

The Daily Tar Heel

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Man in Black

Lewis Black vents to Memorial Hall audience.
See Page 3

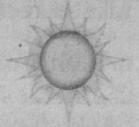


Vote Online Today

at <http://studentcentral.unc.edu>

Weather

Today: Sunny; H 56, L 32
Wednesday: Cloudy; H 53, L 24
Thursday: Sunny; H 49, L 29



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Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Town Manager Addresses Budget Shortfall

By MICHAEL CHEN
Staff Writer

Mayor Kevin Foy bypassed the Chapel Hill Town Council's agenda Monday night to immediately address the town's unexpected budget cuts, which now total at least \$1.4 million. Last week, Gov. Mike Easley declared a fiscal emergency due to a \$900 million shortfall for the fiscal year. To deal with this problem, the state passed part of the deficit to the municipalities of North Carolina by withhold-

ing certain revenues that were to be distributed to local governments.

Town Manager Cal Horton proposed a list of potential budget adjustments to the Town Council at its Monday meeting.

Within 30 minutes, the council opted to suspend approving Horton's proposal until it meets for a budget work session Wednesday. Horton also said he wants Foy to send Easley a town-approved letter explaining how Chapel Hill is going to handle the budget cuts.

"We are faced with a more drastic situation than anything since the (Great

Depression," Horton said, speaking about the severity of the situation.

"What was a state problem now affects over 400 cities and over 100 counties."

After further reviewing the budget, Horton said he determined that Chapel Hill's budget shortfall would be more than \$1.4 million, rather than the original \$1.04 million estimated last week.

Horton suggested that the town allocate \$215,000 in accumulated interest from general bond proceeds to make payments on the debt caused by the

budget cuts rather than using it to pay for new buildings or maintenance of existing buildings. Horton said he advocated this action because of the market's low interest rates.

Another \$200,000 from the town's Debt Service Fund also would be allocated to the debt payments, he said.

Additional funds would be drawn from the Capital Reserve Fund, the Off-Street Parking Fund and the Vehicle Replacement Fund.

Council member Edith Wiggins asked Horton which town positions

would be affected by the budget crunch.

Horton informed the council that there are 15 vacant town staff positions. He said six positions that must be filled include a human resources director, a traffic signal technician, a landscape superintendent and an assistant recreation supervisor.

Another eight or nine positions that are vacant could be left unoccupied at this time to save about \$150,000 for the 2001-02 fiscal year, he said.

The council agreed that it would be in

See BUDGET, Page 6

Town OKs Review for UNC Center

Additions to the Paul J. Rizzo Conference Center will continue despite a recent halt on area development.

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Additions to a University project that total \$18 million will proceed after the Chapel Hill Town Council opted Monday to expedite a virtual review of a UNC petition despite a virtual moratorium on town development.

Council members voted unanimously to allow expansion of the Paul J. Rizzo Conference Center, which is owned and operated by the Kenan-Flagler Business School.

The decision went unchallenged by the council members in spite of the virtual moratorium on new construction.

The council stalled future development at its Jan. 28 meeting in order to perfect the town's development ordinance, which will be a guide for all future development. But since then, council members have made a few exceptions for projects already in the works.

Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for facilities planning at UNC, requested that the center's special-use permit be extended to allow further construction. Two additions to the building were included in the center's 1997 special-use permit.

But construction did not begin until after both the 24-month special-use permit deadline and the date for an extension request had passed.

"If the project is stalled by the hiatus in development, there will be a signifi-

See PERMIT REQUEST, Page 6

Student body president candidates share their pre-election thoughts.



"I'm more proactive and more all-inclusive."

JEN DAUM

Pewaukee, Wis.



"If people take the entire candidate into account, then I'll do fine."

FRED HASHAGEN

Long Island, N.Y.



"I have seen the inside track, and that gives me an advantage."

BENNETT MASON

Meadville, Pa.



"I think it's time we make student government something we're all proud of."

WILL MCKINNEY

Greenville, S.C.



"Students need great leadership now; I am that leadership."

BRAD OVERCASH

Thomasville

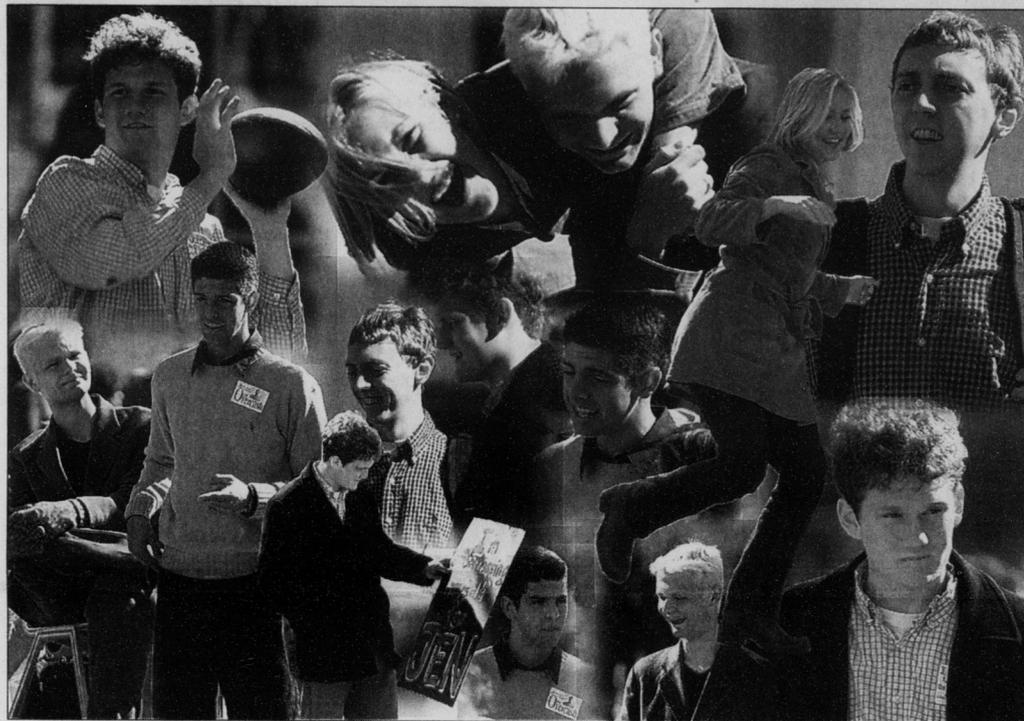


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KIMBERLY CRAVEN AND BRIAN CASSELLA

Student body president candidates campaign in the Pit on Monday afternoon in their last-ditch efforts to gain support before Election Day. Tension was low and spirits were high on the candidates' last day of competition.

UNC to Hold Campus Elections

By KRISTA FARON
Staff Writer

Students can cast their votes today in the general student body elections.

Emily Margolis, chairwoman of the Board of Elections, said all fee-paying students can vote online through Student Central by using their PIDs or ONYENS to access the site.

The site will be available for voting from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Students can only vote once.

Election results will be announced at about 10:30 p.m. Students interested in watching the announcement can go to 104 Peabody Hall, where the results will be broadcasted by Student Television. Students can also watch the broadcast on STV from home.

Margolis said the online voting process has

not been altered since last year, so students should not experience any notable changes. Last year was the first year online voting for student elections was implemented on campus.

Margolis also said a polling station will be open in Union 212 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. if students experience technical difficulties.

All students can vote for student body president, Carolina Athletic Association president and the two referendums.

One referendum will address a possible 75-cent student fee increase to subsidize on-campus child-care facilities. The other deals with state campaign finance reform.

All students also can vote for Student Congress representatives, although Margolis said eight of 22 races have no candidates on the ballot.

On-campus residents can vote for the

Residence Hall Association president, and graduate students can vote for the Graduate and Professional Student Federation president.

Voting for senior class officers is limited to rising seniors, Margolis said.

Although all races feature an official list of candidates from which to choose, students also can cast their votes for write-in candidates.

Correy Campbell and Charlie Trakas, two student body president candidates who were originally slated to be on the ballot, are running as write-in candidates. Nathan Katzin also is running as a write-in candidate for student body president.

Students with questions can call 962-VOTE or e-mail boardofelections@unc.edu.

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

Ballot Basics

The following candidates will appear on today's ballot. Students may also write in their choice.

Student Body President

- Jennifer Daum
- Fred Hashagen
- Bennett Mason
- Will McKinney
- Brad Overcash

Senior Class President and Vice President

- Tinu Akintola/David McIntosh
- Chessa Huff/Kim Washington
- Dana Leventhal/Neal Chandoke
- Paymon Rouhanifard/Robert Albright

Graduate and Professional Student Federation President

- Branson Page

Residence Hall Association President

- Joanna Jordan

Carolina Athletic Association President

- Chris Gore
- Kris Willett

Candidates Maximize Exposure In Last Day Before SBP Election

From Staff Reports

Monday marked the last day before this year's student body elections, a day traditionally filled with last-minute rushes to fraternity and sorority houses, residence halls and other popular campus spots.

Student body president candidates spent their last few hours continuing their campaigns of the past three weeks and urging students to vote.

On the day before the election, candidate Brad Overcash continued to do what he says comes naturally.

"I haven't really been nervous through the campaign because I've been doing what I like to do anyways — talk to people," he said.

Overcash said Monday that he was up at 7:15 a.m. to greet students on South Campus until 9 a.m. Catching lunch at the Top of Lenoir, Overcash divided time between greeting voters and exchange-

ing laughs with members of his campaign staff, one of whom dressed in a Ric Flair robe complete with sparkles, sequins and "Cash" written on the back.

Overcash completed his last day of campaigning by going back to South Campus to talk with students at Chase Hall. "As long as people are out, I'll be out talking to them," he said.

Write-in candidate Nathan Katzin spent Monday responding to questions from recipients of a mass e-mail sent Friday by his campaign.

"We got about 1,000 responses," Katzin said.

"Half positive responses, half negative."

Katzin also spent Monday working on another mass e-mail and an mp3 collection of some of the songs he has written.

"I'm not a big believer in posters because I believe marketing is the No. 1 evil in the U.S.,"

See CANDIDATES, Page 6

An election is a bet on the future, not a popularity test of the past.

James Reston