

The Daily Tar Heel

INSIDE
WEDNESDAY
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Full house

Families and friends of the UNC class of 1997 have booked up local hotels. *Page 2*



Remembering the Holocaust

A local woman gave an account of life during the Holocaust. *Page 4*



Losing it in the lights

Errors cost the UNC baseball team dearly Tuesday night. *Page 9*

Today's Weather

Sunny; lower 70s
Thursday: Showers;
upper 60s

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N.C. Senate slashes UNC-system budget proposal

■ The recommendation failed to meet the Board of Governors' requests.

BY JONATHAN COX

ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Student and University leaders reacted unhappily to large cuts from the Board of Governor's budget requests in the N.C. Senate, considered to be "ally" of the system.

The Senate Education Committee released its recommendations Monday for the two year UNC-system budget.

Despite the committee's attempts to fulfill the BOG's requests, they came up short by nearly \$40 million for the 1997-98 year.

"I think these recommendations are very positive for the UNC system," said Sen. Leslie Winner, D-Mecklenburg and co-chair of the Senate education committee. "Various needs are being met in this budget."

Winner said these large discrepancies were not unusual. "It's the job of the BOG to put in there what they would like to have," Winner said. "The BOG does not have to come up with a balanced state budget."

John Dervin, ex officio BOG mem-

ber, said he was pleased with the recommendations of the Senate committee, but he said he wished more money could have been allocated.

"I think, in general, (the recommendations) are good," Dervin said. "It doesn't go as far as we would have liked."

Dervin said new restrictions



UNC-system President C.D. SPANGLER said the N.C. General Assembly could be petitioned for more funds.

hindered the Senate's budgeting capabilities, causing the lack of educational funding. "I think we need to realize a lot of the physical restraints placed on the Senate by tax cuts last year," he said.

"Even though we think a small cut in a corporate tax doesn't affect us, I think we need to realize it does," Dervin continued. "They took a lot of education funding away with that (cut)."

Student Body President Mo Nathan said the Senate committee agreed with the BOG about priorities in the university system but did not go far enough to address those issues.

"I'm glad the Senate, for the most part, stood with the Board of Governors

in identifying the priorities that need to be funded," Nathan said. "I'm just concerned that the funding for some of the priorities is woefully inadequate."

Nathan said cuts in information technology concerned him the most.

"I am extremely concerned about information technology," he said. "The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has set forth a myriad of critical needs in technology."

Nathan said UNC-CH initially requested \$21 million for information technology, but General Administration officials advised UNC-CH to reduce its request to \$3 million. He said the committee's \$6.2 million recommendation

for the entire system concerned him. "We need to be making progress in information technology," Nathan said. "I fear failing to commit adequate resources to it will cause us to slip further behind."

"Technology is too important to the present and future quality of this institution to be considered a luxury, half-heartedly funded by our state and otherwise funded by student fees."

Despite his concerns, Nathan said he understood the Legislature had less money to allocate this year. Nathan said student government officials would meet

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 7

Festival lets officials take ride into future

■ A self-propelled train system should link cities in the Triangle by 2002.

BY MARY-KATHRYN CRAFT

CITY EDITOR

A glimpse of the 21st century rolled across the tracks in downtown Carrboro on Tuesday.

Local leaders kicked off Orange County's Triangle RailFest, a nine-day demonstration of the self-propelled diesel rail car that will one day link Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill.

The festival, which began at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh on Monday, was held at Carr Mill Mall to introduce resi-



Chapel Hill Mayor ROSEMARY WALDORF said Orange County leaders had worked hard in bringing mass transit to the area.

"If America is building a bridge to the 21st century, then the Triangle is going to ride a train across that bridge."

MIKE NELSON

Carrboro Mayor

dents to the RegioSprinter rail car and to present the mass transit plan to begin linking the cities of the Triangle by 2002.

Rachel Willis, the Triangle Transit Authority trustee appointed to represent Chapel Hill, was the first passenger to ride the RegioSprinter from Raleigh to Chapel Hill.

"I got to ride to Carolina on the train," she said. "I am here to tell you it was a beautiful ride. There was so much greenspace I did not know where I was."

Willis emphasized what she called LPN — local phase now — when talking about the Triangle's mass transit plan. She said the Chapel Hill and Carrboro part of the plan would connect the University's main campus with



More than 75 people crowded onto the Regio Sprinter at Carr Mill Mall for Tuesday's 10-minute demonstration. The train will be part of a mass transit system slated to come to the Triangle in the near future.

future satellite campuses at the Horace Williams and Mason Farm tracts, the Meadowmont property, Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

Carrboro Mayor Mike Nelson welcomed the RegioSprinter to town and praised the area's mass transit efforts.

"We are a town that takes public transportation seriously," he said. "If America is building a bridge to the 21st century, then the Triangle is going to ride a train across that bridge."

After Nelson, Chapel Hill Mayor Rosemary Waldorf, UNC Executive

Vice Chancellor Elson Floyd and Orange County Commissioner Alice Gordon welcomed a crowd of close to 100. Both officials and residents boarded the RegioSprinter for its maiden voyage.

SEE RAILFEST, PAGE 7

Broad's past reflects care for students

■ Officials say she fought for students even though she had little direct contact.

BY ANGELA MURPHY

STAFF WRITER

Molly Broad, UNC system president-elect, lacks classroom experience. But officials from both the California State University system and the UNC system say she understands student concerns and should fill her new position well.

Co-workers said Broad's current position did not facilitate easy access to the student body. But, they said, Broad cares about students.

"The closest campus in the Cal State system is 30 minutes away," said Pat Henry, Broad's secretary. "However, (students) are an important part of the university and important to Molly."

Executive assistant Lori Erdman said Broad, though seldom on campus, had an impact on students through her work with technology.

"She is earning a reputation as a leader who sees applications for telecommunications and technology in education," Erdman said. "She has taken a number of initiatives that have had real impact in the classroom for students."

Erdman said Broad established relationships with IBM, AT&T and Pacific Bell to improve technological capabilities.

UNC Board of Governors member Sam Neill said he was confident about Broad's abilities.

"I think she'll be an excellent president," Neill said. "She may not have had much direct experience with students, but she has their interests at heart."

Association of Student Governments President John Dervin said he was impressed with Broad so far.

"My interview with her at the BOG meeting was very positive," Dervin said. "We have to have someone with experience in administration, a vision for education and experience with legislation."

"She brings all that in a way that has impressed me greatly."

Dervin also said Broad's lack of experience in dealing with students should not be a problem.

"Her lack of classroom experience is made up for by her people skills," he said. "She has also expressed a strong willingness to work closely with students."

UNC system President C.D. Spangler said that the office was flexible and Broad must decide what she wants to accomplish.

"I think it's whatever the President wishes it to be," Spangler said. "The President can pretty much determine what she wishes to do."



ASG President JOHN DERVIN said Broad's experience and vision made her an ideal advocate for the system.

Recovering, still remembering



A fire killed five UNC students in May 1996 at the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house. This incident caused the N.C. General Assembly to pass a new law that requires sprinkler systems be installed in all fraternity and sorority houses.

With one glance at a television news report, Libba Weaver knew that her life had changed forever.

She watched closely that morning as news came in that Phi Gamma Delta — her son's fraternity — had been destroyed by a pre-dawn fire.

But the devastation of that day had just begun.

"I remember looking at the TV and I could see Josh's window," Weaver said. "I knew then that he was gone."

On May 12, 1996, the fire at Phi Gamma Delta claimed the lives of UNC students Josh Weaver, Anne Smith and Mark Strickland, all juniors from Rocky Mount; Joanna Howell, a sophomore from Cary; and Ben Woodruff, a sophomore from Raleigh.

Though it has been almost a year since the tragedy that stunned the UNC community, the victims' families and friends are still recovering.

And still remembering.

"I will never forget the disbelief of that day," Rita Strickland said. "Mark had just been home for three days before the fire and had given me a Mothers' Day gift, a painting from Jamaica. Before he left he said, 'I'll call you tomorrow.'"

That day Mark headed back to campus for the pre-graduation party at the fraternity. Neither he nor his mom knew that the call would never be made.

Strickland said the past year has been the worst of her life, as she constantly copes with the loss of

her son.

"There's not a day that goes by that I don't miss him," she said. "Each day I get up and make an effort to get through this, but it's hard."

Finding hope through Mark's memory has helped with the pain.

"I know Mark wouldn't want us to grieve ourselves to death," she said. "He would want me to be happy. I can close my eyes sometimes and hear him talk to me."

Ben's mother Bonnie Woodruff said though she wished she could tell her son how proud she was of him, she found comfort in the final moments they shared together.

"It was the Thursday before the fire," she said. "And my last words to him were 'I love you.'"

All of the victims' families have spent this past year trying to understand the void that unexpectedly entered their lives.

"Each person played their own special role in our family," Woodruff said.

"You take away an ingredient, and we all become a different per-

SEE FIRE VICTIMS, PAGE 5

Don't threaten me with love, baby. Let's just go walking in the rain.

Billie Holiday