

# Matthews Prepares for Upcoming Year

By **KIM MINUGH**  
University Editor

As the late afternoon sunshine softly lights the office of the student body president, Brad Matthews enjoys his last few days of peace and quiet.

And as the campus begins to pulse with life and the University teeters on the brink of a busy year, those hours of reflection are quickly coming to a close.

Matthews, who spent most of the summer in Chapel Hill, said his Cabinet's main focus this year will be reaching out to students.

"(In the freshman class) there is a ridiculously large amount of potential, and I just want to make sure that student government caters to that potential," he said.

While Matthews said his summer was comparatively relaxing, he spent a great deal of time campaigning in Raleigh for the capital bond referendum. The public will vote on the \$3.1 billion package in November.

"(Campaigning) is an incredible amount of work, but a good opportunity to make a lasting contribution for everyone involved," he said.

Accompanied by Chief of Staff Chris McClure and other Cabinet members, Matthews also spent a month and a half campaigning for a proposed \$31 million need-based financial aid program. The N.C. General Assembly passed a \$5 million version this summer. "We were working with the legislature, beating the halls," he said. "Being a tight budget year,

I think what we got was a great start."

Matthews said he also began tackling several issues he stressed in his platform, such as constructing nearly 300 mailboxes for student groups that want a permanent campus address.

Matthews emphasized his commitment to improving student access to campus groups. He hopes to post a calendar of events on the Internet that will facilitate student involvement in campus activities.

He said the calendar will offer students a chance to participate in events that otherwise might go unnoticed.

Matthews said he worked with External Relations Chairwoman Jessica Triche to make "one-stop" voting available to students during the November general elections. He said students will be able to vote

for three weeks prior to Election Day at the Morehead Planetarium.

This will allow anyone registered to vote in North Carolina to vote on campus. "This will be wonderful considering the bond campaign," he said. "Hopefully we can get more people to vote."

While Matthews still has many issues on the table, including increasing communication between student government and the student body, he said summer allowed him a grace period to get acquainted with his office.

"I'm feeling more comfortable in the office now," he said. "I think we're ready to do a lot of good things."

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

## FOR A GOOD 'CLAUS'



DTH/JEFF POULAND

Students and parents moving onto campus were met by handfuls of Christmas cheer and candy Sunday afternoon from a group of Santas who call themselves 'Down with Christmas.'

# Students Accepting of Hotly Debated Increase

By **KAREY WUTKOWSKI**  
Assistant University Editor

The threat of a \$1,500 tuition increase at UNC drove hundreds of protesters to rally in opposition last year.

But the \$600 increase passed by the N.C. General Assembly this summer has few students up in arms.

"I haven't even really thought about it," said Micah Webster, a junior from Aliso Viejo, Calif. "I guess I was just

more concerned about making sure the money was going to something good."

A large chunk of the \$600 increase will be used to fund faculty salaries after concerns were raised last year about UNC's slip in national rankings.

The increase will be over two years, starting this year. Thirty to 35 percent of the increases will go toward financial aid.

"The tuition increase doesn't hurt any needy student at all," said Shirley Ort, director of scholarships and student aid.

Ort said the total tuition collected from the increase will generate \$5 million to \$6 million. From that, the financial aid portion creates a separate pool.

The money will be divided into \$300 grants used to pay the increase for all students on financial aid.

"There's enough money to cover every dollar for every student on financial aid," Ort said. "The students affected most will be those who just missed financial aid but whose parents aren't wealthy."

She said some National Merit and out-of-state scholarships were also increased due to the tuition hike.

Junior Amity Little is relieved financial aid will cover the increase, but said she is concerned that the aid pool is not bottomless. "I worry about it because it's

hard to find money," she said.

"It was a big victory having the tuition hike cut from \$1,500 to \$600," said Sandi Chapman, member of Coalition for Educational Access. "It could have been something that prohibited people from coming to college."

Chapman said people told her that a \$1,500 increase would force them to leave UNC but said most people can probably come up with the extra \$300.

But she said she hopes the tuition hike won't lead to more increases. "This time students will be able to deal with it, but in the long run it might cut low-income students from coming to college."

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

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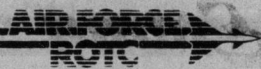
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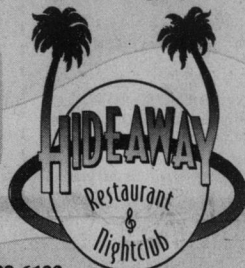
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