

Moeser speech to offer big news

BY JOSEPH SCHWARTZ
STAFF WRITER

Chancellor James Moeser said he expects to make national news at his annual State of the University address today when he announces a "major new financial aid initiative."

Although he declined to specify his statement any further, Moeser said that faculty, staff and students are invited to attend his speech, which will take place at 3 p.m. in Hill Hall Auditorium.

Provost Robert Shelton said Moeser alluded to the announcement Tuesday.

"He was talking (Tuesday) at the vice chancellor's meeting about our financial aid and bringing students from low-income families to Carolina," he said.

Moeser began the tradition of an annual address in 2001, using it as

forum to inform the campus community about the direction of the University.

In addition to financial aid, Moeser stated in a press release that he will discuss the progress of several long-term goals.

Shelton said that, more specifically, the academic plan — a list of the University's top priorities for the next five years and suggestions for achieving those goals — and finances will be discussed.

Shelton also said he hopes Moeser will talk about the necessity of supporting the faculty and staff.

"It's important to acknowledge the hard work that they put in, and with minimal raise in pay," he said.

Tommy Griffin, chairman of the Employee Forum, echoed those sentiments.

He said he would like to see employee benefits, pay raises and creating a better workplace discussed.

Student Body President Matt Tepper expects key initiatives to be introduced.

"I think (Moeser is) definitely going to have to address funding," he said.

"I would hope he talks about accessibility, especially with the increase in tuition."

Although she said it's hard to tell what will be in the speech, Student Body Vice President Rebekah Burford said the budget and tuition are key issues she'd like to hear discussed.

"I think he may mention something about budget cuts, since there have been so many affecting students in a whole new way this year," she said.

Burford also said she thinks Moeser will take a "proactive" approach in discussing tuition.

Although University officials have different ideas on what Moeser might discuss, they all stressed the importance of attending the address.

"I'd say it'd be a missed opportunity (not to go)," Griffin said. "It shows that we support the University with our presence."

Shelton said those attending the speech will have a greater understanding of "what's on the chancellor's mind."

"It's not just about reading it," he said. "The text will be available to everyone. It's about the tone and the tenor and the emphasis that takes place."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Officials lobby for bond referendum

Mayor says funds won't affect taxes

BY NICK EBERLEIN
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Local officials stumped Tuesday for a \$29.4 million bond package, the largest in Chapel Hill's history, and said that the large sum would not impact local pocketbooks adversely.

An investment of that size is likely to scare voters, officials said, but they insisted that the amount is nothing to fear.

"There's no impact, zero impact, on anyone's tax bill" if the bonds pass, Mayor Kevin Foy said. "This is not only the right thing to do in our community, it is the fiscally responsible thing to do."

Foy spoke on behalf of Invest in Chapel Hill, a political action group advocating approval of the bond referendums, before constituents at the Chapel Hill Public Library.

The comprehensive package encompasses five bonds that residents will vote on individually. The referendums include \$5 million for parks and recreation facilities, \$2 million for the purchase and preservation of open spaces, \$16.26 million for capital improvements to the town's library, \$5.6 million for sidewalk construction and street improvements and \$500,000 for energy efficiency upgrades in municipal buildings.

Foy said that the town will retire \$15 million worth of financed bonds during the next 10 years, which will free up debt space.

Council member Bill Strom noted that the town was able to juggle debt in the midst of state fiscal crisis without increasing taxes.



"We have been very careful, and these bonds represent the minimum investment we should make."

Chapel Hill has a triple-A bond rating as determined by Moody's Investors Service. The rating — the highest attainable — means the town receives low interest rates on debt financing for capital projects.

Foy was quick to point out that previous bonds have been vital in allowing Chapel Hill's infrastructure to keep pace with growth.

Census data show that the town's population increased by 10,000 between 1990 and 2000. The property tax in Chapel Hill for the 1988-89 fiscal year was 54 cents per \$100 valuation; last year it was 55.3 cents.

Invest in Chapel Hill members and local officials said that the library bond will serve the town's primary need.

A bond referendum for the library failed in 1990, which resulted in the downsizing of the library's construction plan before it moved to its Estes Drive facilities.

"This library, when it was built in '94, was built too small," said Bob Schreiner, chairman of the library's Board of Trustees. "Make sure this failure doesn't happen again."

The library has the state's highest per capita circulation, Schreiner added, but lacks sufficient space to even store enough books.

The addition of five schools to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools system since 1994 has spawned a gross need for more space, he said. "Local schools have their own libraries, but those are limited and they close when the schools close. The kids come here."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Group gives writers outlet to showcase work

Youth Angst Society to meet today

BY TANNER SLAYDEN
STAFF WRITER

Musicians and actors have their space, but the Youth Angst Society is out to show everyone that writers have a stage, too.

The YAS has a reading at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Bull's Head Bookshop to show off UNC's freshest writing talent.

"YAS has taken the initiative in opening this school up to creative writing and free thought," said English professor James Seay.

The atmosphere will be lively, and audiences should be listening attentively — qualities which are hard to find in the classroom.

"People mistake the YAS as a place for students to vent their woes," said Erica Eisdorfer, manager of the Bull's Head Bookshop. "But our goal is to give people a safe place to read their works, not whine."

Eisdorfer has been helping this intellectual vehicle move for the past six years, but she certainly

doesn't do everything. "My part in this every year is equal to 2 percent," Eisdorfer said.

Every year, she picks a new Bull's Head employee to take the reins. This year, Ali McGhee is steering the show.

"I can't tell you how honored I feel for carrying on this tradition, and the fact that I love to write makes this opportunity even better," McGhee said.

Her goal is to get a diverse array of people to show up at the YAS event, not just the creative writing majors.

"I want math, physics and history majors to come, people who have interest in writing but aren't majoring," she said. "I had to egg people on to come out, and the shier people seemed impossible sometimes."

McGhee, an English and religious studies major, read her work

in front of the public at one point. "Well, I guess you could call it a crowd," she said. "It was at a festival, and I had to read at a ungodly hour. So I shared my personal writing with the six people who were awake."

"I still enjoyed it, and I want to give everyone that chance, either to watch or perform."

Writing is a type of art. Although it isn't like music or dance, in which everything is more active than reading, the author still has a chance to emote.

"Everyone needs an outlet," said Bland Simpson, director of the creative writing program. "Musicians take the stage, and actors get behind a camera. The author's stage is the bookstore. This is the writer's talent show."

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

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