

# The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 111, ISSUE 61

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2003

www.dailytarheel.com

## Report blasts college spending

HOUSE COMMITTEE SAYS LAVISH EXPENSES DRIVE UP TUITION

BY LAURA YOUNGS  
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Continually increasing tuition costs have sparked debate about who's to blame for the hikes, with some U.S. representatives pointing the finger at colleges and universities in a report released Thursday. "The College Cost Crisis," released by the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Work Force, states that higher education tuition increases are outpacing inflation rates, family

income and state and federal financial aid.

These exploding college costs are preventing students from attending higher education institutions, according to the report.

Though college administrators often blame the poor economy and state budget cuts for tuition hikes, the report charges that the economy is not the main culprit.

In the 2002-03 school year, 38 states increased or froze higher education spending. At the same

time, tuition rose at public four-year schools in all 50 states.

Tuition hikes have continued despite the state of the economy, the report states, and Americans think the skyrocketing costs have to do with wasteful spending.

The rising cost of tuition is not an isolated problem and has been going on for years, said Dave Schnittger, spokesman for the House's education committee.

He said that though budget cuts and a faltering economy have

played a part in tuition hikes, the problem is much more comprehensive despite educational lobbyists' and the general public's tendency to fault budget cuts.

"Simply blaming higher education cuts is not addressing the problem," Schnittger said.

But not everyone agrees with the committee's findings, including Timothy McDonough, director of public affairs for the American Council on Education.

"The report is inaccurate,

incomplete and unfortunate," McDonough said, adding that the economy and tuition rates are inversely related and that a difficult economy and budget cuts are big reasons for tuition problems.

"If you look at all the evidence, it points to the state budget as one of the main drivers," he said.

Though the total amount of aid has increased, McDonough said, state support has fallen because aid has not kept up with increased enrollment. He added that in many areas, tuition is increasing only \$500 to \$1,000 per year.

Shirley Ort, UNC's director of

scholarships and student aid, said she thinks that the report is a bit of an exaggeration but that it has an element of truth.

Many students are deterred from four-year schools by rising costs, which is a problem, Ort said.

But the cost of educating students is more than just the consumer price, which many do not realize, she added.

The full cost of educating a student at a public institution is paid for through state funding and tuition, and when state support falls

SEE SPENDING, PAGE 5

## 6 schools to fight diseases

Grant taps campus to research biodefenses

BY EMILY STEEL  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Biodefense research at UNC was recognized nationally Thursday with the University's inclusion in a \$45 million project created to prevent bioterrorism and to treat infectious diseases.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has established the Southeast Regional Centers of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases.

UNC becomes one of six universities in the Southeast to participate in the project, which aims to combine resources to protect people against diseases often used in biological warfare.

"We are usually trying to uncover new knowledge, but this is an attempt to pull it all together," said Jeffrey Houpt, dean of UNC's School of Medicine. "Several very outstanding universities are getting together to work on this very important public policy."

Researchers from UNC, Duke University, Emory University, the University of Alabama-Birmingham, the University of Florida and Vanderbilt University are joining forces to create drugs and vaccines to combat emerging infections.

Dr. Barton Haynes, director of the Duke Human Vaccine Institute, is leading the initiative, centered at Duke and funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Homeland Security.

Haynes said the program's innovative organization will help the country prepare for biological warfare.

"The real benefit of this connection is this synergistic team research that crosses universities and connects discoveries," he said.

The beginning projects will focus on developing vaccines and treatments for smallpox, monkeypox, anthrax and the bacteria that causes the plague.

One of the project leaders is Robert Johnston, UNC professor of microbiology and immunology and the director of the Carolina Vaccine Institute, a group that focuses primarily on diseases in developing countries.

He is leading a research project to devel-

SEE BIODEFENSE, PAGE 5

## LA FIESTA DEL PUEBLO



DTH FILE PHOTO

This weekend's La Fiesta del Pueblo, sponsored by Hispanic advocacy group El Pueblo, is the state's largest Hispanic cultural celebration. Below: Marisol Jimenez and Andres Crowley prepare to register voters by pretending to register each other.

## FESTIVAL OUTGROWS ITS LOCAL ROOTS

BY KATHRYN GRIM  
CITY EDITOR

RALEIGH — Visitors to El Pueblo squeezed past tape-plastered boxes stacked high along the interior hallway Thursday, the last day of preparation before volunteers began moving supplies out to the State Fairgrounds for La Fiesta del Pueblo.

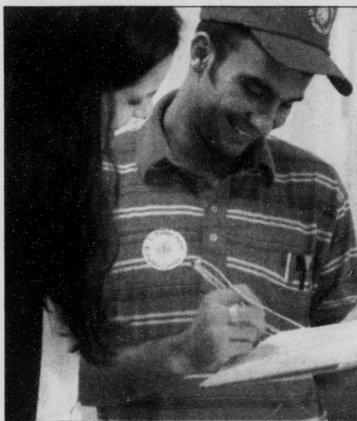
One could hear a steady stream of papers stuttering from printers and one-ended phone conversations in English and Spanish from the bottom of the stairs.

"Have you registered to vote?" Andres Crowley asked fellow volunteer Marisol Jimenez in a practice run for El Pueblo's first major voter registration drive. In other rooms, volunteers spoke with organizations requesting last-minute booth space and picked through color choices for fluorescent poster board for directional signs.

El Pueblo's 17 paid staff members and multitudes of volunteers will see the results of their months of work this weekend at the 10th annual La Fiesta del Pueblo.

What began in 1994 as a nine-member board and a few dozen volunteers holding a small festival at Chapel Hill High School has expanded into an incorporated nonprofit organization and the largest Hispanic fes-

SEE FIESTA, PAGE 5



DTH/GILLIAN BOLSOVER

## Academics not likely to be hurt by growth

BY BRIAN MACPHERSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

As long as there has been college football, there has been a circus of fan interest and media coverage surrounding college football.

And often lost in the hoopla surrounding bowl games and conference championships is one minor detail: College athletes still have to go to class.

As ACC expansion scenarios swirled throughout the summer, much was made of the potential revenue from a football conference championship game and the increased national exposure Miami, Syracuse and Boston College would bring.

Seven ACC schools openly supported expansion, eager to tap the financial windfall. But North Carolina and Duke consistently voted against the proposal, citing uncertainties about scheduling, finances and — perhaps most important — academics.

Concerns were mitigated slightly when the ACC settled on Miami and Virginia Tech as new conference members, but UNC resisted expansion until the final vote made it official.

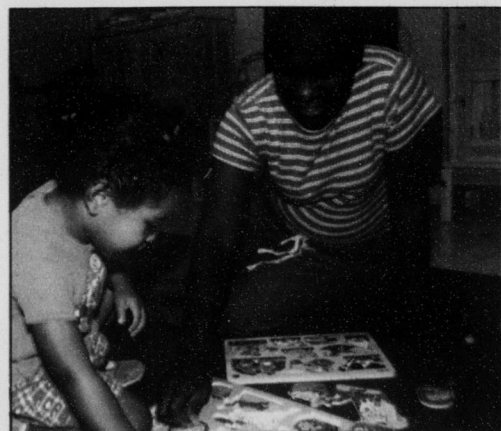
"The concerns about student welfare were centered on travel and missed class," said Dick Baddour, UNC's director of athletics. "(Teams) would be taking more of an extended trip, getting back later, being more tired."

For North Carolina, a school that prides itself on the success of its athletes both in the classroom and on the playing field, this concern was serious.

The concern was just as serious for the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics, a national group of university faculty dedicated to reform in college sports.

COIA urged ACC leaders to reconsider the expansion proposal in a statement released June 18.

SEE ACADEMICS, PAGE 5



DTH/GREG LOGAN

Alderman Joal Broun plays with her daughter, Rachel, in their home. Broun must juggle many tasks beyond working for the board.

## Local officials juggle work, family, office

Time hampers diversity of candidates

BY JENNY HUANG  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

There's not enough time to lead a town meeting when you need to attend a meeting with the PTA.

Local residents already know that all too well.

As candidates gear up for the fall municipal elections, local officials and incumbents say the extensive time required to campaign and serve in town leadership positions might have kept potential candidates from running.

Because of the time commitment factor, officials say, local government lacks a diverse representation

of economic interests, particularly those of working-class residents with children at home and full-time jobs.

"Generally, the level of time commitment is a discouragement to people," said Carrboro Alderman Mark Dorosin. "That's why you see a fairly homogenous candidate pool; you get the predominantly white, upper-middle-class economic level where they have the luxury and leisure to participate."

Among Carrboro's seven aldermen, six have full-time jobs, three have young children at home and two have both.

Of eight Chapel Hill Town Council members, five have full-time jobs, three have children living at home and two manage both responsibilities.

At least five of the 12 Town Council candidates and one of the four alderman candidates have both children and a job.

Local officials agree that these numbers don't add up to an accurate representation of their towns' economic interests.

"If you look at our faces and look at our background and look at our creed, it doesn't (match the town's)," said council member Jim Ward.

But when you combine a full-time job, children at home and 10 to

20 hours spent on town business each week, officials say, juggling the responsibilities becomes a major challenge.

"You need to have a flexible job to serve or you need to be retired," said Alderman Joal Broun, who is seeking re-election.

Dorosin said he's not surprised that there aren't more working-class parents running for office. "Working-class people are alienated from this community."

Alderman John Herrera said the lack of diverse economic interests represented in town leadership is a detriment to the town itself.

"It limits the diversity of the val-

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 5

### HELP WANTED

- Pick up a DTH application in Union 104
- Applications due Tuesday, Sept. 9
- Results posted Thursday, Sept. 11

### INSIDE

**SAVING SERVICE**  
Hundreds of AmeriCorps supporters protest in D.C. **PAGE 6**



### SPORTS

**ON THEIR FEET AGAIN**  
UNC football hopes to clinch a home win against Syracuse on Saturday **PAGE 7**

### WEATHER

**TODAY** Partly cloudy, H 81, L 62  
**SATURDAY** Partly cloudy, H 81, L 57  
**SUNDAY** Mostly sunny, H 81, L 56

