Wednesday, February 16, 2000



University

Hunt Visit to UNC Sparks Protest

By MATTHEW B. DEES State & National Editor

When Gov. Jim Hunt visited the University on Tuesday for a discussion with students, he repeatedly emphasized the need for more political activism among young people. He might not have expected to be greeted by a group of students engaged

greeted by a group of students engaged in that very activity. Students representing the Campaign to End the Death Penalty rallied outside the Johnston Center for Undergraduate

the Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence protesting Hunt's stance on the death penalty. In 16 years as governor, Hunt has approved 12 executions. And questions about his stance on capital punishment

approved 12 executions. And questions about his stance on capital punishment dominated Hunt's visit to campus, part of a series of lectures sponsored by the University.

University. During the hour-long session, three students pressed Hunt on different aspects of the issue.

John Johnson, a sophomore and a member of CEDP, cited evidence that the death penalty was not a deterrent to crime and said the millions of dollars needed to execute an inmate could be better used for preventative programs. Johnson asked Hunt if he would sup-

Johnson asked Hunt if he would support a moratorium on the death penalty like the one imposed by Republican Gov. George Ryan in Illinois. Hunt eaid he would not and defend.

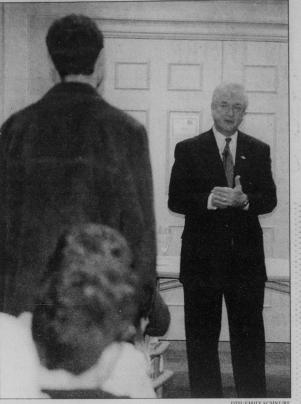
Hunt said he would not, and defended his position by saying he had the consent of the people. But he added that crime prevention initiatives, such as mentoring programs, also were needed. "We ought to do more for crime prevention now – that is the main way to protect yourself," Hunt told Johnson and the room of about 100 students.

"Let's work for a time when we don't have to have (the death penalty)."

have to have (the death penalty)." Johnson said that he was disappointed with Hunt's stance on the issue and that he was not allowed a follow-up question. "I'm glad for the opportunity, but obviously this is an issue that is important to students and I was disappointed with his answer," Johnson said. "I was kind of disappointed that I didn't have a rebuttal."

didn't have a rebuttal." Aside from the discussion on capital punishment, Hunt also addressed less controversial issues, including education, the environment and urban sprawl.

Hunt responded to a question regarding the recent Board of Governors' decision to raise tuition at



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Gov. Jim Hunt answers a question from a student on Tuesday. Activists protested Hunt's stance on the death penalty during his visit.

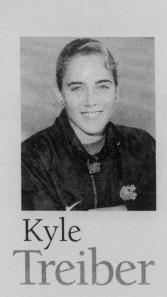
five UNC-system schools by saying he supported low tuition, but the current financial situation made the increases necessary. "The state is in a very difficult situation," he said. "Because we're in that situation right now, I can see that the Board of Governors felt like it needed to raise tuition. That's not a perfect world, but let me tell you we don't live in a perfect world."

Hunt said this could be a call to action for students, especially if the legislature requires a public referendum on a \$5 billion bond package proposed last summer that would go toward repairing and renovating dilapidated facilities on UNC campuses. "We're going to have to have a big new commitment to higher education in our state," he said. "You can carry a bond issue to give the University what it needs. You can really make a difference."

Hunt also addressed a question about urban sprawl by encouraging students to get involved. He urged Meyrick Kanady, a junior from Charlotte who asked the question, to go to her local governing body and demand change. But an exasperated Kanady saw the response as a way to dodge her question rather than offer a practical solution.

rather than offer a practical solution. "He didn't answer my question," she said. "He said this was important to him. I think he should have a plan that he should be able to share with others."

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



The University of North Carolina and Wachovia would like to congratulate Kyle Treiber, the Wachovia Woman of the Week.

Kyle is a senior on the fencing team from Morganton, NC. She is a starter and captain

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for Carolina's first women's sabre squad. Also, Kyle is a captain on the Club Gymnastics team, which won Club Nationals at the Naval Academy last spring. Her success is revealed in the classroom as well, for she has a 3.9 GPA and has earned the Dean's List status every semester. In her free time, Kyle enjoys writing novels with her twin sister Kibby, volunteering as a Special Olympics coach, and hiking.

Wachovia is committed to supporting achievements made by women and is proud to celebrate Kyle Treiber's accomplishments.

WOMAN OF THE WEEK

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