



# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Hikes May Still Leave UNC Cost Low

By GEOFF WESSEL  
University Editor

Students could have to deal with another rise in the cost of attending UNC as early as this fall if state legislators pass either of two proposals to increase tuition.

But University officials take comfort in knowing that even if another increase is added to the 4 percent increase approved last year by the Board of Governors, UNC-Chapel

Hill and other system schools would remain less expensive than peer institutions.

On the other hand, officials still want to keep any further increases to a minimum.

"The way this state will thrive is to make sure its young people become educated," said Provost Robert Shelton. "The level of state support for the universities is a critical factor for any great public University."

As state legislators attempt to work

out a budget for the state in the midst of one of the worst economic downturns since the early '90s, two proposals have emerged for increasing tuition. The Senate proposal would raise tuition by an extra 5 percent for all UNC-Chapel Hill students for about a 9 percent total increase. The N.C. House of Representatives countered with a proposal to leave in-state students with no increase, but raise out-of-state students' tuition by 15 percent.

Shelton said UNC compares favor-

ably with other public universities.

"The state has a horrible budget crisis," he said. "The state budget deficit is roughly a billion dollars. Secondly, tuition is relatively low here."

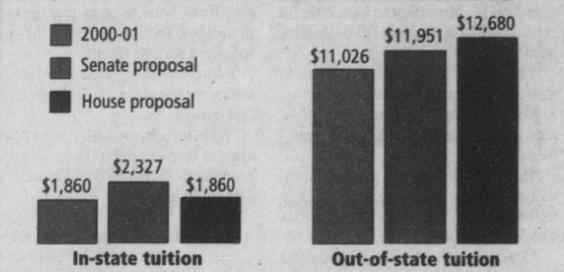
North Carolina's student enrollment costs in public universities are second-lowest in the nation, according to a Pope Center for Higher Education Policy research paper.

Under the Senate proposal, UNC-

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### Breaking Down the Hikes

Tuition for both in-state and out-of-state students has been part of the ongoing budget debates, as both the N.C. House and the N.C. Senate have recommended different cuts.



DTH/EMANN STRATHEN

## Local Airport Takes Club Under Wing

The Chapel Hill Flying Club will rename itself the Wings of Carolina Flying Club when it relocates to a new airport Sunday.

By GEOFF WESSEL  
University Editor

Local aviators are preparing for a shift in the amount of driving involved when they want to fly.

The Chapel Hill Flying Club will relocate Sunday to the Sanford-Lee County Regional Airport, located between Raleigh and Fayetteville, after UNC told the club in May that it would have to leave the University's Horace Williams Airport.

Flying Club President Stan Munsat said most club members feel good about the move.

"We are generally optimistic," Munsat said. "The membership will shift as we change our geographical location, but we haven't seen any large exodus of members."

He said the relocation will be more of a blow to Chapel Hill than to the club.

"It's a loss to the people in this area," Munsat said. "It's been a tremendous resource for the town of Chapel Hill to have a place where people could learn to fly. It's certainly appropriate in a university town that an educational club like the Flying Club could do something for the people and students."

The move will also make it harder for members of UNC's Carolina Flying Club to take lessons with the club, Munsat said. But he said the move could bring positive changes for the group as well.

"It's a new chapter in the club's history," Munsat said. "We're going to be known as Wings of Carolina Flying Club. We're going to start using that name from now on."

He said he expects the club's membership to grow as it becomes more accessible to Raleigh's larger population.

The club was originally told it would have to leave Horace Williams Airport in May, when Chancellor James Moeser cited recent accidents as the reason for his decision not to extend the club's lease after it expired June 30. Three club planes have been involved in crashes since 1999.

The University extended the club's relocation deadline by a month when members were having difficulty finding a new location, said Associate Vice Chancellor for Auxiliary Services Carolyn Elfland.

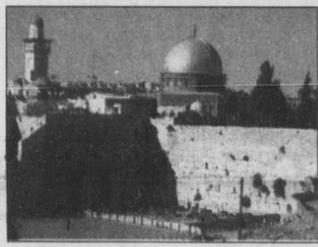
"I think they've been very cooperative," Elfland said.

Elfland added that University officials feel ending the club's lease was the right decision. "I don't think that anything has changed. The reasons the decision was made are still valid."

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DTH/MATT VISER



DTH/MATT VISER



DTH FILE PHOTO

The Wailing Wall (above left) is Judaism's most holy site and the Dome of the Rock, just 500 feet away (below left), is revered by Muslims. The conflict their proximity generates reaches local activists (above).

## Is There Hope in the Holy Land?

By MATT VISER  
City, State & National Editor

Reverberations from daily conflicts in Israel have been felt around the world among people of varied religions, ages and nationalities, even here in Chapel Hill.

Groups around the Triangle have organized protests, movie viewings, panel discussions and prayer vigils, trying to have their voices heard in an international conversation.

Mary-Lou Leiser-Smith helped stage a protest in June against Israeli occupation in Palestinian land. "This is a hot button for a lot of people," Leiser-Smith said Tuesday. "We need to be continue to be more proactive and look for a more just solution."

Others, like Burhan Ghanayem of Durham, have been affected more deeply. Ghanayem was born in Palestine and most of his family still lives there.

"We are really in a bad situation here," Ghanayem said. "We know our people are suffering tremendously and we can't do anything to help our loved ones."

About two weeks ago, Ghanayem and his family traveled to Jordan in hopes of visiting other family members in the West Bank. But Ghanayem said their U. S. passports were denied at the Israeli border because of their Palestinian origin.

"We came back very disappointed," he said. "It was frustrating knowing we were one hour away from my father and my family."

But Ghanayem still has faith that the situation will improve. "Without hope, we will die out of frustration," he said. "I still have hope that it will one day be resolved."

### The Conflict

Israel has been a land of contention since May 15, 1948, the day after its founding. But since things have heated up again in the Holy Land, many have been wondering if peace will ever be attainable.

The latest conflict began in September after Ariel Sharon, who at that time was Israel's Likud Party chairman, walked atop the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, an area revered by both Jews and Muslims. The

next day, Palestinians began an uprising that has continued through the past ten months.

But some say this was merely the result of tension that had been brewing for some time. "It was the straw that broke the camel's back," said Hannaniah Pinto, a Jewish tour guide who immigrated to Israel 17 years ago.

Pinto said although Israel has seen much conflict in the past, this dispute is more complex. "It looks so confusing in every direction," he said. "I wish it would end soon, but it seems we will be in this situation for a longer time."

### Continued Violence

At least 488 Palestinians, 128 Israelis and 13 Israeli Arabs have died since September, with an average of two people dying every day.

"More and more, we are learning that the military actions aren't the answer," Pinto said. "We are seeing that the wounds are just too big and take too long to heal."

Despite the volatility, Pinto said he feels

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## Student Rates Hit New Low

Student loans have reached their lowest level since 1965, but most students are unaware of the benefits.

By DEMETRIUS GRIGOLAYA  
Staff Writer

The interest rate for federally regulated student loans is at its lowest level ever, according to education loan providers, and many UNC students could potentially benefit.

The 2001-02 rate was fixed at its lowest level since 1965, when the Higher Education Act first introduced education loans, said Jeff Hanson, the director of debt management services at Access Group, Inc.

The interest rate is 5.39 percent for a standard Stafford loan for students who are still in school, compared to 7.59 percent just a year ago.

"We are in a somewhat unique situation right now," Hanson said.

This is also a good time for students with outstanding loans to consolidate. Consolidating means to take all of one's student loans and wrap them up into a single new loan. The interest rate is fixed on a lower level after consolidation.

"Right now, if a student consolidates, their loans are probably going to be carrying 5.39 percent," said Sue Burdick, an assistant director at the Student Financial Aid Office at UNC.

"So when they consolidate their loans, the loan rate is as low as it can be."

She added that students who are already paying can also benefit.

"If a loan has already been in repayment and the student consolidates, the interest rate will be 6 percent, which is still very attractive."

For most federally sponsored loans, interest rates change once a year, effective July 1, to follow the 90-day Treasury bill.

"We do not have a way to predict how the Treasury bill will be traded next year," Hanson said. "But the rate can easily go up to 8.25 percent," he said, referring to the current cap for education loans.

A one-percent change in the interest rate could mean extra thousands of dollars in interest that the student will or will not have to pay.

Still, most of the students seem to know little about potential savings for them.

"I haven't thought about it," said Julie Collins, a junior from Monroe. "This is something I should discuss with my parents."

Other students were in similar situations. Jennifer Poisson, a junior from Wilmington, said, "I haven't heard about it. My mom filled out all these forms."

Shera Hube of the College Foundation of North Carolina said that it has only been three weeks since the new rate was announced, which could be the explanation for why many students don't know

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DTH/BRENT CLARK

Ian Williams, the director of the film "The Pink House," sizes up a shot for one of the scenes at Alpha Chi Omega sorority on Rosemary Street.

## Alumnus Returns to Shoot Film

By RUSS LANE  
Managing Editor

"The Pink House," an independent film shot in and inspired by Chapel Hill, is described as "Woody Allen does 'Animal House.'" It defies all natural law.

And it doesn't stop there. The film's writer-director, UNC alumnus Ian Williams, is a native Californian who lives in New York but still considers himself a Southerner after spending nearly a decade in Chapel Hill.

In a similar manner, the film's crew is an odd yet fascinating clash of Los Angeles, New York and North Carolina cultures. Most of the 40-member crew is affiliated with Chapel Hill or the University in

some way - think "The Six Degrees of Silent Sam," and you get the right idea.

Two of the three producers are former Morehead Scholars. The first assistant director, whose father is a professor at the University, knows more about "Dawson's Creek" and "The Andy Griffith Show" than is safe. The production designer literally has no home, keeps his possessions in storage and travels from location to location like a gypsy.

Also thrown into the mix are nudity clauses, enough mobile phones to keep several telecommunications businessmen well-fed for eternity, healthy doses of Duke-bashing - always good for a laugh - and the never-ending battle to obtain financial backing ("We're stilling raising money actively. You can run that in bold

print. We're very nice people and we'll do the best we can with your money").

Welcome to "The Pink House."

Or more specifically, welcome to the world of Ian Williams. Although he graduated 11 years ago - having written two best-selling books on Generation X, several movie trailers for a posh trailer company in Hollywood and directed a short film available online at Atom-bomb.com - Williams' informal clothing and long, red hair doesn't place him far from the majority of students walking on campus.

He's equally informal during his working hours as director. During a tech scouting trip, in which the production crew

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I never think of the future. It comes soon enough.

Albert Einstein