Let Moeser Make Qatar Decision

have heard several arguments in the past few weeks stating why opening a satellite campus of the Kenan-Flagler Business School in the Middle Eastern nation of Qatar would be bad for UNC.

To do so would be selling out. It would bolster an autocratic regime that ignores basic human rights. Qatari stu-dents would be able to earn UNC degrees without coming within thou-



GEOFF WESSEL UNIVERSITY COLUMNIST

ands of miles of Chapel Hill. And have too small a sion to open this satellite campus.

All these arguments scare me. Not because they're right, but because I fear they might sway policymakers. If

you agreed with anything in the previous paragraph, please read on.
First of all, it is entirely appropriate that students not have a casting vote in this decision. Here at UNC we have a wonderful tradition of student self-gov ernance, and from allocation of funds to Honor Code violations, students have more of a say in their own future than at most other universities, public or private. But unfortunately, some students here seem to think that means

we deserve a say in decisions that

don't even concern us. The opportunity to open a Qatar mpus is not about students in Chapel Hill. It is about students in Qatar. And the proper people to make the decision are Chancellor James Moeser, the Board of Trustees and Dean Robert Sullivan of the business school. They are the administrators of this University, and it is their role, not ours, to administrate it.

Nor is Moeser deaf to the voices of students. He attended a forum hosted student government and the Campus Y last Wednesday to hear students views of students, and an advisory seminar is now being formed. While Moeser should not necessarily let this committee prevent the Qatar proposal, students should support his decision, so it is good that he is listening to student opinions.

Then there is the issue of Qatar's government. According to recent reports, Qatar is moving toward a freer and more democratic society. Already it is considered the most progressive nation in the region; education is not only free but compulsory

for all citizens, including women.

But the government is not a democ racy. Many freedoms we might take for granted do not exist there - Islam is the state religion, and religious freedom is by no means guaranteed, the ruling emir holds absolute power, freedom of assembly is limited, the legal system is biased and inefficient.

But just because Qatari society differs from ours is no reason to shun the country. In fact, it is all the more reason to go

A point that was made repeatedly at Wednesday's forum was that the Qatar campus would be a unique opportunity for cultural exchange. Just because Qatar is different does not mean it is bad. Most Americans know little about conditions in the Arabic world, and even if we do believe democratic governments are superior, we'll never spread those ideals by refusing to deal with Qatar at all.
Only by having a relationship with

the nation can the United States foster Oatar's tentative steps toward democracy. For UNC to be a part of that

relationship would be a unique honor.
As for "selling out," UNC would be doing anything but that by accepting the Qatar Foundation's invitation. The reason it is contacting U.S. universities, Moeser said Wednesday, is that its own system that gives personal and family connections more weight than merit The Qataris insist as strongly as we do that no UNC degree be given unless it is earned and that students there be held to the same standards as those in Chapel Hill. Nor would students here or the University itself lose anything. The foundation has committed to paying all costs, including the costs of bringing dis-tinguished visiting faculty to Chapel Hill

to replace professors who go to Qatar.
UNC would have nothing to lose in the deal, and everything to gain: a broadened perspective for faculty, opportunities for study and research abroad for students, a chance to engage and interact with the world on

The opportunity to spend a semester in Qatar might even help attract top-level faculty to UNC, an important consideration in the coming years.

"Our goal (is) to infuse internationalness on this campus," Moeser said at the forum. "We're depriving you of your education if we don't show you there's more to the world than North Carolina."

> Columnist Geoff Wessel can be reached at vrooom@email.unc.edu.

Union Workers Hope to Close Postal Facility

By GÜNEY ACIPAYAMLI

RALEIGH - Some Raleigh postal workers plan to take the U.S. Postal Service to court Monday to shut down postal facility where anthrax was found Thursday.

The Local 1078 of the American Postal Workers Union is requesting a temporary restraining order to close down the Westgate Road postal service processing and distribution center.

The presence of anthrax was announced Thursday night after it was discovered on a shrink-wrapped pallet of stamps in a sample taken by the N.C. Department of Health and Human

N.C. officials said the amount discovered is medically insignificant and that it is safe for the postal facility to remain

Raiko Hill, a postal clerk at the Westgate facility, said postal officials closed the Accountable Papers Section

of the post office, which is where the anthrax was discovered. She added that decontamination began without shutting

down the facility.

But Ajamu Dillahunt, president of Local 1078, said he thinks the anthrax discovery has been handled poorly. "We feel like they should shut the plant down and test other areas," he said.

But N.C. health officials said the pres-

ence of anthrax in the postal facility is medically insignificant and has been contained to the region where it was found.

Debbie Crane, spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Human vices, said the plant was not shut down because there is no medical concern.

She said the quantity of anthrax found was very small and was found in a locked vault, adding that people with access to that location would have

shown symptoms by now.

But Dillahunt said the contaminated pallet had been moved through areas where more people could have been

ation until they test the entire area, said. "(Saturday) there was some addit al testing done in the pathway of the mail because of pressure. Decontamination of the area has ended, but further test results

have not come back yet."

Crane said the U.S. Postal Service is in its second tier of a testing process and that there have been 275 tests along the East Coast. The first tier tested postal

See ANTHRAX, Page 5



Avani Shah finishes applying her makeup before her performance at Sangam Nite 2001. Her dance, set to Hindi pop music, was one of many performances that incorporated modern and old-fashioned movements.

Sangam Nite Connects Cultures

More than 100 participants performed in Sangam's 15th annual celebration, which took place Saturday night.

By PHILISSA CRAMER

Bright costumes, whirling dancers and allusions to India's Bollywood movie industry filled a packed Memorial Hall on Saturday as part of a celebration sponsored by Sangam, the University's South Asian awareness organization.

The 15th annual Sangam Nite, titled "Saathiyon ka Safaar" – a travel with friends – featured performances by 15 varied ensembles interspersed with

comedy skits. More than 100 students took part in the production.

Masters of ceremonies Amisha Raja and Sujay Kansagra announced each act and introduced the "travelers" who represented the night's theme. The travelers, students who participated in multiple skits to create a bridge between them, highlighted some of the differences between South Asian and American culture.

'It was a 'Going to South Asia' version of 'Coming to America,'" said Fauzia Tariq, Sangam's cultural co-chairwoman and co-organizer of Sangam Nite.

But for the most part, Sangam used the night to meld the two cultures, fusing traditional styles with hip-hop music and modern dance.

The Mahatmamas dance troupe combined traditional South Asian dance

with break dancing and martial arts moves. And while "Mann ke Manjeere" portrayed the exuberance of women in a customary way, most of the dancers ere not South Asian.
Rashmi Bisen, who danced in the

fashion shows, said this year's Sangam Nite included more non-South Asian participation than in years past.
"I think it adds a lot," Bisen said.

"When non-South Asians don't perform, it is not depicting our daily lives.

Saagar, the graduate student wing of Sangam, offered another example of cultural fusion. Its competitive dance began with two distinct groups of dancers, one dressed in traditional garb and one in modern clothing, and by the end of the

See SANGAM, Page 5

Black Sets Deadline To Adjourn Session

BY ELYSE ASHBURN

An anticipated end date has been set for the longest N.C. legislative session in recent history.

House Speaker Jim Black, D-

Mecklenburg, announced Thursday that he intends to end the session by Dec. 1, more than 10 months after the legisla-

ture began meeting Jan. 24.

Long sessions, which take place in odd-numbered years, usually end by July or August.

This year, the N.C. House has held 43 consecutive weeks of floor sessions as legislators debated what to do with a multimillion dollar budget deficit and redistricting.

A four-seat Democratic majority in the House has complicated the situation and forced legislators to strike compro-

Several Democrats banded together on behalf of the state's black citizens and opposed the party's stances on redistricting and the budget.

Black spokesman Danny Lineberry said the session's unusual length did not play a role in the speaker's decision. Lineberry said Black decided to adjourn because lawmakers will have met their primary goals for the session.

Lineberry said he does not know what legislation will be voted on during the final week of session. He said Black might not call for a vote on the lottery bill or environmental restrictions on power plants during this session.

"They will not be voted on unless they have the votes to support them," Lineberry said. "The speaker isn't going to put them on the floor just to call for

House Majority Leader Phil Baddour, D-Wayne, also said some legislation might not have the support ne essary for a vote but that legislators will address the necessary items

"There will be nothing that's over looked," Baddour said. "But that doesn't mean we will deal with all the legislation."

House Minority Leader Rep. Leo

Daughtry, R-Johnston, said the House had plenty of time to discuss legislation that might not receive a vote this sesDaughtry said lawmakers' inability to address such issues reflects poor plan-

ning on the part of leaders.
"We had 10 months to look at these things," he said. "Why not bring them up until the end of session?"

Daughtry said he felt the speaker's

decision was a long time coming. "The decision is well overdue," he said.

But there has been some speculation

that the General Assembly might be forced to reconvene in special session to discuss amending the budget passed in September because of the state's declining economic situation.

The state legislature spent more than eight months debating budget cuts and tax increases to cover a nearly \$800 mil-

Lineberry said legislators will not reconvene of their own volition. He said Gov. Mike Easley will have to call a special session if the General Assembly is going to meet again before it begins short session in May. Baddour said he doubts the House

will convene in special session but that he will do what is required of him.

"I don't think the governor will call us in unless he absolutely has to," he said. "We will do our duty."

Members of the House are not the

only legislators affected by Black's decision. To adjourn the General Assembly, the House and Senate must adjourn at the same time.

Rob Lamme, spokesman for Senate

President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Dare, said the Senate finished business a month ago and has been waiting on the House. Lamme said Black's announce-

ment has been long anticipated.

"Senator Basnight's and the Senate's number one priority right now is to adjourn the session," he said.

Baddour said that with budgeting and

redistricting wrapped up, ending the session by the Dec. 1 target date is achievable. He also said he is glad the session's

end is within sight.

"Everybody is disappointed the session has taken as long as it has,"
Baddour said. "Nobody wanted to stay here this long."

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Staff Cuts Target Filled, Vacant Posts

By Brook Corwin

State budget cuts are forcing UNC Chapel Hill's nonacademic departments to evaluate the necessity of both vacant and occupied staff positions when making reductions to their operating expenses.

A total of 11 occupied staff positions have been eliminated in the Facilities Services and Academic Technology & get cuts despite the fact that some positions in these departments are vacant.

In recent weeks, Gov. Mike Easley has ordered that the UNC system revert an additional 2.7 percent of its funding These cuts have contributed to the need to cut staff positions, officials said.
Provost Robert Shelton said each

department can retain its lapsed salary funds - unspent money designated for vacant staff positions – and make cuts in other areas if officials deem the vacant positions crucial to the department's operations. "I decided to give the managers as much flexibility as possible to deal with the cuts," Shelton said. "They have to decide whether it's best in the long run for their department to eliminate an occupied

position or a vacant position." But some department administrators say the possibility of further budget cuts might mean the loss of both lapsed

salary funds and occupied positions. Carolyn Elfland, associate vice chancellor for campus services, said budget cuts already have forced her department to eliminate 21 staff positions, some of which were vacant. But Elfland said she will not hire any new personnel to fill

vacant posts because the General Assembly might reinstate the 2.7 percent temporary cut next year.

"If the revenue from the state is down in January, it's likely they'll ask for more money," she said. "We have been told not to be surprised if they do ask for more. I think this could go on for quite a while."

Bruce Runberg, associate vice chan-cellor for facilities planning, said his department has permanently cut two cant positions and will be unable to fill three more open positions if the 2.7 percent cut is permanently enacted. Shelton said departments can use

overhead receipts – money the University receives with research grants that is aimed at offsetting the cost of conducting research - with a large degree of flexibility to cover miscellaneous costs.

But Shelton said it is unlikely the funds from overhead receipts will be enough to compensate for the budget cuts. "Those are dollars they can use," Shelton said. "But the departments have

more demands than dollars."

Some UNC faculty members have expressed interest in forfeiting their \$625 across-the-board salary increases to save staff positions from being cut. Sixty-six faculty members at N.C. Central University have already agreed to give up their salary increases for the same purpose.

Shelton said returned salary money ould be given back to the N.C. General Assembly and would not go to funding for staff positions, but UNC-CH Faculty Council Chairwoman Sue Estroff said she is optimistic such a proposal is feasible.

See EMPLOYEE, Page 5

Residents Eager to See 'Harry Potter'



Harry Potter fans wait in line at the Timberlyne box office Sunday for tickets to the newly released movie. Tickets are sold out until Nov. 25.

Ticket sales are estimated at \$10,000 for the weekend at the Lumina Theatre, says Manager Rachel Stratton.

By Jennifer Johnson

Local movie theater managers are saying the newly released Harry Potter flick will be the biggest hit since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, signifying a return to normalcy.

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," the first highly anticipated film to arrive since Sept. 11, opened Friday and brought in a record-breaking \$93.5 million nationwide this weekend Local figures were not available Sunday.

The Movies at Timberlyne in Chapel Hill, located in the Timberlyne Shoppin Center, braced itself with additional and screens for the masses of Harry Potter fans that showed up on opening weekend. "We have two screens running and a full staff. We've been selling advance tickets for a week, and we're sold out until Nov. 25," said Kristen Moos, the nanager of Movies at Timberlyne.

Rachel Stratton, an employee at the Lumina Theatre in Southern Village, said the theater began selling tickets for the Friday shows last Monday and sold out Thursday. "I think they're estimating about \$10,000 (in ticket sales) for the entire weekend," Stratton said. "I'm

willing to bet this is our biggest ever."

Children buzzing with excitement arrived at the theater with their parents as much as an hour before the show

began to get a good seat.

"I've been waiting to see it since last

See POTTER, Page 5