

# Bill Pushes for Grade Release

BY GAVIN OFF  
Staff Writer

Many higher education leaders say parents who are paying for their children's education deserve to be more informed about their children's academic progress.

Recently, Ill. Democratic Sen. Dennis Jacobs proposed Ill. Senate Bill 1295, which would give undergraduates of Illinois' nine public universities the option of releasing their grades, attendance reports and academic probation status to their parents.

But the bill also matches students' privacy against the parents' right to know about their children's education.

Don Sevens, spokesman for the Illinois Board of Higher Education, said parents deserved to know how their children's education was progressing.

"I think the idea is understandable and even useful because in most cases, parents are paying the bill for their son's and daughter's education," Sevens said.

He also said a student's right to privacy would not be jeopardized because grades would not be released until the student signed a waiver.

"On the other hand, there are privacy rights involved, and they are adults, so their rights must be protected," he said.

Brad Burzynski, a Republican in the Illinois Senate, supported the bill. He said it was especially necessary for freshmen and sophomores to have supervision because college could be overwhelming.

"It's important, because if a parent gets the grades that the kids are making, and they are lower than what they are used to, then the parents can exercise some parental authority," Burzynski said. "I believe college students need some encouragement whether their grades are good or bad."

While he acknowledged problems with the proposal, such as dealing with the additional costs and resources, Burzynski said the bill was beneficial.

"The university, without the bill, doesn't have to give grades to the parents," he said. "We have higher tuition rates and parents are less informed, so we have to do something."

UNC-Chapel Hill does not mail grades to parents, but in some cases, parents can call and check on their

child's academic performance.

Nic Heinke, UNC-CH student body president, said he could spot a few complications that needed to be worked out in the Illinois bill.

He said pressure from parents to force their children to sign the waiver was an issue that should be addressed.

But Heinke said the overall idea behind the proposal was useful.

"There are ways to frame the concept that would make it work," he said. "If students choose to release their grades to their parents, then that's their right. But one important clause is that a waiver is signed on a semester-by-semester basis."

Burzynski, who helps finance his child's college expenses, said he strongly believed in the concept behind the proposal.

"I don't believe this is a partisan issue," he said. "I fully intend to support the bill because I really believe it's a good idea. I have a junior in college, and I have a daughter who will be a freshman next year, so I want to know how they are doing."

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

## ETHICS

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WFU will require the members of its institutional review board, which is responsible for approving clinical trials, to take the course as well.

Jeff Cohen, associate director of education at the federal Office for Protection From Research Risks, said recent increases in the volume of research and the complexity of studies meant that review boards had difficulty keeping up with changes in ethical guidelines. He said WFU's training program would help review board members and investigators catch up.

"I think it's becoming a good trend," Cohen said. "Institutions are looking at

the best ways to provide training programs for their investigators. They're finding that traditional education programs don't have the impact they need."

Cohen said efforts like the training program at WFU were rare. "Wake Forest is one of the leaders in this effort to provide training and examination," he said. "They're making sure the people who need to be trained are trained."

UNC's medical school requires ethics courses for graduate student researchers in basic sciences and clinical studies, but executive associate dean of research Bill Marzluft said that was the extent of the training given. "We wouldn't think our faculty members would need it," Marzluft said. "We assume they've had training as students already."

But he said he could see why WFU

would implement its program. "The government (regulators) are getting so that everybody's tightening up," he said.

Susan Margitic, director of WFU's program, said recent federal regulation had lowered public confidence in clinical research. She said she hoped her curriculum would ease people's fears.

"Given the suspicious climate among the public about institutional research, this will only serve to bolster public confidence in research here and at other institutions," Margitic said.

"Although we're sure (ethical work) is being done, this will be a good preventive measure that will ensure everyone is getting the same message."

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## GREEN

From Page 3

and took control of the vehicle. Then, another man who had witnessed the entire incident ran up to the car the suspect was in and grabbed the keys.

This prompted the suspect to jump out of the car and get into the man's gray pickup truck that was also sitting in the Burger King drive-through.

The man went to his vehicle to stop the woman from leaving and the suspect

bit him on his left index finger.

The suspect then put the pickup truck in drive and rammed the car in front of her, police reports state. After the truck came to a stop, the owner was able to get the keys from the suspect.

She was transported to the Orange County Jail and is being held in lieu of a \$10,000 secured bond. She is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on Feb. 21.

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

## STEPPING

From Page 3

the founders of each organization.

"I have an overall respect for what was done in the day of African dance and step," Futrell said.

Staton too appreciated stepping's evolution. "It's maintaining the history but with a new flavor."

The Features Editor can be reached at features@unc.edu.

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**HOROSCOPES**  
by linda c. black

### Toddy's Birthday (Feb. 1)

A secret passion could become public this year. Your vision could be hazy in February. You should have the problem solved by March and should be ready to move by April. Reality rears its ugly head in May, but the impossible comes within reach again by August. A startling revelation is to your advantage in December, and the happy ending comes around next January.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging. Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 6 - The general is coming to inspect the troops! She's not in the mood to be hassled, contradicted or messed with in any way. Even if you're totally respectful, you could be in big trouble if there's a smirk on your face. Look sharp, and you'll pass the test.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - Your career is important to you now. You're thinking of new things to do - ways to stretch your talents and your mind. You might even feel like taking a class. If you do, choose one you can use to improve your earnings. That way, it may be tax deductible.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 6 - You'd probably love to travel if you could afford to go. Well, maybe you could! If you can keep your mate from spending all your money on something else, maybe the two of you could take a vacation together. Better talk about it and set priorities.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6 - You may want to let a partner take the lead. An older woman would be the best one to make your next decision for you. Well, your input's important, too, of course. It's her wisdom that really gives you the advantage, however.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 6 - You're a hard worker, especially now. You can't do everything all by yourself, however. If you can, you haven't taken on enough of a challenge. If you have to rely on a strong partner, you're in the right place at the right time. So, do it.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is an