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Out-of-state tuition may increase

TRUSTEES' DEBATE TO CENTER ON
COST HIKES OF AS MUCH AS \$8,000

BY LAURA BOST
AND JOHN FRANK
STAFF WRITERS

This morning, the University's governing board will discuss eliminating any N.C. taxpayer subsidy of out-of-state tuition, effectively raising nonresident tuition by almost \$2,000.

No specific proposal for such an increase is on the Board of Trustees' agenda, but multiple members said Wednesday that they are interested in addressing the issue.

A few members even said they would support a hike of \$6,000 to \$8,000 that would exceed the cost of educating nonresidents.

Board members have discussed the idea privately in recent months, but the topic rose to the forefront during last week's debate at the UNC-system level about increasing the nonresident enrollment cap.

System and state leaders estimate that taxpayers subsidize about \$1,500 to \$2,000 of the funds needed to educate nonresidents.

"The recent 18 percent initiative has raised issues about out-of-state students to a level where we hear a lot about it," said Trustee Rusty Carter at a BOT University Affairs Committee meeting.

"There is an appetite in this state from taxpayers to have a discussion relative to

out-of-state tuition."

Board members don't plan to take any formal action today but will start the process of drafting a proposal for their next meeting in January.

The issue was brought up at two different committee meetings Wednesday in discussions about increases in student fees and campus-based tuition.

The University Affairs Committee delayed action on a proposal to raise tuition \$300 per year for three years until the full board meets.

Similarly, the Finance Committee deferred action on a large student fee increase until the affairs committee makes a recommendation on tuition.

Board members in both meetings hesitated to approve any increases without

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Michael Smith, dean of the School of Government, speaks Wednesday to the UNC Board of Trustees in Carroll Hall about proposed tuition increases for students.

UNC agrees to clean waste

Cleanup needed
for development

BY EMILY STEEL
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

University officials signed an agreement Wednesday morning with the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the voluntary cleanup of a chemical waste site near the Horace Williams Airport.

Efforts to begin the remediation of the 0.2-acre site have been in the works for the past couple of years, and now the start of the cleanup makes way for the upcoming developments of Carolina North.

"We want to be good citizens and clean it up," said Carolyn Elfland, associate vice chancellor for campus services. "Carolina North or no Carolina North, we want to take care of cleaning up the sites."

The waste is not an immediate human threat, but chemicals have leaked into nearby groundwater and will continue to spread at an extremely slow rate, said Pete Reinhardt, director of UNC's Department of Environment, Health and Safety.

Officials estimate the cost of removing the chemical waste at \$10.4 million.

"We know the University needed to do the cleanup at this site, so it is good timing," he said.

Elfland expressed concern last spring in an e-mail sent to Nancy Suttentfield, vice chancellor for finance and administration, that the chemical waste site would impose a barrier to the advancement of Carolina North.

According to the correspondence, UNC consultants said mixing incompatible chemicals buried at the site could create toxic gases or cause explosions.

"When we drilled the monitoring wells, the people involved had to wear full chemical suit protection and self-contained breathing apparatus just in case toxic vapors came out of the drill holes," the e-mail states.

"(Town) employees were so concerned about their safety that to pacify them we had to do the work on Sunday mornings before the buses started running so no one was at any of the town facilities."

Between 1973 and 1979, UNC officials buried the chemical waste generated by campus laboratories and the former N.C. Memorial Hospital at the site using standards approved by DENR.

"Now 30 years later, we know that wasn't such a good idea, and we want to clean it up," Elfland said.

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SCALING NEW HEIGHTS



DTH/KRISTIN GOODE

Karla Henderson, a professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure studies, ascends the climbing wall in Fetzer Gym on Wednesday night during a clinic conducted by students from a recreation programming class. The students held the clinic in place of the scheduled 5th Annual Leading Edge Competition that

was postponed because of a lack of entrants. The competition was rescheduled for Jan. 21, 2004. There will be eight competition levels in recreational and competitive divisions for men and women from the general public and UNC community. For more information, contact Climbing Coordinator Ashley Knight at aknight@email.unc.edu.

Hill to swap land with UNC

House exchange will let
officials build parking lot

BY DAN SCHWIND
STAFF WRITER

The UNC Board of Trustees unanimously ratified a plan Wednesday to make a property swap with Chapel Hill Town Council member-elect Cam Hill.

In the proposal, the University will turn over a house it owns at 412 E. Rosemary St. to Hill in exchange for ownership of his residence at 606 Cameron Ave.

As a result, University officials, who already own the four properties around Hill's, now can go through with a plan to convert the five lots into a parking lot. The Cameron property is about 3,511 square feet and sits on a lot that is 0.19 acres. The Rosemary property is about 1,716 square feet on a 0.276-acre lot.

Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, said the University has been interested in the property for several years.

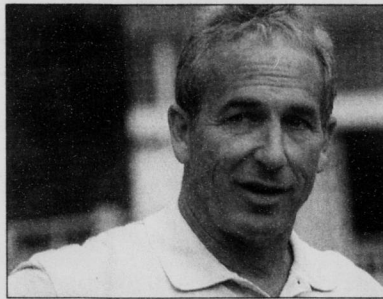
He said the parking lot became necessary when two maintenance shops moved across the street from the property. Should the University ever obtain a transit corridor to Carolina North, he said, the lot is a good location for an intermodal transfer station.

"Strategically, this was a very interesting property to us," Runberg said.

However, the plan has sparked controversy. During his campaign for Town Council, Hill presented himself as a pro-town candidate, advocating neighborhood protection in the face of UNC expansion.

Some have accused Hill of hypocrisy, saying he was dealing secretly with the University during a campaign in which he stood against it.

Hill refutes these allegations.



DTH FILE PHOTO/ALEX FINE

Cam Hill will trade houses with the University in a plan approved Wednesday by the Board of Trustees.

"I never made any secret of (the negotiations)," he said. "I talked about it on more than one occasion during the campaign."

Runberg expressed similar sentiments, saying he thinks Hill's opinions of the University as a resident exist separately from his decisions as a homeowner.

Hill initially fought the swap but eventually decided it was in his family's best interest to make the move. "Who wants to live in the middle of a parking lot?"

He also said negotiations with University officials for the swap began in the spring, well before his campaign kicked into full gear. "I would have done this six months ago. It's the University that hasn't wanted to get this done," he said.

"The University does not view this as currying my favor, and neither do I. If they did, they'd give me a lot more money and have gotten this done a

SEE PROPERTY, PAGE 4

Colleges balk at federal policies

BY BERNARD HOLLOWAY
STAFF WRITER

The higher education community has sounded a chorus of alarm in recent weeks in response to several congressional proposals that could change radically the way colleges and universities do business.

Proposals by Rep. Howard McKeon, R-Calif., along with Sens. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., and John Edwards, D-N.C., all seek to alter the impact of college education on students and families.

Each of the proposals has unique goals.

McKeon's plan aims to curb unnecessary university expenditures, while the Kennedy legislation would increase dramatically federally subsidized funding given to students each year.

Edwards and Kennedy also have called for an end to the use of legacies and binding early-decision contracts in the admissions process.

Poor economic times, dramatic tuition increases on college campuses across the nation and the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act all have

"Accountability measures are so strict that they impede the progress they seek to create."

BILL FRIDAY
FORMER UNC-SYSTEM PRESIDENT

spurred typically hands-off federal policymakers to action.

But experts such as Neal McCluskey, education policy analyst at the Cato Institute, think the actions taken by Congress might be all bluster.

McCluskey said some politicians have asserted that there is a crisis in higher education but added that he'd "call what we're facing rising tuition instead of alarming tuition increases."

"And to be quite frank, I don't think any of the proposals (on the table) will solve the problem."

University leaders across the nation have reacted in staunch opposition to McKeon's proposal,

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INSIDE

FROM THE CLOTH

Retailers worry that restrictions on textile imports could cause consumer prices to rise **PAGE 3**



SPORTS

DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC?

Volleyball team travels to Disney World to face many tough teams in the ACC Tournament **PAGE 2**

WEATHER

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FRIDAY Mostly sunny, H 69, L 46

SATURDAY Mostly sunny, H 71, L 42

