

Students Lobby Legislature

By BENJI CAUTHREN
Staff Writer

The relaxation of a Chapel Hill summer will offer no such break from the lobbying efforts of student government.

Student Body President Jen Daum and Provost Robert Shelton will head a tuition task force over the summer to develop a five-year plan to present to the UNC-system Board of Governors in the fall.

Student government officials will work to keep tuition low, according to the Executive Connection, a monthly newsletter from the executive branch of student government.

Daum has also worked to develop a student-led effort to lobby the N.C. General Assembly. About 31 students participated in "Lobbying for Higher Education," a political science course aimed at teaching the basics of effectively lobbying the legislature on budget issues. Daum said she hopes this will show the legislature that students are serious about protecting education from budget cuts.

"We want to effectively communicate

a few talking points to the legislature," she said.

Daum said her administration is particularly concerned with protecting facilities and administrative funds from budget cuts. F&A funds are used to pay for undergraduate research and graduate student salaries, among other areas.

Getting students involved in the lobbying efforts is a priority for Daum's administration.

"We have a list of about 75 students who are going to help us directly in working with the legislature," she said. "Others who are out of town this summer are committed to helping out in other ways, whether by writing their representative or visiting the General Assembly with us at some other time."

Daum said that with an upcoming election year, officials will pay special attention to the voices of students who vote.

"When the governor talks about protecting the classroom, he means us," she said. "If we don't tell our representatives why a 5 percent cut to education would be devastating, we're not doing our part."

Student Body Secretary Rebecca

Williford said getting students to talk to their own legislators is the key to success in lobbying. "We'll take a UNC contingent to Raleigh, but going to talk to your own representative is a lot more effective."

Student Body Vice President Aaron Hiller said getting an established group of students in place during the summer will make lobbying efforts easier to coordinate during the school year.

"We have a lot of students in Raleigh serving internships this summer, so they do a good job of keeping us in touch with what's going on," Hiller said. "It's good that we'll have a grassroots network in place to address this issue as things come up later in the year."

Hiller added that they are preparing for the worst.

"It's still going to be a really rough year, so all we can do is plan ahead and try to anticipate where the majority of the cuts will come," Hiller said. "It's not pleasant, but we'll have to do a lot of damage control."

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

New Clothing Store Opens On East Franklin Street

By CHARLES FYLE
Staff Writer

Following the vacancy of Emma from its Franklin Street property, a new clothing store, Carolina Contemporary Fashions, has opened its doors.

Indian-born Drew Chellani opened his second boutique on East Franklin Street three weeks ago, saying, "I'll take it in stride. I have 20 years of clothing experience that started in New York City. I'm not worried."

Twenty years ago, Chellani left Bombay, India, after earning his degree in mechanical engineering at Mafatlal University.

But when he arrived in the United States, the first job offer that came along was in the garment district. He took his first job at India Cottage Emporium on 27th Street in Manhattan with \$20 in his pocket in 1982.

"The job was there, so I took it," he said Tuesday.

"I learned about clothes and wholesaling and decided to make it work," he added.

Choli's, coin belts, hip belts, spiral

chains and even harem pants can be ordered because Chellani "wholesales" much of his merchandise from India.

"People come into shop of all ages," said sales representative Anna Maxwell. "They observe the styles and claim that it was the latest trend in the 1960s."

"It's kind of like the comeback of Woodstock," laughed Maxwell.

Since Sept. 11, five businesses in Chapel Hill have folded: T'Boli Imports, California Cafe, the Record Exchange, Swensen's on Franklin Street and Maui Smoothies.

Chellani first arrived in Chapel Hill in 1993 by way of Fayetteville.

He started his first business venture on West Franklin Street, a boutique for men and women with what seemed to be an initial Woodstock theme: Love And Peace.

"We experience slowdown every summer, but we get through it," he said of his business located on the other end of Franklin Street from his new shop. "Once the middle of August comes we thrive, though," he said.

When asked why he changed his aspirations after arriving in New York, Chellani said, "I knocked on the door of an engineering school in the city. They told me it would take \$3,000 to parlane my degree in English, so I decided to simply keep working from my first job opportunity."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.



The University and Towns

IN BRIEF

Student Union Opening Postponed Until July

The new Student Union will not open today as scheduled, Don Luse, director of the Student Union, said Monday.

Luse said the building, whose opening date has now been postponed seven times, is slated to open July 17. The original completion date was June 2001.

Luse cited "general delays" as the cause for the postponement and said there is still a substantial amount of work to be done on the bottom floor and some work to be done of the exterior of the building. The top floor and the main floor are finished, Luse said.

The second phase of the project — renovating the first and third floors of the Student Union — will take about six months and will begin soon after phase one is finished in July.

The new building will house meeting rooms, student organizations' offices, a computer lab and a 24-hour copy center, Luse said.

Administrative offices housed in the current Student Union will be temporarily moved to the new union while the current union is renovated, Luse said. The move is scheduled for July 17, 18 and 19.

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