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Officials release March Report

TUITION TALKS, BUDGET CUTS HIGHLIGHT TEPPER'S TERM

BY LIZZIE STEWART

STAFF WRITER

When Matt Tepper began his term as student body president last April, he had no way of knowing the amount of turbulence that awaited him.

"We got thrown some crazy curve balls," Tepper said. "Our whole administration has dealt

really well with it."

The March Report, released Thursday, documents the administration's efforts in completing platform promises and handling events that leaders didn't anticipate.

According to the report, all but five of Tepper's dozens of platform items were completed during his term, an effort he said started as

soon as he took office.

"You get your bearings over the summer," Tepper said. "It's the calm before the storm."

A frustrating issue Tepper wrestled with during the summer was filling in places where budget cuts left gaping holes.

"We weren't even planning on the magnitude of cuts," he said. "It was a rough way to get started."

One program in particular that took a big financial hit was First Year Initiative, a program for incoming freshman that introduced them to various academic and social opportunities.

The administration organized the First Year Residential Education program to take its place, which turned out to be more of a mentoring program.

And though FYI's annual budget was almost \$70,000 and FYRE operated on a budget of \$4,000, Tepper said, "It turned out to be really successful."

Senior Adviser Alexi Nunn said the March Report was evidence of the feasibility of Tepper's platform

and the administration's ability to take on various projects to benefit the student body as a whole.

"It shows our perseverance in seemingly uphill battles ... the tuition increase, in particular," she said.

Chief of Staff Ben Adams said every administration has certain big issues with which to deal, including the tuition increase battle. "Everything else was put on hold while we focused our energies

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PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN CARRBORO



Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, accepts a four-leaf clover Sunday from supporter Martha Kelder of New Hampshire. Below: Supporters Bert Geiger and Bob Plonsey listen to the speech.

KUCINICH HAS HIS DAY

BY SARAH HANCOX

STAFF WRITER

Crowds of people waving flags and carrying banners for peace gathered in Carrboro on Sunday to hear a speech by Democratic presidential candidate U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio.

It was the first time that a well-known presidential candidate visited the town, and in honor of the occasion, Mayor Mike Nelson proclaimed Sunday "Dennis Kucinich Day."

The celebration took place at the Carrboro Farmers' Market at 301 W. Main St. and was sponsored by Nelson and North Carolina Kucitizens.

The event opened with a peace chant led by Jon Seskevich of Universal Chanting, followed by songs sung by the Raging

Grannies. "Welcome Dennis, welcome Dennis, we love you," sang the Grannies as Kucinich took the stage. In his speech, Kucinich stressed the need for a clear vision for the Democratic Party that would address the issues of the common people.

Kucinich is campaigning on a platform that calls for universal health care, withdrawal from the North American Free Trade Agreement and the World Trade Organization, the repeal of the USA PATRIOT Act, universal prekindergarten through college education and the development of clean energy.

He also criticized the Bush administration's actions in Iraq. "When will we learn that America cannot be the policeman of the world?" he said.

Kucinich said he thinks that the United Nations needs to intervene in Iraq and that U.S. troops should come home. He called for an end to the "privatization of Iraq."

"It's time for our country to rejoin the world. Going alone won't work. Going alone never works."

Kucinich also said he thinks the war has put unnecessary economic strains on the country. If elected, he would cut Pentagon funding by 16 percent to provide money for education. Other economic reforms Kucinich endorses include an end to tax cuts for the wealthy and converting the for-profit health care system to nonprofit to provide universal care.

On domestic issues, Kucinich is

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"It's time for our country to rejoin the world. Going alone won't work. (It) never works." REP. DENNIS KUCINICH, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE



ANALYSIS

Inquiry stifles debate in class

Probe is violating rights, some say

BY BRIAN HUDSON

ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

At the beginning of the semester, students recall, Elyse Crystall's English 22 class had an open atmosphere that promoted free discussion.

"Classroom discussion was very free, very open," said sophomore Amanda Buckley, a member of Crystall's class. "Students responded well to discussions led by Crystall, and they responded well to each other."

But that atmosphere of open discussion has been stifled, students say, in the wake of a national investigation into possible free speech violations. The investigation, led by the Office of Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, is determining if Crystall limited the free speech of a student in the class.

"The classroom is not an open discussion anymore," Buckley said. "I think the people are afraid of their comments being brought into the media, their comments being brought out of the classroom and taken out of context and gaining national criticism."

In early February, Crystall sent an e-mail to the class in response to a student's comments against homosexuality. In the e-mail, she labeled the student as heterosexist in a position of privilege.

Sophomore Tim Mertes, who originally made the comments in opposition to homosexuality, said that much of the class agrees that the reaction to the incident has gone too far. "They still feel the situation was not handled in the best way, but the professor has apologized and the class had resumed," Mertes said. "It's been blown way out of proportion."

Sophomore Helen Dombal, another member of the class, blamed students' fear of having their comments publicized for the change in the atmosphere.

"I'm sure everyone is concerned about what they are saying, and in the back of their minds they're thinking about what is being said in class," she said.

Buckley also said many students are afraid to make comments that might bring them under the same scrutiny that has plagued Crystall. "Now it's far more restricted," she said of class discussion. "People that used to comment a lot don't comment as much."

To further the investigation, the civil rights office has requested information from the class' Blackboard Web site, a password-protected site that features a discussion board for students.

Dombal said the publication of the discussion board has upset

SEE CLASSROOM, PAGE 4

Hate crime victim says police efforts fall short

BY SHANNAN BOWEN

ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Gagandeep Bindra thought he was safe walking down Franklin Street until he was assaulted last weekend after three teenage boys called him al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

Bindra, a Sikh UNC senior economics major from Punjab, India, said he is more disappointed with the way Chapel Hill police handled the incident than he is with the verbal attack.

"We have to prove the assault

was not charged with ethnic intimidation. N.C. law makes it a misdemeanor to assault another person, to damage property or to make threats because of a person's race, color, religion or national origin.

But, according to reports, police did categorize last week's incident as a hate crime. Chapel Hill Police Chief Gregg Jarvis said a charge of ethnic intimidation was not filed because police did not think it was clear that the assault occurred as a result of verbal attack.

"We have to prove the assault

SEE ASSAULT, PAGE 4

Fox may vacate top NCSU post

Likely headed to UC-San Diego job

BY STEPHANIE JORDAN

ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

N.C. State University Chancellor Marye Anne Fox has announced her intention to take the top job at the University of California-San Diego.

The university has not offered Fox the chancellorship officially, but she has the recommendation of UC-system President Robert Dynes. The system's Board of Regents will meet April 12 to determine whether to extend Fox the invitation.

UC-San Diego is the seventh-ranked public university in the 2004 edition of U.S. News &

UC-San Diego community Friday, Dynes pledged his support of Fox.

"In the end, my decision was guided by my belief that Dr. Fox brings the combination of skills needed to build on UCSD's reputation as one of the finest universities in the world," he stated.

Although UC-San Diego's decision is preliminary, Fox said, she is "leaning toward" the opportunity. "It's a fantastic school. It's a great opportunity for me, personally."

UC-San Diego was the seventh-ranked public university in the 2004 edition of U.S. News &

World Report's America's Best Colleges, while N.C. State ranked 39th.

But Fox said that under her guidance and leadership, N.C. State has become a better university, particularly with regard to its Centennial Campus, an expansion similar to UNC-Chapel Hill's proposed Carolina North.

By training, Fox is a nationally renowned physical organic chemist, and she has been the chancellor of N.C. State since 1998. Before that, she was vice president for research at the University of Texas-Austin.

UNC-system President Molly Broad said the situation is bitter-



COURTESY OF TECHNICIAN/TIM LYTVIVENKO

sweet.

"I'm sorry to see her leave North Carolina, but I wish her the best," she said. "The University of California at San Diego is arguably the greatest university success

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INSIDE

GOING GREEN

UNC's Green Energy Campaign sparks a conservation movement throughout the Southeast

SPORTS

NARROWEST OF MARGINS

The UNC gymnastics team misses its first trip to the NCAA championships by 0.025 points

WEATHER

TODAY Sunny/windy, H 57, L 32

TUESDAY Sunny, H 67, L 43

WEDNESDAY Partly cloudy, H 71, L 46