

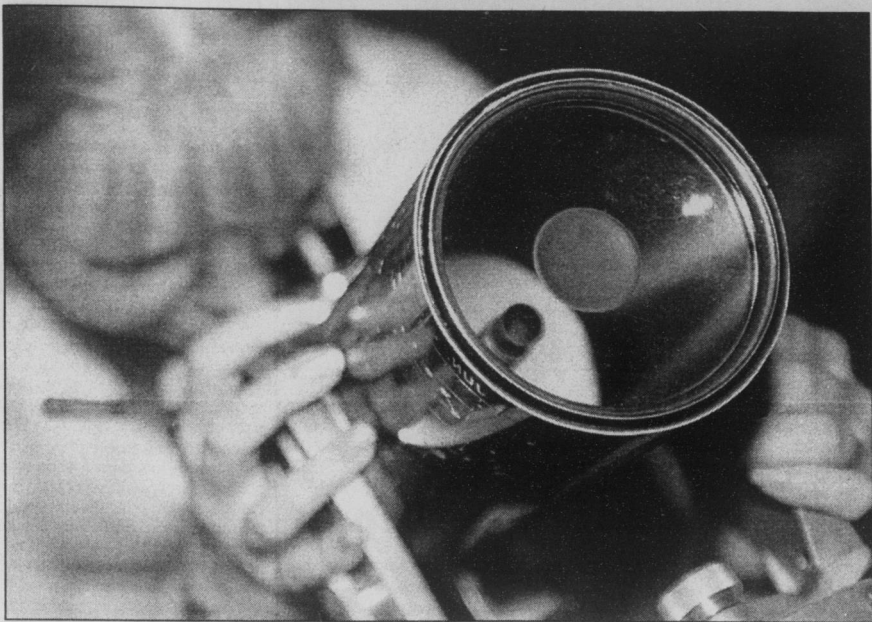
The Daily Tar Heel

104 years of editorial freedom
Serving the students and the University
community since 1893

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1997
Volume 105, Issue 90

News/Features/Arts/Sports: 962-0245
Business/Advertising: 962-1163
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
© 1997 DTH Publishing Corp.
All rights reserved.

SHOOTING FOR THE STARS



DTH/LAURA GIOVANELLI

Freshman Jennifer Budlong searches for Saturn during her astronomy lab. Astronomy students took a closer peek at night-time wonders from the observation deck of Morehead Planetarium.

Congress might consider double-candidate ballots

■ The student body vice president could become an elected position in 1999.

BY PHILLIP GARDNER
STAFF WRITER

The next time students cast their ballots for student body president might be the last time they vote for that office alone.

Student Congress is toying with the notion of placing student body president and vice president on the same ticket.

Speaker James Hoffman said the idea had been brought up in past years, but action will be taken soon. "Something will definitely be done with it this semester," he said.

Before the new procedure can take effect, a resolution for a referendum must pass Student Congress by a two-thirds vote, Hoffman said.

At least 2.5 percent of the student

body must then vote on the referendum. It would pass with a majority vote. Hoffman said the students might vote on the referendum in February's election.

In previous elections, students voted for the student body president, who then appointed the vice president.

Student Body Vice President Chris Yates said he wasn't sure if the new procedure would be a good idea. "I don't know if the advantages are great enough," he said.

"My first reaction is that it would probably allow for more politicking (to be) involved. It may hurt the purity of the relationship between the president and vice president," he said. "I feel the way we have things now is prudent, and it works well for the president and vice president."

Yates said he wanted students to be involved with the issue of changing election procedures. "If this is a change that's to be made, I hope as many students are involved as possible," he said.

Hoffman said he liked the possibility

"It may hurt the purity of the relationship between the president and vice president ... I feel the way we have things now is prudent."

CHRIS YATES

Student Body Vice President

of changing the election process.

"I think it would make elections more exciting," he said.

He said he believed the vice president should be more accountable to the student body, and the same-ticket policy would achieve that goal.

Rep. Alex Bass, Dist. 15, said he was neutral on the issue. "It's something that would work, but also what we currently use works," he said.

"It would allow broader appeal to

SEE TICKET, PAGE 6

Investigation into UNC senior's 'unarrest' continues

BY ROB NELSON
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

More than a week after a UNC senior was arrested for allegedly resisting, delaying and obstructing an officer, Carrboro police are still investigating the incident.

"I am still in the process of compiling information," Capt. Carolyn Hutchison said. "I am completing my report as we speak."

She said she hoped to have her report turned into Police Chief Ben Callahan by Wednesday.

On Oct. 4, Troy Hendrick, a 21-year-old journalism major, was standing outside of his house on Greensboro Street taking pictures of fire trucks across the street.

Hendrick continued to take the photos despite orders to stop from Carrboro police officer J.D. Langford.

In an earlier interview, Hendrick said

he told the officer that he was well within his First Amendment Rights to take the pictures.

"I told him that the First Amendment guaranteed my right to where I was and to take pictures."

Hendrick said he was then spun around, handcuffed and pinned against a car. Later, Hendrick was "unarrested," which marked the first time the police department used this policy.

Hutchison said the "unarrest" was an

admission of a mistake by her department.

Hutchison said nine people had come forward since the incident to add their testimony to her report, but she was certain there were more.

"I have made attempts to locate as many people who may have witnessed what happened, and anyone else who knows anything I will talk to."

"I am going to complete my report and then hand it over to the chief and he

will take further action," she said.

Callahan said an internal investigation was in progress to determine exactly what happened on Oct. 4.

"If disciplinary action (against officer Langford) is needed, it will be taken. We have to see if the officer violated any policy," Callahan said.

Callahan said punishments varied with the specific policy violated.

"It could be anything from an oral reprimand to termination."

Residents voice ideas on transit

■ A rail system that would join Chapel Hill to Raleigh received resident support.

BY JOHN GARDNER
STAFF WRITER

More than 100 residents of Orange and Chatham counties came out Monday night to gain insight into the future of local transportation.

The information they sought came from a panel of area transportation officials who set out to clear the air about the new programs being proposed to improve transportation in and around Orange and Chatham counties.

The panel included David King, deputy secretary in the state Department of Transportation; Keith Meginson, Chatham County planning director; David Bonk, Chapel Hill planning director; and Kelly Goforth, senior policy analyst for Triangle Transit Authority.

The speakers talked about the need to increase the quality of area transportation through various methods including expanding U.S. 15-501, improving regional bus services and possibly building a rail system connecting Chapel Hill, Durham and Raleigh.

Bonk said the proposed improve-

SEE MEETING, PAGE 6

BOG plan helps transfer students

BY KARA KIRK
STAFF WRITER

For transfer students, the ride to UNC just got a little smoother.

The Board of Governors recently implemented a new policy simplifying the process of transferring from a community college into the UNC system.

Prompted by legislation initiated in 1995 and complaints from students who lost credits when transferring, the BOG and the State Board of Community Colleges worked together to propose a plan, which would simplify the transfer of credit.

"The two sectors worked together to establish a list of core courses," said Judith Pulley, vice president for planning at the BOG. "They defined a certain set of courses which are portable and transferable."

This collaboration produced a comprehensive "articulation agreement,"

which was approved for use among 58 N.C. community colleges and 16 universities.

Janet Douglas, director of public affairs for state community colleges, said such an agreement was greatly needed.

"We had agreements all over the state, but they were very different," she said. "This gives everyone one policy that's easy to understand."

Tim Moore, a member of the BOG, said having one simplified statewide policy made the entire transfer process smoother for students.

"It's not that (the agreement) makes it easier to be accepted at a school within the university system," he said. "But it simply eases the transfer of different classes and makes the entire process much easier."

Chancy Kapp, associate vice president for system affairs of community colleges, said she fully supported the new agreement.

"We are making it simpler for students who want a four-year degree," she said.

Kapp also pointed out that community colleges were now on the semester system just like the university calendar.

"Up until this fall community colleges were on the quarter system while universities were on the semester system," she said. "That obviously created problems for transferring students."

Kapp said the transition to a university should not be difficult for students.

"We really want the university to welcome in transfers," she said.

Douglas agreed that community college students should have a smooth transition into university classes.

"Courses (under the new agreement) will transfer without any problems, and students will no longer have to worry about losing credit," she said.

"Some students may or may not want to leave their home town right away for

Out with the old, in with the new

The Board of Governors met to decide a process to make it easier for students from community colleges to transfer to universities within the UNC system.

The old way

- 300+ different articulation agreements (agreements differed for each program and institution)
- Choice of university drove the advising process
- Credits often did not transfer
- Students often had to repeat courses
- Students did not transfer with same status as UNC-system juniors

The new way

- One articulation agreement among 58 community colleges and 16 universities
- Advising based on major
- 44 credit hour general education core fulfills institution-wide, lower division general education requirements
- 64 credit hours are guaranteed to transfer if student has met all articulation requirements
- Students transfer as juniors in their majors

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

DTH/STAFF

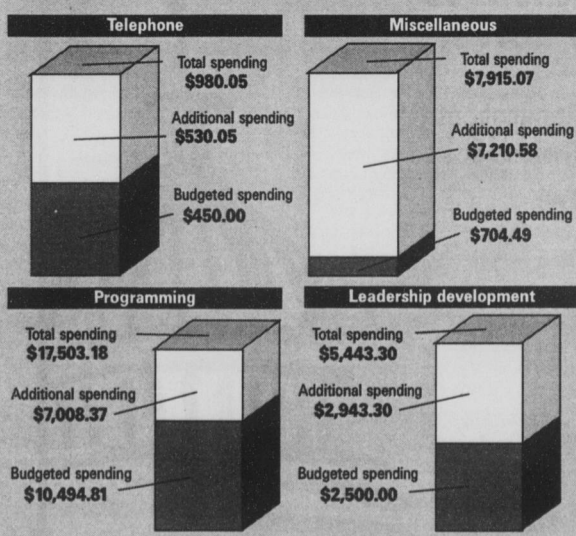
a number of reasons," she said.

"The articulation agreement offers

them the option to transfer without any problems."

To spend or not to spend?

The following figures represent the Residence Hall Association's budgeted funds, additional funds and total funds spent for fiscal year 1996-97 in four major spending areas.



SOURCE: STUDENT ACTIVITIES FUND OFFICE

DTH/JAKE ZARNIGAR

Congress plans to examine RHA efficiency

■ Congress hopes to explore ways the RHA can better serve the residents.

BY GINNY HARRIS
STAFF WRITER

Student Congress might try to find out how the Residence Hall Association could better serve its members.

Speaker James Hoffman proposed a new resolution Monday to the Student Affairs Committee of Student Congress. It would "create a select congressional committee to explore possible ways the RHA could better serve the campus."

Hoffman's bill was tabled at the committee meeting. It will be brought back up for discussion at the next meeting of the committee on Oct. 27.

Rep. Angela Merritt, Dist. 18, said that the bill was tabled because it did not define clear roles and responsibilities for the committee, not because the committee disagreed with its intentions.

Hoffman, who once lived in Hinton James Residence Hall, said, "It came to my attention over the past two years. I

didn't think I was getting my money's worth."

"I don't really think that the leaders are to blame for any inadequacies in the RHA. I think that it is more the structure and how the RHA is funded."

The RHA oversees 11 areas on campus, and each area has its own government.

"RHA's mission is to serve the residents and to build community on campus," RHA President Allena Hall said.

"We are trying to make residence halls residents' homes."

The RHA is funded by student fees paid by every undergraduate student and every on-campus resident is a member. Unlike most student groups whose funds are budgeted by Student Congress, RHA's fees are allotted by student refer-



Speaker of Student Congress
JAMES HOFFMAN
proposed a resolution concerning a committee to assist the RHA.

endum.

If the select congressional committee is formed, "Hopefully they will be able to find out some things to change around," Hoffman said. He said he would like to see the RHA create more social and recreational activities given the money they have.

If any changes are recommended, they will be put to a referendum for the student body to approve in the spring.

The RHA not only receives RHA fees but Enhancement Fund money as well. These fees are used for purchasing items like VCRs, televisions, vacuums and other items.

In 1996-1997 the RHA received \$27,662 from the Enhancement Fund in addition to the \$17,662 RHA fees collected. "We subsidize our RHA funds with fund-raisers every year," Hall said.

Howard Brubaker, director of the Student Activities Fund Office, said the RHA's budget was not determined or held accountable by Student Congress.

But, he said, "The Student Audit Fee Committee can look at any student fees that they want to."

Evan Sauda contributed to this story.

INSIDE

Smooth operators



Coffee shops and local businesses respond to the Smoothie craze by launching their own version of the popular fruit and yogurt concoction. Page 7

John Denver dead at 53

The popular singer/songwriter died when his experimental airplane crashed into the ocean. Page 6

Today's weather



Variably cloudy;
low 80s
Wednesday: Partly sunny;
mid 60s

If you want a work well done, select a busy man: the other kind has no time.

Elbert Hubbard