

Morning fog
Chance of afternoon
thundershowers
High 85

The Daily Tar Heel

Tuition increase
forum
at Noon in the Pit

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Volume 97, Issue 50

Friday, September 15, 1989

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

News/Sports/Arts 962-0245
Business/Advertising 962-1163

SBP Lewis proposes plan as answer to tuition hike

By AMY WAJDA

Assistant University Editor

Brien Lewis, student body president, has proposed what he calls the Tuition Defense Initiative, a six-point response to the UNC-system tuition increase the N.C. General Assembly passed in August.

A law passed near the end of the legislative session increases 1989-90 tuition 20 percent, from \$504 to \$604, for in-state students and 15 percent, from \$4,458 to \$5,127, for out-of-state students. Students were billed twice because of the increase.

Lewis' plan recommends that:
• the president of the UNC Association of Student Governments (ASG) — a coalition of student government officials from the 16 schools in the UNC system — present a report to UNC Board of Governors meetings;
• student leaders appear before House and Senate committees and subcommittees to give input to legislators;
• 20 percent to 25 percent of any

tuition increase be used only for need-based aid;

• all money directed by the legislature to private colleges and universities be used only for need-based aid;

• any tuition increase take effect the following calendar year; and

• all UNC-system student body presidents establish a financial aid task force made up of students and administrators at their respective schools to examine their institutions' aid policies and programs and to make recommendations to their chancellors.

Lewis said he would present the plan to the ASG at its meeting Saturday. "Hopefully, the new officials and body will be as enthusiastic as I am, and will adopt it."

"Then I'll work with the ASG on lobbying, letter writing and discussion with members of the BOG and legislators."

The first provision, a report to the BOG by the ASG president, should be easy to implement, Lewis said. "It's

just a matter of asking (BOG Chairman) Roddy Jones for five minutes of space on the agenda. It doesn't sound too outlandish to me."

But Brian Nixon, N.C. State University student body president, said the board had reacted unfavorably to that proposal at the board's retreat in Boone last weekend. "We were told they didn't like the idea of a student member of the BOG."

"The BOG probably won't budge on that one, but if we go down we'll go down swinging," Nixon said. "I don't necessarily want the power to vote, just the power to persuade."

To appear before General Assembly committees, Lewis said student leaders would ask to be added to a list of people usually called before committees to discuss tuition increases. "I'm sure the legislators would rather have us talk to them in a 15-minute formal session than have us pounding on doors and running them down in the hall."

John Tart, co-chairman of the house

education appropriations subcommittee, said the appearances could probably be arranged easily through UNC General Administration. "I'm sure if student government contacted (UNC-system) President (C.D.) Spangler's office it could probably be arranged very easily."

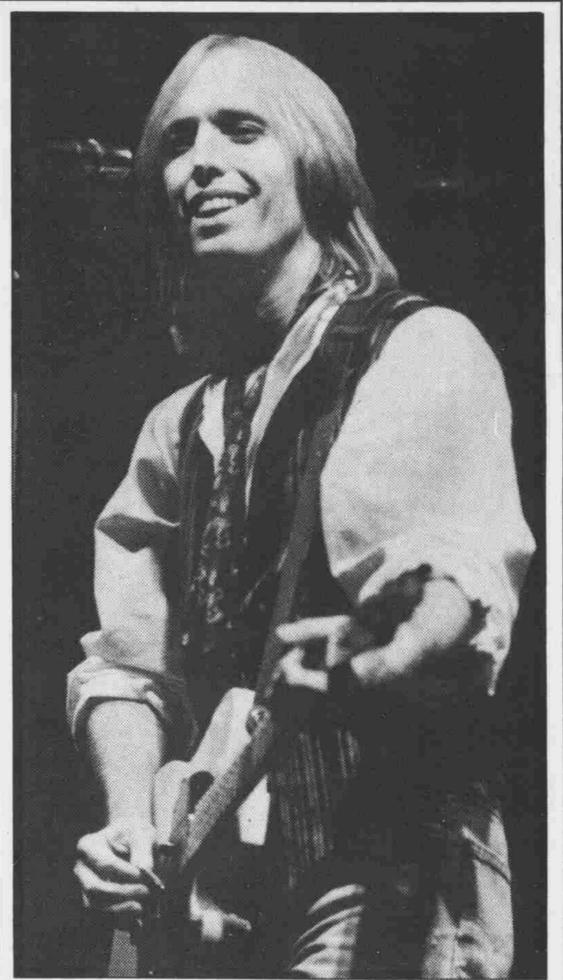
UNC-system schools should be able to establish their own financial aid task forces by following the example of UNC-CH's task force, Lewis said.

He said the proposals involving financial aid, private schools and postponing increases would be harder to achieve and would require the most lobbying.

Tart said a defined percentage of financial aid could not be guaranteed. "That would not be anything we could say was going to happen. We would provide financial aid if we had the money."

Tart said the amount of financial aid

See TUITION, page 2



DTH/Tracey Langhorne

Strange behavior

Wednesday's Smith Center concert was the last stop on Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers' current tour. See story, page 6.

Frye: SRC vote set precedent

By JOEY HILL

Staff Writer

Student Congress set an important precedent by defeating the bill that would have required a second vote on student funding for the Student Recreation Center, said Lisa Frye, Carolina Athletic Association (CAA) president. "The precedent is that you don't overturn a vote of the student body without good reason."

Congress defeated the bill 17-9 with one abstention. The bill would have established a November referendum, asking students to vote whether to raise

student fees \$13 per semester to fund the construction of the SRC.

Students passed a similar referendum last February, when they voted to fund the SRC.

Jeffrey Beall, the Student Congress representative who authored the bill, said he was disappointed at the bill's defeat. "I just accept it. I think the students should have had the right to vote."

The CAA presented only the positive aspects of the SRC before the original referendum was passed, Beall said. "I think the first referendum was un-

fair, but Student Congress's vote was fair."

"The CAA's presentation of the original referendum was 'totally one-sided,' Beall said. "It didn't really give a chance for any negative things to be said about it."

"I hope that my bill served to create an awareness of the funny position that the CAA and other groups are in. They're supposed to be representative, but they seem to create policy."

Frye said she was pleased with the results of the vote. "I have a lot of respect for the decision they (congress

members) made. I think students will be pleased that Student Congress respected the vote taken in the spring.

"Student Congress realized the spring vote was valid. The vote they took showed they are willing to respect that vote, and not to flip-flop on issues."

Frye called the vote an "empirical decision" because two-thirds of the congress voted against the bill. "When students vote on any future referendums, they know their decision will be taken seriously."

See SRC, page 2

Circuit overload caused Ehringhaus blackout

By JASON KELLY

Staff Writer

An overload of the main building circuit caused power failures this week in Ehringhaus Residence Hall, University housing officials said Thursday.

Residents were periodically without power from Sunday night to Wednesday,

including all day Monday and Wednesday.

Steve Stoddard, Housing Support Services superintendent, said his crew had diverted some of the power into a different circuit, so the main circuit would not cut off under this year's increased demand for electricity.

"I want the students to understand that the problem has been solved," Stoddard said. "What we did was we split the feeder and took some of the load off of the main switch. Before we could only handle 1,000 amps of power, but now we're up to 1,450 amps."

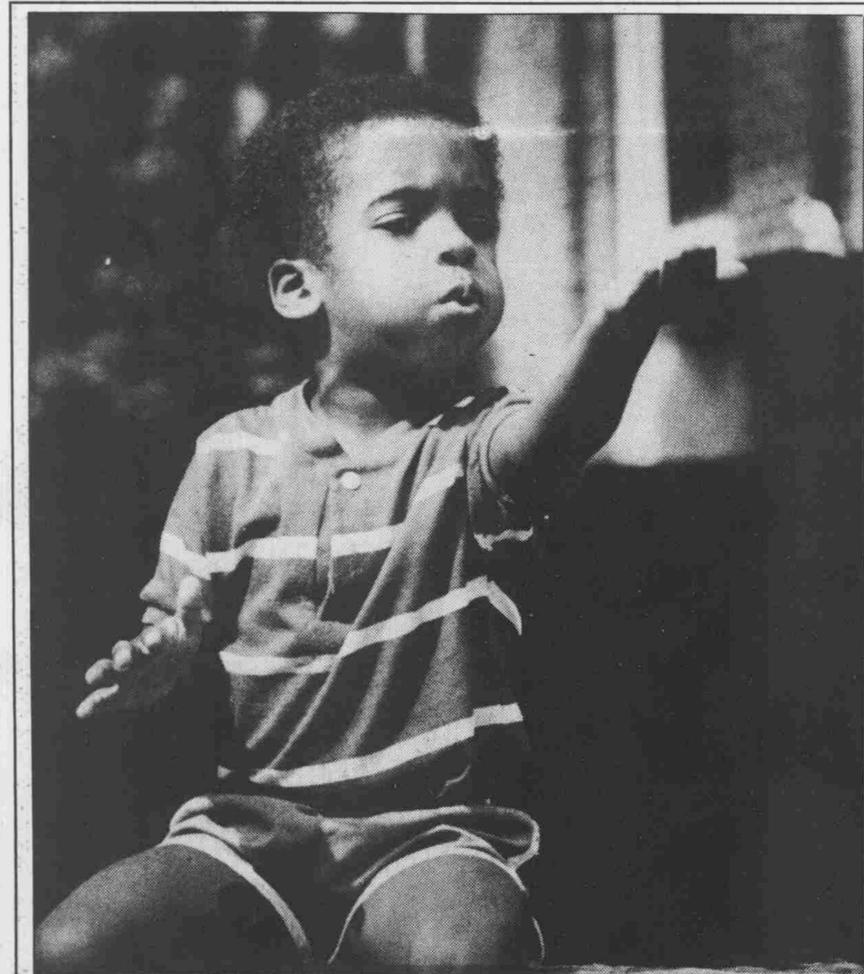
David Maynard, deputy superintendent of Housing Support Services, said Ehringhaus should not have any more power problems. "I'm not going to say the power won't go out tonight, but from what we saw Wednesday night, the circuits we have wired now can carry the amount of electricity the building needs. The power shouldn't go out."

Stoddard said the problem was an unusually large increase in the demand for power in Ehringhaus. The increase was totally unexpected, he said.

John Brock, an Ehringhaus resident, was glad to have the power back. "The nightly blackouts had gone from frustrating to ridiculous. I hope the electri-

cians got the power fixed for good." The rerouting of power is a temporary measure, Stoddard said. The University will not fix the problem permanently until Christmas because it requires shutting down the whole building.

See BLACKOUT, page 2



DTH/Jodi Anderson

Blowing in the wind

5-year-old Joshua Miller, an aspiring Tar Heel, takes time out to play with a cotton ball while

relaxing in the Pit on a warm, muggy Thursday afternoon.

Airport debate undecided

By CHARLES BRITAIN

City Editor

Whether debate will continue over the proposed renovations to Horace Williams Airport is still up in the air following the public hearing Tuesday.

Rebecca Zinn, president of the Chapel Hill Flying Club, said Thursday she was pleased with the hearing but only time will tell what the future holds for the issue.

"My personal feeling is that whether

this remains an issue or not depends on how much other people feel the need to discuss it."

If anyone comes forward with new information concerning the renovations or the use of the airport by the Flying Club, then more debate may be necessary, she said.

Zinn said she did not believe anyone has brought up anything new, but the debate over Horace Williams has been a recurring theme in Chapel Hill since

the 1960s. Some residents living near the airport have complained about the noise and the hazard of having an airport near a residential area.

Julie Andresen, a town council member and airport critic, said that clearing up views on Horace Williams was important, but that she was concerned with the University's plans to increase traffic at the airport.

See AIRPORT, page 2

Argument led to shooting

From staff reports

A shooting in downtown Chapel Hill two weeks ago was the result of an argument over \$100 in drug money, according to testimony given Wednesday at a District Court hearing.

Ernie Lassiter was shot six times on Aug. 31 during an argument with Bernie Atwater near the Chapel Hill Municipal Building.

In a statement read by Chapel Hill police Detective Felix Talbert, Atwater said Lassiter had told him several times that he would kill him if Atwater did not pay him for \$100 worth of drugs.

Lassiter made these threats because he thought Atwater had stolen the money from him following a drug deal in Durham, Talbert said.

After hearing the evidence, Judge Patricia Hunt of the Chapel Hill District Court decided there was probable cause to send the Atwater case to the Orange County Grand Jury for an indictment. If an indictment is given the case will then be heard in Orange County Superior Court.

Atwater, a Carrboro resident, is charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and with inflicting bodily injury.

Lassiter, who is also facing drug charges in Chatham County, was shot in the chest, arms, neck and legs and is hospitalized at North Carolina Memorial Hospital. A statement released by Chapel Hill police said Lassiter is para-

lyzed from the waist down.

Court records said Lassiter was released from prison in November after serving 16 months in prison on assault and drug charges.

Detective Talbert said Atwater made a statement to police after the shooting that he had gone to Durham with Lassiter on several occasions to purchase illegal drugs. Talbert was the only witness to speak at the hearing.

Atwater said in his police statement that Lassiter had threatened his life after deciding he had been cheated in one of the drug deals in Durham.

The police statement said Atwater began carrying a gun for his safety after Lassiter threatened him.

Atwater said that on the day of the shooting he was driving on North Columbia Street near the Municipal Building about 12:30 p.m. when he saw Lassiter.

Lassiter shouted at Atwater from his truck and ordered Atwater to give him his money or give him back his drugs. The two men parked their vehicles and continued to argue. Atwater said he insisted he did not owe Lassiter any money.

After Lassiter shoved him, Atwater shot him with a .32-caliber revolver, Atwater told police.

Atwater told police he was uncertain how many times he shot Lassiter or even if he did shoot him. He walked to

the Chapel Hill Fire Department after the shooting and turned himself and his gun in to public safety officers who then contacted police.

"I just didn't want to have to keep running from him," Atwater said in the police statement.

Inside

Diamond days
Zebulon to take up America's
favorite pastime 3

Speeding tickets
Hand-held computers to update
ticket system 4

Beatles '89
Group recreates Fab Four
sound to perfection 5

City and state news 3
University news 4
Features 5
Arts 6
Sports 7
Comics 9

It's all right letting yourself go, as long as you can get yourself back. — Mick Jagger