

# The Daily Tar Heel

**INSIDE THURSDAY**  
APRIL 11, 1996



**Course Review Could Fold**  
The Carolina Course Review has debts and no money in the bank. *Page 3*



**Children Are The Future**  
A UNC graduate student is organizing a national campaign for kids. *Page 3*



**Will Willhoit Win?**  
Incumbent Orange County Commissioner Don Willhoit wants a sixth term. *Page 4*

**Today's Weather**  
Sunny, breezy; high 70s.  
Friday: Sunny; high upper-70s.

103 years of editorial freedom  
Serving the students and the University community since 1893  
News/Features/Arts/Sports 962-0245  
Business/Advertising 962-1163  
Volume 104, Issue 29  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
© 1996 DTH Publishing Corp.  
All rights reserved.

## Health Insurance Plan for TAs Likely to Die in Legislature

BY ERIC FLACK  
STAFF WRITER

The question is no longer whether graduate students at UNC schools need health insurance; The question is whether the General Assembly will give it to them.

During the legislature's short session in May, the UNC-system Board of Governors will ask the General Assembly for an extra \$8.45 million to provide health insurance benefits to all graduate students working for UNC schools as teaching and research assistants.

But some Republican state legislators seem uncertain whether the TAs' and RAs' needs are more pressing than those of other N.C. residents who are also demanding money from the General Assembly.

N.C. Sen. J. Mark McDaniel Jr., R-Forsyth, said because of increased spending in 1995 and other back payments, the state could only approve a partial increase in funds.

"What most likely is going to happen is a partial phase-in of funding," McDaniel said. "State spending increased 25 percent in 1995 alone. (The General Assembly) might go for a fourth or a half of it, but it would surprise me if all (\$ 8.5 million) got through."

McDaniel said the General Assembly must refund \$5 million over the next three to six years to federal retirees, as well as \$340 million over the next four years to residents who paid intangibles taxes. Should the sales tax on food be phased out, the state will lose another \$82 million. In addition, teachers and state employees are asking for raises.

N.C. Rep. Danny McComas, R-New Hanover, shared his

### Graduate Student Budget

Spring semester budget for a graduate student at UNC for January through mid-May.

Salary for full teaching responsibility of one class (typical assignment)	\$4,200
Less taxes (roughly 22 percent)	\$924
Less tuition and fees	\$876
Less health insurance	\$331
Less books (conservative estimate)	-\$150
Balance left for living expenses	\$1,919
Rent and utilities (approximately \$327/month)	-\$1,471
Balance left for transportation, meals and other necessities (approximately \$25/week)	\$448

SOURCE: GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS FEDERATION DTH/MARK WEISSMAN

colleague's pessimism toward increased UNC-system funding. "Many groups are asking for additional funding, but other things need to be addressed," he said. "There are many competitive demands."

The increased funding is imperative if the university system wants to be competitive in attracting the most talented graduate

See GRADUATE INSURANCE, Page 2

## Many Grad Students Cannot Afford Insurance

BY SHELLEY HARPER  
STAFF WRITER

Grant Moss, a graduate student and teaching assistant in the English department, has health insurance now but has not always enjoyed this assurance. Moss was cut off from his parents' insurance policy at age 23. After completing his undergraduate degree, Moss had no access to health insurance.

Since coming to UNC, Moss has subscribed to the Student Health Service insurance plan for graduate students, which cost \$623 for the 1995-96 school year.

The plan has been beneficial for Moss. Shortly after coming to UNC, he broke his foot and had medical bills totaling more than \$2,000. "There's no way I could have covered those expenses on my own," Moss said.

Although the expense is a large portion of Moss' budget, he said he did not

think he could go without it.

But that's what many of UNC's graduate students do — go without health insurance because they can't afford it.

"It's very difficult, if not impossible, to come up with that kind of money on a teaching assistant's salary," Moss said.

Although it is not known how many graduate students do not have health insurance, the chief of staff for the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, Steve Oljeski, estimated that more than 50 percent of graduate students was uninsured or underinsured.

The GPSF is completing a study to find out how many graduate students have insurance.

Oljeski said the structure of the SHS plan made it especially difficult to afford.

"The biggest problem with the current plan is coming up with the money at the beginning of the semester, with tuition and book expenses," he said.

The plan does not allow students to join

in the middle of the semester, he said.

GPSF Health Survey Coordinator Elizabeth Guthrie said she thought the University needed to evaluate what graduate students contributed to the school and what those students received in return.

Guthrie said health insurance was particularly important for graduate students with spouses and children.

While Guthrie has health insurance, many of her friends do not, she said. "You are taking a risk, and you just never know," she said.

Claire LaForce, a graduate student in the School of Information and Library Science, has a pre-existing condition that prevents her from finding health insurance.

She said that this was a problem for older graduate students and that she thought the UNC-system Board of Governors needed to look at coverage to meet these needs.

## Statewide Coalition Protests Privatization at Capitol

BY JOHN PATTERSON  
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — "No justice, no peace!" "No jobs, no peace!"

Shouts for action like these echoed from the south side of the N.C. General Assembly building Wednesday afternoon as more than 300 students, housekeepers and supporters from across the state gathered to protest the possible privatization of housekeeping jobs at UNC-system schools.

"Privatization has nothing but a negative impact for everyone," UNC-CH housekeeper Larry Farrar told those attending the rally. "It's not just about money or jobs, it's about the entire community."

Farrar was one of the dozen or so speakers who voiced the concerns of students and housekeepers attending the hourlong rally. Delegations from East Carolina University, N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University and N.C. State University also attended the rally, organized by UNC-CH's Coalition for Economic Justice and housekeeper organizations from participating universities.

"Privatization is a human issue, and we want the people affected to be a part of the protest," said Ginger Norwood, a coalition member and a junior at UNC-CH. "I agree that it is definitely a community issue, because privatization affects the entire community as much as it affects the housekeepers themselves."

Privatization has been a concern of housekeepers since last summer, when the legislature ordered the UNC system to

study the possibility of privatizing a wide range of services. Housekeepers are worried that privatization will lead not only to job losses but also to a number of other problems.

"If they privatize, then the housekeepers that get to keep their jobs would get lower wages and decreased benefits," Farrar said. "Lower pay and little or no benefits would only lead to unsatisfied workers providing poor service."

Protesters said they wanted state representatives to "clean up" their act on privatization. To emphasize their demands, they ended Wednesday's rally with a special delivery to two members of the legislature.

About 100 protesters, chanting "Organize, don't privatize," delivered symbolic brooms to the offices of Speaker of the House Harold Brubaker, R-Randolph, and Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight, D-Dare.

"We want government to know how we feel about privatization because we want it cleaned up," said Gregory Barrett, a housekeeper at ECU, which contracted out its housekeeping services in 1990. "We are going to take these brooms in there to clean up."

Protesters said housekeepers and students realized privatization was attractive to taxpayers and legislators because it often saved tax dollars. But the way in which privatization saves taxpayer money is often covered up, Farrar said.

See RALLY, Page 2



UNC housekeepers and supporters display picket signs protesting the state's privatization study (above right). About 300 students, housekeepers and supporters from across the state gathered Wednesday on the steps of the N.C. General Assembly building in Raleigh for the afternoon protest (above left).



DTH/JASON KIRK

## New Police Device Might Strengthen Container Law

BY MARY-KATHRYN CRAFT  
STAFF WRITER

Are the days of Chapel Hill's self-proclaimed beer patriot's fight for beer drinking rights numbered? The Chapel Hill Police Department may have found a way to counter claims that the open-container law is unenforceable or ambiguous.

Sonny Austin, Chapel Hill police evidence technician, has developed a device that determines the alcohol content of a beverage. The device can distinguish between alcoholic and non-alcoholic liquids, and it measures levels of alcohol content in the alcoholic beverages, Austin said.

Orange-Chatham District Attorney Carl Fox said the device offered solutions to problems with proving violations of the open-container law. "The main problem we've encountered with the self-proclaimed beer patriot is that we couldn't prove if the beverage was alcoholic," he said.

UNC graduate student Jonathan McMurry, who calls himself the beer patriot, has sought twice to prove the open-container law is unenforceable by getting cited for holding what he said was nonalcoholic beer on Franklin Street.

After McMurry's second violation was thrown out of court, District Court Judge Lowry Betts called the law "vague and unenforceable" because it did not define a malt beverage specifically. Fox said his office would stop prosecuting open-container violations if another judge backed Betts' ruling.

But with the new device, the open-container law could be more enforceable, Fox said. The new device conclusively tests whether beverages are alcoholic, he said. "The device looks like it has a real good scientific basis," he said. The testing device operates with an Alco-Sensor, which is a commercial hand-held machine used in preliminary field testing for drunk driving.

Significant differences have been found in the alcohol-level readouts of beer and nonalcoholic beer, Austin said. "Significant differences are enough to say one is beer and one is nonalcoholic," he said. Austin said he had been developing the testing device for about three weeks. He works with the device a little each day to make sure the results and numbers stay within the same range.

Although he has encountered some fluctuations, which he attributes to temperature changes, Austin said his results seemed to be holding up. The machine has not been tested in court as an official means of obtaining evidence, but Austin said he thought it would improve enforcing the open-container law.

"To me, it's a logical, common-sense approach to a problem," he said. "The Alco-Sensor registers can tell the difference between alcoholic and nonalcoholic beer."

Fox said he had not had an opportunity to discuss the device in court so he did not know how a judge would apply evidence obtained from the machine. But he said he thought the device would provide sufficient evidence to make the open-container law more useful in court.

## 'New' Gantt College Tax Cut Plan Old News in D.C.

BY ROBYN TOMLIN HACKLEY  
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Harvey Gantt, a Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, said he wants to give the families of college students a "new, different kind of Contract with America." But exactly how new are his ideas?

Gantt's proposal, to give a \$10,000 tax deduction to families that earn less than \$120,000 a year and are paying for a family member's college tuition, has been on the congressional table for several years without drawing much support.

The lead Democratic education staffer in the U.S. Senate said Gantt's education proposal is almost identical to one proposed in President Bill Clinton's 1997 budget and to one proposed by U.S. Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., Thomas

Daschle, D-S.D., and John Breaux, D-La., in 1995.

But new or not, the tax deduction proposal is not a politically feasible one, said Thad Beyle, a UNC professor of political science. "When the deficit is so high, (Congress is) going to have some serious troubles working these kinds of things into the agenda."

In addition to the tax deduction, Gantt has said he wants to protect the direct



Democratic Senate Candidate HARVEY GANTT wants to enable more students to attend college.

student lending program, increase funding for the Pell Grant and expand the federal Work Study program.

"The point of the education package is to guarantee that every American who wants to work for, and get, an education (will) not be held back," said Lisa Mortman, Gantt's press secretary.

Mortman said the tax deduction would help about one million additional students attend college each year and would cost about \$20 billion annually. Mortman said Gantt would like to see the money come out of the military budget and from federal corporate subsidies.

Beyle said Gantt's decision to hammer out a detailed education proposal was an unusual move. "It's hard to give full pro-

See GANTT, Page 2

### Harvey Gantt Says:

- Middle-class families with incomes of less than \$120,000 would be eligible for the deduction.
- The deduction would give families of college students a \$10,000 education tax break.
- Funding for the tax would be generated by cutting military spending and corporate subsidies.
- One million additional students would be able to afford college.
- He wants to strengthen Pell Grant programs.

## Committee Will Expand to Tackle Increasing Enrollment

BY SHARIF DURHAMS  
STAFF WRITER

The Enrollment Management Committee will add five new members to its group in case the Board of Trustees asks the University to increase undergraduate enrollment by 5,000 students.

Committee Chairman Timothy Sanford, director of institutional research, said he would ask for the new members in order to give students and faculty a voice for input concerning the possibility of an enrollment increase.

"We're adding some representatives because we've not had any specific representative from the faculty."

Some trustees are concerned about the large number of quality in-state high school students who have been rejected admission to UNC, BOT member Annette Wood said Tuesday. Wood said the University should be open to handling "incremental changes."

Sanford said he would send letters to Student Body President Aaron Nelson, Faculty Council Chairwoman Jane Brown and Employee Forum Chairwoman Ann Hamner requesting they appoint committee members. "Primarily (we will) broaden the base to include groups that were already not at the table."

See ENROLLMENT, Page 4

*Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.*

Soren Kierkegaard