

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Clinton focuses on economy in State of Union address

WASHINGTON — Shaken by scandal, President Clinton sought to reassert his leadership in a crucial State of the Union address Tuesday night, urging Congress to "save Social Security first" before cutting taxes or increasing spending.

With the end of big budget deficits, Clinton said "every penny of any surplus" should be devoted to shoring up Social Security, which faces bankruptcy next century as baby boomers retire.

In an expectant atmosphere, Clinton faced probably the largest television audience of his life as he stood before a joint session of Congress. The embattled president did not mention the furor over allegations he had sex with a young intern, Monica Lewinsky, and urged her to lie about it.

Democrats applauded Clinton warm-

ly when he strode into the chamber. Stony-faced, most Republicans applauded as well and gave the president a respectful hearing. Hillary Rodham Clinton had a front-row seat, beaming and applauding. Earlier in the day she vigorously defended her husband against "right-wing opponents" she said were out to destroy him.

Amid fresh tensions with Saddam Hussein, Clinton issued a veiled threat of force against Iraq: "You cannot defy the will of the world. ... You have used weapons of mass destruction before. We are determined to deny you the capacity to use them again."

In a subtle reference to Clinton's personal troubles, Replying to Clinton, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said Congress would back the president against Iraq "despite any current controversy."

In his annual report to the nation, Clinton said America was enjoying the lowest unemployment and inflation in decades. He urged Congress to raise the minimum wage — now \$5.15 an hour — but did not specify how much.

Social Security faces bankruptcy next century under a tidal wave of payoffs for the baby boom generation. With the prospect of the first balanced budget in 30 years, Clinton said the question was



President **BILL CLINTON** avoided all discussion of the scandal surrounding him in the State of the Union address.

what should be done with the projected surpluses.

"Tonight I propose we reserve 100 percent of the surplus — that's every penny of any surplus — until we have taken all the measures necessary to strengthen the Social Security system for the 21st century," he said.

That proposal sets up a confrontation between the Republican-led Congress and the politically weakened president.

Clinton also challenged Congress to pass national tobacco legislation, but its fate is uncertain. He urged raising the price of cigarettes by \$1.50 a pack to deter teen smoking.

Clinton urged \$21.7 billion for a childcare initiative, doubling to 2 million the number of kids eligible for childcare subsidies. "Not a single family should have to choose between a job they need and the child they love," he said.

Carrying the family-friendly theme a step further, Clinton underscored his proposal to let Americans as young as 55 buy into the Medicare system. "It won't add a dime to the deficit," he promised, "but the peace of mind it will provide will be priceless."

With Asia undergoing a financial crisis, Clinton requested \$18 billion to replenish the International Monetary Fund. He also asked for more than \$1 billion to pay the U.S. debt to the United Nations. Failure to pay U.N. bills undermines U.S. leadership during the stand-off with Iraq, he said.

The president called for Senate ratification of treaties to expand NATO and to impose a comprehensive test ban on nuclear explosions. He urged strengthening a biological weapons convention "with a new international inspection system to detect and deter cheating."

## Interns: Job too hectic for relationships

■ Former White House interns from UNC did not interact with the president.

BY SCOTT HICKS  
STAFF WRITER

The hectic schedule of the typical White House intern would make it difficult to cultivate a relationship with the president, said three UNC students who worked in the White House last summer.

They did not personally meet President Clinton, unlike Monica Lewinsky, the former intern whose allegations have Americans talking about impeachment.

Neither Clinton nor his longtime friend and political adviser Vernon Jordan have called the interns with job offers in the federal government, as Jordan allegedly did for Lewinsky.

Still, UNC interns Josh Cohen-Peyrot, Charlie Ripple and Glenn Barnes agreed that their experiences in the White House were well worth it.

Cohen-Peyrot, a junior from Asheville, worked in the president's speechwriting office.

"It's an interesting environment," he said. "You're working for the president of the United States — you've got to be perfect."

White House staff and interns usually put in around 50 hours each week. Between their own busy schedules and the president's, the interns rarely saw Clinton at all. Lewinsky's claims of an affair, then, seem all the more incredible to them.

"I think it'd be very difficult for someone to have a personal relationship with him," said Ripple, a senior from Lexington, who worked in the White House photography office.

Interns never work in the West Wing, where the Oval Office is, making it even more difficult to run into the president, said Barnes, a senior from Mount Sinai, N.Y., who worked in Vice President Al Gore's communications office.

Still, when interns did see Clinton, he was always friendly and personable.

"If you were in the hallway and he was walking by you, he'd say hello," Ripple said.

Clinton's personality in the White House is usually outgoing, and he is respected by his aides, the interns agreed. That probably has not changed, even in the wake of the unfolding allegations.

"I would probably say in most of the offices it's business as usual," Barnes said.

Since the interns left their posts, no one from the White House has offered them another job in Washington.

Jordan, on the other hand, allegedly helped Lewinsky get a job in the Pentagon.

But Clinton has not completely forgotten about these three interns from UNC, Cohen-Peyrot said.

"I got a Christmas card."

## Stripping away the costs

■ As college costs rise, some students turn to unique jobs to ease the tuition burden.

BY VICKY ECKENRODE  
STATE AND NATIONAL EDITOR

For one N.C. State University freshman, paying the bills has become a bare necessity.

Shawn, who wished to conceal his last name, balances more than the average student's classes, homework and hanging out with friends. He also happens to be a stripper. Sporting a dayglo g-string he makes \$200 to \$300 a night in tips alone.

While some might think baring all is an extreme way to pay for school expenses, Shawn said he had no regrets about his job because the money helped him offset the usual living expenses associated with college life.

"It's easy money that comes in handy," Shawn said, defending his choice from those who might frown on his decision.

But Shawn's parents have no idea about his extracurricular activity. At home they never questioned his excuses to leave the house at nights, even though Shawn has been an exotic dancer since he was 17.

"Ever since I was in junior high, the way I dance — people joked the way I dance that I should strip," Shawn said, explaining why he became attracted to the stripping profession.

Shawn says it was more than the money that influenced his decision. "It's not even like a real job — I do it for the money, but it's also fun," he said.

Rarely does dancing at the club until 2 a.m. interfere with his ability to get schoolwork done, Shawn said. "It's something to do at night, but does get in the way sometimes when I have big projects due," he said. "Why quit? It's something I enjoy doing and easy money."

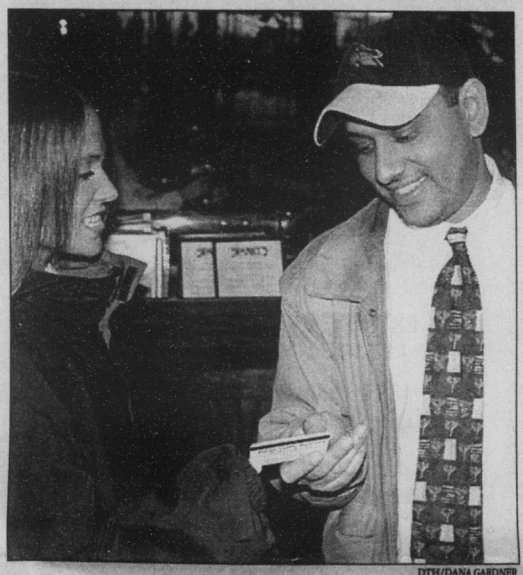
Shawn's not the only moonlighting student paying his way through college. According to a Board of Governors report released last October, half of 1996 graduates worked at least 20 hours during their senior year, compared to 30 percent in 1992.

Matt Plain, a UNC senior from Rhode Island, is one those students making up the trend. Plain, a bouncer at Four Corners on Franklin Street, keeps his clothes on while on the clock. But like Shawn, Plain chose his college job with a social agenda in mind.

"You get to socialize while you work, (and) I'd rather work here (than a normal job)," he said.

But Plain doesn't deal with unruly drunks and fake IDs four nights a week solely for the fun of it. "I do it for financial necessity — I get \$35 for six hours," he said.

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Shawn Alkal (right) checks Sara Duckworth's identification before she enters Spanky's late Wednesday night on Franklin Street.

## Cyberspace happy home for UNC student leaders

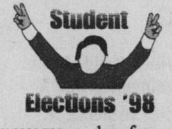
■ Students can join the various student government listservs to stay updated.

BY NAHAL TOOSI  
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

On any given day, Katherine Kraft gets 25 to 35 e-mail messages that deal with student or political organizations.

And with the click of a few buttons, she tells members of student government exactly what she thinks of an issue.

Kraft, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, is among the many student leaders who have found the perfect place to debate student politics: the Internet.



She uses it so much others have dubbed her "the E-mail Guru."

"I get 400 messages a day from Katherine Kraft," said Amar Athwal, Student Congress Finance Committee Chairman.

But Kraft relishes her right to "forward." "That crown I wear proudly,"

"Last year the average meeting ended at, say, 12:30 (a.m.) ... this year the average meeting ends at 10:30 (p.m.) or 11 (p.m.) ..."

AMAR ATHWAL  
Student Congress Finance Committee Chairman

she said. It's a simple concept for Kraft and other student leaders: e-mail is easy, fast and it helps office communication.

Student Congress and the executive branch cabinet have listservs. The GPSF has an informational listserv and one for its senate members. And e-mail is becoming a tool for students interested in an elected position.

Those on the listservs said they were using e-mail more frequently than ever. Student Body Treasurer Marc McCollum said he has twice as many e-mail files than he did as the executive branch's chief of staff last year.

The listservs are public record, which means students subscribers can read

SEE E-MAIL, PAGE 9

## Morrison governor addresses living conditions, student concerns

BY ANGELA MERS  
STAFF WRITER

Broken elevators and stoves, a lack of water fountains and unreliable dryer systems are causing major concerns for students living in Morrison Residence Hall.

Morrison Governor David Jernigan held a forum Monday night to discuss issues and areas needing upgrading.

He discussed the decline in the physical appearance of Morrison," he said.

Jernigan, who intends to run for Residence Hall Association president, said he plans to take action this week.

"I put together a proposal and a petition," he said. "We feel that we pay rent for these conditions and it is not fair."

ate the fact he is considering the concerns of the students," he said.

Kuncl said he will meet with Jernigan on Friday afternoon to discuss long-term issues. But students can solve some of the concerns with a simple phone call asking for a repair, Kuncl said.

"Students that have routine problems, all they have to do make a maintenance request," he said. Elevators without safety telephones,

small kitchens with non-functioning stoves, one ice machine for 1,000 residents and few trash compactors and dumpsters are among the problems mentioned in the report.

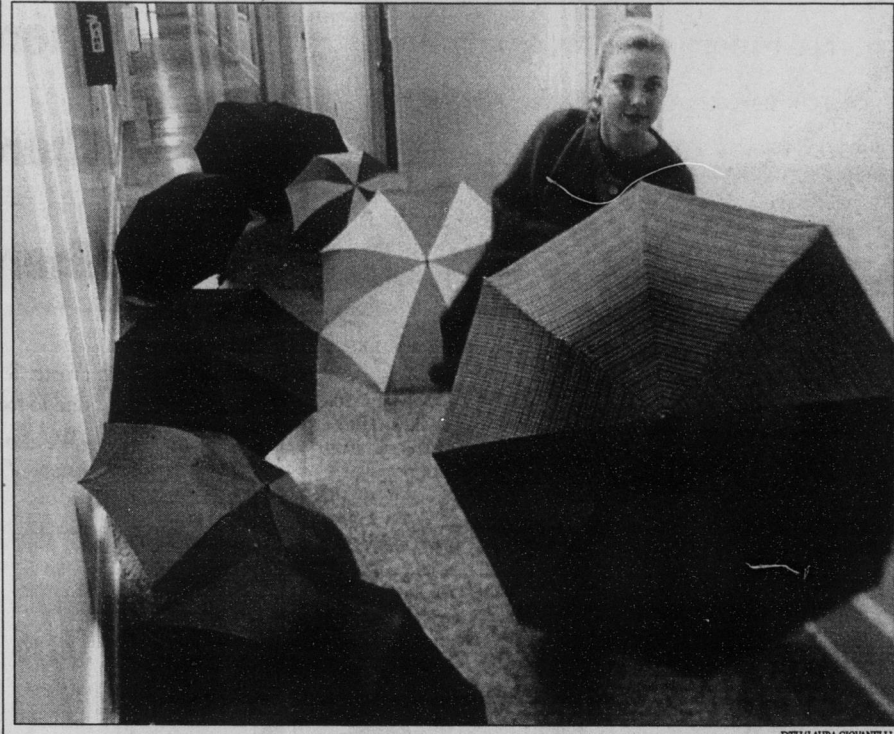
Jernigan said another concern of the residents was the lack of furniture in study lounges. "If the administration is truly striving for the academic climate of the University, they should provide furniture for study lounges," he said.

Clay Harris, a freshman from Greensboro, said he liked living in Morrison, though some improvements are needed. "Overall, living in Morrison is pretty enjoyable," he said. "The ice machine never works though, and the furniture in the lounges are nasty."

Some Morrison residents said they agree with the need for change in their

SEE MORRISON, PAGE 9

## UNDER THE UMBRELLA ...



Jennifer Robinson, a freshman psychology major, prepares to face the whipping rain outside Cobb Residence Hall. The grey, wet weather drove students into the coziness of their residence hall rooms Tuesday afternoon.

## INSIDE Wednesday

**The main event**  
Senior of the Week Joe Hummel, a UNC wrestler, plans to attend medical school in the fall. He spends free time doing volunteer work in the community. **Senior Week** Page 2

**Cultural celebration**  
Sangam presents its South Asian cultural celebration "Namaste" this Sunday. This is the first year that it will take place on campus. Page 4

**Today's weather**  
Rain mixed with snow; mid 40s  
Thursday: Partly cloudy; low 60s

Nothing is more dangerous than an idea when you have only one idea.

Alain