

# Congress to oppose hike 'Sisters' to bridge cultures

*Might be passing resolution today*

BY IRIS PADGETT  
STAFF WRITER

Student Congress might step into the tuition debate today with the passage of a resolution to oppose a possible tuition increase at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Last month, the UNC-CH Board of Trustees approved a one-year, \$300 increase for in-state students and a \$1,500 increase for out-of-state students. The proposal goes before the UNC-system Board of Governors this week.

Congress originally discussed the idea of passing a resolution against tuition increases during its meeting last week, but members instead chose to hold a special session tonight in order to ensure that the resolution was representative of all students' concerns.

Congress Speaker Pro Tempore Charles Anderson, who wrote the resolution, said he is sure it will

pass. The resolution explains that students are opposed to recent tuition increases because no attempt was made to study the effects of an increase on current students and the lack of consideration of student and faculty opinion.

"It will demonstrate a cohesive and formal student opposition to the increases and the method in which they were proposed," Anderson said.

Anderson also wrote in the resolution that this year's tuition increase exceeds twice the percentage students are told to expect on UNC-CH's financial aid Web site.

He said it is wrong to levy this on current students who did not have prior ability to plan for additional funds.

Anderson also wrote that out-of-state students have been "alienated and jaded by the discounting of them as valuable contributors to the University."

Student Body President Matt Tepper said he is glad congress is stepping into the debate.

*"(The resolution) will demonstrate a cohesive formal student opposition to the increases."*

CHARLES ANDERSON, CONGRESS

He said if Congress served as another strong voice, administrators might listen more in the future. "Anything at this point would help," Tepper said.

The resolution most likely would not make a significant difference legally, Anderson said.

But he said the point of the resolution is to make known specific qualms students have about the task of raising tuition so that the process can be changed in the future to include student input.

He said he hopes that the BOG especially will take into consideration this "damage" to current students, but he admitted they probably would not. "We felt that all students opposed not only the increase amounts, but how the procedure was carried out."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

## Churches link Carrboro, Guanajuato

BY AYOFEMI KIRBY  
STAFF WRITER

As a way to better serve Carrboro's Hispanic community, town leaders have found ways to connect with the people of Guanajuato, a province in central Mexico that is the original home of more than 900 Carrboro residents.

Last week, a delegation from Santa Cruz de Juventino Rosas Catholic Church in Guanajuato visited Carrboro. They were greeted by local students, the Board of Aldermen and their sister parish, St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

Board of Aldermen member John Herrera said the town is looking for volunteers to travel to Guanajuato in coming months.

St. Thomas More and Santa Cruz de Juventino Rosas first began the relationship in December 2002 when St. Thomas leaders recognized the growing Hispanic community and visited Guanajuato.

Ken Reeb, chairman of the sister parish steering committee at St. Thomas More, said church members were concerned with addressing the needs of local immigrants. "Out of all neighboring countries, the United States and

Mexico have the greatest cultural differences," Reeb said. "We hope to benefit from those differences by mixing and matching and learning more about the cultures and maybe even adopting some of each others' religious practices."

Reeb said the relationship started from growth in the Hispanic community at St. Thomas More.

"The church wanted to link the two communities together formally," he said. "We are learning from our sister parish on how we can better reach out to these people."

Since then, St. Thomas More has been a leader in reaching out to the town's Hispanic immigrants.

Town officials are now looking to follow in the footsteps of the church by formalizing a "sister city" relationship with Guanajuato.

"For us as aldermen, we are very interested in learning how to integrate and learn the uniqueness in improving our social services," Herrera said. "We hope the relationship will grow beyond the Catholic Church and bridge gaps to education, to health (and) to government relationships."

Herrera said he believes this will

grant immigrants access to better education and healthcare and be better prepared overall to function in their new locations.

"People are here because of the growing economy," he said. "It is in our best interest to learn from them how to communicate effectively. It would make the job much easier."

The board also presented the delegation with a copy of three resolutions as a symbol of their efforts to improve the lives of immigrants on a local and national level.

The resolutions included statements to reform immigration laws and public policy, to recognize the Mexican Matricula Consular as a form of identification for Mexican immigrants and to repeal parts of the USA PATRIOT Act.

As the nation depends more on foreign labor, Herrera said he believes such relationships allow immigrants to gain more earnings, thus contributing more to the economy through taxes.

"We want to be a model as we grow and change as a community," Herrera said.

"We hope the relationship continues to grow."

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

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## Bush defends tax policies in wake of rivals' attacks

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — His voice rising to a shout, President Bush lashed out at Democratic rivals who want to roll back his tax cuts as he defended his economic priorities Monday in a presidential primary state where his record has been criticized harshly.

"There are some in Washington that are going to say, 'Let's not make the tax cuts permanent.' That means he's going to raise your taxes," Bush said at a factory. "When you hear people say, 'We're not going to make this permanent,' that means tax increase."

The Democrats running for president say they would repeal all or portions of Bush's tax cuts, and Bush seemed to step more forcefully into his re-election campaign as he defended his tax policies. Some of the cuts are to expire next

year, including those for married couples, and Bush is asking that Congress make them permanent.

It was Bush's 15th trip to Missouri and another case of the president appearing in a state recently visited by Democratic presidential hopefuls. He went to South Carolina on Thursday, two days after that state's Democratic primary; in late January, he visited New Hampshire, two days after its primary. Missouri's primary was last Tuesday.

The visit coincided with the release of a White House report predicting that the economy would grow by 4 percent and create 2.6 million new jobs this year. If the jobs forecast is realized, it would mark the first year of the Bush presidency with a net increase in jobs. Since he took office, the country has lost 2.2 million payroll jobs.

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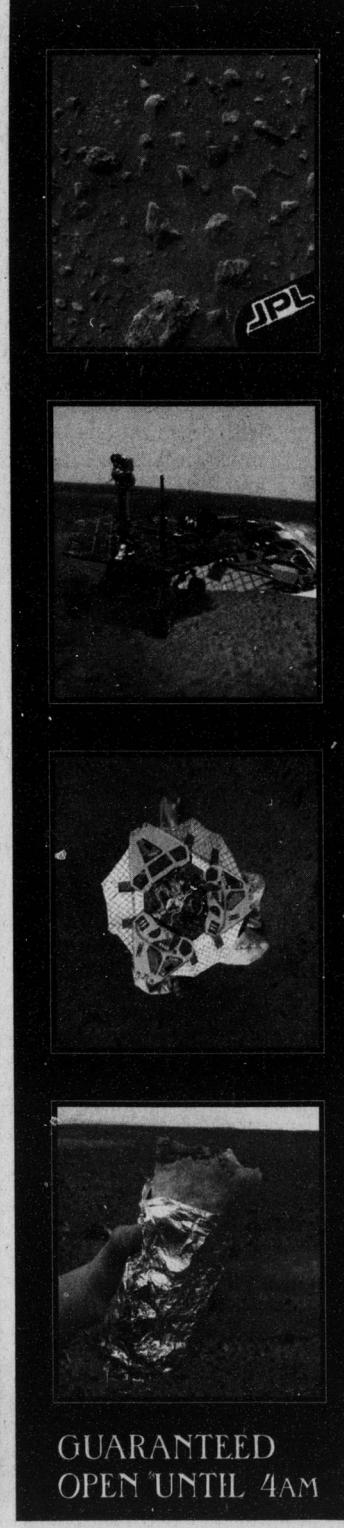
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