

919-Hip-Hop
Triangle grooves.
See Page 5



Honor Thy Peers
A recent Honor Court hearing has raised concerns about the student-led system. See Page 3



One More Day
Today: Partly cloudy, 71
Friday: Cloudy, 74
Saturday: Cloudy, 77

The Daily Tar Heel

www.dailytarheel.com

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Thursday, October 19, 2000

Congress Running Out of Money for Student Groups

BY STEPHANIE HORVATH

Staff Writer

A financial shortfall and increased demand for funding has Student Congress cinching its purse strings tighter when appropriating student fees to campus organizations.

Although Congress had \$39,000 to appropriate to student groups last fall, they began with only \$22,000 this year, placing extra stress on the allocation process.

Less than \$9,000 remains for the rest of the semester. "There's a big budget crunch, so we have to be particular," said Rep. Kevin Crockett, Dist. 19.

Student Body Treasurer Patrick Frye said the shortfall of \$5,100 has contributed to the reduced funds. This lack of funds occurred because student groups returned



Treasurer
Patrick Frye
said Congress is
short \$5,100 for this
year's appropriations
with months to go.

less than the projected 20 percent of unspent funds after spring semester. Student groups are required to return leftover money.

Frye said Congress also is having to tighten its appropriations because there is a steady amount of funds but more student groups demanding those funds.

Congress also no longer has the Special Projects and Speakers Fund, which funded expensive ventures by

large groups such as the Black Student Movement. The fund was completely spent and never replenished.

And some organizations discovered this shortage firsthand when coming to the Tuesday night Congress meeting to ask for funds. At the start of the meeting, \$12,221.46 remained in Congress' pool of funds for student groups. After all requests had been granted, Congress members said that number dropped to about \$8,000 or \$9,000, although exact calculations were not available.

Speaker Alexandra Bell stressed the gravity of the situation to Congress at the beginning of the meeting. "Please don't just rubber stamp these. We're getting closer to zero with every meeting."

Student groups Lighter Shade of Blue, Masala, the Carolina Hispanic

Association and the Carolina Socialist Forum all requested funds for projects at the meeting. Each organization answered extensive questions on how they planned to use the funds, but Lighter Shade of Blue, a show choir, and Masala, an umbrella organization of multicultural groups, faced the most intensive scrutiny. "I know everyone in here wants to be warm and fuzzy and help every group out, but we cannot drop down to \$6,000 tonight," Bell said.

In the end, both Masala and Lighter Shade of Blue got some money, though not all they had requested.

"It's a fine line that (Congress walks)," said junior Michael Troutman, a Lighter Shade of Blue member who represented

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Crunch Time

Student Congress has less money this semester to distribute to student organizations. Below are the reasons that student groups might find Congress funds hard to come by.

- Student government is operating with \$5,100 less than in previous years because they ended with a \$5,100 debt last year.
- Student Congress is appropriating the same amount of student fees, while the number of groups seeking funding is increasing.
- The Special Programs and Speakers Fund — which used to fund the expensive ventures of large groups such as Black Student Movement and Hip Hop Nation — was totally spent and never replenished.
- Student Congress must now fund those groups along with all other student organizations.

SOURCE: STUDENT BODY TREASURER

'01 Seniors Pick Fishy Class Gift

An aquarium for the Student Union garnered the most votes by a slim margin for the senior class gift.

BY KIM MINUGH
University Editor

Amid the renovations of the Student Union, the class of 2001 will leave its mark with a new aquarium.

The senior class Gift Committee met Wednesday night to sort through the 470 votes submitted via e-mail for the five gift choices.

Seniors chose between a scholarship for one urban and one rural student that would have lived together in a cross-cultural experiment, a wall-sized aquarium for the Student Union, a graduate school advising program for UNC seniors, a jumbotron huge TV screen for Kenan Stadium or a contribution to the Henry/Copeland Permanent Art Collection in the Student Union.

The aquarium won by a close margin with 166 votes, with the jumbotron close behind with 139 votes. The scholarship received 85 votes, the graduate advising program received 70 votes and the art collection received 10 votes.

While senior class officers were excited about the unique gift idea, they were more pleased by the level of participation of the senior class. "We're all really excited how many people voted," said Senior Class Vice President Sherilyn Black.

Senior Class President Jason Cowley said the committee would begin working immediately to make the aquarium a reality. "I think this is a neat, dynamic gift," he said. "I'm excited about laying out a design."

Cowley said the aquarium will be paid for mostly by funds to be solicited from the senior class. He said the aquarium will complement the renovations of the Union to be completed in 2002. "It's going to be pretty nice for Carolina students in the future," he said. "It's going to set the Union apart from the norm."

While Cowley said this year's gift differed from traditional choices, he said he thought it was a creative one. "It's what the class wanted," he said. "That's the number one thing we wanted to take care of."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.



Senior Class President
Jason Cowley
said he is very excited about the senior gift choice.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

M&NA AMERICA

CARDHOLDER SINCE
1998

ACCOUNT NUMBER	460 460 460 460 460 7
PAYMENT DUE DATE	10/09/00
NEW BALANCE TOTAL	\$1,845.36
TOTAL MINIMUM PAYMENT DUE	\$119.00
AMOUNT ENCLOSED	
DETACH TOP PORTION AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT	

Students with credit cards in their own names

Average unpaid balances \$968-\$1,366

69 percent

Students whose parents pay their primary credit card bills

31 percent

Students who use credit cards for multiple purposes

79 percent

Students who use credit cards for emergencies

13 percent

COLLEGE CREDIT

Paying With Plastic Could Cause Trouble

BY MEGAN BUTLER
Staff Writer

College students are notorious for being strapped for cash. But the popularity of the credit card lets students spend now and pay later.

Students can charge almost anything — their groceries, their gas and even their beer.

But studies show credit card charges can lead to trouble for college students if they fall into the trap of overspending.

And because many students use plastic more than cash, credit card companies and banks aggressively target college students on campus.

Such persuasive tactics are apparent on campuses across the nation, as card issuers appeal to students' weakness for anything free by offering T-shirts, flying discs and

mugs in exchange for applying for a credit card.

But some say this sort of promotion is not in the best interest of college students and could lead to lifelong debt if students get into the habit of spending more than they earn.

Oren Milgram is one of the founders of StudentMarket.com, a Web site designed to help students acquire the necessities for campus life — including information about credit.

Milgram said that when he was a college student, he saw a need for a Web site that looked out for students' best interests.

"It's pretty common to find students marketed heavily on campus by credit card marketers," Milgram said. "We feel that's not a good way for students to make educated and responsible decisions."

Milgram said students should be educated about credit use and that on-campus marketing has shown not to be beneficial for students' credit.

A 1998 study by the Public Interest Research Group backs up Milgram's claim.

The survey of students from 15 college campuses across the nation — including large and small, public and private, 4-year residential and 2-year community colleges — reports students who obtain credit cards on campus have higher unpaid balances and therefore worse credit records than those who apply through other methods such as a bank.

Beth Metzler, director of public relations for Discover Card, said Discover's experience with student card holders has been very positive.

"We do target college students, and our experience with them has been very good," she said. "They have shown to be worthy credit card holders."

Metzler credits this to the efforts Discover makes to inform students about

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Candidates Articulate Positions, Rally for Support

BY AMY DORBON
Staff Writer

HILLSBOROUGH — Nearly a ballot's worth of candidates came out Wednesday for a front-porch discussion of the upcoming election.

Candidates running for national and state Senate and House seats and Orange County Board of Commissioners slots gathered at the Hillsborough House Inn to articulate their platforms.

Despite the fact that the candidates' social was open to the public, few people attended other than the candidates themselves. "The candidates can vote too," said Orange County Commissioner Margaret Brown, half-joking. "I'd appreciate (other candidates') votes as much as anyone else's."

Although the wicker furniture and rocking chairs were not filled with many prospective voters, candidates still turned up the rhetoric as to why they should occupy the coveted seats.

"I want to do something to inspire the

next generation," said Jess Ward, a Republican challenger for the N.C. 4th District. "I want to show people that an ordinary guy from the wrong side of the tracks can achieve political office."

N.C. Senate incumbent Howard Lee, D-Orange, said he has an advantage over the opposition because he knows the rigors of office.

"People don't want a brand new pilot flying their plane," Lee said. "I'm experienced; I've been flying this plane."

Vickie Hargrove, a Republican chal-

lenger for the state Senate, who spent 16 years working in child development, responded to Lee's pilot analogy with one of her own. "I've seen little children grow up to attain their vision of being successful young adults," she said. "I learned that potential is even greater than experience."

N.C. Senate Republican candidate Bill Boyd, who was diagnosed with cancer in 1996 and has since been cured, spent his time in the limelight talking about insurance policy.

"I found out about the North Carolina

health care system the hard way," he said. "If elected, I will support legislation to make insurance companies accountable. The forms need to be readable."

Candidates aspiring for seats in the N.C. House spoke out about issues such as the UNC-system bond issue, traffic and health care. Republican Will Towne and incumbent representatives Joe Hackney, D-Orange, and Verla Insko, D-Orange, all voiced their support for the \$3.1 billion higher education bond, which would give

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