

# The Daily Tar Heel

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See photo galleries of the Camp Lejeune deployment and the "What Would You Do for Dook Tickets?" competition.

## Thank You

UNC officials honor a University groundskeeper who has worked on campus for 50 years.  
See Page 13

## Wake-Up Call

Loss to WFU might doom Tar Heels' postseason hopes.  
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## Weather

Today: A.M. T-storms; H 62, L 36  
Friday: Partly Cloudy; H 57, L 36  
Saturday: Partly Cloudy; H 66, L 40



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# Easley Proposes \$82M System Cut

By ELYSE ASHBURN AND EMMA BURGIN  
Senior Writers

RALEIGH — There were few surprises in the governor's 2003-04 fiscal year budget unveiled Wednesday, but \$82 million in cuts to the UNC system was one of them.

"It was pretty much what he said it was going to be," said Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand, D-Cumberland.

Gov. Mike Easley's \$15 billion budget proposal reflects many of the promises made in his State of the State address, including pledges to exclude potential

lottery funds from revenue estimates and to freeze tuition at the state's public universities.

As Easley previously had indicated, his budget also delays a half-cent sales tax reduction scheduled for July and halts an income tax decrease for North Carolina's top earners in order to generate \$460 million.

His budget hinges on \$836 million in cost reductions and also on a 3.5 percent revenue growth rate that would generate about \$500 million.

"North Carolina cannot cut or tax our way out of the recession," Easley said. "We have to grow out of it. A healthy

economy will lead to a healthy budget."

The Easley budget also beefs up education, primarily K-12, by \$144 million, no surprise in the proposal of an "education governor."

But not all areas of education escaped unscathed, some surprisingly so.

Jeff Davies, UNC-system vice president for finance, said that even with a nearly \$2 billion deficit, he was caught off guard by the \$82 million in cuts the governor asked the system to sustain.

"The budget cuts were higher than I would like to see," he said. "We had certainly hoped for lower than that."

Davies said he doesn't know which

specific areas would be trimmed because decisions largely would be left to individual chancellors. "The approach will vary from campus to campus."

But no matter the targets, the 4.5 percent cut to the system's operational budget will slice to the bone, Davies said. "One of the real challenges is that these are the most recent in a series of cuts."

The budgets of the state's public universities were cut by 2.9 percent last year.

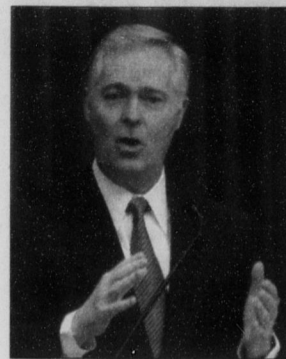
Davies and other system administrators, however, did have some cause for celebration — namely the governor's decision to fund fully enrollment growth and to freeze tuition. "I'm pleased with certain

aspects for sure. I'm pleased the governor has supported the (UNC-system Board of Governor's) stance on access."

Enrollment growth increased by more than 4 percent systemwide this academic year and is expected to increase by an additional 4.5 percent in the 2003-04 academic year.

Easley cited both the economic impact of the state's universities and their public service as reasons the state should fully fund the UNC system's \$46.5 million in enrollment growth needs.

"It's an expensive problem, but it's  
See BUDGET, Page 4



DTH/BETH FLOYD

Gov. Mike Easley on Wednesday presents his budget, which includes cuts to University funding.

# GOODBYES NECESSARY, BUT NOT ALWAYS EASY



By MATT HANSON / Assistant State & National Editor

JACKSONVILLE — With understated emotion, some 2,500 Marines gathered their rifles, packs and equipment Wednesday morning and stoically left Camp Lejeune and their families for what might be the last major military deployment before a possible war with Iraq.

The 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit is bound for the eastern Mediterranean and likely will be gone for about eight months, said Col. Andrew Frick, the 26th MEU's commanding officer, in a Wednesday press conference at Onslow Beach. The unit will report to U.S. Central Command for further instructions.

Frick said the specific details of the MEU's mission are not yet available but assured that the unit likely will do more than sit back and watch. "It goes without saying that there are a lot of things going on in the world," he said. "This MEU has the power to engage all ranges of warfare."

The Marines boarded three ships off the coast of North Carolina: the USS Iwo Jima, the USS Carter Hall and the USS Nashville, which all left Tuesday from their port in Norfolk, Va.

Frick, who also commanded the MEU in a trip to Afghanistan from September 2001 to April 2002, said his unit has used the time since to integrate the roles of a new infantry battalion and helicopter unit. The unit now boasts new state-of-the-art capabilities to deal with nuclear and biological warfare.

"It's just something on the battlefield we need to be prepared for, and we're prepared for it," Frick said.



DTH PHOTOS/JOSHUA GREER

Daniel Hansen comforts his 12-year-old son, Matthew, before departing Wednesday morning. Hansen, a corpsman with the 26th MEU, leaves behind a wife and three sons.

He added that he originally expected to deploy after only six months back home but that the extra three months allowed for time to drill his soldiers on sea skills and anti-terrorism warfare.

"I try to give them as many looks on the battlefield as we can," he said. "That way, they will

be prepared when the time comes."

1st Sgt. George Weis said Battalion Landing Team 1/8 of Alpha Company has really turned screws in the last nine months. "We've shot more

See LEJEUNE, Page 4

# Housekeepers Attack Zone Manager with Fliers

By DANIEL THIGPEN  
University Editor

Barbara Prear is growing more agitated each day.

As president of UE Local 150, the N.C. Public Service Workers Union, Prear is one of a group of frustrated housekeepers who have been airing

concerns about the Division of Housekeeping Services to administrators — including, most recently, the chancellor — for months.

Those complaints have resulted in various actions both from the housekeeping department and the Office of Human Resources. But Prear and others think their concerns have resulted

in stagnation.

Prear has become so agitated that she and other workers began distributing a couple of hundred of fliers at the Division of Housekeeping Services early Wednesday morning.

Those fliers directly attack the person at the forefront of their complaints — zone manager Chuck Matheson.

The fliers issue a bold "BEWARE" atop a picture of Matheson, and underneath follows a glaring caption: "Chuck Matheson — a racist, disrespectful, out of control zone manager with the blessings of the (housekeeping) director, Bill Burston. Does the administration sup-

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# CAPS Care Doubted In Wake of Suicides

By EUGENE SCOTT  
Staff Writer

Although University officials said the recent increase in student suicides is not indicative of a larger problem, friends and families of the victims have been questioning the effectiveness of Counseling and Psychological Services.

University police have determined that two UNC students have committed suicide within the past six weeks, leaving the University community searching for answers. Chapel Hill police still are investigating another student death as a possible suicide.

In all three situations, people who knew the students described them as appearing happy, having great senses of humor and being fun companions. In one of the cases, friends of the student had no clue the student was battling a mental illness.

The friends and families of the students who died recently say that the students were aware of CAPS and even sought help but that CAPS did little to solve their problems.

In at least two of the cases, family members confirmed that the student sought help from CAPS and was unsuccessful. Families now are questioning whether the University is meeting the needs of its mentally ill students.

Meg MacLaren's son, Jeff, committed suicide Feb. 2. Although Jeff MacLaren had visited CAPS since October, Meg MacLaren said the visits were not helpful.

"He liked the medical doctor, but he

didn't care for the counseling at all," she said. "Jeff said they discounted his problems and didn't listen to his needs."

Meg MacLaren also said CAPS displayed a lack of interest in her son's mental health by referring him to a nurse practitioner instead of a psychiatrist. "I know the nurse confers with the doctor, but when someone is battling a mental illness, they at least deserve a doctor," she said.

Although Jeff MacLaren was referred to a doctor after his mother complained to CAPS officials, he was granted a limited number of visits. "They told him his problem was too big for them and that he needed to see a private physician," Meg MacLaren said. "They tried to help us find a private physician, but Jeff never saw one."

Another problem Meg MacLaren has with CAPS is its refusal to disclose her son's medical information to her while he was undergoing counseling. "They need to bring parents in earlier on. I could have possibly let them know about some things he didn't tell them," she said.

Meg MacLaren also expressed concern about CAPS not being open on weekends. Jeff MacLaren committed suicide on a Sunday. "I can imagine that Saturday night is a time when most students have problems. CAPS needs to be a 24-hour service," she said.

Junior Erin Cody also visited CAPS before committing suicide. Her mother, Debbie Cody, said the lengthy waiting period for an appointment prevents stu-

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## THE COSTS OF HELP

# Cost of Mental Health Care Deters Some From Help

By SHELLEY WALDEN  
Staff Writer

In light of three apparent suicides on campus, people are wondering if the University is doing everything in its capacity to ensure students' access to mental health services.

One main area of concern is insurance premiums, the costs of which can deter students from seeking help.

According to recent research, mental health disorders affect 16 percent to 17 percent of Americans between the ages of 18 and 54. Although mental health disorders are a relatively widespread phenomenon, insurance companies historically have paid lower benefits for mental illness than for other medical problems.

The insurance plan UNC offers, which insures about 5,000 students, is not an exception to this rule.

UNC's health insurance plan, which is sponsored by Hill, Chesson & Woody and underwritten by BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina, covers 80 percent of most medical treatments but only 60 percent of the cost for mental

health problems. And when people seek out-of-network help, the plan covers 60 percent or more for every covered problem except mental health services, for which it pays 40 percent of the cost.

So if students decide they want to seek help outside the University's Counseling and Psychological Services, they must pay 60 percent of the about \$100 fee psychiatrists charge per session.

John Edgerly, director of CAPS, said many students seek referrals for outside help because they are embarrassed or need more long-term help than the eight free sessions CAPS provides.

But Abbi Hattem, a local psychiatrist, said the high price can prevent students from seeking help. "I think when benefits are limited and difficult to get, people wait to get therapy," Hattem said. "Sixty dollars an hour is a lot for a student to pay, and you're not going to pay it unless you really have to or you're really rich."

Hattem said that in past years, UNC's health insurance plan covered 50 percent of outside mental health insurance

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On the edge of destiny, you must test your strength.

Billy Bishop