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March 9,
1995

The Blue

BANNER

WEATHER: Mostly sunny
skies with moderating tempera-
tures. Highs in the low 60s.
Lows in the upper 30s.

VOLUME 23

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

NUMBER 20

Governor Hunt Includes Major Education Cuts In New Budget Proposal

Will Rothschild
Staff Writer

North Carolina Gov. Jim Hunt proposed a \$27 million cut in state university funding — some of which might force a 3.1-percent tuition increase — as part of his recent state budget proposal for 1995-97.

Most of these cuts would directly affect UNCA, and that has university officials worried.

"Overall, this is cause for deep concern among university administrators and trustees," Tom Byers, UNCA special assistant to the chancellor, said. "The University of North Carolina, with all its campuses, has been a central element in North Carolina's economic progress in modern history. It is cause of alarm if there are going to be cuts that take away the quality edge which this great system has enjoyed."

In a letter that accompanied his budget proposal, Hunt said: "This budget reflects my three priori-

ties for the coming year: tax relief for working families, cutting crime, and, most importantly, helping children...It is a statement of priorities: investing resources in areas that are most important to our taxpayers and in areas that will help to build our state...This budget also recommends shifting existing resources to high-priority areas like education and children, while streamlining and downsizing state government."

Yet in addition to Hunt's \$27 million-reduction proposal, Byers said the state legislature has an additional \$40 million in cuts it is considering, bringing the total to \$67 million in budget cuts targeted toward North Carolina's university system, currently on the state government's table.

Hunt's cuts center on a 3.1-percent hike in tuition for all students and a reduction in the university system's workforce.

If Hunt has his way, UNCA's full-time in-state students would see their tuition rise from 1994-95's \$794 a semester to \$818.61 a semester, while



"We are deeply concerned about any proposed cuts in personnel because we believe the administration here is already stretched pretty thin. We've been through tight budget times here for a while, and at UNCA, we have very little fat to cut." --Tom Byers, special assistant to the chancellor

full-time out-of-state students would pay \$3,773.46 per semester, compared to the \$3,660 they currently pay.

"The state believes it is subsidizing to some extent the tuition out-of-state students pay, but not nearly to the extent of in-state students," Byers said. "The state believes out-of-state students should pay a

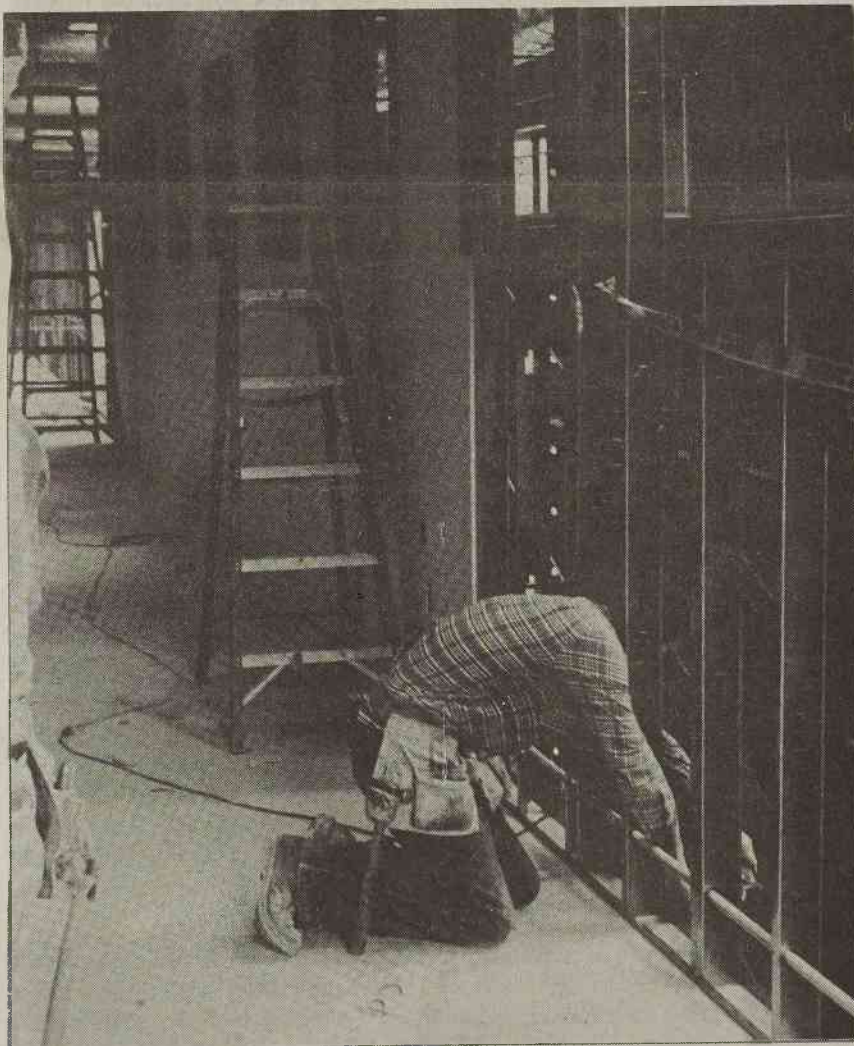
higher percentage of instructional costs. This would raise tuition by specific amounts."

Hunt's proposal calls for out-of-state students to pay 100 percent of instructional costs, meaning the state would no longer subsidize out-of-state students' tuition. Byers, however, doubts this will happen.

"I'm not confident in saying that 100 percent (of out-of-state students' instructional costs) would be paid (by out-of-state students)," Byers said. "That may be, but it is not clear from my information. What is clear is that a higher proportion of the instructional costs would

Please see "Cuts," page 10

Library Construction On Schedule



Renovation of Ramsey Library is progressing on schedule, according to Malcolm E. Blowers, university librarian. Blowers said some of the new areas will be occupied in early July. Plans are for the entire building to be completed and open to users by the beginning of the fall semester, said Blowers.

Photo by Tanya Mellon

UNCA Neighbors' Complaints Spark Change In Speed Limit On Edgewood Road

Christin Hall
Staff Writer

In response to the complaints from a number of residents in the neighborhood along Edgewood Road, authorities have lowered the speed limit from 30 to 25 miles per hour. Residents who were concerned about cars speeding through their neighborhood, including many UNCA students who use Edgewood Road, formed a community group and petitioned to have the speed limit lowered.

"I think getting the speed limit reduced was a big step, and if it will be monitored, that'll make a big difference," said Laurie Moser, who has lived at 195 Edgewood Road for about three and a half years. "We would just like to have a safer, quieter neighborhood."

Edgewood is the road that runs into University Heights on the northeast side of UNCA's campus and stretches from the campus through a residential section, across Merrimon Avenue, and then continues on up to Kimberly Avenue. The road is popular among UNCA students as an alternate entrance to the school's main entrance off W.T. Weaver Boulevard.

Moser said she wishes students would not use her road to travel to and from

campus, because Edgewood Road is supposed to be primarily a residential street. There are other, more appropriate ways to get to UNCA, she said.

"I would like to see [authorities] push students more over to W.T. Weaver," Moser said. "I mean, that's a four-lane road. I think that was designed to go into campus."

Neighbor David Whitley, of 210 Edgewood Road, said he agrees with Moser that it would be preferable for students to make greater use of W.T. Weaver Boulevard. He said that road, with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour and four lanes, is much better equipped to handle the traffic load that has been forced onto Edgewood.

Moser and Whitley agreed that, although many people travel the road unnecessarily, using it as a short-cut, students comprise well over half of the extraneous traffic on Edgewood.

"It's not all students, but I think the majority are students," said Moser.

In fact, according to Sergeant Steve Oxner, supervisor of the Asheville Police Department's (APD's) STEP (Selective Traffic Enforcement Program) unit, UNCA students have been, and still are, the biggest offenders of violating the speed limit on Edgewood Road.

Oxner said the decrease in the speed limit came about as a result of "multiple, multiple complaints" from area residents. He said that, for now, officers are primarily giving warnings to speeders until people get used to the new speed limit.

Once a reasonable grace period has passed, however, Oxner said the police will begin issuing tickets for exceeding the speed limit.

"Folks have to get into the habit of obeying the speed limit," said Oxner. He said APD has increased its patrols during peak travel times and will continue to do so as long as it is necessary.

Moser said she hopes the police department will follow through on its word and patrol the area more heavily than it has in previous years.

"I don't see a lot of monitoring," said Moser. "I've seen, in the past year, just a handful of police monitoring, but it's just not something you see on a real regular basis. I hope that they will monitor it more than they have in the past."

Jeff Van Slyke, director of public safety on campus, said he knows APD patrols the road more thoroughly now and stations officers in certain places where

Please see "Complaints," page 10

UNCA Student Says Some Marriott Dining Hall Employees Are Racist

Todd Hagans
Staff Writer

A UNCA student said that an employee of Marriott Dining Services talked to her in a "degrading manner" because she is an African-American student after she entered the university dining hall on Sunday, February 26.

Tarasai Samuels, a senior majoring in education and Spanish, said that she did not have her identification card upon entering the dining hall on Sunday evening, and was told by the cashier, Leland Davis, to obtain a temporary identification card from the student manager. Samuels said that she picked up a tray and silverware as she went to talk to the student manger, Quentin Cavanagh.

"He [the cashier] started talking to me in a degrading manner, and told me to put it [the tray and silverware] down," said Samuels. "I told him [that] he needed to respect me. I just feel that his problem was biased, and that he wouldn't have done it [talked to Samuels in a "degrading manner"] if I weren't black. I'm just not going to

tolerate being talked to like that by anyone."

"He [Davis] told her [Samuels] that if she entered the cafeteria without coming to find me first [to obtain a temporary identification card], that he was going to call security," said Cavanagh.

Cavanagh said that he got Samuels a temporary identification card, and that she supplied the appropriate information to complete the transaction. Samuels was allowed to eat in the dining hall that evening.

"As a black woman, I deserved respect from him," said Samuels. "If he [Davis] wanted me to put the tray down, all he had to do was say, 'Put the tray down,' in a nice way."

Leland Davis declined to comment on the incident.

"Ms. Samuels came up to me while I was serving students. She told me that I was threatened by educated black women. She asserted that I had a guilty look on my face. I told her the look was anger," said Beth Palien, the dining hall service manager, in a written statement.

Palien said that she told Samuels that she would talk to her about the incident when the dining hall closed for the evening.

Cavanagh said that the cashier was told Sunday evening to make sure that students had their identification cards. If a student did not have his or her identification card, he or she had to obtain a temporary identification card from a Marriott employee.

Samuels said that some cashiers will allow students to manually enter their social security number into the machine when they do not have their identification card.

"I have experienced racism since I've been here," said Samuels.

Palien said that she and Cavanagh were in the dining hall office later that evening, and that Samuels asked her who she needed to speak to concerning racism in Marriott. Palien said that Samuels could contact the Director of Human Resources in Charlotte, or talk to Ken Barefoot, the director of dining services.

Palien said that Samuels asked for Barefoot's home telephone number, and that she told Samuels that she could not give employee's home telephone numbers out to anyone.

"She [Samuels] then asked me if I had been a racist all my life. Ms. Samuels also asked me if I belonged to the [Ku Klux] Klan. I answered in the negative," said Palien in her statement.

"She [Palien] does things to African-American students all of the time," said Samuels. "I want Beth [Palien] out. Beth [Palien] needs to go."

Samuels said that other students have been involved in incidents with Palien.

Palien said that she has had incidents with students before, but they were not racial incidents.

Palien said that the incidents involve students not agreeing with dining hall policies such as the hours of the dining hall, needing identification cards to enter the dining hall, and taking food out of the dining hall.

Please see "Racist," page 5