

TUITION
From Page 1

Chapel Hill tuition and fees would total \$3,219, still the lowest among the 17 universities classified as its peer institutions.

But students are still concerned about the possibility of tuition costs rising. Student Body President Justin Young said he has been lobbying state legislators to minimize the increase. He also sent an e-mail to the entire student body to inform them of the proposals and suggest they call their representatives.

"Everybody's doing comparison, especially in terms of rate of increase," Young said. "A lot of schools across the nation are increasing their tuition into the double-digit percent rate. But ultimately, the state of North Carolina has prided itself on affordable access to education."

"We are the leaders of that, and I don't think that's something we should sacrifice. It's important to be a little bit more creative in dealing with the budget situation."

Young said he feels it is important to prevent a further tuition increase. "We're trying to take as much of an active role in the tuition fight as we can," he said.

Shelton said he hopes the legislature will recognize the importance of low tuition to UNC's continued position as a superior institution.

Traditionally, North Carolinians

have been very supportive of their universities - look at the bond issue last November," Shelton said. "You would hope the legislators would reflect that level of support and that priority."

"We wouldn't want to see that end because of a temporary budget crisis."

Amy Fulk, a spokeswoman for N.C. Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight, said legislators understand the importance of affordable quality higher education.

"We're doing everything we can to keep education affordable," Fulk said. "Of course it is a very tight budget, and there are some tough decisions ahead."

Shelton said another problem with the proposals is that they could go into effect as soon as this fall, handing students higher bills than they might be expecting.

"The suddenness of the proposed increase really doesn't allow students and parents to plan," Shelton said. "So even if one were to argue that the overall number is still reasonable, the short notice is a serious factor."

Young urged legislators to look for alternative measures for dealing with the tight budget.

"What is being proposed is very damaging to higher education in the state," Young said. "It closes doors to what the state could become."

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LOANS
From Page 1

about the benefits of consolidation.

Some people may be waiting to consolidate. "The application for loan consolidation is a time-consuming process," Hube said. "And we did not start sending out information on consolidation yet."

The foundation holds about 90 percent of all Stafford loans at the University, estimated Vince Amoroso, deputy director of the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid. Hube said CFNC made 5,420 new

Stafford loans to UNC-Chapel Hill students last school year.

Amoroso said CFNC's figure is a good estimate for how many students have an outstanding Stafford loan at Carolina.

Staffords, along with PLUS loans for parents, are eligible for consolidation.

Still, the lower interest rate may not always mean less payments over the lifetime of a loan.

Said Amoroso, "A lot of students choose to consolidate because it is the only way to make their monthly payments affordable."

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UNC System Joins National SAT Debate

The N.C. General Assembly passed a July 19 bill to look at emphasis on test scores in UNC-system admissions.

By EMMA MERRITT
Staff Writer

High school students may soon be rejoicing at the possibility of not having to take the SAT if state legislators get their way.

The N.C. General Assembly passed a bill July 19 requiring the UNC system to not only study the admission tests but also to consider other means of gauging student performance than standardized tests.

Rep. Verla Insko, D-Orange, said the bill passed easily.

"I don't know of any opposition," Insko said. "I think that the Board of Governors would consider it anyway."

She said the bill reflects a nationwide questioning of the SAT's effectiveness.

"There is so much national discussion on whether the SAT is the best predictor of success in college and how much weight should be given to SATs as opposed to other measures," Insko said.

But UNC-Chapel Hill Director of Undergraduate Admissions Jerry Lucido said that while a study will be performed to evaluate admissions measures, he is in favor of keeping the SAT a part of the University's admissions process.

"I don't anticipate that we'll stop using the SAT in our decisions," he said. "I don't know of any good admissions office that would not rather use the SAT instead of not using it."

Provost Robert Shelton said the

SAT's effectiveness should be examined, but he said SAT scores are already not the only measures UNC uses.

"We've always used more than just SAT scores," Shelton said. "Even with the huge number of applications, it's a very personal experience here at Carolina."

Lucido said he wants to continue using the SAT because it is a valuable measure of a student's reasoning skill. "The SAT is a good exam because it goes beyond curriculum," he said.

The bill also suggests that UNC-system schools "review incorporating the State's testing program into admissions" using state End of Grade tests for admissions.

But Lucido said the EOGs are inappropriate for this kind of use.

"(EOGs) are intended to determine minimal competence," he said. "I don't anticipate using End of Grade exams for admissions, at least any time soon."

"They are not in shape to determine college admissions."

Lucido added that the bill is unnecessary, in his opinion, because his office constantly strives to meet its own standard of quality.

"We don't need the legislature to ensure that our practices are good ones," he said.

But Shelton said the bill could be helpful. "This bill doesn't say we will make a change," he said. "It says we'll study it."

Although Lucido does not anticipate the study resulting in any major changes, he said the bill reflects a well-meaning legislature.

"I'm not sure we need it, but the legislators who passed it were interested in all students being able to go to school, and we agree with that," he said.

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ISRAEL
From Page 1

safe. "I never felt I was in danger that could cost my life," he said. "I always lived in very safe areas, in residential places."

But the situation just 20 miles away in the Palestinian village of Beit Jala is much more dangerous.

Jamal Saba, a Palestinian Christian, has lived in Beit Jala all his life. He said this is the worst conflict since he has lived there, much worse than a 1987 Palestinian uprising, called the Intifadah, which saw over 1,400 deaths. Saba said there has been constant fighting between Beit Jala and Gilo, a nearby Jewish settlement.

"I was shot at and my house was bombed," Saba said. "It was on the 15th of November. My house was on fire, so we went to extinguish it and then the Israelis started to shoot at us."

Although Saba's family was not hurt, eight Palestinians were killed and dozens others wounded in the battle. Saba said life has been difficult in Beit

Jala. "People do not have jobs. Frustration, hatred and anger are dominating the atmosphere," he said. "People have been living in fear for the past nine months now. Basically, there is no freedom."

Violence has escalated in the past several weeks, climaxing in June when 21 people were killed and 120 wounded in a devastating terrorist attack that targeted a Tel Aviv disco. Many believe the attack was led by Hamas or Jihad, militant Islamic terrorist groups.

"Terror is very successful," said Eric Zakim, an assistant professor of Israeli culture at Duke University. "It only takes one crazy person to go kill a bunch of people. As long as they can find suicide bombers willing to blow themselves up, the violence will not stop."

"It's a cycle of violence that can't be broken," he said. "There is a desperation on both, where violence is the last gasp."

But Zakim said most in Israel are hopeful for peace, despite the repeated violent actions of few.

"The actors in the violent conflict are a minority," Zakim said. "A vast major-

ity on both sides are interested in solving the problem and achieving peace."

A Peaceful Resolution?

Last summer, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and then-Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak met at Camp David with President Bill Clinton. Although both sides left without coming to a formal agreement, it appeared as though the peace process was improving.

But now the Camp David discussions are in the distant past and the peace process seems to have taken several steps back. "It's going to get worse before it gets better," Zakim said. "There's a vast amount of hatred in the region."

A joint survey done by Israeli and Palestinian researchers found pessimism on both sides, with 59 percent of the Palestinians and 46 percent of the Israelis expecting conflict to continue for five to 10 more years. But the study also found that 73 percent on both sides support a process of reconciliation.

"We should be hopeful for a solution for the problem," Pinto said. "There are

too many people being in pain on both sides. We already learned that the violence isn't leading anywhere."

Bringing It Home

Or Mars, executive director of N. C. Hillel, lived in Israel for four and a half years, returning to Chapel Hill last year. "Everybody is for peace," Mars said. "The question is at what cost. And everyone has a different price tag."

Mars said both sides need to reach an agreement and control the violence. "I remember the days that I thought peace was right around the corner," he said. "I would love to have that feeling of euphoria again."

But despite the violence in the region, Mars said he still has faith that peace will be attainable. "I have to believe there is still hope. To say there is no hope is to give in to violence," Mars said. "Nonetheless, I'm realistic that it's only a faint glimpse of hope."

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PINK HOUSE
From Page 1

works out location and cinematography issues before actors arrive, Williams only voiced his opinions when necessary and left the technical crew space to work.

At nearly every stop during the scouting trip, Williams took a minute to entertain himself, sitting by a laptop in the production office off Franklin Street, singing "Jessie's Girl" or "Bette Davis Eyes" softly to himself as the rest of the crew prepared for the tech shoot. Williams snuck off to play the piano at the Alpha Chi Omega house. At the Chi Psi Fraternity, Williams' fraternity and the location of much of the film's shooting, he'd stop to chat with the house's current residents.

The film's story is based on two chance occurrences in 1997, when Williams was living in the North Street house. An elderly couple who lived in the pink house in the 1950s visited Williams and his roommates, only to find the house untouched by time. A week or so later, a rumor of a then-infamous pink house party prompted Williams and his roommates to lock the house and flee from the chaos that would ensue.

While Williams was putting up signs telling the prospective party guests to go home, the inspiration for "The Pink House" was born and he wrote the first draft of the film in three weeks in 1999. "I kind of have to go with what's to be written in a way; it finds its own personality and it finds into your brain, and if you don't do

it, you're kind of killing it in a way, you're robbing it of its chance to live," Williams said. "I wouldn't have written it any other time and that was it, I had to do it and I just barreled through it."

While the initial writing for the film was swift, Williams had deliberate goals in mind. "There were two things I wanted to do with (the script): one was to kind of write an ode to my generation and the way I saw it, and an ode to the South in a way I felt it was unfairly portrayed," Williams said. "I wanted a movie that was smart about our generation, and a movie that's set in the South that was full of people who weren't ignorant or stupid."

In addition, Williams wanted "The Pink House" to show off the University's talent pool. "I have a fierce loyalty to the

school; well, not the school but people who went to it. I just don't trust anyone who didn't, in a way - I say it jokingly, but it's true," he said.

"We have 23 years of Carolina graduates involved in some way."

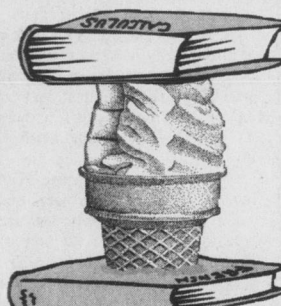
Williams will not see the end credits on screen for probably a year because the post-production process is lengthy and he and the film's producers will not release the film to the festival circuit until the timing's right. As the chaotic, wondrous world of "The Pink House" production is just beginning, Williams already has an idea of where the first showing will be located.

"It was always my dream to premiere at the Varsity."

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