

The Daily Tar Heel

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Fight for Power

Copyright law could end WXYC's Internet broadcast.
See Page 3



Behind the Byline

Learn more about the three candidates for DTH editor.
See Page 5

Dynamite

UNC's offensive explosion lands 15-2 win over Princeton.
See Page 7



Weather

Today: AM Showers; H 73, L 47
Thursday: Rain; H 62, L 31
Friday: Cloudy; H 52, L 21



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Volume 110, Issue 13

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Students Unhappy With Plan

Student leaders say the new parking plan is a "slap in the face" to TPAC, whose proposal differed greatly.

By JOHN FRANK
Assistant University Editor

Student leaders were shocked and disappointed Tuesday evening over a new parking and transportation proposal that includes an across-the-board increase in the cost of permits and a night parking fee.

The final proposal came as a surprise to student leaders, who were briefed on the plan Tuesday afternoon by Carolyn Elfland, vice chancellor for campus services, and Nancy Suttentfield, vice chancellor for finance and administration.

"I am in total shock and disappointment with the proposal," said Student Body President Justin Young.

Young and other student leaders were upset that the vice chancellors did not take the parking suggestions made by the Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee.

In February, TPAC voted to recommend a night parking proposal that included a \$5 per semester increase in student fees rather than charging for separate night parking permits.

"We're especially disappointed that they chose to go ahead with the type of night parking program that the committee overwhelmingly chose not to support," said Student Body Vice President Rudy Kleystebur.

Originally, student leaders were not satisfied with TPAC discussions surrounding night parking.

But after additional TPAC meetings and debate, committee members were able to approve the recommendations drawn up by graduate student Emily Williamson. Young said the fact that the chancellors and vice chancellors did not use TPAC's recommendation calls the committee's purpose into question.

"It is a slap in the face," Young said. "A lot of careful thought and hard work went into the recommendation."

But administrators said the TPAC recommendation was not feasible because it required the University to commit \$265,000 before the student fee could be levied.

Suttentfield said that because of budget cuts and limited funding from the state legislature, the University did not have money to cover the commitment.

Young said the \$265,000 was not just a one-time cost — it also signaled a commitment that the University had a vested interest in reconciling the parking situation. He questioned why Elfland did not bring up feasibility concerns during the TPAC meetings.

"The commitment showed a unified front and support on the part of the University," he said.

Student Body President-elect Jen Daum also said she was concerned about the safety of students who wanted to access campus facilities late at night.

She said she is worried about students who will use the designated free

See REACTION, Page 2

Finalized Parking Proposal Set for Trustees

The proposal would institute on-campus night parking permits that would cost \$122 per year for students and \$166 for faculty.

By JEFF SILVER
Staff Writer

Top administrators approved Tuesday a comprehensive parking and transportation proposal that includes the implementation of a night parking program and across-the-board permit price increases for next year.

Officials said the proposal would generate \$2.1 million, which would cover the Department of Public Safety's budget shortfall of about \$2 million.

Under the proposal, which the UNC Board of Trustees will consider next week, night parking

permits would cost students \$122 for the academic year and cost faculty \$166. Weekend parking would remain free, but weekend parking times would begin at midnight Friday instead of at 5 p.m.

Carolyn Elfland, associate vice chancellor for campus services, said people who purchase day permits will be allowed to use them at night as well — a measure Elfland said administrators took because they did not want to punish students, faculty and staff with day permits whose schedules require them to stay on campus past 5 p.m.

The night parking plan diverges from most of the recommendations that the Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee made after extensive meetings last month. TPAC voted 18-4 on Feb. 20 for a resolution that would have increased student fees \$5 each semester to help cover the DPS's budget shortfall.

Administrators said Tuesday that because it is too late to levy new student fees for the fall semes-

ter, the proposal would have required too much University contribution for the budget shortfall.

In addition, Elfland said TPAC's proposal did not leave any lots free, a cause of concern for campus administrators. "The vice chancellors group felt strongly there should be free lots," she said.

The proposal approved Tuesday allows for free parking after 5 p.m. in the Bell Tower Lot and the Bowles Lot on South Campus. Transportation from the two lots to main campus locations would be provided from 5 p.m. to midnight. Security guards also would be positioned at the lots to increase safety, administrators said.

The new proposal would not eliminate resident student parking, an idea TPAC considered. Instead, the cost of permits will rise for all permit holders, including faculty and staff. Some permit prices would go up by as much as 40 percent, Elfland said.

See PARKING, Page 2

Parking Headaches

The proposed changes, which would take effect Aug. 15, include a new fee for night parking permits for students, faculty and staff. The plan also increases rates for 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. permits. Parking fees for faculty and staff also will increase according to the lot.

■ **New Night Parking permit (5 p.m. - midnight)**
*only needed for those without daytime permits
\$122 (Students/per academic year)
\$166 (Faculty and staff/per calendar year)

Changes to Daytime Parking Rates

Category of Parking Lot	Student Rates for 2002-03	Student Increase
■ Reserved	\$497	\$83
■ Gated	\$401	\$67
■ Surface Parking	\$305	\$61
■ PR Lot	\$230	\$102
■ MC Lot	\$127	\$21

SOURCE: UNC PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

Redesigned K-12 Schools Focus on Youth, Testing



Ryan Scott, 3, paints at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute. The institute participates in the Smart Start program designed for younger children.

It's not the kindergarten you remember. In fact, there isn't much in N.C. schools today that most adults would recognize from their own school days. Increased emphasis on early childhood education, accountability, individual attention and school choice are changing the face of education in North Carolina and nationwide.

The 1990s saw a wave of new public education initiatives under then-Gov. Jim Hunt. "Years ago our public schools were down near the bottom among the states," Hunt said. "We decided we needed to improve our schools."

Starting Early

North Carolina's education system now targets children before they enter school through pre-kindergarten programs like Smart Start and Gov. Mike Easley's More at Four initiative.

Smart Start, which provides child care, health services and education to preschoolers, began in 1993 under Hunt. More at Four, Easley's new program for at-risk 4-year-olds, provides state funds for local pre-kindergarten programs.

In turn, children are expected to know more when they enter kindergarten.

"We know more about how children learn," said Carolyn McKinney, president of the N.C. Association of Educators. "Children can learn more than perhaps we thought."

Kindergartners were once expected to count only to 10, she said. "We know now that they can count much further than that. Many people would say we are teaching in kindergarten what we used to be teaching in first grade."

But social learning, which once dominated kindergarten classrooms, still needs to be taught, McKinney said. "Learning to play together is just as critical as learning to count or to read."

Accountability

Higher expectations also translate into increased accountability.

Educators say there has been an increased emphasis nationwide on standardized testing in recent years.

Robert Patton, the principal of East Burke Middle School in Icard, said that he's seen plenty of changes in his 24 years as a school principal but that the "biggest change is that state focus on the standard course of study."

The standard course of study dictates when and how subjects will be taught. Students are tested on the material by standardized tests beginning in the

third grade and continuing through high school. Before the tests were implemented, the standard course of study was not strictly enforced.

Beginning this academic year, children in grades three, five and eight will have to perform at grade level on end-of-grade tests to be automatically promoted to the next grade.

North Carolina has also considered implementing a high school exit exam by 2005.

Proponents of standardized testing claim the tests set a common standard for all students and can quickly identify areas where children perform poorly.

"The focus is not on testing; the focus is on the curriculum," said Johnston County Schools Superintendent Jim Causby. Standardized testing helps keep teachers on task, he said. "There's very little wasted time in school anymore."

But many states have gone "test crazy," said Robert Schaeffer, spokesman for FairTest, a group opposed to widespread standardized testing. "More testing doesn't improve education any more than weighing a baby more frequently makes it bigger and stronger," he said.

A growing number of students, teachers and parents oppose standardized testing, he said, including local officials who resent national interference in state-run education systems.

"There is a backlash, a rebellion against classrooms becoming test-coaching centers," he said. "The heavier the hand of testing, the more backlash there's going to be."

But students aren't the only ones being put to the test. In 1996, North Carolina adopted the ABCs accountability program, which holds schools and teachers responsible for student performance.

One part of the ABCs ranks schools on the basis of student performance, with the state sending in assistance teams to help low-performing schools or even replace staff.

The program also measures growth in student achievement: Teachers at schools who meet test score improvement goals receive bonuses.

North Carolina is one of the first states to implement such programs.

"We've become a real national leader," Causby said.

A Tailored Education

Despite an increased focus on standardized testing, individual attention and personalized edu-

See K-12, Page 2

Spillman Named to Succeed Newcomb as Attorney General

By RACHEL CLARKE
Staff Writer

Undergraduates at UNC have a new student attorney general who is already taking over many of the daily chores associated with the job, although she is awaiting official approval.

Junior Amanda Spillman, who is currently managing associate attorney general, was chosen March 8 to succeed Attorney General Brad Newcomb,

Newcomb said.

"I am still technically the student attorney general, but I gave her the keys to my office, and she and I are consulting on everything," said Newcomb. "She's pretty much doing the job now."

Spillman's duties will include investigating alleged violations of the Student Code and deciding if there is enough evidence to warrant an Honor Court hearing.

She and her associates will also represent

defendants charged with violations of Student Code.

Spillman said she is now concentrating on learning the computer system and making sure the transition goes smoothly.

But soon she will be working toward some bigger changes.

"My top priority is increasing overall efficiency," Spillman said.

She said she also plans to increase faculty involvement in Honor Court

procedures and has been discussing ways to reach that goal with her associates.

Spillman said these goals were especially important in light of ongoing efforts to reexamine the Honor Court system.

Spillman has been approved by Student Body President Justin Young, and her appointment must now be confirmed by the Student Congress' Rules and Judiciary Committee and by the full

Congress.

"Typically, though, that's just a pro forma — they just rubber-stamp the choice for student attorney general," Newcomb said.

Blair Sweeney, chairman of the Rules and Judiciary Committee, said his committee will vote on Spillman's appointment 7 p.m. Monday, and the full Student Congress should vote Tuesday.

Newcomb, a junior, said he was part

of a selection committee that narrowed down the options to two candidates — Spillman and Special Investigations Associate Attorney General Aaron Hiller.

In the end, the committee chose to recommend that Young select Spillman for the position because of her experience as a managing associate attorney general and because her skills were

See ATTORNEY GENERAL, Page 2

The schools of the country are its future in miniature.

Tehyi Hsieh