

The Daily Tar Heel

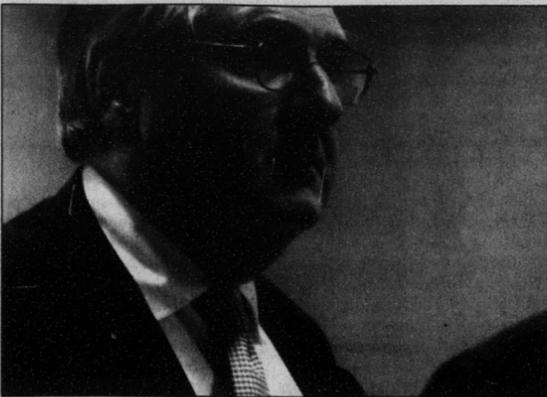
VOLUME 112, ISSUE 41

WEEKLY SUMMER ISSUE

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2004

www.dailytarheel.com

Legislature kicks off summer session



N.C. Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand speaks with colleagues Tuesday. The budget was the main issue under discussion in the new session.

LEGISLATORS TO FOCUS ON ALLOCATING \$300M SURPLUS

BY CHRIS COLETTA
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

RALEIGH — Members of the N.C. General Assembly returned to work Monday with an extra \$300 million in their pockets, and groups across the state now are seeking their share.

Increased tax revenues and roughly \$100 million in unspent cash have given the state its first budget surplus in four years. That surplus now will leave legislators to decide how best to use the money in their summer "short session," which leaders hope to finish by early July to give lawmakers time

to campaign for re-election before the July 20 primary.

"Everyone seems to be focused on the budget and on early adjournment," said Rep. Verla Insko, D-Orange, who like all state lawmakers is serving a term that expires in November. "Those two things have really dominated all the talk around here."

The appropriations process could prove difficult, as legislators must try to balance the needs of their constituents, lobbyists' wish lists and the desires of groups ranging from tobacco suppliers to teacher advocacy organizations.

The UNC system also has much at stake.

The legislature must greenlight proposed tuition increases at all 16 campuses, including hikes of \$250 for in-state students and \$1500 for out-of-state students at UNC-Chapel Hill. In addition, it also must decide on providing about \$65 million for enrollment growth and whether it will give pay raises to faculty and employees.

Gov. Mike Easley gave his take on the process Monday, releasing his recommended changes to the 2003-05 budget passed last year by the General Assembly.

The proposal includes 2 percent raises and one-time \$250 bonuses for most state workers, including system faculty and staff. Community college teachers are

called on to receive the bonus as well as a 4 percent increase.

Easley's plan also recommends funding enrollment growth fully, mixing proposed tuition increases and cutting some schools' budgets by 1.7 percent.

Sen. Richard Stevens, R-Wake, and a former member of the UNC-CH Board of Trustees, said the plan is a mixed bag.

"While (the University) is gaining through enrollment increases, it's losing through the budget cuts," he said.

Not included in the governor's budget are \$300 million in funds for a quartet of research centers at system schools: UNC-CH, East Carolina University, UNC-

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Reed steps up to VCIT

Faculty member fills vacated post

BY BRIAN HUDSON
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

UNC officials announced Monday that Daniel Reed has been appointed to fill the positions of chief information officer and vice chancellor for information technologies.



Specialist Daniel Reed will lend his knowledge to the VCIT post.

The new appointment will take effect June 1.

The announcement comes after an almost two-year search that included consideration of several candidates recommended by a search committee.

Reed first came to UNC in January after he received the \$3 million Kenan Eminent Professorship late last year — the first of 10 to be awarded.

An expert in high-speed computing, Reed is a member of President Bush's Information Technology Advisory Committee, and he co-created the Institute for Renaissance Computing, which gathers scientists and researchers to investigate and spur technological advances under Reed's direction.

As the new vice chancellor, Reed will be the University's most senior leader in technology and he will organize the delivery of administrative and academic information technology support to the campus community.

Reed's position of vice chancellor will yield him a \$325,000 annual salary, composed largely of state funds but also augmented by a stipend from private funds as well as from the endowed professorship.

The process of selecting the next vice chancellor was delayed and initially was expected to occur during an 8 to 12 month period, said Provost Robert Shelton. He said the process was delayed when the University rejected three initial finalists after campus officials could not come to a consensus.

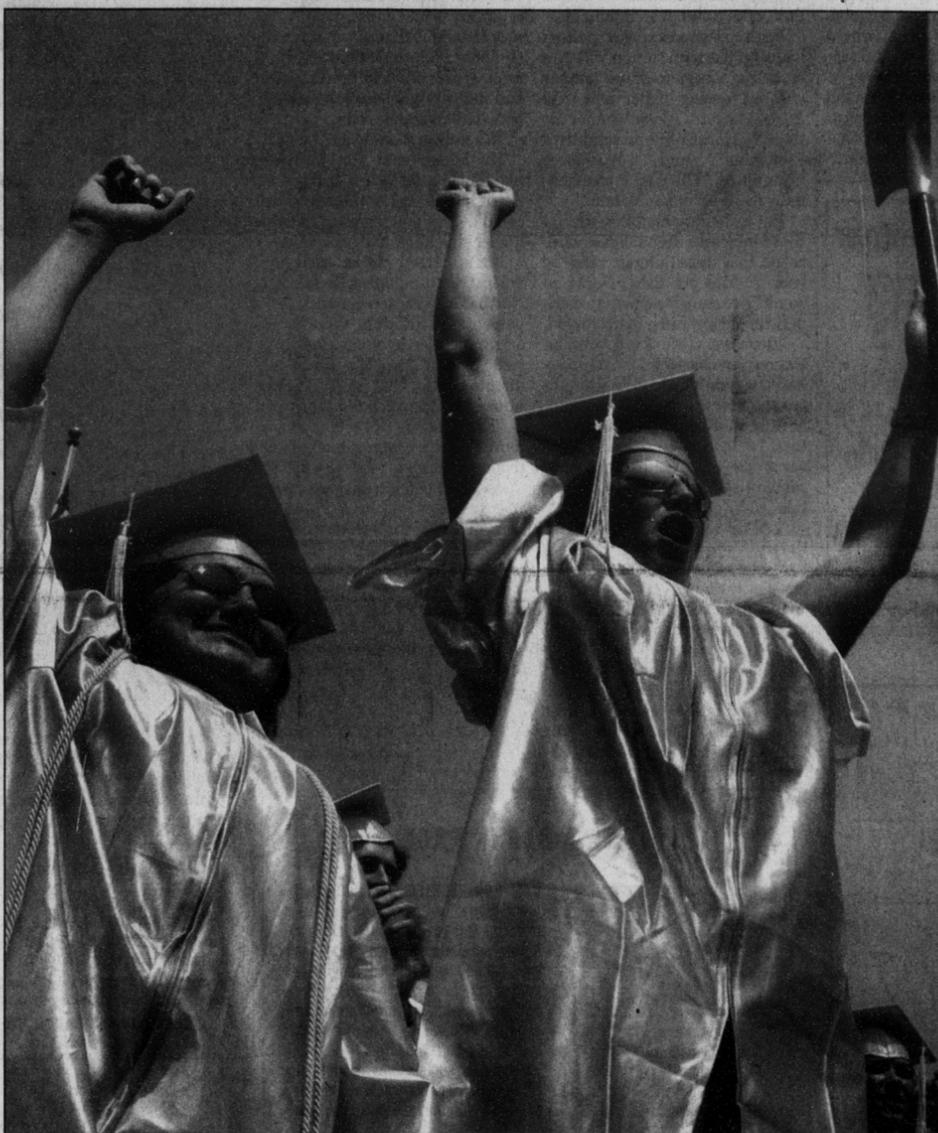
"They were all superb," Shelton said. "And for whatever reasons we couldn't settle on one of those three."

The process was difficult because the position is broad, allowing for a wide-ranging field of candidates, Shelton said.

The process was also delayed by competition between different

SEE VCIT, PAGE 6

COMMENCEMENT 2004



Senior crew team members Katie Sorensen (left) and Mary Miller enjoy the revelry of the graduation ceremony in Kenan Stadium Sunday. Around 4,500 undergraduate, graduate and professional students attended the class of 2004's send-off.

GRADS BASK IN TARHEEL BLUE

BY BRIAN HUDSON
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

UNC's 2004 Commencement ceremony, honoring the graduation of about 4,500 undergraduate, graduate and professional students, began under gray skies Sunday morning.

But the intimidating clouds dissolved away early in the event to reveal a powder blue sky that matched the color of many graduates' caps and gowns. Chancellor James Moeser noted that the graduates of Duke University, which was celebrating its commencement that same

morning, would look up to see a sky of Carolina Blue.

While his comment elicited cheers from the graduating students, Moeser continued to talk about the connection he felt to both the University and this particular graduating class.

"I entered with this class in the fall of 2000, (and) I felt the magic of Carolina for the first time," he said. "I still do, and I hope you do, too."

He encouraged graduates to continue to explore their relationships with UNC and ensured



Pictured with provost Robert Shelton (left), Julius Chambers, a Civil Rights lawyer, delivered the day's address.

Searchers find body of student

Mao, UNC junior, had been missing since May 4

BY BRIAN HUDSON
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

The search for a missing UNC-Chapel Hill student ended Sunday afternoon after his body was discovered near Jordan Lake.

Junior Ziyun "Tim" Mao, 19, had been missing since the morning of May 4.

His death is being treated as a suicide, and no foul play is suspected, said Randy Young, spokesman for the Department of Public Safety. He said University Police are still waiting for a report from the medical examiner's office to confirm the cause of death.

Officials don't know what led to Mao's death, Young said.

Mao had last been seen by his roommate at 11 a.m. on May 4. Mao's father had arranged to meet him that afternoon to move out of his room in Carmichael Residence Hall, but when Mao did not arrive his father called the police.

Campus police interviewed friends, family members and students for information. Officials released a statement late Saturday requesting help in the search from the public. The statement included a description and photo of Mao.

Recent attempts by The Daily Tar Heel to reach the Mao family for comment were unsuccessful.

UNC-CH has experienced an increase in student suicide as four students killed themselves last school year. The increased trend has caused the University and its mental health services to come under scrutiny.

SEE MAO, PAGE 6

UNC student takes own life on campus

BY BRIAN HUDSON
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

UNC freshman Simon Carlyle Sitterson IV died late last month, the result of an apparent suicide.

His body was found by a University employee at about 7 a.m. April 23 in a gravel parking lot outside Forest Theatre, according to police reports.

Randy Young, spokesman for UNC's Department of Public Safety, said officials are treating the matter as a suicide, and they do not suspect foul play.

The cause of his death was a gunshot wound to the head, according to the state medical examiner's office.

Young said because Sitterson, 18, was not reported as a missing person, campus police are not aware of the conditions that led to his death.

Sitterson, known as Si, was a freshman and a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. He was born in Charlotte and he graduated from Woodberry Forest School in Woodberry Forest, Va. in 2003, where he was a member of the football and lacrosse teams.

Attempts to contact Sitterson's family were unsuccessful.

Sitterson was a relative of the late Joseph Carlyle

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ONLINE

- UNC's tennis teams adapt, face tough competition
- Tough softball squad looks to Seminole onslaught
- Look for more stories online

INSIDE

BEACH BALLS NOT INCLUDED
Don your mortarboard and experience the sights of the sweltering Commencement weekend. **PAGE 5**

WEATHER

TODAY Partly cloudy, High 86, Low 64
FRIDAY Sunny, High 86, Low 63
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