

# The Daily Tar Heel

**INSIDE**  
**THURSDAY**  
JANUARY 16, 1997



## Pollution solution?

Citizens can help the EPA develop pollution standards. *Page 2*



## Traffic fatality

Chapel Hill police released the name of the pedestrian killed by a hospital van. *Page 3*



## It's baaaack

Check out the first Divisions of this year, featuring 1996's best of the arts. *Page 5*

## Today's Weather

Rain ends, becoming sunny; mid 50s. Friday: Sunny, low 40s.

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## Fee increase questioned by student representative

BY **BALKEES JARRAH**  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

How far will 25 cents go? A possible student fee increase faces great debate among student government officials.

Student Body President Aaron Nelson will present a bill to Student Congress on Wednesday proposing a referendum on an increase of 25 cents in student fees.

Nelson said he wanted students to vote on the fee increase in the February general election.

The increase will be collected per student per semester. The money raised, totaling approximately \$10,500 per year, will be appropriated to the United States Student Association. The USSA is a lobbying organization that helps students access an affordable education.

"I would definitely be part of a student organization that dedicates itself to the students. It's certainly worth a quarter," Nelson said.

But some members of Student

Congress are opposed to Nelson's bill. Rep. James Hoffman, Dist. 15, said the money raised could be used more effectively somewhere else.

"I don't like sucking money out of the University community. We have no control of what USSA does with it," Hoffman said.

But Nelson said the money collected from the fee increase would be well spent and accountable.

Hoffman said the bill was not completely realistic and was very deceiving to the student population.

"(The USSA does) a whole bunch of stuff that not all students necessarily



Student Body President **AARON NELSON** said the USSA has dedicated itself to empowering college students.

believe in," Hoffman said.

He said the USSA does not always represent or lobby for student issues or concerns.

Hoffman also said the amount of money appropriated was ridiculous. "It's just crazy. I don't understand where Nelson is coming from," Hoffman said.

Nelson said some colleges pay the USSA as much as \$40,000. Nelson said the more money UNC invests, the better the quality of representation the school receives from the group.

Hoffman also said Nelson had a "vested interest" in the USSA since he is a member of their board of directors.

Nelson said he did not think it was a conflict of interest.

"I've seen the good they've done on empowering students, and it makes me uniquely qualified to bring this issue before the students," he said.

Hoffman said he believed the bill to put the referendum on the election ballot would not pass unless it was amended.

## Aldermen call for University to share more of mass-transit operating costs

■ Carrboro officials turned down a proposal that would raise mass-transit costs.

BY **JULIA WOOD**  
STAFF WRITER

Two Carrboro aldermen say they voted against a proposed transit system change because they think UNC should carry more of the cost.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen

defeated a proposal Tuesday night that would change the method of calculating how Carrboro, Chapel Hill and UNC share the cost of the transit system.

"This is one more example of the University dancing around paying its fair share," Alderman Jacquelyn Gist said.

Carrboro Town Manager Bob Morgan said that under the new agreement, each of the three jurisdictions would pay a share of the cost based on its population. Town staff members in Carrboro, Chapel Hill and UNC recom-

mended the new plan, which would last for five years.

He said the method of calculation under the current agreement was complex and difficult to understand. "The current method allows for dramatic fluctuations in the budgets of all three entities," Morgan said. "The new method is easier to understand and will be fairer to the town of Carrboro in the long run."

Morgan said the new method would increase the percentage Carrboro paid by 1 percent and would translate into an approximate \$34,000 increase.

Alderman Diana McDuffie said she didn't think the proposed method would be fair because Carrboro's share of transit costs go up while the cost to UNC would go down.

"My feelings are that the University is very dependent on the bus system in getting staff and students to campus," she said. "The current form is best because it takes into account both benefit and population."

Gist said she thought UNC needed to pay its fair share of the costs of the transit system.

"Chapel Hill and Carrboro would be hard-pressed without a bus system, but UNC couldn't survive without one," she said.

McDuffie said the transit system was not available to the increasing number of Carrboro residents who work outside of Orange County. "They should not have to share in the cost increase."

Morgan said although Chapel Hill has agreed to the new memorandum, officials from the three jurisdictions would have to get together again to discuss the matter.



DTH FILE PHOTO

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen rejected a proposal Tuesday that would have proportioned operation costs for mass transit according to population.

## Adopted students search for biological parents, emotional support

■ The adoption center offers support groups and advice to the adopted.

BY **TRISHA L. DABB**  
STAFF WRITER

Lisa Palmer grew up knowing she was adopted.

At the age of 19, she decided it was time to find her birth mother, the woman who had given her up for adoption nearly 20 years before. During her search, however, Palmer found it difficult to get any information because the records containing her parents' identities were closed.

"(My mother) had tried to find me too, and they wouldn't give her the infor-

mation either," recalls Palmer. "It was very frustrating."

But when Palmer finally did make contact with her biological mother — an experience she characterized as "overwhelming" — she turned to the North Carolina Adoption Connection to seek emotional support.

"It's a lot to handle, finding your roots and where you got your eyes and hair," Palmer said.

Located in Chapel Hill, the center holds support meetings on the third Saturday of every month for adopted adults. Palmer said NCAC had been a

**North Carolina Adoption Connection**  
Support group meets the third Saturday of every month  
967-5010

vital part of her success and happiness.

"The support group is a crucial part of my life now," Palmer said. "The best thing that ever happened to me was the day I walked into that group."

Lynn Giddens, coordinator at NCAC, said she saw University students and alumni in Palmer's position everyday. Government regulations and the privacy of medical records can make it difficult for children seeking their biological parents, she said.

"We are currently involved in legislation and legislation involved in opening closed adoption records," Giddens said.

NCAC's main focus, though, is on supporting adopted adults and helping them to adapt to their life, either with or without their birth parents.

"We also have educational seminars

*"It's a lot to handle, finding your roots and where you got your eyes and hair."*

**LISA PALMER**

Continuing Studies student

and meetings for parents of adopted children," Giddens said.

Though Giddens admitted that support group participants needed help in dealing with their situations, other adopted students said they felt differently about their circumstances.

Wes Varner, a freshman from Wilmington, also grew up knowing he was adopted. He said, however, that he felt no tie to his birth parents and had

made no attempt to locate them.

"Obviously they had a good reason for giving me up," Varner said. "As far as I'm concerned, I feel lucky that they did and that I have the parents that I do."

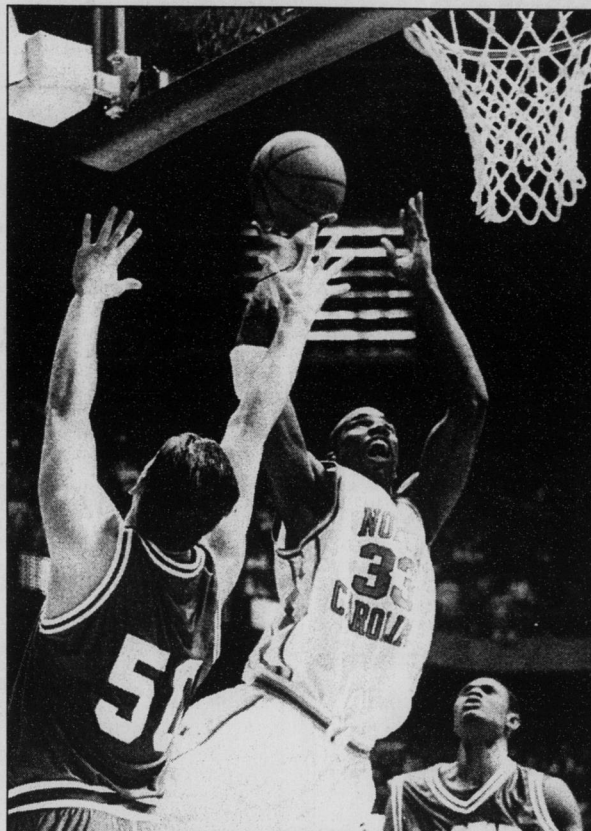
Palmer also said she was fortunate to have been adopted by a loving family.

"My adoptive mother has been very supportive," Palmer said. "In fact, I am taking her to meet my birth mother for the first time. I have a very close relationship with them both."

Though Palmer said the search for her birth mother was often frustrating, she believed her story has a happy ending. Palmer has met other members of her "new" family and plans to further develop a relation with them.

"I now have two families to love," Palmer said. "And I am grateful for them both."

## VICTORY AT LAST



UNC forward Antawn Jamison (33) launches the game-winning shot Wednesday night vs. N.C. State. See story, page 9.

## Few show interest in elections

■ Only 16 students came to an interest meeting about student body elections.

BY **MARVA HINTON**  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

With student body elections less than a month away, elections officials have a problem — a lack of hopefuls, including only one potential candidate for student body president.

Ange Dicks, elections board chairwoman, said only 16 students attended the student body election interest meeting Jan. 14.

Mo Nathan, currently the only potential candidate for student body president, said the interest meeting left him in the dark.

"It's weird because I don't know what I'm facing," Nathan said.

Student Body President Aaron Nelson said more candidates would give the eventual winners more credibility.

"It is so important to student self-governance, to our accountability, that there be multiple candidates, that there be debate," Nelson said.

Nathan said there could be many reasons for the lack of student interest.

He said student government's recent effectiveness was keeping outsiders out of the races.

"I think people are happy with the way student government has operated for the last two years," Nathan said.

Nathan also said the rigors of political life kept many other students out of the process.

"A lot of people get scared off," Nathan said. "The decision to run for student body president or any other office is not a decision that should be made lightly, but good people need to make the decision."

Although the interest meeting was not mandatory, Dicks said important information and petitions were distributed.

But she said it was not too late for anyone who was interested in running.

"They can come by and talk to me on an individual basis," Dicks said.

Dicks said students still have a chance to be candidates only if they attend a mandatory meeting Jan. 30.

"If they don't come to the mandatory meeting, their names won't be on the ballot."

The Elections Board did not face problems with a lack of candidates last year. Four different candidates ran for student body president.

## Time is quickly running out

So you've been checking out The Daily Tar Heel and thinking, "Yeah, I'd like to see my name by one of those stories/photos/graphics."

Well, you'd better hurry up. The Daily Tar Heel will be accepting applications for all positions until 5 p.m. Friday.

That means that you only have about 24 hours to stop by the DTH office in Suite 104 of the Student Union, fill out the application and return it. Writers must include a writing sample; copy editors must take a copy editing test; and photographers, designers and graphic artists must contact their respective desk editors to find out what they should submit.

All decisions will be posted by noon on Tuesday outside the DTH office.

Call DTH Editor Jeanne Fugate at 962-4086 if you have any questions or extenuating circumstances.

Also, applications are now available in the DTH office for the Joanna Howell Fund. They are due by Jan. 24.

*Better the chill blast of winter than the hot breath of a pursuing elephant.*

Chinese proverb