raise \$3 million to promote the bond

"The bond proposal is critical to help

our community colleges and universities prepare for the future," Kirk said. "We have our work cut out for us, but it will

## Campaign Under Way for \$3.1 Billion Bond Pl

WORTH CIVILS City/State & National Edito

After more than two years of debate, N.C. legislators have put to the voters a \$3.1 billion bond for building improvements at state-supported schools, kicking off a statewide campaign to educate voters and enit their groots.

off a statewide campaign to cultural vol-ers and gain their support.

On May 18, the N.C. General
Assembly unanimously approved the
referendum for the bond, \$2.6 billion of

which will go to UNC schools and \$600

million to community colleges.

A week later, Gov. Jim Hunt signed the bill, giving voters the right to decide if they want to put their tax money toward renovations and additions of UNC and community college buildings.

"I've never signed a bill that I have more enthusiasm about than I have signed today," Hunt said. "When we say our facilities are in crisis, I mean our stu-

After failing to get a referendum approved by the House last summer, bond supporters kept the package alive through a committee that formed to tour institutions across the state. The Joint Select Committee on Higher Education Select Commutee on Figure Education Facilities, including legislators and UNC officials, visited the schools to see the deteriorating conditions of the buildings. The committee recommended to the state legislature a \$6.9 billion bond pack-

As the bond package stands now, UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University would receive almost \$500 million each, the most of any of the schools, if the referendum is approved. Some smaller UNC schools and historically black universities are only getting around \$50 million. But these a are set and will not change since legisla-

age, but legislators scaled that down to \$3.1 billion before they approved the referendum.

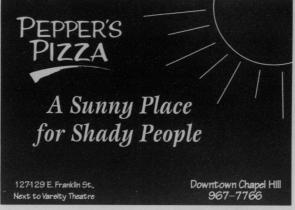
Tors have put the bond to a referendum. Now UNC and community college representatives, with the help of North

arolina Citizens for Business and Industry, the state's largest business lob-bying group, are involved in the camhigh to gain voter support for the bond. NCCBI President Phil Kirk said the

ties and community colleges have a very strong following in our state." group has formed a committee, composed of Gov. Hunt, three previous gov-The City/State & National Editor can tional leaders in the state, that hopes to

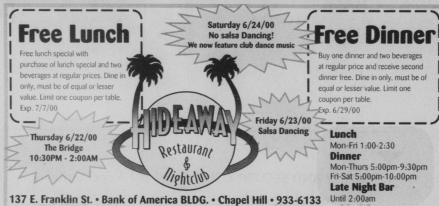
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