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A UNC survey will examine the University's economic benefits to North Carolina.  
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UNC faces Illinois in ACC/Big Ten challenge.  
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Weather

Today: Partly Cloudy; H 48, L 23  
Wednesday: P.M. Ice; H 32, L 31  
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## Moeser: Salary Decision Was a Mistake

By DANIEL THIGPEN  
University Editor

After weeks of defending a controversial pay agreement for outgoing Vice Chancellor and General Counsel Susan Ehringhaus, Chancellor James Moeser on Monday called his decision a mistake that cannot be renegotiated.

"The arrangement in my view was an error in judgement on my part," Moeser said in a meeting with reporters. "I have to accept that responsibility."

In October, Moeser and Ehringhaus agreed on a salary deal that will provide her with almost \$320,000 for eight months of unrelated work in Washington, D.C., beginning Jan. 1 and a year of teaching at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law from September 2003 to August 2004.

In the end, Moeser said that in formulating the agreement with Ehringhaus, he

failed to recognize the larger impact his deal would have on both the UNC-CH community and the state.

Moeser's decision has resulted in harsh criticism and backlash from UNC-CH workers and state legislators, many of whom think the deal creates a poor perception of the University's fiscal priorities during troubled economic times.

And the chancellor said he acknowledges those concerns, although "to retroactively renegotiate ... would not be fruitful." In a statement he distributed at the meeting and intends to send to UNC-CH's faculty and staff, Moeser wrote, "It is important to admit mistakes, to learn from those mistakes, to resolve not to repeat them and to move on."

Moeser also admitted that his decision to reorganize the University's legal counsel office led to Ehringhaus' resignation from her post. "It was my decision that

it was time for a change in the structure of the legal office," he said.

The decision had nothing to do with Ehringhaus personally, but rather, Moeser said, he sought to modify the nature of the position. "I wanted to have my own team," he said. "I came to the conclusion that change would be good for the University."

Officials say Ehringhaus' pay will come from unrestricted private funds from the UNC-CH Foundation and not from state money. "This period of leave is not unlike the research leaves accorded to other senior administrators before they transition back to faculty status," Moeser said.

It is unclear, however, if Moeser ever asked Ehringhaus to resign. "It's not a question of who asked whom," Ehringhaus said in an interview Monday.

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DTH FILE PHOTO

*"The arrangement in my view was an error in judgement on my part. I have to accept that responsibility."*

JAMES MOESER  
Chancellor

## BOG, Broad Call Salary Deal With Ehringhaus 'Indefensible'

By ELYSE ASHBURN  
State & National Editor

Financial negotiations made between UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor James Moeser and a longtime University employee are excessive and inexcusable, key UNC-system officials said Monday.

"I think it's indefensible - the cost of it, the terms," UNC-system Board of Governors member Craig Souza said of the \$320,000 salary agreement reached between Moeser and Susan Ehringhaus, the University's outgoing general coun-

sel. Members of the BOG Personnel and Tenure Committee were so incensed by the deal Moeser struck with Ehringhaus that they requested Monday that the UNC-system Office of the President draft guidelines for such negotiations.

Calling Moeser's actions inappropriate, UNC-system President Molly Broad stressed that although no hard-and-fast policy exists for negotiations of the same nature as those made with Ehringhaus, there are implicit standards of fiscal

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## UNC Early Applicants Decrease

No early decision could be a factor

By RUTHIE WARSHENBROT  
Staff Writer

Fewer students applied to UNC by the Nov. 15 early action deadline than had applied to the University by this time last year, according to preliminary numbers from undergraduate admissions officials.

UNC offered only two deadlines this year: the early action deadline, Nov. 15, and the regular deadline, Jan. 15.

The binding early decision deadline of Oct. 15 was abolished with much fanfare last year and took effect for this fall's applicant pool.

Stephen Farmer, senior associate director of admissions, said 11,035 students applied early decision and early action to UNC last year.

Of these students, 1,848 applied early decision. The remaining 9,187 applied early action, a process that allows students to apply early and get an earlier response from the University.

So far, this year's numbers indicate that 9,036 students have applied for the Nov. 15 early action deadline.

The difference between the numbers seems to be the number of early decision applicants, said Jerry Lucido, director of undergraduate admissions.

"It sounds like the current numbers are roughly different (because of) the early decision deadline," he said.

Last spring, UNC was the first major public university to abandon the early decision program, saying it put too much pressure on high school seniors.

Yale and Stanford universities also recently decided to drop their early decision deadlines, but their changes will not take effect until next fall.

Lucido said it was difficult to be the first institution to drop the early decision deadline. "Sometimes when you

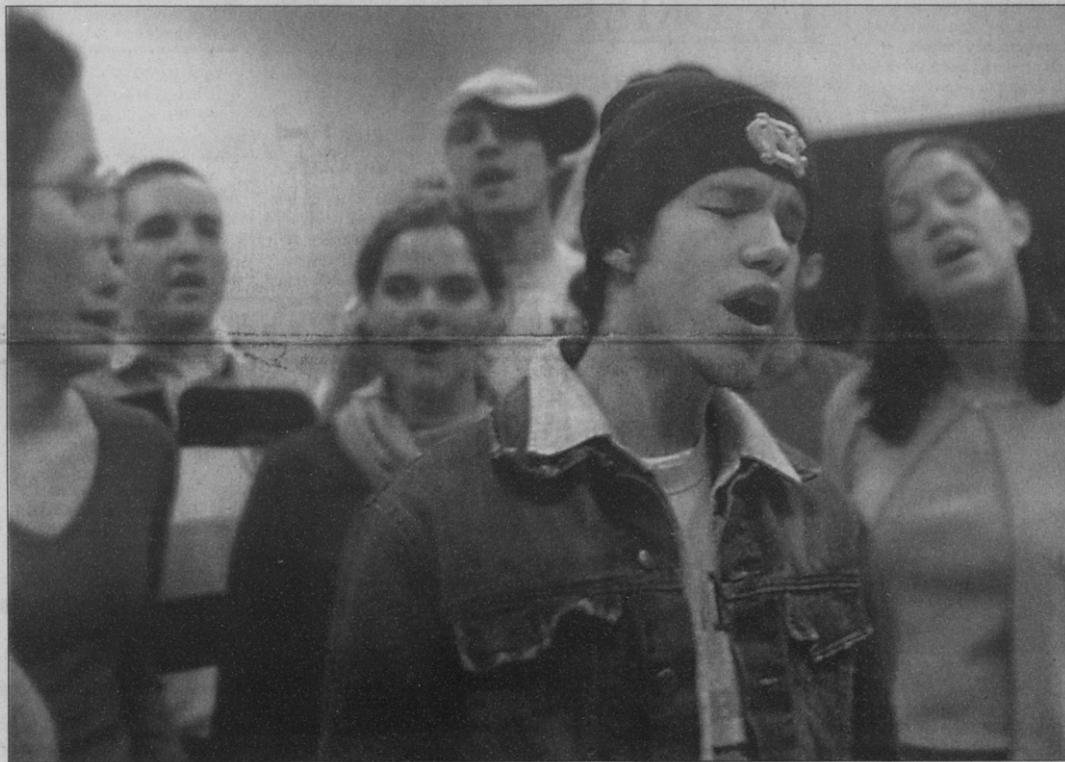
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### Paper Pileup

University officials say the move to eliminate the early decision program has affected the number of applications submitted by the Nov. 15 early action deadline. They believe, however, that the decision won't have any effect on the quality of applicants. The final deadline for fall 2003 applicants is Jan. 15.

Fall 2002 Applicants  
11,035  
Fall 2003 Applicants  
9,036

SOURCE: UNC ADMISSIONS OFFICE DTH/STAFF



DTH/JOANIE TOBIN

Sophomore Justin Carter, a semifinalist in "American Idol II," rehearses with Tar Heel Voices on Monday night for Hollywood, Calif., to compete against 199 other semifinalists from across the nation.

## UNC Student Takes Next Step To Become Country's New Idol

1 of 200 semifinalists for 2nd "American Idol"

By KIRSTEN FIELDS  
Staff Writer

When sophomore Justin Carter decided to come to UNC, his concerns about college were greater than the usual homesickness.

With a passion for singing, Carter worried he never would get a chance to pursue his dream of a music career.

And then the televised singing competition "American Idol" came along.

Carter now is one of 200 semifinalists for the show's second season and will be traveling to Hollywood, Calif., this month for the final round of auditions.

In the show, 60 contestants compete for the status of being the "American Idol." Contestants are judged by famous figures in the music world in person and by the public via phone and e-mail. After the number of contestants is narrowed down to 30, the show airs live until a winner, who will receive a record deal, is chosen.

Carter said he is banned by the show from discussing any details about the show or the final audition, but several friends said Carter is excited about the prospect of competing on the show.

Sophomore Jason Hamlin, Carter's roommate in Chapel Hill this summer, said Carter has wanted to be on "American Idol" since the show's creation.

"He would stay up late at night looking up pictures on the Web site and finding out different stuff about the people," Hamlin said.

Upon finding out about the open audition in Atlanta in October for the show, Carter convinced Hamlin and two other friends to join him in auditioning.

"Justin was the one who said we needed to get there early," Hamlin said. "He would have been really upset if he missed the chance to audition."

The boys spent close to 48 hours outside on the street in the rain and cold, waiting for ticket and bracelet distribution to guarantee an auditioning spot.

Because reporters came for interviews spontaneously, Carter and his friends had to look their best at all times. Photographers bombarded them at all hours of the night. By the time

Sunday morning came, Carter had lost his voice.

"Everyone in line was so nice to Justin, trying to tell him quick remedies to get it back," Hamlin said.

Though Carter did not get his voice back fully, he went on to perform Aretha Franklin's "Ain't Too Proud to Beg" for the judges. When he was not called to audition again, Carter did not let this get him down. Instead, he headed to another open audition in Nashville in November. This time, he knew what to do.

After Carter auditioned in a group of several people, the panel of judges announced who they wanted back, and Carter was not on their list. As Carter walked away, one of the "American Idol" producers stopped him.

Shannon Byrne, a graduate student and a member of Tar Heel Voices with Carter, said the producer was impressed with Carter's talents.

"The producer was hunting him down to let him know that he wanted him back," Byrne said.

Carter auditioned once more for famous judges Paula Abdul, Simon Cowell and Randy Jackson, and he made the cut. While being filmed, Carter called Byrne immediately after he

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## Supreme Court to Consider Race Case

Standard admissions practices challenged

By LAURA YOUNGS  
Staff Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court announced Monday that it will hear a high-profile case accusing the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor Law School of discrimination in its admissions - the ruling of which could spur serious changes at universities across America.

The lawsuit originally was filed in 1997, when Barbara Grutter, a white applicant, was rejected from UM-Ann Arbor's law school.

She and others have laid claim that they were discriminated against because less-qualified minority students were admitted based on race.

The case was struck down in May by a sharply divided 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled that UM-Ann Arbor could employ affirmative action in its admissions policies.

Because of the case's national importance, it is not surprising the Supreme Court decided to take it up, said Jonathan Alger, assistant general counsel for UM-Ann Arbor.

Alger added that university officials think the school has a strong case in support of its admissions practices. "The university is defending this so strongly because diversity is a matter of educational quality."

Jerry Lucido, UNC's director of undergraduate admissions, said the Supreme Court's ruling will set a standard for schools across the nation for years to come.

"I think there's no question that every admissions office in America will have to look at their policy depending on what the Supreme Court rules," he said.

"One thing's for sure - we should have a definitive law of the land."

Some experts see the case - which could impact both public and private universities - as an important step in solidifying race as a valid consideration in admissions.

"For (students), this is a really great step towards winning on affirmative action," said Tanya Troy Sanabria, outreach coordinator of the Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action &

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*There can be no true response without responsibility; there can be no responsibility without response.*

Arthur Vogel