

# The Daily Tar Heel

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**Weather**  
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Friday: Sunny; H 61, L 31  
Saturday: Partly Cloudy; H 63, L 33



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## Legislators: System Cuts May Exceed 4 Percent

BY ELYSE ASHBURN  
Assistant State & National Editor

State leaders said Wednesday that the UNC system's 2002-03 budget might need to be trimmed by more than administrators' suggested 4 percent maximum. Budget reversions to deal with a state budget shortfall for the 2001-02 fiscal year already have drained campus resources, and system officials say instruction at many of the system's campuses — including UNC-Chapel Hill — will significantly suffer if budgets are cut

by even as little as 3 percent. But Sen. Howard Lee, D-Orange, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said the state legislature might be forced to trim the UNC-system budget by more than the recommended 4 percent maximum. "It is possible," Lee said. "I'm hoping that it will be at the 4 percent or less. The higher it goes, the greater is the risk of doing damage to the universities." The state could be facing a budget shortfall of well over \$1 billion for the 2002-03 fiscal year, which starts on July 1.

The declining economic outlook is forcing Gov. Mike Easley and state legislators to consider cuts in all corners of state government, including the UNC system. Lee said that some jobs likely will be lost within the 16-campus system but that legislators would try to make cuts to vacant positions based on each post's overall worth. He added that the legislature also will examine how individual programs contribute to meeting the overall mission of the UNC system. "We will look at eliminating total programs rather than making piecemeal

cuts," Lee said. "It will depend on (each campus's) administration to judge which programs are less effective than others." He said that generally speaking, the legislature plans to target its cuts, while the governor is emphasizing less specific projected budget trims. Gov. Mike Easley has requested that the UNC system submit budget cut scenarios for 2002-03 this week. Jeff Davies, UNC-system vice president for finance, said the administration concentrated on formulating scenarios that would leave instruction largely unscathed.

Scenarios were designed in 1 percent increments, capping the cuts at the 4 percent mark. "We are looking at the point at which instruction becomes affected," Davies said. "By the 4 percent range everybody is being affected." But he said cuts as small as 3 percent could force some campuses, including UNC-CH, to cut faculty. A 3 percent budget cut would force UNC-CH to cut 26 filled faculty positions in academic affairs, trimming

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## Congress Elects New Leadership

New Student Congress Speaker Tony Larson says he will hold special elections until empty seats are filled.

BY BROOK CORWIN  
Staff Writer

Members of the 84th Student Congress who sought leadership positions in the body Wednesday night were forced to address a number of questions and concerns at the group's first meeting. The primary purpose of the meeting was to elect new leadership for Congress. Junior Tony Larson, the chairman of the Finance Committee for the 83rd session, was elected speaker of Congress, edging out junior Matt O'Brien by an 11-10 vote in a runoff election. The runoff election occurred after neither Larson, O'Brien nor sophomore Blair Sweeney received a majority vote. In a speech delivered to members of Congress before the vote, Larson pledged to make sure special elections are held



Speaker Tony Larson won by one vote in a runoff over Speaker Pro Tem Matt O'Brien.

every month to eliminate empty congressional seats. "I don't believe there is a good reason all of these seats should not be filled," he said. "Students should have as much representation as possible." Larson said he will work with the speaker pro tem, who usually handles administrative duties, to generate student interest in running for the vacant seats. Larson also said he will dedicate extra effort to groom the speaker pro tem for a leadership role because he might graduate in December. O'Brien retained his position as speaker pro tem, which he held during the 83rd session, by a vote of 14-6 over Sweeney. O'Brien said that he is enthusiastic about filling the expanded role that Larson envisions for the speaker pro tem and that he will work with the executive branch of student government and student organizations to raise interest in Congress within the student body. "As a member of Congress, it's really hard to get in touch with your constituency, but that's one of our biggest responsibilities," O'Brien said. Members of Congress also elected committee chairmen for the 84th session. Graduate student Daniel Herman was elected Ethics Committee chairman, freshman Natalie Russell was elected Finance Committee chairwoman,

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## 2 Students Vie For Control of Revamped ASG

Next year's ASG president will have the responsibility of managing a budget that will increase by more than \$160,000.

BY MICHAEL DAVIS  
Staff Writer

The bigger part will already be there. Now two students are hoping to make the UNC-system Association of Student Governments better. A \$1 systemwide student fee that will go into effect next fall will increase the organization's budget from what has annually been about \$2,500 to about \$165,000, which could allow the organization to hire professional advisers and increase its travel budget. ASG President Andrew Payne said, "The (ASG) will be in a position next year to do things we have never done before, and it needs a strong leader to make sure those things happen." Greg Drumwright, a junior at N.C. Agricultural & Technical University, and Jonathan Ducote, a sophomore at N.C. State University, both are looking to become president of the refurbished ASG. James Haltom, a junior at UNC-Chapel Hill and ASG's vice president of public affairs, also expressed interest in running for the position but decided to drop out of the race earlier this week. Haltom declined to comment Wednesday about the reason he changed his mind about running. Elections will be held May 4 at the ASG's final meeting of the 2001-02 academic year.

Greg Drumwright

Drumwright, who serves as student body president at N.C. A&T, said he thinks he has developed a voice within the ASG through his aggressive yet tactful style and that he wants to build on his leadership skills. "The ASG's credibility has definitely taken a turn for the better," he said. "I really just want to make sure the momentum of the organization is sustained." He said that if elected, he will propose constitutional amendments on each of the 16 UNC-system campuses that would require student body presidents to participate in the ASG. Drumwright also said that while he plans to continue to focus on tuition issues, he also wants to expand the ASG's presence nationally. This year the ASG was involved in actively lobbying UNC-system officials against large tuition increases, including a rally at the March 6 UNC-system Board of Governors meeting. Drumwright, who is chairman of the N.C. Black Student Government Association, also said he wants to increase diversity within the ASG and will create a diversity task force to

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Students walk past the fence surrounding the Undergraduate Library on Wednesday afternoon. The library renovations are projected to be completed this summer in time for the library to reopen for the fall semester.

## Renovations Remain on Schedule

BY WILL AREY  
Staff Writer

In recent days, the fencing between the Undergraduate Library and Greenlaw Hall has swallowed up yet another sizable chunk of sidewalk. Officials say congestion around the Undergrad — prompted by renovation of the building — likely will continue at least until the beginning of the fall semester, when the library is scheduled to reopen. But Leah McGinnis, spokeswoman for the Undergrad project, said the renovations are running on schedule. The Undergrad was closed for complete renovation Dec. 19, 2000. McGinnis said that if all goes well, the library will reopen in August in time for the fall semester, although a specific reopening date has not been determined. The fencing near Greenlaw is now in place because construction crews are in the process of applying finishing touches inside the building

### Undergrad Update

The most current timetable for Undergraduate Library renovations shows that the library will reopen in time for the fall semester of 2002.

DTH/HELEN YU  
SOURCE: UNDERGRADUATE LIBRARY

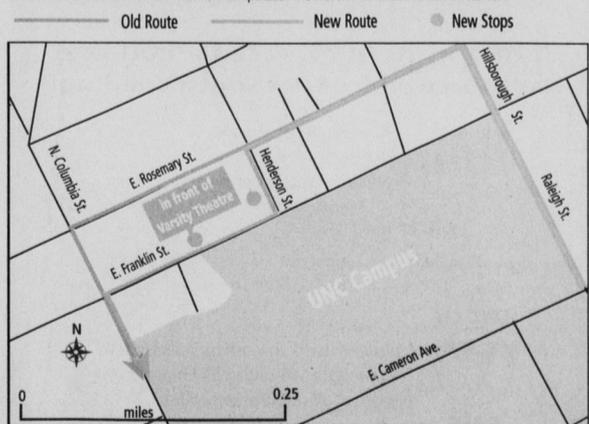
and are beginning the process of landscaping the library's exterior, she said. McGinnis said exterior landscaping, including the placement of trees, brickwork, exterior

seating and walls, necessitated widening the fenced-off area between the Undergrad and Greenlaw. "The fences were moved outward in order to ensure the safety of pedestrians walking through the area," she said. McGinnis said the fences would likely remain in place until June. Once all exterior work and interior construction is complete, which is projected for June, McGinnis said, workers will begin moving in the library's furniture, books and supplies. But in the meantime, students say the construction is creating several inconveniences for them. Freshman Eric Harris said the effects of the construction, especially the fencing, have been frustrating. "The fences make it harder to move around and get to class, especially in the mornings and

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### Safe Ride Starts Here

The P2P's new route, which went into effect April 1, adds two new stops. The rest of the route remains unchanged. The new route is part of Safe Ride, a joint program between the Department of Public Safety and student government. The initiative also entails business cards with transportation information that will be available at local bars.



SOURCE: UNC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DTH/COBI EDELSON

## New Safe Ride Program Now in Effect

BY KARA EIDE  
Staff Writer

A new program to maximize the safety of students returning home from Franklin Street during late-night hours is now in effect. Student government instituted the Safe Ride program, which began its pilot phase Monday, to curb drunk driving and to keep students safe, said Anup Dashputre, chairman of student services for student government. The program includes a revised Point-2-Point bus route and the distribution of business cards containing taxi and P2P information to Chapel Hill bars and clubs. The new P2P route will include two new stops on Franklin Street — one on the corner of Franklin and Henderson

streets and one in front of Varsity Theatre. Dashputre said the old route was flawed because the P2P was neglecting the main part of Franklin Street. The business cards will be displayed in prominent locations at the bars and clubs on East Franklin and Rosemary streets. "We just gave it to the bars along the new P2P route, but the long-term goal is to get it to every bar and club in Chapel Hill," Dashputre said. Bennett LaPrade, owner of Pantana Bob's on West Rosemary Street, said his business received the cards and placed them next to the telephone. LaPrade said that while some students might opt not to utilize the program, he hopes it will help them make better choices. "Some people are going

to be hardheaded, but you can offer it," he said. The program is not just for people who have been drinking, LaPrade added. "I'm concerned about anyone I see walking around late at night." Dashputre also mentioned the program's intent to provide a safer alternative to walking alone downtown and through campus. "A lot of people don't realize that the majority of holdups occur on North Campus, especially along Raleigh Street and near (Coker) Arboretum," he said. In the future, Dashputre said he plans to extend the program to include educational programs about drunk driving. "Everybody's aware that you shouldn't drink and drive," he said. "But this would make them more aware of the services available on campus to help

you avoid that situation." Though currently in its pilot phase, the Safe Ride program will be officially implemented in full force on the first day of the fall 2002 semester. Dashputre said that during this pilot time frame, he will actively seek student feedback and make any necessary changes. He said he is already considering adding a reverse P2P route or extending the territory that the P2P currently covers. After working 15 to 20 hours a week with his committee since Feb. 1 to create this program, Dashputre said he is anxious for student response. "Now really is the time where we want to fine-tune everything." The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

The best way out is always through.

Robert Frost