

# Budget Cuts Pose Threat to Officers

By WALTER HERZ  
Staff Writer

The future of the student resource officers at Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools might be at stake as the town of Chapel Hill makes cuts and reappropriations in its 2000-01 budget.

At a public forum held by the Chapel Hill Town Council on Wednesday night to discuss next year's preliminary budget, several residents and school officials spoke out about the lack of funding for the student resource officers.

Neil Pedersen, superintendent of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, asked the council to help continue funding the officers, who both counsel and protect students in the district.

"As you may know, we currently have four SROs, two in the high schools and two in the middle schools," he said. "We do not have support for the four SROs for next year."

Pedersen said the federal grant that made SROs possible in the school system ran out this year, and that before the grant, the town had paid for half the cost of the officers. He said the SRO program cost \$55,000 to operate annually.

Recently the town had been footing less than half of the bill because of the federal help, but Town Manager Cal Horton said the town could not assume further costs without raising the tax base.

"We suggest that the town try to maintain this type of historical participation," Pedersen said. "If we don't have

a grant, that could provide a reasonable basis to fall back on."

Council member Edith Wiggins said the problem was providing this assistance to the school system while keeping the tax base low. "It's going to mean a tax raise at one end or the other."

Council member Flicka Bateman said the town manager and council should investigate alternative ways of helping the schools retain the officers.

"They serve an incredible need," she said. "This is probably the worst cut we could make."

Mayor Rosemary Waldorf recognized the need for the SROs but also expressed the difficulty as far as town funding was concerned.

"It's a really important service but I really hope the school system can find a way to shoulder more of the cost," she said.

Horton said the process of reappropriations and allocations would always leave somebody unhappy.

"My estimate is that everything we bring you will hurt at least this much. It's a hurtful thing," he said.

"I emphasize that this is not the budget. This is a report on the development of the budget. We still have a long way to go before we can submit material for your official consideration."

Several work sessions have been scheduled to continue working on the budget. The final proposal will be completed May 10.

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## POLITICS

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need to have the latest outfit, is a phase young people might not outgrow as they get older. This concern, some analysts say, needs to be addressed by older generations and the politicians themselves.

"It depends on the attitude that this generation gives the next," Saleh said. "It's all a matter of self-empowerment."

"A lot of it is if the current people in office recognize that."

### Cold Shoulders

Rabinowitz says there is a good deal of debate about whether this generation will continue to shy away from civic participation as it grows older.

He says whose idea proves correct would hinge largely on whether young people could convince politicians they were a viable political force.

"It will depend on how solidified young people are and whether (candidates) think you're worth it."

As of now, most candidates don't seem to be clamoring to get the votes of young people. A University of California-Los Angeles survey indicated most youths don't feel candidates' campaign ads are directed at them but at their parents and grandparents.

After all, why spend valuable campaign resources to solicit the vote of a demographic who statistically doesn't show up in droves at the polls?

The success of Clinton and Ventura might lend credence to the idea that politicians should solicit youth support.

## UNION

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While the entire project is expected to take two years to complete, the initial phase should begin by June 1 with the demolition of the Union automated teller machine locales and the stairs between the Union and Student Stores, Luse said.

The first phase will focus on the Union's addition that will extend into the horseshoe-shaped metered parking area between the Union and South Road.

Once construction begins, the heavily traveled stairs between the Union and Student Stores will close.

But Luse said the new schedule would be more convenient for students because construction would not begin until most left campus for the summer.

The stairs between the Union and the bookstore will not close until after graduation, he said.

Luse said the steps should be open again in the fall, with the priority to complete the renovations without inconveniencing students.

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But the raw figures paint a bleaker picture. According to the Vote Smart survey, only 65 percent of voting-age youths are registered to vote versus 78 percent of older respondents.

Similarly, only 45 percent of younger voters said they "definitely will" vote in the 2000 presidential election compared to 64 percent of older voters.

Despite this, some see it as the candidates' duty in a democratic system to solicit support from all constituents.

"Given that politicians have the money, and they at least rhetorically say they care about the future of this country, they need to make more of an effort in this area," Freyman said.

He cited poll data that indicated young people saw and remembered dot-com commercials more than political ads. "I'd say Madison Avenue and Silicon Valley have figured out a way to target young adults, so why haven't the presidential candidates?"

Freyman warned candidates, though, that they should be wary of patronizing such a media-savvy voter bloc, many of whom have indicated they care more about issues than personality.

"They don't want to be condescended to," he said. "Young adults are not a specific interest group. They're just a regular part of the population."

But he said young voters would have to make a similar effort to be more informed and involved.

"(Candidates and young people) need to meet somewhere in the middle."

### Clicking the Vote

A key part of increasing youth

involvement is increasing awareness and education, officials say.

Studies show that young people read the newspaper less than previous generations.

Freyman said increased emphasis on science and math had reduced schools' focus on civic education and that politics were not discussed among family members as often as in years past.

But encouraging schools and children to become more politically savvy is easier said than done. "As to how to make them a more attentive voting bloc, a lot of it is going to have to come from them," Freyman said.

Some analysts predict that the advent of the Internet will eventually produce voters who are even more informed than their predecessors.

The Vote Smart survey revealed that younger respondents chose the Internet as their most useful information source, while older respondents rank it sixth.

"On the Internet you have so many voices going on," said Saleh, who helped with the survey.

"I think that's going to be really important, and you're going to see some excitement on that end."

But Rabinowitz said the Internet's popularity posed underlying dangers.

"You're basically in an environment where you select what you're exposed to," he said. "In the old days, there was a common medium that forced you to face up to what was going on in the political arena."

Another debated Internet phenomenon is online voting.

The method was tried for the first

time in a recent Arizona primary and went off without any noticeable hitches.

And many say the method will encourage the new wired generation to vote. But the method has taken heat for being vulnerable to hackers and discriminating against minorities and other groups who are less likely to have Internet access.

But regardless of how much information or resources are available, most pundits agree that young people will have to be convinced that political involvement is worth their time.

### 'Power in Numbers'

So what's at stake?

As the economy continues to boom and the nation's political fabric remains unblemished by major controversial issues like the Vietnam War, does it really matter to politicians or young voters themselves if they vote?

Yes, say many experts.

Dervin cited the recent passage of a bill in Congress that ends the practice of reducing Social Security benefits for retirees who choose to go back to work.

"This is a huge thing for older Americans, and it's because people 60 and over vote," he said. "If young people came out in these record numbers, you'd be seeing things for more college grants almost every day."

"So it's getting people to see there's power in numbers."

Saleh also said candidates who successfully mobilized the youth vote would also benefit. "There's 26 million votes to be had right there," she said. "That's enough to sway any election."

## LABOR

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"We want to give students an alternate route and maintain a good construction site," he said. "We're really excited about getting started."

Carolyn Elliland, associate vice chancellor for auxiliary services, said it was important to delay destroying the current ATMs until the new Wachovia Service Center adjacent to the Student Stores was completed.

"They can't get to Union renovation until they get Wachovia upstairs," she said.

Students who bank with Wachovia must still make electronic transactions where all other ATMs used to stand.

All other banks have relocated their ATM machines to the circular drive behind Davis Library.

Once the initial phase of the project is completed, the second phase will focus on renovation of the building's second and lower level floors.

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"There're a lot of unanswered questions," Pugatch said. "Certainly what I saw is true. Whether any of the violations are continuing, I don't know."

Brummett said the violation Pugatch alleged occurred before UNC's Jan. 1 deadline for full disclosure. "It was before our disclosure requirement, so unfortunately we have no way of knowing what was before then."

Brummett said it would take a while for the Collegiate Licensing Company to verify that all UNC licensees were in compliance with the code. "We have

600 licensees, and many of them have bunches of problems."

The Licensing Labor Code Advisory Committee is meeting today to discuss the complaint and make recommendations, Co-chairman Rut Tufts said.

Tufts said the committee will discuss solutions thoroughly because Pugatch's complaint was the first formal one UNC had received.

"When you're talking about child labor it's not like you can go in and stop it," Tufts said. "You have to ease kids back into school and life; we don't want them sent out into the street."

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## TICKETS

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said.

He said it was up to students unaware of the lottery to seek the tickets. "All it took was a walk down to the ticket office or a phone call. If (students) wanted to go, they could have made a little effort."

But sophomore Bonswa Banks said students should have been informed of the lottery prior to Monday.

Banks was open to an alternative method of distributing the vouchers.

"(The alternate method) should have been like in the olden days - first come, first serve," Banks said. He said he was outraged at the implemented method.

The ticket lottery was not the only

event that went largely unpublicized. Wednesday morning students had the opportunity to purchase vouchers unclaimed by initial winners. Based on their place in line, fans purchased leftover tickets beginning at 8 a.m.

CAA President Tee Pruitt said time constraints - the sign-up period, ticket sales and the reselling of the tickets that weren't picked up - limited publicity.

"I definitely think, given the circumstances, there wasn't a fairer way to do it," he said. Pruitt said some e-mail messages were sent out by CAA to publicize the distribution but admitted he wasn't sure to whom the messages were delivered.

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## Emerging Leaders Program ELP

**What:** An information session to learn more about the Emerging Leaders Program.

The objectives of the Emerging Leaders Program are to:

- prepare students for effective leadership in multicultural environments
- provide participants with opportunities to develop their individual leadership styles
- help students gain skills in communication and an understanding of group dynamics

**When:** Monday, April 3 from 7:00-8:00pm in Graham Memorial Room 039

(Graham Memorial is the building beside Morehead Planetarium)

OR

Sunday, April 9 from 7:00-8:00pm in the Carolina Union Room 224

**Who:** All rising sophomores and juniors are invited to attend.

**Questions:** E-mail [lead@email.unc.edu](mailto:lead@email.unc.edu) or call 962-8308.

The Emerging Leaders Program is part of Carolina Leadership Development.  
For more information, please look at our website [www.unc.edu/depts/lead/](http://www.unc.edu/depts/lead/)



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