

The Daily Tar Heel

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first LGBT administrative assistant.
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Friday, August 31, 2001

Tuition Hike Draws Varied UNC Reaction

While some say they see the need for the increase, others dislike the retroactive nature of part of the 9 percent increase.

By ROB LEICHER
Staff Writer

Ludicrous. Necessary. Bothersome.

These were the words some students used to describe the 9 percent tuition hike, which is partially retroactive, approved by the N.C. General Assembly on Wednesday night.

According to the continuing budget resolution, tuition will increase about \$200 a year for in-state undergraduates and about \$1,000 a year for out-of-state students beginning with the current semester. Gov. Mike Easley signed the bill into law Thursday.

Although many students said they are unhappy with some aspects of the increase, others said it is justified in the name of improving the University. Most students with concerns said they are especially angered by the fact that they will have to dip into their wallets again to pay for this semester.

"This is an appalling policy," said senior Stanley Olshefski, from Levittown, Penn. "Students should know what the tuition is going to be before the semester begins."

Sophomore Jon Gurkin, from Smithfield, also said he feels betrayed by the officials who passed the retroactive increase. "I lose all trust in the University and the government system," Gurkin said. "How can they do that?"

Other students said they are worried about how the increase will affect students on financial aid for this semester.

Jason Waller, a junior from Beulaville, said he thinks the financial aid office needs to make sure it accommodates students. "If they're going to increase tuition, the financial aid department needs to increase its efforts," he said.

Students also are disturbed by the large difference between the in-state and out-of-state increases.

"It really shows a lack of respect for a significant part of the

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Police Recover 16 Grams of Cocaine From 2 Arrestees

Police found a rock of cocaine weighing 12 grams on Angel Castro, 26, of Durham, who attempted to hide the rock in his mouth.

By KATHLEEN WIRTH
Assistant City Editor

Police made five arrests early Thursday morning — two of which involved felony possession of cocaine.

Chapel Hill police were notified at 2:01 a.m. of a disturbance at 150 E. Rosemary St. when an employee at the Alley Oops Treehouse Club, located across the street, alerted police of a fight.

Chapel Hill police arrested and charged Angel Castro, 26, of Durham, with one felony count of cocaine possession and one misdemeanor count of resisting arrest. Reports state that Castro was attempting to start a fight with several unknown individuals in the parking lot at 150 E. Rosemary St.

While police detained Castro, he pulled out a bag from his pocket and attempted to eat it, reports state. Officers pulled the bag out of Castro's mouth and discovered it contained a rock of cocaine weighing 12 grams, reports state.

In connection with Castro's arrest, Chapel Hill police arrested Jaime Gonzalez, 25, of 213 N. Graham St., Hugo Fuentes, 25, of 506 Wellington Dr. and Juan Ramirez, 21, of 1250 Ephesus Church Rd. on one misdemeanor count each of inciting a riot, reports state. All four individuals, who were involved in a fight at the scene, were arrested at the parking lot at 150 E. Rosemary St. at 2:15 a.m.

In Carrboro, 12 minutes later, Carrboro police arrested and charged Carlos Lopez-Rodriguez, 22, of 401 N.C. 54, with one felony count of possession of cocaine and one misdemeanor count of driving with a revoked license. Carrboro police arrested Lopez-Rodriguez on East Main Street at 2:27 a.m. He told police he was coming from the Treehouse when officers stopped him for speeding, reports state. Reports also state that upon further investigation, police discovered four grams of cocaine in the pocket of his pants.

Neither Chapel Hill nor Carrboro police have commented on whether the two early morning incidents are related.

Fuentes and Ramirez were released on a written promise. Gonzalez was transported to Orange County Jail, where he was held under no bond until he was sober. All three Chapel Hill arrestees are scheduled to appear in Orange County Superior Court in Hillsborough on Oct. 1.

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Records May Link UNC Alumnus, Devices

By LIZZIE BREYER
University Editor

Court records in a case involving a UNC graduate charged with Tuesday's bombing at a Sprint corporate office show a possible connection between that incident and a potential pipe bomb discovered on campus Monday.

But University Police Chief Derek Poarch said Thursday that he could not confirm a connection between the two cases at that time.

Christopher McMillan, 37, of 603 Fairfield Road in Durham, was injured Tuesday when

a small bomb exploded in his hand at a Sprint regional office in Franklin County. McMillan, a 1986 UNC graduate, was arrested and charged by federal agents Wednesday.

According to an affidavit by John Duke, special agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the bomb that injured McMillan bears great similarity to the device detonated by State Bureau of Investigation officers on campus Monday.

"A bomb essentially identical to the bomb which was rendered safe by explosive technicians at Sprint offices was found on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel

Hill on August 27, 2001," the affidavit states.

University police officials have not confirmed that the object found at UNC was a bomb of any type. The device, which SBI officials are currently examining, was described by Poarch on Monday only as a "five-inch metal pipe capped on both ends."

The bomb recovered at Sprint is described in the court records as a "pipe bomb constructed of ... galvanized pipe with end caps affixed to both ends."

WTVD first reported the possible connection Wednesday night. When contacted both Wednesday night and again on Thursday,

Poarch said there were no new developments in the ongoing investigation.

Duke also wrote in the affidavit that the time at which the device was discovered at UNC makes it possible for McMillan to be involved. "Additionally, it has been discovered that Mr. McMillan was late for work that Monday morning. He came to work approx. 11:19 a.m., and the UNC bomb was recovered approx. the same time that morning, 11:03 a.m.," the affidavit states.

The court documents also state that McMillan's cubicle at work contained "a

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CAUGHT RED-HANDED



ITH/KIMBERLY CRAVEN

Three-year-old Adi Mars and his 1-year-old sister, Toby, paint up in support of their parents' crisis intervention work at N.C. Hillel. Rabbi Sharon Mars and her husband Or were painting the cube to alert those interested in social justice work.

N.C. House Passes Plan to Raise Taxes

Before the plan passes, the Senate says it must protect working families, education, and state residents' futures.

By JENNIFER HAGIN
AND JENNIFER SAMUELS
Assistant State & National Editors

The N.C. House passed a tax plan Thursday morning that brought members one step closer to crafting a state budget and ending months of deadlock.

The tax plan would give local governments the ability to raise the sales tax by a half of a cent, create a higher tax bracket for the wealthy and use other methods to generate an estimated \$391 million in additional tax revenue.

The extra funds will help ease a multi-million dollar budget shortfall.

Democrats and Republicans voted largely along party lines, approving the plan 63-56. Only one Republican voted for the plan.

The bill is expected to reach the N.C. Senate Finance Committee by Wednesday. The committee can accept the proposal or offer additional changes.

The tax plan gives individual counties the ability to raise their sales taxes in exchange for halting \$330 million in local reimbursements that will no longer be given to the counties.

Under the plan, married couples will receive some tax relief in the form of an increased standard income deduction and an increased child credit.

By passing the tax plan, the House finally took the first step towards ending a budget deadlock that has been going on since July.

Danny Lineberry, spokesman for House Speaker Jim Black, said compromise was the key to passing the tax plan.

"It was just a part of putting all the pieces together to form a majority vote," he said. "It wasn't just one item — it was a combination of things."

Lineberry added that one of the challenges of passing the tax plan through

the House was disagreement about the amount of the sales tax increase.

Senate leaders originally wanted a 1-cent increase. Many representatives agreed, but voting was held up by a faction of the Democratic Party called the Group of Eight, led by Rep. Dan Blue, D-Wake, who wanted the proposed sales tax decreased.

"Seven or eight members said they would come closer to voting for it if we took the half-cent out," Lineberry said.

House Minority Leader Leo Daughtry, R-Johnston, said the bill passed because the Group of Eight only agreed to vote for the bill once the sales tax increase was limited to the half-cent local option tax. "The Democratic Party was able to get their dissidents back in line," Daughtry said.

He added that he did not think the bill would pass the Senate. "They don't have enough money in the package to suit the Senate," he said.

Rob Lamme, spokesman for Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, said the Senate has three priorities to consider before passing the plan.

Lamme said senators will make sure the plan is fair for working families, provides sufficient revenue to protect education and assures state residents a secure future.

"The last thing anyone wants is another budget crisis," he said.

Lamme added that the Senate likely will revive the earned-income package, which provides low-income workers with a tax break. "We'll try to come up with a package that is fair to North Carolinians and will pass both chambers."

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After months of debate, Speaker Jim Black used compromise to pass a tax increase through the House.

Police: Recent Break-ins May Be Related

Money was stolen from two out of four local businesses that have been broken into in the last three days.

By KATHLEEN WIRTH
Assistant City Editor

Police officials say a string of break-ins at Chapel Hill businesses during a period of just more than 24 hours could be connected.

Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said the perpetrators of four break-ins, two of which included robberies, all gained entry to local businesses by smashing a door or window.

"This is obviously a problem," Cousins said. "We're certainly looking at them as being related."

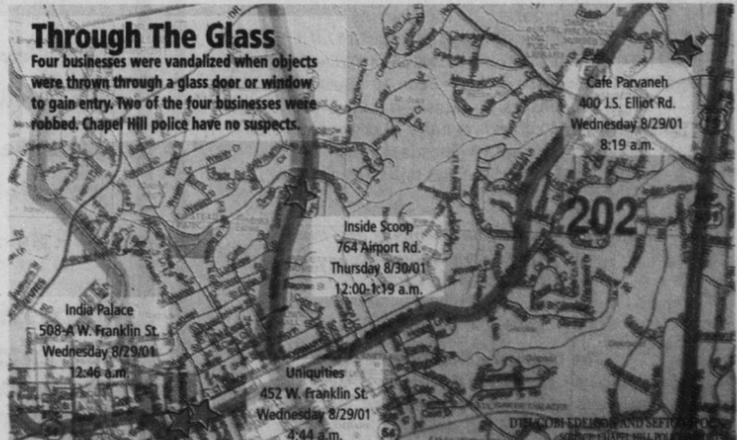
The first incident occurred Wednesday morning at the India Palace, located at 508-A W. Franklin St. A patrolling Carrboro police officer alerted Chapel Hill police at 12:46 a.m. of a possible breaking and entering in progress at the restaurant.

Police reports state that an unknown burglar broke the restaurant's glass front door with a brick and stole an undisclosed amount of money. Reports also state that the restaurant was last secured Tuesday at 11 p.m.

Four hours later, just down the street from the India Palace, an unknown person smashed the front door of Uniquities at 4:44 a.m., police reports state.

Police responded to an alarm at the shop and, upon inspection of the premises, found a broken ceramic planter. Officials said the planter was

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People are glad to be defended, but they are not glad about paying for it.

Prince Otto von Bismarck