

STATE

Budget crunch stifles state's already-ailing education system

By KYLE YORK SPENCER
Staff Writer
Despite widespread agreement that action is needed to improve N.C. students' performance on the Scholastic

Ability Test and other standardized tests, the effect of state budget cuts on the quality of education is uncertain. Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner said that funding is not the problem and that the state

is spending too much money on non-teaching staff.

"I would disagree with superintendents who would say that the cuts would be crippling," he said. "I am very much concerned that we have literally poured money into education and we don't seem to be seeing any tangible results."

North Carolina's 1990 SAT scores improved to 49th in the nation from dead last a year ago. But the state is still well below the national average, said Glen Keever, director of communications for the state Department of Public Instruction.

"The superintendent will not be satisfied as long as North Carolina is anything less than the national average," Keever said. But budget reductions will make improvements even more difficult to build, he said.

This year the General Assembly cut back on its scheduled appropriation for the Basic Education Program, part of

funding for North Carolina's public schools, from \$119 million to \$44 million.

"But at the same time we were hit with a 3 percent budget reduction that is afflicting all state government agencies," Keever said. "This means that we have to give back the same amount of money that was appropriated for the Basic Education Program."

Decreased funds could affect more than just next year's SAT scores, because the scores represent a basic lack of knowledge rather than poor test-taking skills, according to the Task Force on Excellence in Secondary Education. The 32-member task force was appointed last September by Superintendent Bob Etheridge after the state received its low ranking.

"The state's ranking are a symptom of a much broader education problem," said Elliot Wolfe, a staff member on the task force.

In addition to making information for the SAT readily available across the state, Etheridge asked the General Assembly to provide funding to offset the cost of the Preliminary Scholastic Achievement Test for those students who have completed Algebra 1. The PSAT scores could then be used to discover which students would need special attention in preparing for the SAT.

While these short-term improvements were quickly undertaken, long-term solutions are proving too costly to initiate fully, according to district superintendents. Task Force suggestions include adding higher-level courses, such as calculus and physics; offering as many advanced placement courses as possible; and giving students specific advice on test-taking procedures.

But due to this year's budget cuts, many districts like Beaufort County were forced to scrap plans to implement

these suggestions.

"Cuts are making expansion impossible. Right now we are on hold," said Fred Wilson, assistant superintendent of the Beaufort County school system. Beaufort County has turned to local colleges and universities to help fund SAT programs and after-school remedial courses, Wilson said.

Although the task force suggested that summer school funds be used for remedial courses, the Hickory County high school is being forced to cancel summer remedial programs scheduled for next summer, district finance officer Kathy Isenhour said.

"This really hurts because it definitely affects students who need help," she said.

In addition, the Hickory public high school was unable to enhance this year's curriculum by adding new English, science or math courses, Isenhour said.

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the house," he said. "It would be like a bar."

Robb Beatty, IFC president, said the fraternities were taking a necessary step. "It's in the best interest of the fraternities, the University and the Chapel Hill town."

Beatty said he had no other comments on the proposal. He will hold a press conference next week after the fraternity presidents inform the members of the proposals, he said.

The IFC also decided dry rush guidelines would be the same as last semester. Fraternities are not allowed to serve alcohol to rushes during the dry rush period, which is Sept. 19-24. Formal rush is always dry, Beatty said. Formal rush will be Sept. 25-27.

Fraternities will be responsible for enforcing the dry rush policy themselves, Beatty said.

Repercussions for violators also will

be the same as last semester, Beatty said. The first time a fraternity violates the dry rush policy, it will receive a warning. The second time the policy is broken, the fraternity will receive a one-month social probation, and the third time it will be given two months of social probation. A fraternity on social probation cannot mix with any UNC sorority.

Violations from last semester will carry over to this semester, Beatty said.

If a fraternity who has a previous infraction violates the policy again, it will be placed on one month's social probation.

Dahan said the dry rush period was a good opportunity for fraternity members to get to know the rushes.

"It's definitely a good idea," he said. "We get to meet the guys."

Dunn said Sigma Nu did not receive any violations last semester. "It fit fine with us," he said. "The only problems are little things we all have to work on."

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Housing

Keene said she and five friends planned to live together this year in Ashley Forest. Keene said they paid \$200 each in February as a deposit on the house they were to move into in August.

Since Keene's arrival in Chapel Hill on Aug. 26, she has lived in a room in the Carolina Inn with one of the women she was to live with this year.

"I'm in limbo," she said. "My stuff is all over Chapel Hill. It's frustrating; there's no stability. I'm 20 years old and I'm homeless. You get impatient. You get tired."

Keene said she has no idea how much

longer it will be before she can move into the house. "I understand our place is a little more advanced than some. All it needs is to be inspected. I did talk to one guy, though, whose reservations were just extended for two more weeks."

Although the Bells are paying the room costs, living at the Carolina Inn is more expensive than living in a house, Keene said.

Each local telephone call costs 40 cents, Keene said. The students living at the Carolina Inn must also eat out often because there are no cooking facilities.

"I've spent so much money on food. We don't have a kitchen or even a

refrigerator, so I can't even have a bowl of cereal for breakfast in the mornings. We have to eat out all the time."

Despite the problems, the students plan to move into the houses. "We still want to live out there," Keene said. "It's really beautiful."

Campus Calendar

THURSDAY

3:30 p.m.: The Undergraduate Sociology Club will hold its first meeting of the year in 151 Hamilton. All majors, prospective majors and friends are invited to attend.

Career Planning and Placement Services will hold Job Hunt 101: Basic information on how to use the UCPPS office for seniors and graduate students in 210 Hanes.

4 p.m.: UNC Field Hockey Club will have an organizational meeting on the steps of Woollen Gym to welcome back old members and to welcome new ones and to plan for a great fall! No experience is necessary.

4:15 p.m.: UCPPS will hold Job Hunt 102: Resume writing workshop for seniors and graduate students in 210 Hanes.

5 p.m.: The Umstead Committee of the Campus Y will meet in the Y lounge for an orientation/information session.

6 p.m.: University Counseling Center presents "Brothers" discussion and support group for and about African-American male students. The introductory meeting will be held in Ehringhaus Residence Hall's first floor lounge. Undergraduate, graduate and professional students are all welcome.

The Presbyterian Campus Ministry will hold an undergraduate dinner at the Presbyterian Student Center, 110 Henderson St.

The Society of Professional Journalists will hold a potluck picnic in the Courtyard next to Howell Hall. All members and those interested in joining should attend. Please bring food if you can.

6:30 p.m.: The National Collegiate Black Caucus will have an informational meeting in the Black Cultural Center. Please come if you want to be an active participant in campus race relations.

7 p.m.: The UNC Outing Club will meet in 205 Union. Everyone is welcome to come learn about the club and its upcoming events such as Saturday's trip to Jordan Lake.

The Catalyst, journal of social and political commentary. Write, draw, satirize, photograph... come to the introductory keg party in 208 Union.

7:30 p.m.: The Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association will have a general body meeting in 209 Manning. A Chapel Hill Town Council member will speak.

Amnesty International Group 84 invites you to come to our campus introductory meeting in 101 Greenlaw if you are interested in human rights issues.

The UNC Retired Faculty Association will meet in the Auditorium of the Institute of Government to hear professor Robert A. Eisenbeis of the School of Business discuss "The S&L Debacle." The meeting is open to the public.

Modern Extension will have its first organizational meeting in the Women's Gym. Attendance is mandatory for all members.

8 p.m.: Chimera, UNC's Science Fiction and Fantasy Club, is holding an organizational meeting in 220 Union. New members are welcome!

The Spanish House invites all persons who would like to practice or improve their Spanish skills to our new "Charlamos" program every Thursday, second floor Carmichael Residence Hall. Questions? Call 933-0903.

The Senior Class of 1991 reminds Senior Class Marshals of our weekly meeting.

11 p.m.: WXYC FM 89.3 will play the new album from Bob Mould: *Black Sheets of Rain*, in its entirety with no interruptions.

ITEMS OF INTEREST
The University Counseling Center is looking for new members to join its Dissertation Support Group. For information/registration call 962-2175.

The Student Supreme Court has applications for Associate and Emergency Justices available in Suite C of the Union. All applications are due by 5 p.m., Sept. 11 in Suite C.

Carolina Tar Heel Voices is now holding auditions for the upcoming year. We are a mixed capella choral group who love to sing and have fun. Sign-up sheet available at the Union desk. Auditions are through today.

Student Health Service announces that a Diabetes Educational Group is now forming. Call 966-6562 for information/registration.

The Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, UNC's oldest student organizations, will hold a reception for persons interested in joining on Sunday, Sept. 16 from 2-4 p.m. in the Phi Chamber, top floor of New East.

PlayMakers Repertory Company will open its 15th season with "You Never Can Tell," Sept. 12-Oct. 7 at the Paul Green Theatre. For information call 962-PLAY.

UCPPS announces that the Foreign Service Written Exam will be held on Oct. 27. Deadline for receipt of application is Sept. 21. Applications are available in 211 Hanes.

Attention business students! Delta Sigma Pi, the professional business fraternity, is holding registration for fall rush through Friday outside Carroll Hall. All sophomores, junior and senior business students welcome!

Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity invites business, economics and industrial relations majors to rush the most diverse business fraternity. For more information come by our rush table in front of Carroll Hall through Friday.

The French House in Carmichael announces that there are still openings if you are interested in a great cultural experience and a lot of fun. Please call Laura Blackstone at 933-1003 or stop by 246 Carmichael.

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