

SOLDIERS

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Army's highest suicide rate in recent years came in 1993, when the rate was 15.7 per 100,000. The military investigates every death, and some of those probes might be incomplete, meaning the actual suicide rate could be even higher, Winkenwerder said. He said health officials haven't identified any common threads among the confirmed suicides. "We don't see any trend there that tells us that there's more we might be doing," Winkenwerder told a breakfast meeting of Pentagon reporters. The military has nine combat stress teams in Iraq to help troops' mental health problems, and each division has a psychiatrist, psychologist and social worker, Winkenwerder said. Of more than 10,000 troops medically evacuated from Iraq, between 300

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WILLIAM WINKENWERDER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS and 400 were sent outside the country for treatment of mental health problems, he said. The military prefers to treat mental health problems by keeping troops in their regular duties while they get counseling and possibly medication, Winkenwerder said. Less than 1 percent of the troops in Iraq are treated for mental issues during an average week, he said. Winkenwerder said he had no specifics on the number of soldiers being treated for battlefield stress, although the military is focused on treating that problem.

N.C. STATE

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he said. A campus meeting in early November drew only six students. Jonathan Ducote, president of the UNC-system Association of Student Governments and a senior at N.C. State, said that while students were given the opportunity to speak out on the increase, their concerns were not addressed. "(N.C. State students) haven't seen the campus-based tuition increases go back and benefit them in an academic environment," he said. Caravano said student issues concerning increased allocations to academics and the graduate student support plan were addressed in the proposal. But he said only time will tell whether the money truly goes to those areas. Caravano and his administration also opposed the tuition increase proposal because of its potential effect on student enrollment.

"We keep pricing out students that we would call the middle class," he said. "You have students who can afford to pay and those who get financial aid. Then you have the students who sit right in the middle." Moreover, he said, "Each year that our campus has been given the opportunity to raise tuition, it has." Caravano said faculty and staff members also encouraged the students' cause by speaking out against the increase. "It becomes more tangible when someone that is higher up espouses the same argument," he said. The UNC-system Board of Governors is set to vote on all system schools' tuition proposals at its Feb. 13 meeting.

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Contact the State & National Editor at stndesk@unc.edu.

PETITION

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Affirmative Action. "She wanted to pin it on race, and that isn't true." Jackson said race-conscious policies do not give minorities an undue advantage because all applicants have to pass the same tests. She added that laws are needed because human bias always will exist. In addition, trying to eliminate such practices would mean all forms of preferential treatment would need to be eliminated, she said. "If you're going to stop preferential treatment, then stop it in every area," she said, pointing to legacy policies used at many schools during the admissions process. Gratz said that getting signatures will be difficult but that the campaign has received overwhelming support from both Michigan resi-

dents and others across the country. The campaign could get a boost from Michigan Rep. Jack Brandenburg, R-Harrison Township, who has thrown his support behind the project and said he plans to go door to door collecting signatures. "I feel it's the right thing to do because discrimination of any kind is wrong, illegal and in my opinion, immoral," he said. Jackson said that having Brandenburg's help will aid the campaign but that in the end, even if the proposal makes it onto the ballot, affirmative action policies will win out in the elections. "Michigan is a strong affirmative action state," she said. "I don't think it will get to first base. I would be shocked if they did."

Contact the State & National Editor at stndesk@unc.edu.

COURTYARD

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for students wanting to learn more about the culture that inspired the project. "I really wanted to connect this project with North Carolina, and these designs come from North Carolina," she said. "I hope it will be a way to educate students about these traditions." A former Union employee suggested Lynch as an artist after purchasing some of her pottery. "One day I received a call from Don (Luse), asking if I could come to Chapel Hill tomorrow," Lynch said. It was the first public commis-

sion for Lynch and also her first time working with brick. The task daunted her at first, she said, but after a time of prayer the project began to flow and reached completion within a month. "At first I thought, 'I've never done this before. This is new,'" she said. "But then I just began drawing, and it all fell into place." After years of waiting through delays in renovations to the Union, Lynch finally got to see Wednesday the full space where her art will be installed. "It's really nice to see where it's really going to be," she said.



DTH/JANE NOVOTNY
Native American artist Senora Lynch (left) exchanges words Wednesday with John Parks (right) about her upcoming mosaic.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

BONDS

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next 10 years. The town approved a resolution Dec. 16 to issue three bonds in amounts of about \$1.53 million every other year during a period of six years, though decisions can be adjusted for varying economic conditions. The resolution allocated about \$1.36 million to the design and construction of sidewalk projects, with the remainder of the funds going to greenway design and construction and bond issuance costs. If debt services to pay back \$4.6 million in bonds were funded entirely through a tax increase, the tax rate would rise by 4.5 to 5.2 cents, said Bing Roenigk, assistant town manager. "But that's assuming all the bonds are issued in one year and that there is no growth in any revenue," she said. In accordance with complaints from residents, including recent mayoral candidate Jeff Vanke, sections of Barrington Hills Road and Autumn Drive had been removed from the priority list. The board planned to build sidewalks there to improve safety near the site of a planned connector road. Residents protested the increased changes to their neighborhood's character the connector road would bring. In response to community comments, the board also voted to raise Hanna Street to a higher slot on the priority list. Some neighbors, such as Pine Street residents Cara Crisler and Jennifer Curtis, already have organized meetings to discuss the sidewalks. Former Alderman Allen Spalt pointed out some conflicts the town might face in spending its bond money: the effect of installing impervious surfaces on drainage, dealing with trees' root systems and the loss of parking space. "It's going to be a balancing of general and individual needs," he said. "I don't think that everyone is going to welcome a sidewalk on their street or in front of their house. The first step is neighborhood meetings."

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