

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Budget negotiations enter third week

### RESEARCH CENTERS HOLD UP FINAL VERSION OF \$15.8B PLAN

BY CHRIS COLETTA  
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

RALEIGH — The N.C. General Assembly continued work early this week on finalizing a state spending plan, and leading executives said a compromise could be only a few days away.

Amid a flurry of last-minute activity, including votes Tuesday

in the House on high-profile bills dealing with video poker and the start of the K-12 school year, top conferees from the House and Senate worked to resolve their last remaining differences on a \$15.8 billion budget before next Tuesday's primaries.

"We very much would like to finish all of this this week," said

House Co-speaker Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, after his chamber adjourned Tuesday.

Black, along with Co-speaker Richard Morgan, a Moore County Republican, and Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Dare, met with conferees Tuesday morning in an attempt to aid the process.

"We listened to them debate a little bit," Black said.

"It was quite helpful to me to get to know why they differ on the issues."

But ultimately, what came out of that meeting was a commitment to more meetings.

"They're going to meet again (Wednesday) and keep talking," said Basnight spokeswoman Amy Fulk.

Among the issues still up in the air are funding for capital projects, including some at state schools in the Triad, and a few million dollars in the health and human services budget.

But perhaps the biggest roadblock is deciding how to allot money for anywhere from two to five research

centers on UNC-system campuses.

The Senate's proposal allots \$180 million to a cancer center at UNC-Chapel Hill and \$60 million to a heart and stroke center at East Carolina University. It also gives \$10 million each to various medical projects at UNC-Charlotte, Elizabeth City State University and UNC-Asheville.

The House, led by Black, called for giving the same amounts to the UNC-CH and ECU centers but allotted \$98 million in total for the three remaining plans.

And Gov. Mike Easley has stepped into the picture, telling lawmakers he doesn't want them to allot more than \$310 million for fear of putting North Carolina's bond rating in jeopardy.

"There are limits to how much more debt we can assume with existing revenue streams," Easley wrote in a June 24 letter.

Technically, a compromise bill won't be part of the budget, but it would help break the three-week

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DTH PHOTOS/GILLIAN BOLSOVER

Homegrown Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards, now running alongside John Kerry, attracted a 15,000-strong crowd to N.C. State University's campus. Saturday's visit to North Carolina was the finale of the pair's four-day whirlwind tour, which touched six states considered pivotal in November's race for the presidency.

## NEWLY MINTED TICKET HITS TAR HEEL STATE

BY MARK PUENTE  
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — With Chuck Berry's "Johnny B Goode" blasting through loudspeakers, an estimated 15,000 North Carolinians braved the sweltering heat Saturday to welcome one of their own.

A loud, partisan crowd arrived to pledge their support to John Edwards, North Carolina's senior senator, at a rally at N.C. State University — and to Sen. John Kerry, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, who named Edwards as his running mate July 6.

Waving red, white and blue "Kerry-Edwards" placards, the crowd helped cap off the duo's "Real Deal" campaign, a four-day swing through battleground states deemed pivotal to November's election.

While introducing Kerry to N.C. voters, Edwards said his Massachusetts cohort shares many similarities with Tar Heels.

"His values are the same as ours. He believes in faith, responsibility and opportunity for everybody, not just a few privileged people at the top," Edwards said.

The only thing more popular than the featured guests was the bottled water distributed to the crowd, as thousands stood for hours before the start of the rally in the 90-degree weather.

But Terri Rowland of Durham said she did not mind standing in the heat for five hours with a sprained ankle because she came away impressed with Kerry and Edwards' message. "It's a monumental event for North Carolina," she said. "It is a renaissance at the same time, and

Senator Edwards has it."

Edwards' visit was particularly unusual because there has not been a North Carolinian on a major-party ticket in modern times. Moreover, Kerry and Edwards will attempt to be the first two sitting senators to win the White House since John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson in 1960.

Kerry made it a point to touch on industries, such as tobacco and textiles, that are important to N.C. voters, and said farmers deserve an actual tobacco buyout.

Tobacco farmers in the state work on a quota system that has not been altered in decades.

"Workers we've met are actually telling

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## Edwards' impact on races remains uncertain



DTH/GILLIAN BOLSOVER

Democratic Senate candidate Erskine Bowles (center) waves to the crowd at a rally Saturday, flanked by former North Carolina men's basketball coach Dean Smith (left).

### Statewide, national races could be swayed

BY ALEX GRANADOS  
STAFF WRITER

While November's Senate and gubernatorial campaigns in North Carolina might benefit from John Edwards' placement on the Democratic presidential ticket, aspiring commander in chief John Kerry could miss the fruits of Edwards' labors.

Thomas Schaller, professor of political science at the University of Maryland-Baltimore, said that Kerry's prospects for wooing N.C. voters are doubtful but that some Democrats contending in other statewide races might capitalize on Edwards' popularity.

"I don't know that Edwards helps Kerry carry North Carolina, but he does help (Senate candidate Erskine) Bowles

more."

Schaller said there is a little-known divide between the state's conservative views in national races and its voters' more even-handed choices in state elections.

Just take North Carolina's Senate races as an example. The state is now served by a Democrat, Edwards, and Republican Elizabeth Dole. Before Edwards, Republican Lauch Faircloth held the seat.

So Bowles and incumbent Gov. Mike Easley are poised to gain from Edwards' executive foray.

"We think it is going to help Democrats all the way down the ballot," said Schorr

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## Board rejects private funding

### BOG OKs proposals for top leaders' salaries

BY CHRIS COLETTA  
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Some upper-level executives in the UNC system would see salary hikes under a plan passed by the system's Board of Governors on Friday, but leaders won't be able to use private funds to sweeten the deals.

Under the plan, chancellors at the system's 16 universities, as well as President Molly Broad and her staff, would get a minimum salary equal to the 25th percentile of a range determined by examining the pay of officials elsewhere with similar jobs.

The board also voted not to change its policy on the private funding of chancellors' salaries. That practice has been banned since 1997, after the board flirted with it in the early '90s but finally decided that it invites too much outside influence on the affairs of a university.

BOG Chairman Brad Wilson echoed those sentiments Friday. "This motion is simply an affirmation of what's already on the books," he said.

But the board's decisions come at a time when the pay of upper-level administrators has entered the public eye.

In particular, the issue of using private funds came up when some leaders at N.C. State University asked the board to consider it. The school is seeking a replacement for Chancellor Marye Anne Fox, who is set to

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## Ford tapped as assistant for Pistons

BY MICHAEL PUCCI  
SPORTS EDITOR

Phil Ford, UNC's all-time leading scorer and former assistant coach for 12 seasons, accepted Larry Brown's offer to assist him in coaching the NBA champion Detroit Pistons Tuesday.

As of press time, Ford had not yet signed a contract, but had committed to Brown over the phone.

Ford's arrival to Detroit bolsters the team's strong Carolina ties — including Brown, he joins former UNC players and coaches Dave Hanners and Pat Sullivan, whom Ford has kept in constant contact with through the years.

"This was a difficult decision to make," he said. "I love what I do now. ... My family's here, this is the only place my kids have known. But I want to coach, and it's something that's in my blood."

For the last four years, Ford was a vice president in the Rams Club, helping to raise funds for the club's Educational Foundation, and for two seasons he broadcasted games alongside Woody Durham and Mick Mixon on the Tar Heel Sports Network.

"I really enjoyed working with Phil," said John Montgomery, the foundation's executive director. "As a fund raiser, he did an outstanding job. Our donors and alumni responded well to him."

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UNC legend Phil Ford was a mentor to the Tar Heels' basketball team.

### DAILY TAR HEEL

#### SCHOOL'S OUT ...

And so is The Daily Tar Heel, as this week's edition is the last DTH summer issue. The paper will begin publishing again Saturday, Aug. 21.



### INSIDE

#### RACE FOR THE PRIZE

Get to know candidates for local and statewide races ahead of the primary, to take place this Tuesday. PAGE 5

### WEATHER

TODAY Sunny, High 88, Low 63  
FRIDAY Sunny, High 89, Low 63  
SATURDAY Partly Cloudy, High 88, Low 66

