36 1/8	-	5/8	36 1/2	36
RJR/Nabisco	84 7/8	+	1/2	85 7/8	84 7/8

### TREND



Source: Edward D. Jones & Co., Chapel Hill

## Carolina Students' Credit Union Rates

### SHARE CERTIFICATES

30-89 Days	8.000 simple
90-179 Days	8.850/9.250%
180-269 Days	9.070/9.490%
270-364 Days	9.070/9.490%
365 Days	9.190/9.624%

Compounding is daily. Rates subject to change daily.  
\$100 minimum deposit. Insured up to \$100,000.  
Rates for longer terms and larger principals are available.

### LOANS

Share Secured	11.00%
Co-Signer	14.00%
Travel	16.00%

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat. 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m. Phone: 962-CSCU

CSCU is not affiliated with UNC-CH

DTH Graphic

## Call to boycott Exxon not felt locally

By TOM PARKS

Staff Writer

Despite calls for Chapel Hill drivers to boycott Exxon Corp. products in protest of the oil company's handling of last month's Alaskan oil spill, local Exxon stations' sales have not suffered, according to company employees.

Tommy Wagner, manager of the Highway 70 Exxon in Durham, said the Alaskan oil spill has not harmed his business.

"It hasn't affected my business, hasn't affected a thing (about his station)."

Wagner said he has heard rumors about a boycott, but he said he felt a boycott of Exxon would hurt local businesses more than it would Exxon Corp., which, behind General Motors and Ford, had the third highest sales of any company in the nation for 1988.

"I don't think it (a boycott) would change much of anything," Wagner

**"Boycott Exxon!"**

**Slick talk, no action."**

— flyer on Franklin Street kiosk

said.

The Exxon supertanker Valdez spilled more than 11 million gallons of oil after striking a reef off the Alaskan coast March 24.

Following the oil spill, fliers reading "Boycott Exxon! Slick talk, no action," began appearing on Franklin Street's kiosks. The focus of the fliers was a black-and-white picture of an oil-covered bird.

Michael Stipe, the lead singer of Georgia rock group R.E.M., asked fans to boycott Exxon during the band's concert Saturday in the Smith Center.

"I'm going to cut it in half and send it to them with a nasty letter."

Patrick Heron, a freshman from San Francisco, said pressuring Congress to enact stricter regulations for oil tankers would be more appropriate and effective than a boycott.

"I don't think a boycott at this time is the proper way to influence Exxon."

Avery Upchurch, owner of Avery Upchurch's Exxon in Raleigh, said it was hard to gauge whether a boycott had affected his sales because of an industrywide rise in gasoline prices that coincided with the spill.

"As far as customer reactions, we haven't seen a change," he said.

Gasoline prices normally rise in the summer months, Upchurch said.

An Exxon spokesman interviewed earlier this month said the rise in gasoline prices was caused by a number of factors including a rise in crude oil prices, new Environmental Protection Agency regulations and, in the short term, the Valdez spill.

## Downtown Commission pins budget hopes on proposed tax

By CRAIG ALLEN

Staff Writer

Franklin Street merchants should bear the burden of financing the revitalization of the downtown business district, the president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Downtown Commission said Wednesday, referring to a proposed special tax district for downtown Chapel Hill.

The district, first proposed in a February petition by the commission, would encompass most Franklin Street merchants. Merchants within the district would pay an additional seven cents per \$100 of property.

The proposal is now before the Chapel Hill Town Council. It will be the subject of a public hearing May 22.

The commission, which has ambitious plans for next year, has based more than 40 percent of its 1989-90 budget around income from the

special tax district, according to the April issue of the commission's newsletter.

The commission's plans include a trolley system to help combat parking problems, special sidewalk cleaning and other programs designed to improve the attractiveness of the downtown area.

If the proposal does not pass, the commission will be left to private contributions to make up the difference in its revitalization budget, said Debbie Dibbert, co-director of the commission.

"We are going to go on the assumption that (the proposal) will pass," Dibbert said.

Joseph Hakan is president of the commission, a group of local merchants working to revitalize the slumping downtown business district.

According to Hakan, the commission is confident the proposal will

pass because many of the merchants who will benefit from downtown revitalization are also members of the commission.

"We have faith that it will pass," said Hakan. "We call it an investment in ourselves."

Mickey Ewell, owner of Spanky's restaurant on Franklin Street, said he thought the cost of the tax would be minimal and would fund some worthwhile projects. Ewell said he supported the tax as long as it was used for downtown revitalization.

"I do not think we ought to be paying it (the tax) just to be paying it," he said.

Walter Baum, owner of Baum Jewelry, said he supported the tax but did not think it would have a large effect, especially on the lack of parking.

"I don't think it's going to have a dramatic effect," Baum said. "Park-

ing has been a problem in Chapel Hill historically."

Other merchants support the proposal for various reasons. Robert Humphreys, owner of Chapel Hill Cleaners, said parking in Chapel Hill was not the major problem to be addressed. Instead, he said, the problem concerns public relations.

Merchants have contributed to the "negative feeling" between merchants and consumers by continually complaining about parking, convincing consumers that a trip to the downtown district is not worth fighting for a parking space.

"We need to make downtown a place where people want to come again," Humphreys said. "We've been cutting our own throats by sending out some bad signals" about parking, Humphreys said.

Some merchants, however, oppose

the tax proposal. A Franklin Street merchant who asked not to be identified said the tax proposal is unfair to merchants. Because of this

## Experts, politicians debate proposed minimum wage hike

By FRED WILLIAMS

Staff Writer

President Bush and Congress seem to be headed for a confrontation over plans to raise the hourly minimum wage as both the Senate and the House of Representatives have passed bills to raise it to \$4.55, and Bush has said he will veto any bill that raises it above \$4.25.

The minimum wage has been \$3.35 since 1981.

The Senate last week passed a bill sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., that would raise minimum wage by increments to \$4.55 by October, 1991.

In concession to Bush and Southern Democrats, the bill allowed for workers to be paid a sub-minimum training wage during their first two months in the job market. The House passed a similar bill last month, but minor differences in the two bills will have to be worked out in a conference committee before being sent to the president.

The bill passed the Senate 62-37, slightly less than the two-thirds majority needed to override a Bush veto.

North Carolina's senators followed party lines in voting on the increase.

Republican Sen. Jesse Helms voted against the bill. Helms is against any type of raise in the minimum wage, because it would be "inflationary and cost many jobs," according to Barbara Lukens, a Helms spokeswoman.

Democratic Sen. Terry Sanford voted for the bill. A representative for Sanford said the senator only supported the bill after the wage

level was lowered from \$4.65 to \$4.55.

Congressman David Price, D-N.C. 4th Dist., voted in favor of the House's proposal last month.

"He feels an increase in minimum wage is long overdue," Rachel Perry, a spokeswoman for Price, said.

Evaluating the raise proposal is a matter of "weighing the costs against the benefits," said David Blau, a UNC Associate Professor of Economics.

A benefit would be a raise for workers already in low-paying jobs, but the costs would be fewer jobs available for the low-wage worker, he said.

Although the minimum wage level has not been keeping pace with inflation, Blau said most economists would agree that on a "purely economical level" the raise is not justified because of the loss of low-level jobs that would result.

A training period sub-minimum wage is "an attempt to ameliorate the job-loss effects," Blau said.

What might actually happen is that some companies could use the provision to get around paying the regular minimum wage, he said. After an employee had been working for two months at the training wage, the company could fire him and replace him with a new worker who would also be paid the training wage.

The bill would affect students in different ways, Blau said, depending on their jobs. "If they have a job, and are able to keep it, it could help them." But there would also be fewer jobs available, he said.

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The government reported Wednesday the U.S. economy topped the \$5 trillion mark for the first time last quarter, powered by a strong 5.5 percent growth rate that caused some analysts to express concern about rising inflation.

Even discounting for a statistical bounce back from the 1988 drought, a major factor in the overall increase, the gross national product (GNP) grew at a solid 3 percent annual rate during the January-March period, the Commerce Department reported.

Antonio Villamil, chief economist for the Commerce Department, said the economy's performance in the first quarter "appears to be consistent with moderate, sustainable growth for the balance of the year" and contains no threat of a recession.

Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher said the growth pattern, in which the pace of consumer spending slowed while exports and business investment rose, was "a desirable one for the sustainability of the economic expansion."

Private analysts cautioned, however, that the report offered some troubling indications that inflation was accelerating.

A GNP index that measures prices

for a fixed-market basket of goods and services rose at an annual rate of 5 percent in the first quarter, up from 4.2 percent during the previous three months.

While half of the increase was linked to a pay raise for government employees, "certainly it suggests we're in a period of accelerating inflation," said economist David Jones of Aubrey G. Lanston & Co. in New York.

Robert Dederick, chief economist for Northern Trust Co. in Chicago, said the economy's strong growth in the first quarter was "too much of a good thing."

The report suggested that the economy was still growing at a rate too fast for comfort and the manifestation of this was in the inflation figure," Dederick said. "No matter what you look at, the inflation worry is there."

Villamil said that discounting the effects of the pay raise and recent food and energy price increases, the underlying inflation rate seems to be holding "at a stable lower level of about four or four-and-a-half

percent."

The 5.5 percent annual rate of growth was the highest since a 6.1 percent increase in the fourth quarter of 1987.

It reflected an improvement in the trade deficit after two negative quarters, as exports rose 10.6 percent while imports advanced just 2.3 percent, and business investments increased by a strong 9.6 percent.

**Lottery numbers picked**

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Players drove, flew, took the train and walked to the nearest Pennsylvania lottery ticket counter up to the last minute Wednesday before the winning North American record jackpot of more than \$100 million was drawn.

James Scroggins, the lottery's executive director, said the prize would be "something higher than \$100 million when it's all said and done."

How much higher won't be known until sometime Thursday, but unofficial estimates put the jackpot in excess of \$100 million. And Scroggins said lottery officials won't know until

Friday if any winning tickets were sold.

In an average week, the state usually sells about 4 or 5 million tickets, but on Tuesday alone about 24 million tickets were sold, said Karl Ross, deputy revenue secretary. From 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesday, about 7 million tickets were sold. Players came from all over the country.

But lottery officials