## Funding Woes Still Plague NCCU Study: Smokers Lured

The long list of renovations prompted Chancellor Julius Chambers to appeal to the Board of Trustees for funds.

BY COURTNEY OBRINGER

DURHAM - N.C. Central University freshman Lakouvia Jackson had to move out of her Eagleton Residence Hall room for a day because her ceiling leaked with Hurricane Floyd's waters and flooded the floor.

Student Jerry Terrell complained about the damage to his room: roof leakage, a broken cable and a dangling light from his ceiling.

"Clean Me" written in dust on dirty windows, rusted old vents, chipping paint on railings, torn window screens and overgrown grass are striking images on the N.C. Central campus.

These conditions of disrepair, which caused N.C. Central to fail state building inspections, recently prompted Chancellor Julius Chambers to appeal to the Board of Trustees for funding to fix prolonged maintenance problems and building code violations.

But board members advised Chambers to look to the prospective capital improvements bond issue for funding. The bond, which would have provided N.C. Central with a significant chunk of the needed funding for building repairs, awaits review by the N.C.

General Assembly.

Combined with the expected system wide 30 percent enrollment increase by 2010 which would mandate better facilities, N.C. Central's history of under

funding will continue to plague the school until the bond issue is passed.

Following the Department of Labor's discovery of more than 130 types of building code violations in 1997, N.C. Central hired a private consulting firm which found additional violations, estimated to be worth \$53 million.

The initial code violations found in 20 campus buildings had been remedied, said George Walls, special assistant to the chancellor. But the health and safety violations found in the remaining two-thirds of the campus still

Trustee Ralph Frasier said he realized the need to remedy the safety issues, but the board had high hopes for the bond issue, which could supplement N.C. Central's gaping need for funding. Walls said the school currently had

only \$6 million to make renovations - estimated to cost \$119 million in consultant Eva Klein's 1999 capital improvements study, which was commissioned by the Board of Governors.

Klein's study prompted the legisla-tive bond issue, which was never decid-

ed on by the N.C. General Assembly.
Regardless of when the bond issue passes, Paul Goldblatt, director of resi dential life, said all residence halls had a continual stream of re-occurring problems, such as ceiling and window leaks. The recent stormy weather has aggra-



N.C. Central University buildings suffer from a variety of recurring maintenance issues, from torn window screens to leaky roofs. More than \$100 million is needed to rectify the problems, officials say.

vated the grievances, he said.

Goldblatt said the perpetual prob-lems were related to N.C. Central's history of underfunding. Edward Eng, director of the physical plant, agreed.

"Conditions are a result of years of inattention," Eng said. "Correcting defi-ciencies immediately is unrealistic."

Eng said an ongoing capital improve-ments project had targeted several cam-pus sites for repairs, and a \$2.9 million renovation program was currently in the works, including updating plumbing and electrical systems and correcting asbestos problems.

"We are doing all the things that we need to be doing to get deficiencies corrected," Eng said.

While officials have targeted the problems, funding deficits still plague

"The main source of funding is the nd issue," Walls said. "If we got the \$119 million, we could go a long way to correct the small things and big things that are concerns to regulatory agencies ... we know what the problems are. We

just need the money to correct them."

Trustee Brenda Brody also said the bond would be very important in addressing maintenance needs and would provide the school with market

ing tools to attract new students.

Despite officials' worries that struc tural problems hinder the school's recruiting efforts, Carmelita Spicer, Director for Public Relations, disagreed.

"Students will come because of its reputation," Spicer said.

But Spicer said the anticipated enrollment increase mandated better facilities. "We need to have amenities to offer to be competitive," she said. "Education academia is here but we are lacking sorely in facilities.'

Despite the need for maintenance funding, a new \$30 million biotechnology center was recently erected with money from corporate gifts, the biggest contributor being GlaxoWellcome.

"Every donor likes to give to new opportunities," Brody said. "No donor

Some N.C. Central students agreed more funding should be allotted to the maintenance of residence halls.

"(Renovations should) begin with housing because we have to live there," said Nichole Easen, a freshman from

Although N.C. Central earned money through alumni, grants and fund-raisers, Spicer said she did not believe the school had been allocated enough money through the N.C. General Assembly.

> The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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# By Subliminal Messages

A student-conducted study found that stores placed tobacco advertisements next to places of purchase.

By BRENT KINKER

A recently released study concluded that the tobacco industry was continuing to find successful techniques for subconsciously luring in smokers.

The study, conducted by students at Stanford and Santa Clara universities, reported that tobacco companies paid 62.4 percent of chain convenience stores to prominently advertise their

The report indicated that many stores placed cigarette advertisements near purchase points such as cash registers or check-out lines, a process called slotting.
"Although several nontobacco com-

panies pay for similar services, the average store received 78 percent of its slotting money from the tobacco industry, said Ellen Fleighery, spokeswoman for the Stanford University center for research in disease prevention. "And cigarettes were the top selling product for only 33 percent of the retailers."

Tobacco companies pay stores to use space around cash registers as well as other visible areas to advertise and sell their products, said Kurt Ribisl, assistant sor at the UNC School of Public Health, who participated in the study.

"It must be having an impact," Ribisl said. "Here they're dedicating over \$2 billion to slotting," he said, pointing to a

slide of the tobacco industries' 1997 marketing budget. The slide showed that slotting funds dwarfed all other advertising, including billboards and magazine advertise-ments. It also showed that tobacco com-panies spent more than half of their

advertising budget on slotting in 1997.

"Tobacco companies are all trying to buy the same prime placement," Ribisl said. "The cash registers and counters are the best locations. Every customer that goes through this store, including temperers has to go through the point of teenagers, has to go through the point of

Ribisl said tobacco companies used several different display methods. "They have utility trays, posters, calenders, ash trays, change trays, overhead bins, signs and message boards," he said.

At T.J.'s Campus Beverage, located on Franklin Street, Camel posters litter the windows. More Camel signs are inside the store, as well as Camel racks on the counter and posters on the walls.

Although the store sells other brands, they are hidden behind the counter.

"I know (Camel representatives) pay

to keep the prices lower and to hang the posters," said T.J.'s cashier, Jeff Martin.
"And they definitely sell a lot more

because of the prices."

But down the street at Sutton's Drug Store, there are no signs of slotting. "I don't want to promote it, so I don't accept anything," Sutton's pharmacist John Woodard said. "The cigarettes sell themselves. It's amazing how many stu-

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### **Safe Route** Agreement **Aids Peace**

Peace negotiators say the Middle East peace process got a jump-start from a new safe route through Israel.

IERUSALEM - Palestinian and Israeli negotiators agreed on terms for the first-ever safe route between the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Monday, saying all that was needed was Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Prime Minister Ehud Barak has

approved the terms, chief Israeli negotiator Shlomo Ben-Ami said. Ben-Ami, who is also public security

minister, said the agreement brought a "new atmosphere" to the talks, which were revived last month.

"We need to look at it as representative of a new phase of negotiations," Ben-Ami told The Associated Press.

The Gaza Strip, on the Mediterranean coast, and the land-locked West Bank are about 24 miles apart and separated by Israeli land. The "safe passage" agreement would allow Palestinians to use Israeli highways along a fixed route between the territo-

Palestinians said that the agreement over the route - delayed for four years by previous governments - was a sign

They predicted Arafat would approve the agreement and that the pasage would open within two days.



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