

CONSTRUCTION

FROM PAGE 1

Bynum, Phillips and Hanes halls, and the Mary Anne Smith building.

"They are repairs that are required to protect the building itself and the interiors of the buildings and the people that inhabit the buildings," Runberg said.

"If you don't repair your roofs, you're going to have leaks. The leaks will damage the roof structure, and there will be a lot of hidden damage that is problematic," he said.

Runberg also said that fire safety improvements will be a major priority. "There are a number of safety improvements such as fire alarms and sprinkler systems (that will be made)," he said.

However, Runberg said that the buildings are safe and meet minimum code requirements. "These are improvements like adding a sprinkler system to a building that didn't have one and replacing a fire alarm system because it's reaching the end of its useful life," he said.

The Brinkhous-Bullitt building is one of four that will receive fire safety upgrades.

Bob Marriot, assistant dean of resource analysis, planning and management at the UNC School of Medicine, expressed satisfaction with the plans to replace the building's existing fire alarm system.

"It just makes the building a better place to work," he said. "It's always good to have better protection."

The \$27.9 million will also go toward window replacements in

"We're very pleased to get this money (from the state) because it's truly needed. It's critical to safeguard our facilities."

BRUCE RUNBERG, ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

Hanes, Bynum, Howell and Alumni halls, Wing C of the School of Medicine and the Old Clinic.

"There tends to be a priority for safety and weather-proofing windows," Runberg said.

Runberg credited the number of repairs and replacements being made to the magnitude of UNC's facilities. "We have close to 15 million square feet of space and over 300 buildings of different ages and conditions," he said, adding that the University has not received any annual money for maintenance in

three years because of budget cuts and the downturn of the state's economy.

"When you start thinking about that magnitude you can see that you need to be spending a minimal amount each year to maintain the facilities that you have," Runberg said. "We're very pleased that we're able to get this money because it's truly needed. It's critical to safeguard our facilities."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

RENOVATIONS

FROM PAGE 1

lion, but development officials weren't available to comment about specific details of the projects the money will pay for.

ECU will receive slightly more than \$12 million, of which \$11.6 million will go to major electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning renovations.

Ken Kisida, executive director of facility services at ECU, said the money is definitely not enough. He added that his office decided to cover its most urgent projects this year with the money provided.

UNC-system schools have longer to-do lists. Kisida said his office has turned in a list of costs for the 2005-07 system budget that totals \$61 million.

UNC-CH has a database that registers all the repairing to be done. It totals \$350 million.

Hackney said the legislature looked for the most economical way of financing the money while trying to minimize debt.

Legislators approved the loan to be issued in certificates of participation, or COPs, which are a type of state bond with an interest rate 0.5 percent higher than usual. They also are tax-free and do not need voter approval to be issued.

In addition, COPs are different from standard state bonds because bond buyers can claim the asset if the state isn't able to pay them

"Usually, we have some money saved for those (repair and renovation) projects."

JOE HACKNEY, N.C. REPRESENTATIVE

back. Standard state bonds would make the state have to increase revenue to pay the loan back.

Major bond-rating agencies have said North Carolina is good at paying its bond holders back.

Julie White, spokeswoman for the state treasurer, could not say why COPs were more attractive than standard bonds. She added that the Treasury Department executed the finance projects that previously have been rubber-stamped by the N.C. General Assembly.

Hackney said the loan signed this year is about the same amount needed every year for renovations.

"Normally, we just appropriated (money). ... Usually, we have some money saved for those projects," he said. But this year's budget is tight.

He added that this is the first year he's seen the state sign a loan for the repair and renovations budget and wasn't sure if the state would have to ask for a loan again next year.

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

CURRY

FROM PAGE 1

We felt we needed to let the legal process take place over the last few months, and now it has."

Curry originally was arrested Feb. 5 in a raid at his high school. A total of 49 students were arrested in a raid, which resulted from a systemwide undercover investigation by the Alamance County Sheriff's Office.

UNC policy stipulates that current athletes convicted of a felony become permanently ineligible, but the Curry case presented a unique scenario.

The school delayed its decision until Williams returned from the Final Four in San Antonio. The coach informed the Curry family of his decision Wednesday night.

"During this time, we have been in close and constant contact with our admissions office and the University administration. All parties have agreed that it is best for us to withdraw our scholarship and release JamesOn at this time. We hope JamesOn will be successful with continuing his education and his basketball."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

HONOR COURT

FROM PAGE 1

Council President Walker Rutherford to discuss concerns the Greek community has.

The University's Board of Trustees also has prioritized hazing in Greek organizations as an issue that needs to be addressed.

But Chavez emphasized that any organization, including clubs and athletic teams, can be guilty of hazing. "Once something happens, then it's too late to do something," she said. "I just want to ensure the welfare of the University."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

FORUM

FROM PAGE 1

varies as much as the industries in North Carolina, makes him the ideal candidate for the seat.

"I've worked in the fields of North Carolina. I've worked in the factories," he said.

"I know what it's like to work in North Carolina, to live in North

Carolina and to be proud in North Carolina."

But ultimately, all the candidates expressed optimism that one of the people on the stage would defeat the Democratic governor.

"We're going to beat Governor Easley because he hasn't done things the way he's supposed to," Barrett said.

"You need to ask yourself, who's going to do the best job once we do that."

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

CORRECTIONS

*A page 1 article in Wednesday's paper should have said that student government inauguration took place Tuesday.

*A page 1 headline in the April 2 edition, "Deaths propel changes to CAPS," was misleading. Officials from Counseling and Psychological Service said the changes were already planned and did not result from the suicides.

To report an error, contact Managing Editor Daniel Thigpen at dthigpen@email.unc.edu.

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HOLY SATURDAY -
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The Great Vigil of EASTER: 9:00 PM
EASTER DAY SERVICES
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