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As Vote Nears, Leaders Seek Input on Tuition

By MATTHEW SMITH
Staff Writer

Forty-eight hours. That is the amount of time student leaders had to gauge student opinion on a proposal that would raise tuition for all students next fall.

Student Opinion Divided on Tuition Increase
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Student Body President Nic Heinke and Graduate and Professional Student Federation President Lee Conner, both of whom sit on the Chancellor's Committee on Faculty Salaries and Benefits, said Tuesday that they were not going to rest easy during Fall Break. The committee presented a proposal Monday that would combine tuition increases with legislative funding to solve faculty salary woes. The committee was formed after UNC dropped in national rankings

from third to fifth and lost top professors due to comparatively low faculty salaries. The group is slated to vote on the tuition increase Monday. Conner said the short time he had before casting his vote on the proposal might severely limit his ability to voice the concerns of all students. To counter this, he and Heinke scrambled during the past two days to put together emergency polling efforts, Conner said. "We are under an extreme time crunch."

As their first push to gauge student reaction, Heinke and Conner hosted a meeting of student leaders Monday night to offer details on the plan. At the meeting, Heinke and Conner gave out their e-mail addresses to students to solicit individual responses. They have also e-mailed the full text of the proposal to many students. Heinke said they hoped information would spread by word-of-mouth. Conner said he felt his efforts might not be enough and were certainly not as

much as he would have liked. "I feel frustrated," he said. "(As a leader), I feel very frustrated to have a real, strong desire to hear peoples' thoughts and desires and not have the time." However, Conner said students would not lack representation in Monday's committee meeting. "Nic and I will still be very strong in our efforts." Conner said the proposal hit him with a double whammy of a time crunch

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Peer Schools' Faculty-Pay Plans Vary

UC-Berkeley and UCLA pay their professors more than UNC-CH but have managed to keep tuition rates stable.

By LANI HARAC
Staff Writer

Although UNC-Chapel Hill officials approved a plan to raise tuition in hopes of making faculty salaries more competitive, other universities have been able to offer high salaries without affecting students' savings.

Two University of California schools against which UNC-CH measures itself, UC-Berkeley and UC-Los Angeles, pay full professors \$103,600 and \$101,400, respectively, significantly more than UNC-CH's \$88,700.

Yet the UC system has avoided tuition increases for the last five years by relying on state funding. In addition, undergraduates received a 5 percent tuition reduction in each of the last two years and graduates received the same amount in the last year, said UC-system spokesman Brad Hayward.

The UC system has increased faculty salaries by 4.5 percent to 5 percent in the last four years because the schools "need to keep pace with our comparison institutions," Hayward said. Future salary increases - holding at about 4.5 percent - will be aimed at maintaining their standing.

The increases also prevent recruitment and retention problems such as those plaguing UNC-CH.

UNC-CH has historically increased salaries by about 3 percent per year. But a recent drop in a U.S. News & World Report ranking from third to fifth, as well as salary competition from other schools, has prompted University officials to request an annual 5 percent increase in faculty salaries for at least the next five years.

To fund the salary boosts, in-state undergraduate tuition would be raised by about \$500 over two years, and out-of-state students' cost would increase \$1,350 over three years. Graduate students would pay \$1,500 and \$2,550 more over three years for in-state and out-of-state tuition, respectively.

Another peer institution, the University of Virginia, has also felt the strain of salary competitiveness.

The school has had an average 6.5 percent salary increase in recent years, said Louise Dudley, director of university relations.

A salary increase is necessary "if we have trouble attracting the kind of faculty we want here because we can't match offers from other places," Dudley said. UVa. also pays its professors more than UNC-CH, offering \$96,500.

"The state goal is to bring faculty See INSTITUTIONS, Page 11

Another Year Older

UNC Celebrates 206th Birthday

By JOHN O'HALE
Staff Writer

Freed from the responsibility of teaching morning classes, professors donned brightly colored academic regalia to celebrate the University's 206th birthday on Tuesday.

Along with students and administrators, they assembled in front of the Old Well to participate in University Day ceremonies.

"It is one of our most important days in the cam-



Interim Chancellor Bill McCoy recognizes Sen. Howard Lee, D-N.C., with a Distinguished Alumnus Award.

More Coverage of This Year's University Day
See Pages 10 and 11

pus calendar," said interim Chancellor Bill McCoy. University Day, a college holiday since 1877, marks the anniversary of the groundbreaking of Old East Residence Hall. "Like the tenacious Davie Poplar, the physical roots of higher education were sunk deep into the rich North Carolina soil," Board of Trustees chairwoman Anne Cates said.

Opposite South Building, the assemblage lined up in pairs for the processional to Memorial Hall. Swathed in light blue ribbon, student marshals formed the head and tail of the parade.

After parading to Memorial Hall, guests were welcomed by McCoy, UNC-system President Molly Broad and other administrators.

"This is an event that gives the University community the chance to come together and reflect on our unique history," Broad said. "It is a time for looking back and looking forward."

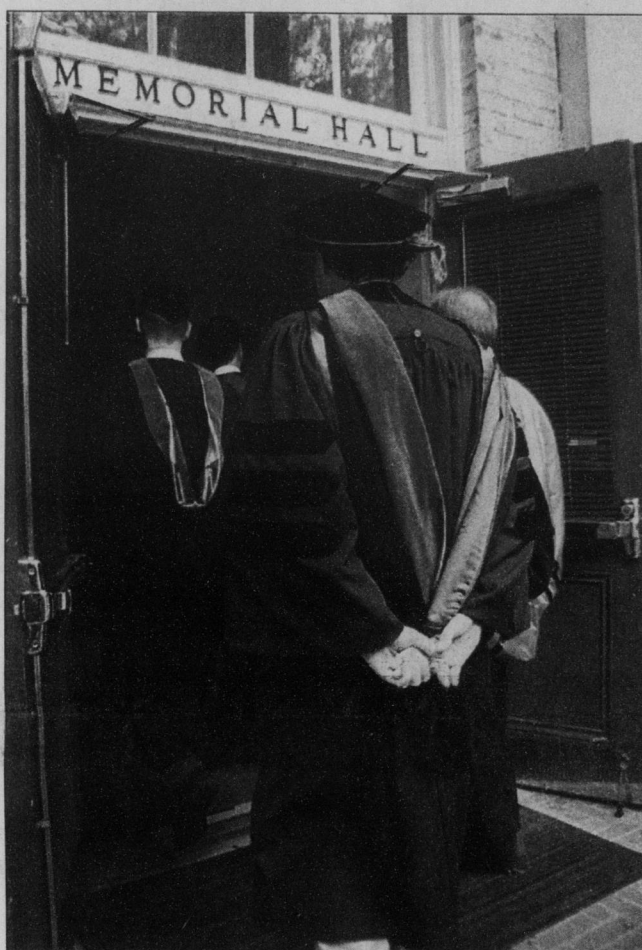
Presentation of distinguished alumna and alumnus awards followed the opening remarks. The University bestowed the annual award upon five alumni, a tradition dating back to 1906. Sen. Howard Lee, D-Orange, was one award recipient.

"There is nothing more special than to be honored by one's alma mater," Broad said.

The program featured a keynote speech and musical performances by the UNC Chamber Singers and the Crown Chamber Bass.

Tuesday's theme was one of finding UNC's role in the millennium. "This is a time in which Chapel

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UNC faculty members march through the doors of Memorial Hall for the 1999 University Day awards and address.

Officials Dedicate Center

By KIM MINUGH
Staff Writer

It will be the new town square of UNC: the living room, the corner market and the gossip fence.

Provost Dick Richardson laid out his aspirations for the new James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence to a crowd of 300 students and faculty members during Tuesday's University Day festivities.

Richardson was one of six speakers who hailed the new center's commitment to UNC's tradition of distinguished undergraduate education.

The building, which will open in January, will house the Honors

Program, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Carolina Leadership Development, as well as many first-year seminars.

"A new generation of students will now enter the building," interim Chancellor Bill McCoy said. "(It) will strengthen the intellectual community of Carolina and enhance the undergraduate environment. Whether or not you are entering the Johnston Center for the first time, you will see that it is a very special place."

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Risa Palm said the center embodied the UNC vision.

"It gives Carolina the resource to

not only be good, but to be excellent in undergraduate education," Palm said. "That is Carolina's goal."

James Leloudis, associate dean of the Honors Program, alluded to the late Chancellor Michael Hooker's call for a "renaissance in undergraduate education."

"It embodies a tradition of excellence in education that is as old as the University itself," he said.

Richardson emphasized the social life that would thrive in the center. "The Graham Memorial (Building) features the latest in hi-tech teaching and learning, and at the same time

See DEDICATION, Page 11



UNC alumna Rhonda Wynn (left) and William Hooks look over part of the new James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence.

Murder Suspect Captured After Suicide Attempt

By JACOB MCCONNICO
City Editor

A man suspected of murdering a co-worker at a Mebane manufacturing plant was found lying in a pool of his own blood in a Savannah, Ga., motel room Tuesday.

Billy Jerome Elliot, 34, had eluded Orange County Sheriff's deputies for four days before a cleaning woman walked in on his limp, unconscious body on her way to clean the bathroom.

Mike Wilkins, an investigator with the Savannah police, said Elliot had

checked into the motel at 12:55 a.m. Tuesday and had cut his wrists sometime during the midmorning hours.

"When we got to the motel he was lying on the bed in a pool of his own blood," Wilkins said. "He was responsive but unable to answer our questions."

Witnesses had stated that they saw Elliot walk into Hancor Inc., a drainage pipe plant located on U.S. 70 West in Orange County, with a sawed-off shotgun at 11:42 p.m. He pointed it at Darren Jerome Brantley and put two slugs into the 37-year-old man's side.

Brantley was rushed to UNC Hospitals but was pronounced dead on arrival. Elliot fled the scene and before leaving the state, stopped and spent most of Friday at the home of Tanya Patrice Highsmith at 122 S. 5th St. in Springlake.

Wilkins said the first thing officers did when they begin an investigation was run names through the National Crime Investigations Computer. A system search found that Elliot was wanted for first-degree murder in Orange County.

It would have been easy for the case

to be dismissed as just another suicide attempt, but the department always looks for a reason why someone tried to kill themselves, he said. "We run everyone through the computer - suspects, witnesses, victims - everybody gets run through the system," he said.

Orange County Sheriff's Deputy Greg Strowd said Elliot served time in prison for a murder he committed in Norwalk, Conn., in 1990.

Elliot was in prison from May 1990 to May 1998 for murder and assault charges, Strowd said. According to an Orange County

Sheriff's Department press release, copies of the murder warrants were faxed to the Savannah Police Department.

Wilkins said Elliot would have an extradition hearing as soon as he was well enough to go to jail.

"If he waives extradition he could be back in Orange County in five to 10 days," he said.

"If he fights it, it could take up to two months."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

A Legend Dies

Basketball great Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain, was found dead of a heart attack Tuesday at age 63. The former Laker once scored 100 points in a game. See Page 7.

Closing Shop

The Daily Tar Heel will not publish during Fall Break. We will be back on the stands Monday, Oct. 18. Have a great vacation!

Today's Weather

Rain;
High 60s.
Thursday, Sunny;
Low 80s.

Traveling is a fool's paradise.

Ralph Waldo Emerson