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April 20,
1995

The Blue

BANNER

"We love eloquence for its own sake, and not for any truth which it may utter, or any heroism it may inspire."--Henry David Thoreau

WEATHER: Mostly cloudy Saturday morning with a chance of showers. Mostly sunny Sunday. Highs in upper 70s. Lows in 40s.

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Students Protest Budget Cuts

Andrea Lawson
Staff Writer

A rally was held on the quad yesterday to protest the proposed reductions in the state budget involving state universities. Included in the reductions is the elimination of approximately 400 faculty positions and over \$47 million state-wide.

"When we found out [about the budget cuts], several student body presidents, including myself and the student body presidents at Chapel Hill, North Carolina A&T, and UNC-Wilmington, decided we had to do something about it," said Denise Tomlinson, president of SGA. "These budget cuts are not definite yet, and while we understand the need to cut the budget, we don't want the universities to carry that much of it. The rally is for students, faculty, and staff to join forces and let the people know that we don't want this."

According to Tomlinson, it is uncertain how many faculty positions UNCA will lose if the budget cuts are approved.

"I believe we will have to make that decision at this level," Tomlinson said. "My thought is that they will give us a certain amount to cut in faculty, and we will have to figure out how to do it."

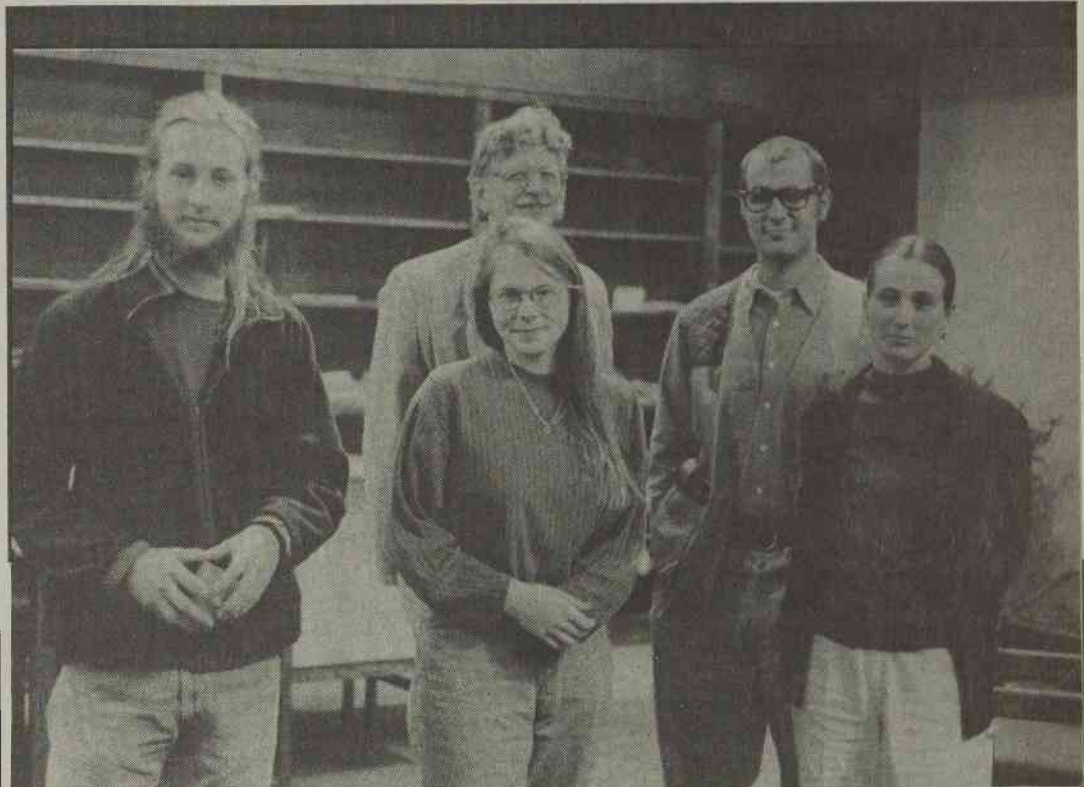
Since the 1989-90 school year, the budget for universities has been cut by \$144.4 million, according to Tomlinson. Included in the previous cuts were 410 teaching positions and 1,220 non-teaching positions.

"You're looking at 1,600 positions that we've already given up," Tomlinson said. "Just to get the faculty/student ratio back to what it was, we need \$25 million more, and they're cutting us \$47 million more. It just doesn't make sense to me."

Tomlinson said that tuition has increased by 70% state-wide, in addition to the loss of faculty positions.

"Only 3.5% of graduates from UNC schools who were actively looking for employment in 1993 were unemployed," said Tomlinson. "80% of those who were working full-time were living in North Carolina. We think the universities are doing their part by putting what we use back into the state."

"We're going to have smaller teaching staffs, larger classes, and fewer classes," said Tomlinson. "We really don't want that to happen. We're going to be giving out the information and giving people the opportunity to send in letters to their representatives."



On Wednesday, April 12, winners were announced for the Literature Club's Creative Writing Contest. (From left to right) Winners were Anthony Gagnon, poetry, Jerome Carpenter, non-fiction, Jessica Gary, fiction and Brett Doar, playwriting. Also pictured is Michelle Ellis, a graduating senior who read an excerpt from a novel in progress.

Photo by Marti Parson

Poverty Simulation Is Planned

Todd Hagans
Staff Writer

Students, faculty, staff, and community members can experience the reality of living in poverty during a poverty simulation on April 25. The participants in the event, sponsored by the Affordable Housing Coalition, will assume the role of a family living in poverty.

"Poverty simulation is not a game," said Cecil Donahue, the United Methodist campus minister at UNCA. "It's a way of trying to experience what it is like to live in poverty."

The simulation will be held in the old dining hall in the Highsmith Center, and will begin at 7 p.m. with a 30-minute introductory session, followed by the hour-long simulation. Participants will have a chance to talk about their experiences and feelings during an hour-long discussion session following the simulation.

During the event, there will be tables set up around the room that represent agencies such as the welfare office, the housing authority, and the employment

office. Participants will move to the tables as if they were actually applying for welfare, housing, or employment. The participants will complete the necessary paperwork to receive these services, just like a person in a real-life situation, according to Donahue.

"You have to do exactly what anybody on the street or in a poverty situation would have to do to get funding and help from these agencies," said Donahue. Donahue said members of the UNCA community can register for the event during lunch and dinner this week outside of the new dining hall, or by contacting Pam Daniel, the Presbyterian campus minister, in room 36 of Highsmith Center. The cost is \$5 for students, and \$10 for others interested in participating in the simulation. The registration fee charged to participate in the event will cover the cost of conducting the simulation, and will raise money for the Housing Crisis Counseling Program fund, according to organizers.

The Housing Crisis Counseling Program helps families avoid homelessness

See "Poverty," page 10

Student Housing Crunch May Worsen

Renee Slaydon
Guest Writer

With only six students signed up for the new triple rooms in Highrise next fall, UNCA's current housing problems continue to grow.

For next fall, twenty rooms in Highrise will offer the triple room accommodation. Out of Mills Hall, Governor's Village, and South Ridge, Highrise offers the most space available for the upcoming conversion.

The school plans to purchase loft units for these rooms in order to maximize enough space to house three students in a room, according to Peter Williams, director of housing and residence life. The triple rooms will cost \$600 per student each semester.

"We also have, based on a committee decision, been told that we will have approximately 450 new students that we have to accommodate next fall," said Williams.

The recent housing figures show between 550 to 600 returning students who also need housing for next fall.

About 65 percent of current resident students want to return to campus after this semester, said Williams.

In addition, enrollment targets affect the growing housing problems at UNCA.

"Institutionally, we commit to enrollment targets every year," said Caroline Miller, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management.

The school must have 2,620 full-time equivalence students enrolled for the next year. Miller said approximately \$5,700 in state-funded money may be lost for every student less than the required number. Last year, with the same enrollment target, UNCA fell short by 88 students.

According to Williams, this housing problem has continued every year except for 1987 and 1988. In 1987, Mills Hall opened up, solving housing shortages for about two years.

Currently, UNCA is trying to lease nearby apartments to house students, similar to UNCA's arrangement with Mountain Trace, said Williams.

UNCA expected last fall's opening of

South Ridge residence hall, housing 112 students, to hold off space problems for at least a year.

However, South Ridge residents received a \$160 refund due to several maintenance problems, and students still need further housing.

"One of the things that happens between now and August 17 is that students who sign up for residence halls find alternative living situations," said Miller.

According to Miller, some students find apartments to live in, decide to commute, or transfer out of UNCA. Because of this situation, beds usually become available. "We're probably not going to be able to do that this year," said Miller.

UNCA's current policy is to guarantee housing through each student's senior year, provided that the student maintains full-time status.

Some universities operate a lottery system, where after one or two years, names are drawn to decide who will receive university housing.

"We do not want to go to a lottery system," said Williams.

Recently Installed SGA Officers Begin Planning For New Administration

Andrea Lawson
Staff Writer

Installation of the new SGA officers was held on April 5 in the new private dining room. The oath of office was taken by the new president, vice president, and Senate members.

According to Denise Tomlinson, president of SGA, the new Senate will be voting on executive appointments during the first few weeks of its term.

"[Appointments] are the most important thing to get started on," said Tomlinson. "I have 80 appointments to make, and I've made approximately half of those. They [the appointments] will be coming up before the Senate in the next couple of weeks. Everybody will be passed or failed, and they're all approved by the Senate."

Tomlinson said that banners were put up around campus during spring break to notify students that applications for government positions were being accepted.

"We've gotten a good response," Tomlinson



New SGA officers: Denise Tomlinson, President and Dhaval "Doc" Patel, vice president

Photo by Tanya Melton

said. "We're always looking for more people to be involved, and we can always find a way for people to get involved."

Tomlinson said the new officers were trained during an interim period that lasted from the time election results were determined until the new officers were inaugurated. The former president and vice president of SGA, Gerard Moses and

Ryan DeSear, are assisting Tomlinson and the new vice president, Dhaval "Doc" Patel.

"They [Moses and DeSear] have an unofficial role to help Doc [Patel] and me to get used to everything," said Tomlinson. "It was hard for me to get used to, but Gerard [Moses] has helped me and introduced me to different administrators I didn't know. I know that Ryan [DeSear] has helped Doc [Patel] as well."

According to Tomlinson, the Senate members are also voting on a transition team established by her.

"My goal with it is to have a team consisting of different people in the different branches of government and have those people come together and look at some of the problems that we faced over the past year and find ways to correct those problems, whether it's a constitutional amendment or a change in the way we do things," said Tomlinson. "I've added a couple of executive positions that I think are necessary, one of those being public relations. I've also made a special assistant for minority affairs who will be on the minority affairs commission."

According to Tomlinson, the petition circulated by students will not result in a new election. Tomlinson said that the intergovernmental directive was passed by the Senate, but was vetoed by Moses. Efforts to overturn the veto were not successful.

"The information that was given [to hold new elections], in my opinion, was proved to be inadequate," Tomlinson said. "The things presented on the petition were not true, or they were half-truths."

"It was really hard to be the president-elect when there was so much controversy going on," Tomlinson said. "But, as president-elect, I had responsibilities that I had to take care of as soon as I was elected. I immediately began having responsibilities such as doing the budget for the upcoming year and starting the appointment process."

According to Tomlinson, the executive branch will be examining some concerns of the students in the coming weeks.

See "SGA," page 7