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Mrs. Hazel Lipscomb, niece, is shown with Mrs. Olivia Deans on her 100th birthday anniversary.

## UNC campuses slated for new fee, tuition increases

By Emery P. Dalesio  
RALEIGH (AP) - University of North Carolina students who pay in-state rates are facing a more than \$400 tuition increase, despite President Barack Obama's warning that schools could lose funding if they don't find ways to keep costs down.

The issue is especially touchy in the state that established America's first public university. Student groups from across the state are planning to march Feb. 10, just before university system trustees vote on the proposed \$468 increase.

Juan Miranda, a 21-year-old senior studying sociology at UNC-Greensboro, said he's struggling to pay for school and is working to organize a caravan of students for the protest.

"It's becoming more of a luxury every day. It's really no longer something you can just expect to do after high school because it's becoming really difficult, especially for working-class families, people of color and immigrants," said Miranda, whose family immigrated from Ecuador when he was 9.

But the cost increases the public university system's president is recommending are well below what campus leaders said they needed and will make up just 17 percent of the \$414 million cut by state legislators last year. The budget cut forced the 16 university campuses and the School of Science and Math in Durham to drop more than 3,000 employees, cut library hours at Appalachian State University and UNC-Wilmington, and prevent hundreds of North Carolina Central University students from enrolling in general education math courses, according to a UNC System report on the impact of reduced funding.

"I believe that these recommendations balance the campuses' demonstrated need for increased resources with the limited ability of many students and families to sustain further tuition increases in this tough economy," UNC System President Tom Ross said in a letter to board members. "This modest infusion of new revenues will help to stabilize campus operations and give our campuses limited relief from years of continuous budget cuts."

The undergraduate North Carolina resident student pays an average tuition and fees of \$5,294 a year, not including books and living expenses. It is higher at the system's two flagship schools, with UNC-Chapel Hill students paying \$6,823 and North Carolina State University charging \$6,964.

Ross is recommending raising those costs by an average of 8.8 percent when the new academic year starts in August. The bills would increase by 4.3 percent, or \$199, next year at UNC-Pembroke. At the high end, costs would rise by 9.9 percent at UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Asheville, Winston-Salem State University, Western Carolina University, and the UNC School of the Arts. That means tuition increases ranging from \$447 at WSSU to \$676 at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The average increase would be less than the 9.3 percent hike approved last year. The university board has wrestled with overshooting a self-imposed limit on tuition increases of 6.5 percent a year.

Ross proposed increasing tuition by another 4.2 percent on average for the 2013-14 academic year, though Fayetteville State University students would see no further increase.

Out-of-state undergraduate students can expect an increase next fall averaging 5.2 percent, increasing their bill by \$923 to \$17,995. Campuses are (Continued On Page 2)



OUT OF THE RAIN - These two young people were participants in the Martin Luther King, Jr./Black History Month Parade Sat., Feb. 4. See related pictures

## Obama could alter stance of federal appeals courts

By Mark Sherman  
WASHINGTON (AP) - A second term for President Barack Obama would allow him to expand his replacement of Republican-appointed majorities with Democratic ones on the nation's appeals courts, the final stop for almost all challenged federal court rulings.

Despite his slow start in nominating judges and Republican delays in Senate confirmations, Obama has still managed to alter the balance of power on four of the nation's 13 circuit courts of appeals. Given a second term, Obama could have the chance to install Democratic majorities on several others.

Fourteen of the 25 appeals court judges nominated by Obama replaced Republican appointees.

The next president, whether Obama or a Republican, also has a reasonable shot at transforming the majority on the Supreme Court, because three justices representing the closely divided court's liberal and conservative wings, as well as its center, will turn 80 before the next presidential term ends.

The three justices are Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the leader of the court's liberal wing, conservative Antonin Scalia, and Anthony Kennedy, who leans conservative but on some issues provides a decisive vote for the liberals.

The next high court opening would cause a titanic confirmation fight if it would allow a Republican president to cement conservative control of the court by replacing Ginsburg or if Obama could give Democratic appointees a working majority for the first time in decades by replacing Scalia or Kennedy.

The prospect of such dramatic change on the Supreme Court, along with the justices' strikingly high-profile election-year docket could heighten the judiciary's importance as an election issue, said Curt Levey,

Committee for Justice. The justices will hear arguments on Obama's health care overhaul in March and Arizona's immigration crackdown in April. The court also could soon decide whether to hear a Texas affirmative action case challenging the use of race as a factor in college admissions.

Even one new justice can produce dramatic change. Justice Samuel Alito replaced the more moderate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and shifted the outcome in cases on abortion, campaign finance and other key issues, even though both were appointed by Republicans.

Openings on the circuit courts of appeals get much less attention, but those courts have the last say in most legal disputes that are appealed in the federal system. Only about 80 cases make it to the Supreme Court every year.

There are still more Republicans than Democrats on the circuit appeals courts and on the entire federal bench. But if Obama merely filled existing vacancies, Democratic appointees would be the majority on the

influential court of appeals in Washington, where four current Supreme Court justices once served, and the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Republicans also maintain their edge on the 10th Circuit in Denver only because two judge-ships are empty.

Two other appeals courts on which Republicans have comfortable majorities could shift over the next four years. The Chicago-based 7th Circuit has four judges in their 70s who were chosen by Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. In the New Orleans-based 5th Circuit, Judge Emilio Garza, a Republican appointee, will take senior status in August, a move that will open a seat while Garza takes a smaller caseload. Two Reagan picks in their 70s remain on the court.

Twelve Reagan appointees now in their 70s remain on circuit appeals courts or, in the case of Scalia and Kennedy, the Supreme Court.

Republican presidents, in recent decades, have been more aggressive than Democrats in

(Continued On Page 2)

## Gov. Perdue Appoints Judge Leon Stanback As Interim Durham DA

RALEIGH - Gov. Bev Perdue today (Feb. 1) appointed retired Superior Court Judge A. Leon Stanback to serve as interim District Attorney for Durham County.

"Judge Stanback has served North Carolina and the Durham community with distinction as a prosecutor, parole commissioner and Superior Court judge," Gov. Perdue said. "He is the ideal person to bring strong leadership to the district attorney's office at this challenging time."

Judge Stanback served as a Superior Court judge for the 14th judicial district beginning in 1989 until his retirement in 2009. His distinguished legal career includes his private law practice and his service both as a member of the North Carolina Parole Commission and as an assistant district attorney in Guilford County.

## Union expresses support for Greenville workers

GREENVILLE (AP) - Union representatives are expressing their support for public employees in Greenville, who say they're concerned about dignity, fairness and respect on the job.

The Daily Reflector of Greenville reported that representatives of UE Local 150 held a news conference Feb. 1 to express their support. Also attending the news conference were officials from the Pitt County Coalition Against Racism and the local NAACP chapter.

Sanitation workers conducted a brief work stoppage Nov. 9 to protest working conditions. They later met with two city council members and representatives of the state chapter of the NAACP.

## NAACP files lawsuit over NC county voting rules

GREENSBORO (AP) - The NAACP has filed a lawsuit over a North Carolina law that will leave thousands of Guilford County residents without representation on the local board of commissioners until 2014.

The civil rights group filed the complaint in federal court Feb. 2, saying the state law passed last year violates the constitutional principal of one person, one vote.

The General Assembly approved a law last year that changes the way Guilford County commissioners are elected. The number of commissioners is being reduced from 11 to nine, and a new district has been created.

But that district won't be allowed to elect a commissioner until 2014. The lawsuit says at least one other district will have two commissioners instead of one.

## Hearing planned for Greenville city workers

GREENVILLE (AP) - Public employees in the city of Greenville are invited to participate in a public hearing that the NAACP is sponsoring about their working conditions.

The Daily Reflector of Greenville reported that the hearing will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at South Greenville Recreation Center. The NAACP says all city employees are invited to discuss work-related issues.

State NAACP leader the Rev. William Barber will lead the panel.

The sanitation workers conducted a brief work stoppage in November to protest working conditions. Supporters say a management-employee committee set up to discuss problems isn't working.

A city spokesman says managers needed to be on the committee to make sure all viewpoints were heard.