

BUDGET

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make cuts to the university," she told The Daily Tar Heel on June 30.

Calls to a bevy of conferees this week were not returned before press time.

But both the House and Senate were set on providing \$65 million in funding for enrollment growth, the amount asked for by the UNC-system Board of Governors.

Their individual proposals also called for cuts of \$27 million, or 1.7 percent, to system schools. Those cuts come after about five years of similar reductions and are likely to remain intact in the plan Easley signs.

Also in contention was a plan passed by the Senate to allot \$2.5 million to the system for a slate of new teaching scholarships.

But even after the spending talks are done, lawmakers still have work to do.

Once Easley signs the budget, which legislators hope will occur before Friday, they still must reach a compromise on spending plans for medical centers at state schools.

The House's proposal allots \$240 million for a cancer center at UNC-Chapel Hill and a heart and stroke center at East Carolina University.



DTH FILE PHOTO/GILLIAN BOLSOVER

Jim Black, a Mecklenburg County Democrat who serves as co-speaker of the N.C. House, plays a pivotal role in the state's budget negotiations.

The Senate's plan adds \$98 million to that sum for centers at UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Asheville and Elizabeth City State University.

House leaders, including Co-speaker Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, have expressed interest in a compromise that would include the UNC-C center, but any such plan is tenuous at best.

And with less than two weeks

left until the July 20 primaries, when many legislators will face battles in their home districts to get on November's general election ballot, time is of the essence — which might prompt lawmakers to adjourn for a few weeks and then return to wrap up their work.

The Associated Press contributed to this article. Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

SAFETY

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Some of the improvements under consideration are criminal background checks of applicants and verification of their answers on applications.

Currently, questions on applications regarding criminal history assume that applicants will be honest.

System campuses also might have to undergo some scrutiny before safety concerns are assuaged.

Robert Kanoy, UNC-system associate vice president for access and outreach and head of the task force, said the system needs to audit individual campuses to identify needed improvements. He cited the safety escort program of schools such as UNC-CH as an example of the steps campuses should be asked to take.

He added that the task force will do its homework before taking any action that requires dipping into student privacy.

"We are going to do a survey and see if anybody else has dealt with these issues on their campuses," he said.

Texas' Baylor University is one school the task force plans to learn from.

Baylor instituted criminal back-

ground checks for transferring athletes after one of its basketball players murdered another last year.

Victor Landry, senior vice president of the system's Association of Student Governments, attended the meeting. He said the student population, one of the best resources for fighting crime, is being neglected.

Only one student, UNC-Greensboro Student Body President Dara Edelman, is a member of the safety task force, and Landry said more student involvement might be needed.

"I think it is kind of difficult to talk about safety with a bunch of people who only spend a certain amount of time on campus," he said.

But Broad said students have not been closed out of the task force's proceedings.

Some are comforted by the task force's first steps toward better safety, but Broad said safety is never ensured.

She said there is no guarantee that new safety procedures will prevent future criminal attacks.

"There is no fool-proof way for dealing with rage, anger and passion."

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

CUTS

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the year when things begin to turn around.

"We can see the light at the end of the tunnel," said George Worsley, vice chancellor for finance and business at N.C. State University. "The experiences we've had in the past with budget cuts seem to be diminishing."

Still, he added about this year's cut: "We have to deal with that, and that's a permanent cut. I'm certainly not pleased by that."

This year's budget was bolstered by a pair of factors: Gov. Mike Easley's budget recommendations, which included the relatively slight 1.7 percent cuts, and a surplus of about \$200 million that enabled lawmakers to allot more money to education.

The surplus was particularly heartening to many in the UNC system who have complained for years that the state has not had enough money to fund campuses properly, forcing officials to rely on unpopular and expensive rounds of tuition increases.

Amanda Devore, who took office as president of the system's Association of Student Governments on July 1, said if such a trend continues, she has high hopes for next year.

"I believe very much that this could be the year where that trend reverses," Devore said.

But she added: "Unfortunately, when you get a lot of momentum and you get something rolling like it has been in the past few years, it just kind of picks up speed and momentum, and that kind of mind-set keeps going."

Devore, Worsley and Helm still found much to agree with in this year's proposals, however.

All three pointed to salary increases for faculty and staff as beneficial to the system, and the relative small size of the cuts means campuses won't have to take as many hits in courses offered and class sizes as they have in the past few years.

But Worsley pointed out that even though the turmoil seems just about through, it's not over yet.

"Although it seems that we are nearly at the end of the process, I have found over the years that I don't celebrate or weep until the budget is, in fact, ratified and signed."

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

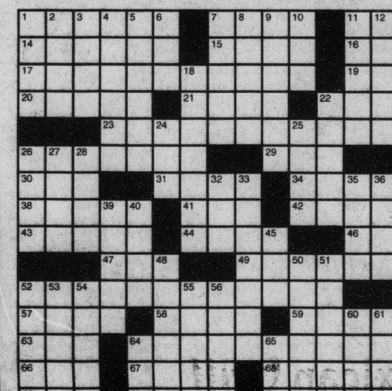
THE Daily Crossword

By Norma Steinberg

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Outdoor marketplace
 - 7 Movie pooch
 - 11 Arena official
 - 14 Iditarod's state
 - 15 Beat it, Fluffy!
 - 16 Jackie's second spouse
 - 17 TV saga of the Robinson family
 - 19 Go a few rounds
 - 20 ___ and Drang
 - 21 Late-night Jay
 - 22 Helper
 - 23 Preoccupied
 - 26 Chicago section
 - 29 Opp. of syn.
 - 30 CD___
 - 31 ERA or RBI
 - 34 Embers
 - 38 Type of setter
 - 41 Sort of
 - 42 Actress Dickinson
 - 43 Flat finish
 - 44 Negative votes
 - 46 Supply with weapons
 - 47 Raggedy doll
 - 49 "The Seven ___"
 - 52 Ralph Ellison classic
 - 57 Principal
 - 58 Spiral
 - 59 Moslems collectively
 - 63 Want
 - 64 Closed sign, of a sort
- DOWN**
- 1 Dances at Versailles
 - 2 Oodles
 - 3 Actress Pitts
 - 4 Of the stars
 - 5 With hands on hips
 - 6 Sprinted
 - 7 Vail rival
 - 8 Meager
 - 9 City in Washington
 - 10 Noshed
 - 11 Fanatical
 - 12 Wear away
 - 13 Like some mortgage rates
 - 18 Ignored the alarm
 - 22 Playwright Chekhov

- 24 Distress letters
- 25 Early Peruvian
- 26 Remove fat
- 27 Folk dance
- 28 Give out
- 32 Simile center
- 33 Someone to know?
- 35 Lab medium
- 36 Old Milanese money
- 37 18-wheeler
- 39 Sully
- 40 Coop residents
- 45 Sleuth Spade
- 48 Actress Kidman
- 50 House in Paris
- 51 Like wild horses
- 52 Public persona
- 53 Also-ran in 2000
- 54 Post-card scene
- 55 Stupid mistake
- 56 Hamlet, to Horatio
- 60 Elite wheels
- 61 One more time
- 62 L. Durocher and Y. Berra
- 64 Republican letters
- 65 Dander



ELSA PAST SOFAS
NETS ALOE UNIFY
IVEALWAYS NOLAN
SIN AERATED ERE
LEONID EERIS
ESSEN BEENAHUGE
CEDAR ELEVEN
ADAK OMARS EATS
GUITAR TATAR
ADMIRER OF SEGOS
EMMA DI REST
NYC HIGHTEA NIA
CUOMO MYDOWNWORK
ORIEL ADUE AMIE
SINGE NERD NISS

UNC HOSPITALS

FROM PAGE 1

geriatrics at 34 (up from 48); and urology at 43.

In order for a hospital to be eligible for the U.S. News and World Report ranking it must either be linked to a medical school, provide nine of 17 specific items of medical technology or be a member of the Council of Teaching Hospitals. These requirements narrowed the list of eligible hospitals from 6012 to 2113. After the final cut, 117 hospitals were included on the list.

William Roper, chief executive officer of UNC Healthcare and dean of the medical school, said he was pleased with the national recognition the hospital has received.

"UNC Healthcare is committed to pushing towards excellence and (is) still striving to improve," he said.

Roper attributed the hospital's high ranking to the "national reputation of the outstanding faculty widely known across the country."

Shelton Earp, head of the N.C. Cancer Center, said the proposed new cancer center could lead to even higher ranking in the future.

"Size of a program is one of many

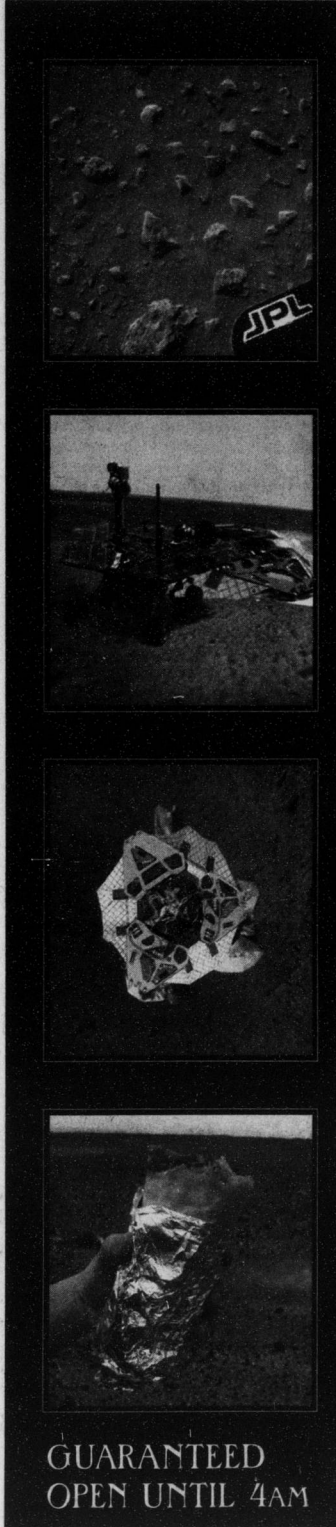
determining factors, and hopefully the cancer center will help (with next year's placement)," he said.

While many individual department heads did say they were proud to be included, some explained that the ranking is not the most accurate reflection of program achievement. Earp said that "being 10th in the nation in cancer grants from the National Cancer Institute" is a better indication of the cancer center's achievement.

Robert Sandler, director of UNC Hospitals' Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology — the department treating digestive disorders — compared the ranks to pre-season basketball. "Most of the right names are on the list but the order is questionable," he said.

Sandler and Earp said grant money and funding data were better indications of hospital effectiveness. Still, both doctors said they were proud to be included and explained that state-of-the-art care, along with nationally recognized research most certainly contributed to the the positive ranks.

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