

# Residents Speak Against Schools' Minority Gap

By COLIN SUTKER  
Staff Writer

Outraged community members spoke out about low minority student achievement in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools during a school board meeting Thursday at the Chapel Hill Town Hall.

About 40 residents attended the meeting to vocalize their frustrations with the board for the school system's failure to close the achievement gap between minority and white students.

"Why should we pay the education tax?" said Mark Royster, a Chapel Hill resident. "Why should we approve a bond referendum if our students are failing?"

The (Raleigh) News & Observer reported in October 2000 that minority students in grades three through eight in Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools performed an average of 31 points less on state end-of-year reading and math proficiency exams than white students.

Michelle Cotton, president of the Chapel Hill chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the system does not implement recommendations.

"They haven't acted," Cotton said. "It's been more talk than action. It's been 12 years since the Blue Ribbon campaign, and that was supposed to address the achievement gap. The gap

has now widened."

Cotton said the changes the NAACP wants are the creation of an oversight committee to reach out to minority parents, reinstatement of truancy officers who deal with school dropouts and stronger efforts from the board to close the achievement gap.

Royster said the large minority achievement gap exists because the schools do not wish to address the problem. "The system doesn't want to change from the way it is," Royster said. "There really has to be a change in mind."

He added that teacher's minority achievement training is ineffective.

Edwin Caldwell, a former school board member, said the problem exists at the classroom level rather than on the board.

"It's a school-level problem," Caldwell said. "I really do think the board would like to solve the problems. We're dealing with classism. I went to a separate-but-equal school and there was one class. Now we're dealing with multiple classes."

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## TUITION

From Page 1

tional revenue to other system schools.

Legislators will scour the budget for potential cuts this summer because the state is facing a projected shortfall of more than \$1 billion for the 2002-03 fiscal year.

For example, Rand said that if the budget at each UNC-system school was cut this summer by 4 percent, then UNC-CH would lose a disproportionate amount of money because it already surrendered part of its tuition revenue to other campuses. "(The plan) is not in the best interest of the system or of Carolina," he said.

Rand added that legislators might also discuss campus-based tuition increases at UNC-CH. The BOG approved a \$300 increase, despite the UNC-CH Board of Trustees' request for a \$400 increase.

Rand said the decision the General Assembly reaches on campus-initiated tuition will depend in large part on how the systemwide tuition revenues are distributed.

If UNC-CH keeps its revenue from the systemwide tuition increase, then the \$300 campus-based increase would likely remain untouched, Rand said. Otherwise, the campus request might be increased.

But UNC-CH Chancellor James Moeser said persuading the legislature to alter the enrollment-based tuition allotment is not the University's top priority this summer. He said he would focus on protecting the University's budget from funding cuts. He said legislators likely would target the University's overhead receipts, which are federal funds allotted for research projects to cover general expenses such as electricity.

The legislature discussed seizing the receipts last year to deal with a budget shortfall but decided ultimately to leave the funds alone. "The \$5 million (lost to other campuses) pales in importance to these monumental issues," Moeser said. "It's emotional but relatively minor."

Moeser added that he would not lobby for changes in how the systemwide tuition increase is spent.

"No, we made our point," he said. "But I think it's going to get looked at (by legislators) — all these issues are."

Moeser said he would not be surprised if legislators altered the board's tuition plan. "I don't have a good track record at predicting what (the legislature) will do," he said. "(But the legislators) have almost never taken a proposal as it stands."

The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

## Developments in the War on Terrorism

### Afghan Winter Threatens U.S. Offensive

The grim Afghan winter — complete with sandstorms, winds and forecasts of snow — whipped into eastern Afghanistan on Thursday, threatening to disrupt the U.S.-led air and ground offensive against al-Qaida remnants.

**America Attacks**

### U.N. Talks With Iraq Called Positive

Iraq and the United Nations agreed Thursday that their first high-level talks in a year got off to a "positive and constructive" start, but there was no indication Baghdad will allow U.N. weapons inspectors back in the country.

### 9-11 Victims' Fund Rules Finalized

The final rules for distributing money from a federal fund for victims of Sept. 11 have been expanded to cover more people and give them more money. The average award will be about \$1.85 million, roughly \$200,000 more than what was calculated under draft guidelines.

## ORDINANCE

From Page 1

"We need to have residents come see how the ordinance will affect town growth." The workshop also will facilitate a discussion in which residents will be able to share their opinions about what the ordinance should include.

The ordinance is being updated in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan, an outline of the Town Council members' goals for the town.

"The last ordinance was written in 1985," said council member Dorothy Verkerk. "(The current ordinance) doesn't address things like stormwater management."

"The Comprehensive Plan calls for the rewriting of the town ordinance."

Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy said the workshop is one of several that will gauge town input.

"This is part of an ongoing effort to involve the community in writing the development ordinance," Foy said.

Verkerk said it is town policy to include residents when making decisions. "We always have a lot of community input," she said. "That's the way we work in Chapel Hill."

Verkerk also said she thinks the ordinance will be more successful with ideas from the community.

"When people buy into them, things tend to work better," she said.

"It may take longer, but I think it's worth it."

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

A STUDY OF AN

## Investigational Medication

Chapel Hill Obstetrics and Gynecology is participating in a clinical trial for the treatment of bacterial vaginosis, an infection of the vagina that may cause irritation and discharge. If you feel you may have this infection and are 18 years or older, you may be able to participate in a research study to evaluate an investigational medication for bacterial vaginosis. The study drug, study-related procedures and tests, and study visits will be provided free of charge. You will be reimbursed for your time and travel at each of the 3 clinic visits. If you would like more information, call immediately: 919-929-4666, ext. 116.

## STOCK ASSOCIATES

Part Time • 20 Hours Per Week  
Up To \$10 Per Hour

We are a leading retailer of quality contemporary furnishings with Part Time positions available in our Chapel Hill store.

You will be responsible for store/stock maintenance, as well as lifting, moving and assembling furniture. Mechanical abilities are a must.

Please call or apply, in person, at the following location:

1800 E. Franklin St., #25  
Eastgate Shopping Ctr.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

**workbench**



THE  
PERFECT  
FIT

Whatever The Plans

- SWIMWEAR • COVERUPS
- ACCESSORIES
- MIX-N-MATCH SIZES

water water  
everywhere

SWIMWEAR YEAR ROUND

THE STREETS AT SOUTHPOINT  
919-361-9021

[waterwatereverywhere.com](http://waterwatereverywhere.com)

**Belk**  
*All the good stuff*

ESTÉE LAUDER

## Gift Time, Free Time

YOUR FREE GIFT WITH ANY ESTÉE LAUDER PURCHASE OF 21.50 OR MORE.  
WORTH \$60

INCLUDES NEW ADVANCED  
NIGHT REPAIR EYE  
RECOVERY COMPLEX  
YOUR CHOICE OF WARM OR COOL  
SHADES OF:  
• All-Day Lipstick  
• New Color Intensity  
Microfine Powder Eyeshadows

### PLUS

- Eye Defining Pencil
- NEW Advanced Night Repair Eye Recovery Complex
- Gentle Eye Makeup Remover
- Estée Lauder pleasures Body Lotion
- CD-ROM makeup lesson to enjoy on your computer or CD-player with booklet

While supplies last.  
One per customer, please.



Hudson **Belk**  
belk.com

THE AIR FORCE WANTS BOTH  
YOU AND YOUR NURSING  
CAREER TO GO PLACES.

Nursing in the Air Force: exciting, rewarding, the best. Best facilities, best benefits. Travel, training, advancement and 30 days of vacation with pay; plus you may qualify for a \$5,000 bonus. If you're a registered nurse, Air Force Nursing offers the best of everything.

To request additional information, call  
1-800-423-USAF or visit [airforce.com](http://airforce.com).



U.S. AIR FORCE  
CROSS INTO THE BLUE