

N.C. House Reluctant to Increase Smart Start

Based on Smart Start's young age and lack of proof of success, the House refuses to increase funding.

BY JOHN SWEENEY
STAFF WRITER

Governor Jim Hunt's plans to expand Smart Start, a state-run child development program, hit a snag last week when the North Carolina House of Representatives proposed a budget that did not include the additional \$21.2 million Hunt requested for the program.

The refusal to increase Smart Start's funds was part of a larger trend in the conservative House budget, which left more than \$400 million unspent. By comparison, Hunt's proposed budget left about \$108 million unspent and the N.C. Senate's proposed budget left no excess.

Stephanie Fanjul, director of the state's

Division of Child Development, said the Smart Start program received \$57.2 million from the state for last year's activities, spread out over 36 counties. The \$21.2 million increase would be used to expand the program to an additional 12 counties.

But the House's proposed budget doesn't include any new money for the program, though no cuts have been made to last year's budget figures.

"Basically, what the House has said is they're not going to expand the program, but they're going to keep funding it at its present level," said Dana Simpson, special assistant to House Speaker Harold Brubaker, R-Randolph.

The Smart Start program is composed of organizations from around the state that have formed a partnership to address issues affecting children and their welfare.

"The main goal of the program is to make sure children ages zero to five are ready for school when they begin," Fanjul said.

This statewide partnership distributes

"The House is just trying to say, 'Let's be prudent and show some restraint.'"

DANA SIMPSON
Special Assistant to House Speaker
Harold Brubaker, R-Randolph

state money to local community service programs that improve child welfare.

The Orange County Partnership for Young Children, for instance, has programs to improve the health of young children through immunizations and increases in the amount of child care available to working families.

Simpson said the House's reluctance to increase funding for Smart Start stemmed from concerns over the handling of the program's finances. Simpson said a recent audit of all of the program's finances, conducted by the State Auditor's office, raised

questions regarding where funds were being spent.

"There are some financial accountability problems," Simpson said.

An overview of the audit states that, "the lack of knowledge about accounting and the absence of a uniform accounting system and chart of accounts continued to be a major roadblock for establishing a framework to ensure accountability."

Simpson also said the House wanted to wait for conclusive proof that Smart Start was meeting its goals before expansion.

"They believed Smart Start was on the right track, but they had no hard data," Simpson said. "The House is just trying to say 'Let's be prudent and show some restraint.'"

Simpson said it would probably be another year before any hard data on the program's success rate became available.

The House and Senate have entered into joint committee to consolidate the budget proposals. A finalized version is expected no later than Monday.

Association of Student Governments Meets, Discusses State Budget

ASG members listened as UNC-CH students explained the need for lobbying efforts.

BY AMY CAPPIELLO
CITY EDITOR

The UNC-system Association of Student Governments, led by newly-inaugurated President John Dervin, met Friday in their first-ever summer meeting to discuss with system student body presidents the North Carolina House and Senate fiscal budgets and their effect on the UNC system.

Representatives from seven of the system's 16 schools attended ASG's first summer meeting ever. N.C. State University, UNC-Wilmington, UNC-Chapel Hill,

UNC-Pembroke, Appalachian State University, Fayetteville State University and UNC-Asheville representatives listened as Dervin outlined the basic differences in the proposals.

Dervin said the Senate budget was more University-friendly with an additional \$44 million, compared to the N.C. House's slashing \$6 million.

"They gave money to just about everything," Dervin said. "This is a huge improvement over what happened last time."

"Now we have to work on what we can do to make this stick. We made our voice heard in the Senate. We need to go back and do this in the House. If we don't push for education now, we'll be in trouble when it comes time for election season."

Dervin said the organization had come together because of the budget. "The whole budget thing has forced us to communicate in a way that we haven't had to before," he

said. "We've realized how powerful we can be when we act in concert together."

Aaron Nelson, UNC-CH student body president, said UNC-CH and East Carolina University had pushed in recent weeks to get the system funded.

"(UNC-CH students) have been to Raleigh for the last two weeks on and off, walking the halls, knocking on doors," Nelson said. "We sent letters to both appropriations committees's members. ECU did that as well, but they also sent one to every member of the Senate."

Nelson said UNC-CH students had also written letters about the budget and the funding of higher education to the editors of their hometown newspapers.

"We are putting this as a system effort. We are saying that supporting higher education reaps benefits, reaps dividends more so than investing in technology," he said. "The state has forgotten that we are important. They need to see that the people of North Carolina support higher education."

Mo Nathan, a member of UNC-CH's executive legislative team, said the easiest way to excite legislators about the system's needs was by visiting them in Raleigh.

"They really like seeing students. They don't get the opportunity to talk to students very much," Nathan said. "It's very important that something on a sheet of paper comes to life for them. I don't think anything could be more effective than stopping by and seeing them."

Nathan said talking to the legislators and proving the system's worth to the state was the only way to ensure that funding did not get cut.

"We have to do a good job explaining what we do to extend beyond our campus," Nathan said. "We have to do a good job proving to them what we contribute to the state."

Nelson said encouraging students to act now was the key. "If they're not giving us money now, things won't get any better," he said.

The Senate's budget also provides \$4.55 million for graduate student health care. The House budget provided no funding for this area.



Association of Student Governments President JOHN DERVIN said the system-wide effort reaped positive results in the Senate's budget.



Protesters hand out information and provide passersby a chance to purchase "Down with Helms" memorabilia. We win or not, we are shaking up the way people in North Carolina think about their representatives.

Amy Cappiello contributed to this article.

Student Congress Discusses Code Revisions

A "code convention" would allow congress members to standardize the Student Code.

BY JOHN SWEENEY
STAFF WRITER

Citing numerous inconsistencies and inadequacies in the Student Code as the reasons for its concern, Student Congress discussed at its Tuesday-night meeting means of revising the document that defines student government.

At issue was whether the Student Code currently circulated by student government had been correctly updated and modified by past speakers of student congress.

Rep. Joe Kleidis, Dist. 12, who is also chairman of the Rules and Judiciary Committee of congress, said he was worried about the many different versions of the Student Code circulating.

"I think this is a good idea because we need to standardize (the Student Code)," Kleidis said. Student Body President Aaron Nelson suggested that such

differences could result in confusion over which version is the real Student Code and which laws should be recognized, since much of the code's contents has changed over the years.

"I think this is an endeavor that has needed to be done for a long time. I'm really anxious to have something we can call 'The Code,'" Nelson said.

Nelson suggested a "code convention" in which congress members could work to form a single version of the Student Code, making changes as they felt necessary to create a more consistent document.

Some of the changes suggested included having candidates for student body vice president run for office after being selected by the SBP and annotating the Student Code to give readers a better understanding of what thoughts went into the passage of laws.

Speaker of Student Congress Jamie Kilbourne, Dist. 1, said he thought annotating the Student Code would increase its strength as a legal document.

"We have a 75- to 80-year tradition of student government at this university, and I think if we could draw from that in our own document there would be a lot of power to that."



ARTS BRIEFS

What's happening in entertainment around the Triangle

Attend It

The American Dance Festival will hold an international dance film festival on Friday, June 23 at Duke University.

An African-American Dance Ensemble with Chuck Davis will be presented on Saturday, June 22 at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh.

Hear It

Chulrua, an Irish trio, will perform traditional Irish music on Tuesday, June 25 at the Skylight Exchange.

Play It

Barnes & Noble Booksellers in the New Hope Commons Shopping Center in Durham will hold a chess night on Monday, June 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the cafe. Players of all skill levels are welcome to come and try their hand at a game of chess.

CLEAN UP CONGRESS

FROM PAGE 1

Hundreds of volunteers go door-to-door, or "canvass," in neighborhoods to educate residents about Helms' voting record. Grayson, who canvasses the Triangle area, said Chapel Hill and Raleigh residents had made up their minds. But Cary, with its influx of new residents, has a lot of first-time voters.

"People who haven't made up their minds welcome the information," she said. "They say, 'I really respect you for doing this.'" Gasparini said the demographics of North Carolina's growing population might help Helms, rather than CUC.

"The state has gained a lot of Republicans recently, especially in the Raleigh area," she said.

Aaron Green, a first-year UNC medical student, said "I run into a number of people who support Helms." In addition to going door-to-door, CUC also creates its own events, like Saturday's rally, and attends other events.

UNC Sophomore Talya Atkins said one important task at all events is to register new voters and to focus on the 10 percent swing vote — the people who haven't made up their minds.

"They make the difference in the election," she said. "(Helms has) never won an election by over 55 percent."

CUC is focusing on college campuses for part of this swing vote, with over 20 chapters in the fall, including one at UNC. "One of the most important things is to get people to vote at UNC," Grayson said. "Lots of them are registered at home and might not apply for an absentee ballot."

Grayson, who will be studying abroad during November's election, has already applied for an absentee ballot. "I've worked this hard, I'm not going to not vote."

Grayson said she worked for more than a paycheck: defeating Helms. "My job is to beat Jesse Helms," she said. "You can say, 'I hate Senator Helms,' but I'm actually working to beat him."

Helms supporters said CUC's victory would be easier said than done. "It's the same match-up," Gasparini said. "It was fairly heated last time and he won. And I don't think he's changed."

Foreman said CUC would still make a difference. "Whether

Alumna's First Poetry Book Deals With Love, Family

Journalist Donna Whitaker Rogers includes poems written while attending UNC.

STAFF REPORT

Journalist Donna Whitaker Rogers, a 1982 UNC graduate with a bachelor's degree in journalism and a former features editor of The Daily Tar Heel, recently published a new book of poetry, "TIMELINE: One Black Woman's Journey Through Life."

WIS-TV (Channel 10) journalist Carolyn Sawyer in Columbia, S.C., has recommended the book on her Midday Report program. The author has also been featured on "The Awareness," a black cultural program, of which Ms. Sawyer is host.

The book by the Columbia, S.C., native takes readers from her early poetry, beginning in 1971 at age 11, to poems honoring her father, the late Rev. C.J. Whitaker, and late mother, Mrs. Ernestine Peay Whitaker, and older brother, Charles J. Whitaker Jr., who died March 27, 1996, weeks before she was to publish her book.

Whitaker's brother encouraged her to be creative at an early age. Other poems deal with feelings of self-worth, love, loneliness and spiritual revival. She also features poems about former President Jimmy Carter and herself.

Poem titles include "Make Time," "To My Babies Yet Unborn," "I'm Something Else!" "Don't Go," and "Go Forth!" Rogers wrote several of the poems while she was a student at UNC.

Rogers used her skills as a former copy/layout editor to publish the book herself.

This is the first published book for Rogers, who is a business editor at The Augusta Chronicle newspaper in Georgia. The book is available by mail order. Cost is \$7.50, plus \$1.50 shipping and handling for the first book, 75 cents for each additional book.

Order by writing TIMELINE BOOK, Donna W. Rogers, Post Office Box 14087, Augusta, Ga. 30919-0087.

Residents of Georgia and North Carolina add 6 percent sales tax; residents of South Carolina add 5 percent sales tax.

Arts & Entertainment Calendar

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

LIDA HUSIK with COAX and ME. Cat's Cradle. 300 E. Main St., Carrboro. 967-9053.
THE NANCY MIDDLETON BAND. The Cave. 452 1/2 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill. 968-9308.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

ATHENAEUM with JOLENE and FAR TOO

JONES. Cat's Cradle. 300 E. Main St., Carrboro. 967-9053.

HIPBONE. The Cave. 452 1/2 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill. 968-9308.

PAJAMA DON. Ninth Street Bakery. 776 Ninth St., Durham. 286-0303.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

BOUD DEUN. The Cave. 452 1/2 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill. 968-9308.

MONDAY, JUNE 24

TIM STAMBAUGH. The Cave. 452 1/2 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill. 968-9308.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

THE DANNY MORRIS BAND. The Cave. 452

1/2 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill. 968-9308.

REDHEAD. Cat's Cradle. 300 E. Main St., Carrboro. 967-9053.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

JACKDRAG with WILLIAM CHRIST SUPERCARR and SEYMORES. Cat's Cradle. 300 E. Main St., Carrboro. 967-9053.
SIX DAYS GRAY. The Cave. 452 1/2 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill. 968-9308.

THURSDAY JUNE 27

THE ALAN SMITHEE BAND. The Cave. 452 1/2 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill. 968-9308.
JAWBOX with CANDY MACHINE and MONORCHID. Cat's Cradle. 300 E. Main St., Carrboro. 967-9053

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