

Court ruling Structures, standards continue to rise unholds UNC Requirements for incoming book program freshman at all-time high

MEREDITH NICHOLSON

THE DAILY TARHEEL

A judge in the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond upheld a ruling Monday stating that UNC's summer reading program does not violate the separation of church and state

The action came just days after a federal district court judge refused to order an injunction blocking Monday's discussion sections which were held as originally scheduled.

Judge N. Carlton Tilley said Thursday that he did not see a correlation between indoctrination and asking students to read a book about Islam.

The Virginia-based Family Policy Network filed a case last month opposing the UNC program that asks incoming students to read "Approaching the Our'an: The Early Revelations," translated and introduced by Michael Sells. The book consists of 35 suras, or short passages from the chief holy book of Islam, and Sells' analysis of them.

Tilley said the assignment is not mandatory because the papers are not graded and the students meet in small groups where attendance is not taken. Tilley also said students who chose not to participate did not suffer any consequences. The program could not be construed as mandatory if there were no repercussions for failing to attend, he said.

JAMES FLINT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Academic standards continue to rise at UNCW, while the number of freshman decreased by 400. The class of 2006 consists of 1,600 freshmen. The average SAT score for new freshman is 1129, and the mean GPA is 3.65. UNCW is more competitive this year, accepting 1,600 of the 7.600 freshman applicants.

UNCW administration is encouraging freshmen to become involved with campus life. "All research that is out there indicates that involvement leads to a higher GPA, a higher graduation rate and a higher rating of the

their horizons, take an array of classes, gain insight into different cultures and live a healthy lifestyle," Dean of Students

The addition of UNCW's first doctoral program, a Ph.D. in marine biology, gives freshmen and other students a new goal to strive for. A more immediate goal for freshmen are the new post-baccalaureate certificates in environmental studies. Bachelor of Science and Statistics. Bachelor of Arts in Public Affairs and a minor in choral @ music and economics for non-



Education building, dorm now under construction

JAMES FLINT

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Four major construction projects are underway on

Expansion is possible due to the \$108 million UNCW received in November of 2000 from the higher education facilities bond.

The money will be used to build new structures and to renovate existing ones like the Sarah Graham Kenan

located near the International new paint, curtains and House. It will house 263 stu-Construction for Watson

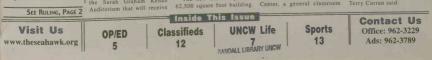
"(The new structures) allow us to invest in the community around us through puba new residence hall lic service, commitment to ideals of environment, technology and community."

Dean of Students Terry Curran

Plans for the Student Union expansion, the Cameron Business College The new dormitory is a Arts and Science Technical Center, a general classroom

Union expansion begins in February of 2003 and should

all part of the plan that Dr. us to continue to invest in the community around us through public service, comment, technology and community," Dean of Students



The Watson School of

Education is an 82,000

square foot building.

The education building currently under construction should look like this artist's rendering when finished. Other buildings under construction include a residence hall

Construction for

last for 2 years. "The new structures are