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UNC hosts summer reading round table

LEGISLATORS DISCUSS BOOK CHOICE AND SELECTION PROCESS

BY ARMAN TOLENTINO
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

The underlying goal of UNC's Summer Reading Program — to generate dialogue and debate — has been achieved, even though incoming students won't officially discuss it for another five weeks.

In response to a letter from Sen. Ham Horton, R-Forsyth, disagree-

ing with this year's reading selection — Barbara Ehrenreich's "Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America" — Chancellor James Moeser Wednesday, along with other UNC officials, met with state legislators to discuss their respective opinions about the book and the purpose of the reading program as a whole.

"We're here to listen," Moeser said, before he introduced the context of the program and its purpose. "The focus is not so much on the book, but on the discussion itself."

But Horton said this year's selection, along with past selections, is not fit for the academic environment at UNC. "I don't think any-

one would consider it great literature," he said. "And I don't think anyone would consider it a scholarly work."

Horton suggested having students read classic novels instead of books like Ehrenreich's, which is a journalist's account of the low-wage workforce. "It's almost like a put-down to give them this quali-

ty of work," he said.

Sen. Austin Allran, R-Burke, Catawba, along with several other legislators, criticized the book and the program for not offering a balance of political and religious beliefs.

But Student Body President Matt Tepper said it's okay for the book to be one-sided because students will be able to examine the issues and come up with their own arguments and ideas.

For Moeser, the discussion was productive in terms of gathering input on the book and the reading program as a whole.

"The program is always subject to continuous study and revision," he said. "I'm sure the (selection committee) will take into account the suggestions that were made today."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

READING DEBATE CONTINUES TO RAGE

Groups demand balance

Say book choice shows liberal bias

BY BONNIE KLUTTZ
STAFF WRITER

The Committee for a Better Carolina — a conservative UNC group — is speaking out against what it believes is the liberal bias represented by the University's Summer Reading Program.



Michael McKnight is leading the opposition to the reading.

The committee argues that this year's book selection, Barbara Ehrenreich's "Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America," is a one-sided view of the conditions of low-wage workers.

"This book is not very academically or intellectually done or useful," said Michael McKnight, leader of the Committee for a Better Carolina.

"They need to at least provide a balance — two perspectives." Last year, UNC selected Michael Sells' "Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations," which received criticism from another conservative group, the Family Policy Network.

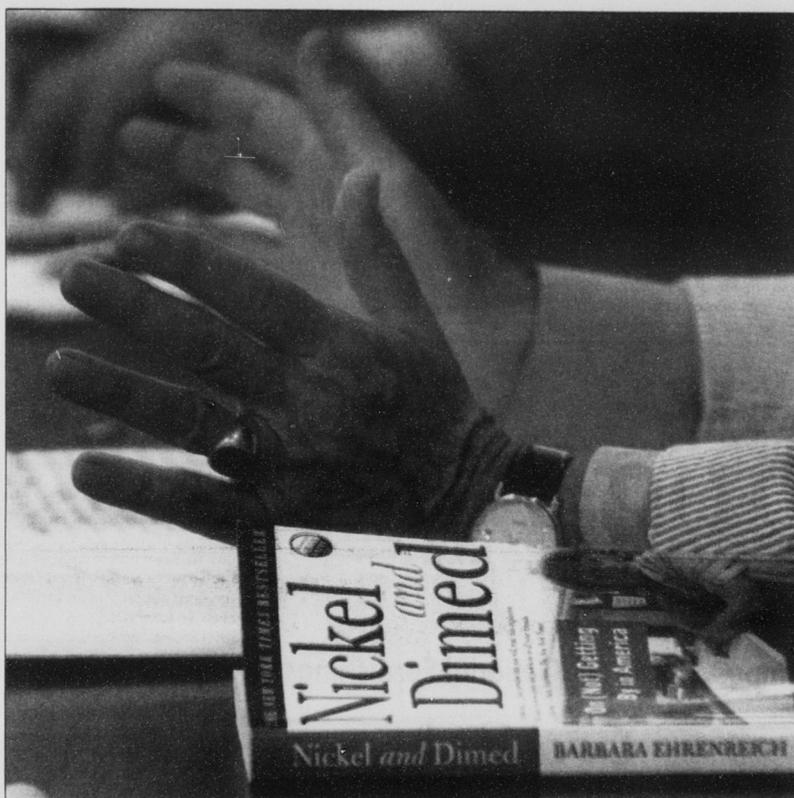
N.C. Sen. Hugh Webster, R-Caswell, a UNC alumnus, opposes this year's selection and says it lacks any academic value.

"I refer to (the book) as intellectual pornography with no redeeming qualities," Webster said. He added that he is "disappointed that my alma mater can't find a book that's no more academically and intellectually challenging than that two-bit novella. Our University can do better."

The book, Webster said, might even have a negative impact on students.

"I don't think there's anything in

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DTH/BRIAN CASSELLA

Sen. Ham Horton (hands), R-Forsyth, and other state legislators joined Chancellor James Moeser on Wednesday for a discussion in Carroll Hall about UNC's summer reading program and this year's book.

Tepper, others defend choice

BY ALESIA DICOSOLA
STAFF WRITER

A coalition of UNC student organizations held a press conference Tuesday at the state capital, focusing on academic freedom and the importance of fostering discussion.

Student Body President Matt Tepper, alongside representatives from 11 student organizations, met with state legislators to voice support for this summer's reading selection for incoming freshmen.

The book, Barbara Ehrenreich's "Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America," details her experiences working minimum-wage jobs among America's poor.

For the second year in a row, UNC's selection has come under

scrutiny from a conservative voice. The bulk of the current opposition comes from the Committee for a Better Carolina, a conservative group that created newspaper advertisements in opposition to the book.

In response to the ads, which claimed that the book has a liberal bias, Tepper and a number of student leaders decided to hold the conference. "The committee took everything out of context," said senior Justin Guillory, representing UNC's Young Democrats.

A number of state legislators as well as representatives from UE Local 150, the N.C. Public Service Workers Union, also were in attendance.

Tepper began the discussion by

pointing out that the students in attendance represented a diverse cross-section of the UNC population and that they were not funded by any outside groups. The Committee for a Better Carolina's ads were funded by the Raleigh-based John William Pope Foundation.

Tepper also called the book "a legitimate selection" and praised it for the debate and discussion it has sparked.

Incoming freshman Anne Marsh Treadwell of Fayetteville also spoke highly of the book as "an informative and extremely worthwhile assignment."

"It forces readers to look into

SEE SUPPORT, PAGE 5

Balancing act defines lives in legislature

Legislators work, have families

BY ELLIOTT DUBE
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

For members of the N.C. General Assembly — which is set to adjourn Friday — the chance to represent North Carolina's residents comes with some built-in demands.

A seat in the state House or Senate offers some legislators an exciting yet challenging post-retirement opportunity to serve both their communities and the state as a whole.

But many other lawmakers must include their careers in a balancing act that requires them to divide their time and effort among family, business and legislative responsibilities.

Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, works as an attorney whenever his duties as a legislator aren't pressing. He still practices law Mondays and Fridays when the House is in session, he said, and he even conducts some business by way of cellular phone during trips to and from Raleigh.

As a native of Chapel Hill, it takes Hackney a relatively short time to bounce among his lives as a lawyer, a representative and a family man.

"As far as home matters, I'm fortunate that I'm close enough that I can come home every night," Hackney said.

"It's harder on those from the west and the east; there's no question about it."

Lawmakers who live much farther away from the capital

typically make lodging accommodations that allow them to be present when the chambers convene four times per week and at committee meetings.

For Sen. Robert Carpenter, R-Macon, a one-way trip to or from Raleigh calls for about 320 miles of driving. He pointed out that his hometown of Franklin is closer in distance to six other state capitals — Atlanta; Charleston, W. Va.; Columbia, S.C.; Frankfort, Ky.; Montgomery, Ala.; and Nashville, Tenn. — than to Raleigh.

Carpenter said that despite the intense amount of traveling, his tenure as a lawmaker has worked out fine. After retiring in 1987 from a successful career as a banker, he said, he wanted to serve the people he had lived near all his life.

"I felt that as good as the people had been to me, maybe there would be a way to come back and do some things legislatively for the people," he said.

Carpenter added that lawmakers must make sure that the people are always the primary focus.

"The 50 state senators owe it to each other to support the local bills that pertain to each legislator's respective constituency," he said.

Rep. Martha Alexander, D-Mecklenburg, also stays in Raleigh for a good portion of

SEE ASSEMBLY, PAGE 5

3 more announce Town Council candidacies

BY KATHRYN GRIM
CITY EDITOR

Three more citizens have joined the running for Chapel Hill Town Council seats.

Thatcher Freund, Sally Greene and Rudy Juliano will join council member Bill Strom and Parks and Recreation Commission members Andrea Rohrbacher and Terri Tyson in this year's race.

Town Council members Pat Evans and Flicka Bateman, both up for re-election, have announced

that they will not run again. Also up for re-election are Mayor Kevin Foy and council member Jim Ward.

Freund moved to Chapel Hill from Austin, Texas, in 1993. His wife teaches at the Duke University School of Law, and they have adopted two children, ages 5 and 7. Freund earned his undergraduate degree at Stanford University and his master's degree in journalism at Columbia University in 1984.

Freund joined the town Planning Board last September. He said one of

his biggest concerns is how UNC deals with its Horace Williams tract. "The relationship with the University is only as good as the compromises and solutions that the town and University reach," he said.

Freund said he is a proponent of affordable housing, the diversification of business downtown and dense development, but with care taken to protect the rural buffer zone from development.

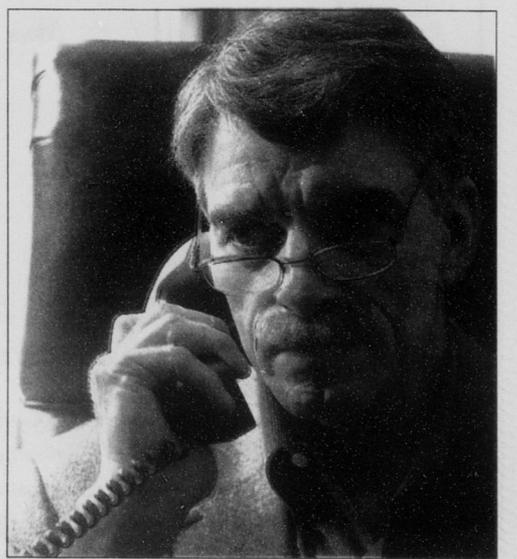
Sally Greene, freelance lawyer, is registered as a visiting scholar in

the Departments of English and History at UNC.

Greene announced her candidacy Tuesday at the Franklin Street post office, which she called "a crossroads" between the town and the University. Greene moved to Chapel Hill in 1987 to earn her doctorate in English at UNC.

She is acting chairwoman of the Planning Board, on which she served as vice president last year.

SEE TOWN COUNCIL, PAGE 5



DTH/ARMAN TOLENTINO

N.C. Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, a Chapel Hill native and local attorney, must balance his practice and duties as a legislator. While in session, he practices law on Mondays and Fridays.



INSIDE

'LXG' The most recent comic-book adaptation looks good, but the film's second half flounders PAGE 2



INSIDE

APS FOLLOW This is dummy text for promo to story inside label can say Inside, Sports, Top News or other PAGE 3

WEATHER

TODAY Partly cloudy, High 90, Low 67
FRIDAY Isolated storms, High 90, Low 70
SATURDAY T-storms, High 89, Low 70

