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But each time officials have raised UNC's cost of attendance, they have set aside funds for financial aid to keep down out-of-pocket costs for students.

University officials have reaffirmed their commitment to keeping UNC open to all North Carolinians. But they fear that a perception lingers that UNC's affordability has diminished, despite their efforts to dispel this myth.

"The students we need to be most concerned about are the best and brightest in North Carolina, ensuring they have an accurate picture of what Carolina costs," said Student Body President Jen Daum.

Jerry Lucido, director of undergraduate admissions, said that more and more students are applying for financial aid and that the number of low-income and minority students on campus actually is growing. But Lucido said the misconception that the University is not accessible persists.

Lucido said that although the cost of attending UNC continues to rise, he is not concerned that tuition increases will make the University less accessible because every time tuition is raised, parts of the revenue are earmarked for financial aid. But he said he is worried that some students will not apply because they think the University is too expensive.

"The perception issue does not have to do with the actual cost; it has to do with the perceived cost," he said.

Herb Davis, associate director of undergraduate admissions, said studies have shown that socioeconomic status affects students' views of how much it

costs to attend college. Lucido said he attributes some of this misconception to the University's selectivity and national prominence because people generally associate exclusivity with higher cost.

Both University officials and student leaders say the University's tradition of keeping tuition affordable always will remain strong while they continue to strive for academic excellence.

Daum, who serves as co-chairwoman of the Tuition Task Force, said keeping tuition affordable through increases in student aid is the committee's top priority. "Under no circumstances will we raise tuition without raising the amount of aid and holding students harmless."

Shirley Ort, director of the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid, said that officials would prefer to have lower tuition but that because that is not feasible, they work hard to offset the costs of rising tuition. "We don't want to become too selective and become a University just for those who have money," she said.

Ort said federal grants, new aid from tuition increases and state grants passed down from the N.C. General Assembly fund the financial aid that helps keep costs down in spite of rising tuition.

Officials in the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid have worked to raise the number of students who apply for financial aid, resulting in a 21 percent increase over the last year.

University officials attempt to provide as much financial aid as possible in the form of grants and scholarships rather than loans. They aim to meet 100 percent of demonstrated need and to meet 65 percent of that in the form of scholarships and grants that will not have to be repaid. "We can't assume (low-income students) will continue to come if they

have to take out large loans," Ort said. Ort also said it is not only crucial that students apply for aid but that they apply on time. Financial aid awards are handed out in stages, and the later the stage in which the application is turned in, the more likely it is that students will have most of their need met in the form of student loans rather than grants.

Ort said the students who are more likely to be affected by the increases are the students whose families do not qualify for student aid but who cannot afford school out of pocket. "The federal formula says they owe, but they don't have it."

Financial aid officers are worried about these students, but Ort stressed that with non-need-based aid and other resources, students can find a way to pay for their education.

But Shelton said many prospective students who aren't exposed to officials' efforts on a daily basis don't know about this commitment and don't understand financial aid.

University officials strive to alert prospective students to the aid that is available for them with efforts spearheaded by the offices of admissions, scholarships and student aid, and minority affairs.

And Shelton said this outreach is still the most important part of ensuring that the University is accessible. "It isn't any good to have the money there if we can't get it to the people who need it - if they're not applying."

Terri Houston, director of recruitment and service for the Office of Minority Affairs, said one program aimed at accomplishing this goal is the Tar Heel Target program.

The program, which began in the 1980s, consists of about 100 undergraduates who travel to N.C. high schools

that they graduated from to talk to students about higher education.

The group aims to dispel myths that students can't get into UNC. Members also bring information from admissions and financial aid and tell students about scholarships.

Student representatives from Tar Heel Target don't talk specifically about tuition, but they bring information about financial aid. Their presence is testimony that someone from a given community can be successful at UNC, Houston said.

"They let the community know that Carolina is accessible and available and can certainly be an option for all students," she said.

Sophomore Derek Oxendine, co-coordinator of Tar Heel Target, said he has witnessed the skewed perception many high school students have about how much it costs to attend UNC. "A lot of them don't know what (UNC) really costs," he said. "They put it in the same category as Duke (University)."

Oxendine said that while most high school students are concerned with the cost of college in general, a few worry about tuition increases specifically. They want to know how much and how often tuition is increased.

Student representatives from Tar Heel Target tell prospective students that although tuition does go up on a regular basis, it is not completely unpredictable. They also tell them that students receiving financial aid will receive aid increases so they won't actually be paying more money, he said.

"We tell them, 'It's not as big of a factor as you think it is.'"

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YOUTH VOTE From Page 1

Foundation and Harvard University.

Despite such data, Edwards always has been concerned about issues affecting young people, said Michael Briggs, his press secretary. "Young people are the future of our democracy."

Aaron Anthony, campaign director for Project Youth Vote, a nonpartisan organization that advises candidates of ways to appeal to young people, said Edwards' recent actions are astute. "He is being very smart in appealing to this group. ... So far he has done a good job."

But Colleen Sarna, N.C. field director for Youth Vote Coalition, said Edwards' actions are atypical because politicians rarely focus on young voters. "It is important to appeal to the youth vote. They are a large voting bloc. Whenever politicians address the issues of a voting bloc, it helps their popularity."

Aaron Brock, news director for Project Vote Smart, also said young people do not think that candidates speak to or care about them or their issues.

But Guillory said that it is difficult to appeal to young voters because their lifestyles are so mobilized and that it will take Edwards a lot of hard work and money to be successful.

Politicians often fall victim to conventional wisdom when talking to young people, Anthony said. They will try to be hip and cool, which is self-defeating because young people crave reality. "After 20 years of advertisements, people have a very high fluff detector," he said.

Brock also said young voters are more skeptical than their older counterparts. A more honest approach is likely to garner more youth votes, though spin doctors traditionally have played a significant role in political campaigns, he said.

A different approach could help a candidate not only with youths but across the board, Brock added.

But whether or not Edwards is acting, Anthony said, he comes across as a

young politician, though he will soon assume the role of North Carolina's senior senator. "Edwards is very youthful, and he has got a lot of energy compared to most elected officials."

Despite appearing youthful, Edwards is aware of the fact that older people are more likely to turn out and vote. Young people are not used to having a politician court them, Anthony said.

Briggs acknowledged that appealing to young voters requires a different approach. There is a difference in the issues young and older voters are interested in - young people are more inclined to think outside the box.

But the interests of both young and older voters are not mutually exclusive, Anthony said. There is, however, a danger of trying to appeal to everyone. "You cannot be all things to all people."

And Guillory warned that a candidate who cannot balance the concerns of both younger and older voters will not win. Edwards' \$3 billion education proposal likely would appeal to many young people, as well as their parents, he added.

Sarna, however, said Edwards' proposal is addressing a previously neglected issue that appeals primarily to youths. "Educational issues are important to young people who are going through college, paying off student loans and applying for financial aid," she said.

Anthony said this policy likely will be successful because Edwards is taking a broad area and personalizing it. "He is taking the issue, and he is sticking it in the wallet of every college-aged young adult."

"I haven't seen anyone else who is running for president reaching out to young people in this way. ... If he is serious about running for president, young voters can give him an edge in a close race."

Guillory said no presidential candidate since John F. Kennedy has effectively energized young voters. "It is time again for those who would lead the nation to inspire younger voters."

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mental and physical toughness I've gained over the last year," Flanagan said.

"It's a relief because it was expected of me to win it, especially after last year, but I was very confident going into the championship."

North Carolina's women's cross country team finished 21st at the N C A A Championship. Tar Heel coach Michael Whittlesey was pumped to see Flanagan's highly touted talent translate into a title.

"It was really exciting to see Shalane win the national title," Whittlesey said. "The pressure was taken off of her early when she trailed for the first mile, mile and a half, but then gained the lead and never relinquished it."

"Seeing her finish at the end was a great thrill." The Tar Heels battled tough weather conditions with high winds and a temperature of 30 degrees. BYU outpaced the rest of the 31 teams with its second

straight national title. "We had a difficult start today," Whittlesey said. "After the slow start, I thought the girls really competed the entire race and battled back at the end. I was proud of the way they kept working."

North Carolina finishes the season with one championship (Campbell Invite) and an individual national title.

Flanagan's victory is her first in her 2 1/2-year career at North Carolina. She earned All-America honors for the third straight season in cross country in 2002.

To round out the UNC competitors, senior Liz Awtrey (Burke, Va.) finished her last NCAA race in 161st place with a time of 22:02.5.

Junior Jennie Sucher took 214th place with a time of 23:43.5.

Sophomores Erin Donohue and Alice Schmidt completed the race with times of 21:13.5 (61st) and 21:34.5 (110th), respectively.

Freshmen Cassie King and Jessica Perry finished 183rd (22:15.2) and 177th (22:12.6), respectively.

"You pump up a national championship as one of those things ... and it wasn't as hard as I expected it to be."

SHALANE FLANAGAN
NCAA Individual Cross Country Champion

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woman Sarah Bemby. This increase is significant because it shows the public's renewed trust in the airline industry, said Jerry Cheske, AAA spokesman for the southeastern United States. He said he thinks it is indicative of growing confidence in air travel security.

The Thanksgiving holiday will test

that confidence as travelers and airport officials work with the post-Sept. 11 security measures for the first time during a holiday season.

New security measures include holding frequent random searches and requiring identification and a ticket to enter the central part of the airport.

Cheske said he expects air travel to run smoothly because the majority of security systems already are in place and working properly.

Officials at Raleigh-Durham International Airport also say they think passengers traveling through the airport will experience few problems.

In anticipation of Thanksgiving travel, RDU personnel created a comprehensive Web site providing detailed advice to passengers about everything from what to expect at security checkpoints to what diabetics should do with their insulin while on board, said RDU spokeswoman Karen Dunton.

Dunton said that when planning the Web site, officials tried to be as inclusive as possible. "We try to think about everything people would want to know and then some," she said.

Lists of allowed and restricted items can be found on the Web site for the Transportation Security Administration, an organization created a year ago to run federal checkpoints at all airports.

Individual airlines have also created a number of easy check-in options - including curbside, self-service and ticket counter check-in - that allow some passengers to avoid long lines.

Airport personnel will be available to direct and inform passengers during the holiday. Passengers also are encouraged to contact airlines and airports directly with any preflight questions or concerns.

"We hope for a safe Thanksgiving," Dunton said. "I think all the airports would agree; you just try to get through and take people where they need to go."

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Campus Calendar

Today

7 p.m. - The Black Student Movement Talent Show, co-sponsored by the FCC and fund-raising committees, will take place in the Union Auditorium. Tickets are on sale at the box office for \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door.

7 p.m. - The Department of Housing and Residential Education presents "Raised to Hate," a free viewing and discussion of "American History X" in 100 Hamilton Hall. Refreshments provided.

Sunday, Dec. 1

6 p.m. - The Young Democrats are raffling two tickets good for every major Carolina men's basketball home game of the 2002-03 season! The tickets are for seats 7 and 8 in Row H of Section 125. That's on the half-court line, facing the bench, eight rows back from the court!

Complete details and a secure online order form are available at <http://www.BasketballRaffle.com>. All proceeds go to support the Asheville chapter of Habitat for Humanity (for whom the Young Democrats did volunteer work earlier this year) and to help defray the costs associated with the Young Democrats' 2003 statewide convention, which will be hosted for the first time ever on the UNC campus this March.

Raffle tickets start at just \$5 each, with significant discounts for larger purchases. The drawing will be held Sunday at 6 p.m. The winner will be notified via e-mail and telephone, and the name will be posted to the Web site.

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this is part of his presidential campaign. It's critical for candidates like Edwards to articulate where they stand on important issues. We've already seen (Al) Gore step out front and critique Bush's economic and international policies."

Early polls show 2000 Democratic candidate Gore as the front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but all of the candidates are going to be looked at seriously by party leaders and by people participating in the primaries.

But Bruce Cain, political science professor at the University of California-Berkeley, said education initiatives like Edwards' plan are scapegoats because few U.S. citizens oppose improving education.

"Any federal candidate that picks education as their leading issue might as well put a sign in their forehead that says, 'I play it safe,'" he said.

The federal government provides only 3 percent of the funds spent on K-12 education and only makes direct contributions to higher education through financial aid such as Pell Grants.

"(Edwards) is a very cautious, centrist Southern candidate. He's definitely playing it safe, which is what Bush did - he's going down a well-trodden path. He's saying, 'I have no courage.'"

But, Cain said, Edwards will appeal

to the people who believe the party cannot win without some Southern states.

"Some people will look at that," he said. "Others will look at him and see that there is nothing there for them. He doesn't speak for most Democrats."

Nice cautioned that splitting a party's votes can be detrimental to a candidate and that contenders must pick issues that do not divide their supporters.

Instead, he said, they should use polls to identify issues they can address in order to split their opponent's supporters. "It's partly art, partly science. If the candidates can afford to, they're going to do quite a bit of polling."

Candidates generally have a good sense of how to appeal to party leaders and interest groups, Cain said, but most of them already vote in elections.

It is more difficult to mobilize average voters, especially younger ones. "Mobilizing people is riskier," Nice said. "If someone can figure out how to do it, you're looking at a huge political bloc there."

But Nice added that platforms, such as Edwards' stance on higher education, are not chosen simply on their ability to mobilize the electorate. "Actually, campaigns are good predictors as to what an administration will focus on."

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The Daily Tar Heel
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One copy per person; additional copies may be purchased at The Daily Tar Heel for \$.25 each.
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STUDENT MEMBERSHIP
GAA Annual Holiday Concert
Tuesday, December 3, 7:00-9:00PM
Alumni Halls I and II
George Watts Hill Alumni Center
Come and join us for an evening of fun and celebration.
Clef Hangers Loreleis UNC Gospel Choir Tar Heel Voices
Harmonyx Vision Walk-Ons Psalm 100
These groups will be performing at this year's concert. Following the concert holiday gift bags will be assembled for children in the area.
Refreshments will be provided
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