

Forum asks for \$2.5K raises

Some UNC staff would see benefits

BY KATHERINE EVANS
STAFF WRITER

The University's Employee Forum is working on a resolution that will petition state lawmakers for salary increases for all State Personnel Act employees. The resolution calls for the N.C. General Assembly to approve flat \$2,500 salary increases for such employees, a group that includes most nonfaculty UNC workers. The resolution also calls for an additional 2.5 percent increase — given that it does not exceed \$7,500 — for the portion of an individual's salary greater than \$50,000. The forum also is requesting that legislators increase the minimum wage to \$12. Forum member Ernie Patterson presented the proposal Wednesday morning to delegates during their monthly meeting. No formal action was taken because the resolution is expected to pass through at least two stages of revision before forum approval. Patterson said the purpose of

Wednesday's initial reading was to encourage collaboration among the delegates and the greater community of employees. Forum members say they plan to vote on a final draft by January. If approved, the group will send the resolution to similar bodies at the other schools in the UNC system. "This is for all state employees," said forum Vice Chairwoman Katherine Graves. Graves said the hourly pay increase is essential to ensure that all University employees earn a "living wage." "There's so many people here who work two to three jobs to make ends meet," she said. The forum proposed a similar resolution in April, when it requested that salaries be raised by \$2,000 and that the SPA minimum wage be raised to \$10 an hour. The General Assembly decided in August to grant employees either a \$1,000 raise or a 2.5 percent salary increase, depending on which hike was greater.

But Patterson said last year's increase was far from sufficient, especially because of the rise of health care costs. Forum members say they presented the proposal earlier than last year's to encourage more employee input. "Usually, when we try to do these resolutions, they're last-minute," Patterson said during the meeting. "We need to start now to pass a resolution." Forum Chairman Tommy Griffin also underlined the importance of employee participation in drafting the resolution. "We all share a lot of the same concerns and ideas and thoughts. We'll try to make it as perfect as possible." Leaders said they instead hope to informally discuss the resolution with legislators, because directly lobbying the General Assembly is prohibited. "We must meet with legislators," Graves said. "They've invited us before, and they should invite us again."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

New program to mix schools, local colleges

BY BRIANNA BISHOP
STAFF WRITER

In an attempt to curb dropout rates and help students dissatisfied with the traditional high school environment, local school systems hope to launch an alternative curriculum next fall. Orange County Schools, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and Durham Public Schools are holding discussions to plan a middle college program, which will be available at Durham Technical Community College. "The middle college program that we're interested in would allow students, primarily juniors and seniors, to finish their high school career at a community college," said Neil Pedersen, superintendent of Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools. A large percentage of the dropout rate consists of students who drop out of high school to continue education at community colleges, he said. With this program, students can pursue education at a community college while remaining on the high school roster. Pedersen also noted a national trend among high school students to take college credits early. "It's a program designed as another option for high school graduation," said Shirley Carraway, superintendent of Orange County Schools. In the middle college program, students will graduate with a high school diploma and have the pos-

sibility of receiving some college credit, Carraway said. She also said that as much as the school districts try to meet the needs of all students, some still need another option. For instance, some students are more mature than the high school environment allows them to be, she said. "We expect that we will house a high school on our campus," said Barbara Baker, vice president of student support services at Durham Tech. She added that plans call for teachers and other high school employees to be on staff at Durham Tech. The program will be directed at a certain group of students, which the school system describes as disengaged, Baker said. These are students who, for whatever reason, do not fit into the environment of the school, she said. The program will consist of students who have achieved quite

a bit but are getting burned out in public schools, Baker said. All three school systems are still in the planning stages of the program, and Pedersen said enrollment numbers have not been cemented yet. The number of students enrolled will depend on the capacity at Durham Tech and interest among students. Pedersen said the school systems have representatives meeting with Durham Tech staff and have scheduled a trip to a similar program in Guilford County on Nov. 12. The middle college program also is a step toward increased collaboration among the local school systems, Pedersen said. "I think this is an opportunity that will be available only because we are able to collaborate."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Alan P. Olschwang

©2004 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Freebie
 - 5 Cut wool
 - 10 Miss Universe's band
 - 14 Hebrew month
 - 15 Type of bean
 - 16 Jai ___
 - 17 Singer Falana
 - 18 Currently in progress
 - 19 Nonflowering plant
 - 20 Start of H.L. Mencken quote
 - 22 Unspoken
 - 23 Very in Vichy
 - 24 Corn unit
 - 25 Melville's Pequod
 - 28 Not evenly balanced
 - 33 Alleviate
 - 34 Custom
 - 35 Carnival city
 - 36 Part 2 of quote
 - 40 Sault ___ Marie
 - 41 Shopping complexes
 - 42 Mimic
 - 43 Level-headed
 - 45 Rind removers
 - 47 Bitter vetch
 - 48 Young horse
 - 49 Inoculations
 - 52 End of quote
 - 57 Bombard
 - 58 Mishandled
 - 59 "Hud" star Pat
 - 60 Pennsylvania city
 - 61 Medieval instrument
 - 62 Sundance
- DOWN**
- 1 Kid's girl
 - 3 Way out
 - 4 Dwelling
 - 6 In that case
 - 1 Math subj.
 - 2 Stench
 - 3 Bamako's land
 - 4 Windbag
 - 5 Shim
 - 6 Record players
 - 7 Adam's grandson
 - 8 Bohr's object of study
 - 9 Poppycock!
 - 10 Overland expedition
 - 11 McCowan or Baldwin
 - 12 Rani's wrap
 - 13 Subtle bit of help
 - 21 Anger
 - 22 Flavor
 - 24 Monumental
 - 25 Houdini's last name

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14												
17												
20												
25	26	27										
33												
36												
40												
43												
49	50	51										
57												
60												
63												

SOFT SUMPTUOUS 100% CASHMERE SWEATERS
SAMPLE SALE **\$29.95**
(COMPARE UP TO \$98)

LARGE SELECTION, VARIETY OF STYLES



83 S. Elliott Road @ Franklin Street Village Plaza (next to Whole Foods) 919-933-3003 www.lookoutcasuals.com Mon-Sat 9am-7pm Sunday 12noon-6pm

LOOK OUT
A DIFFERENT KIND OF OUTLET

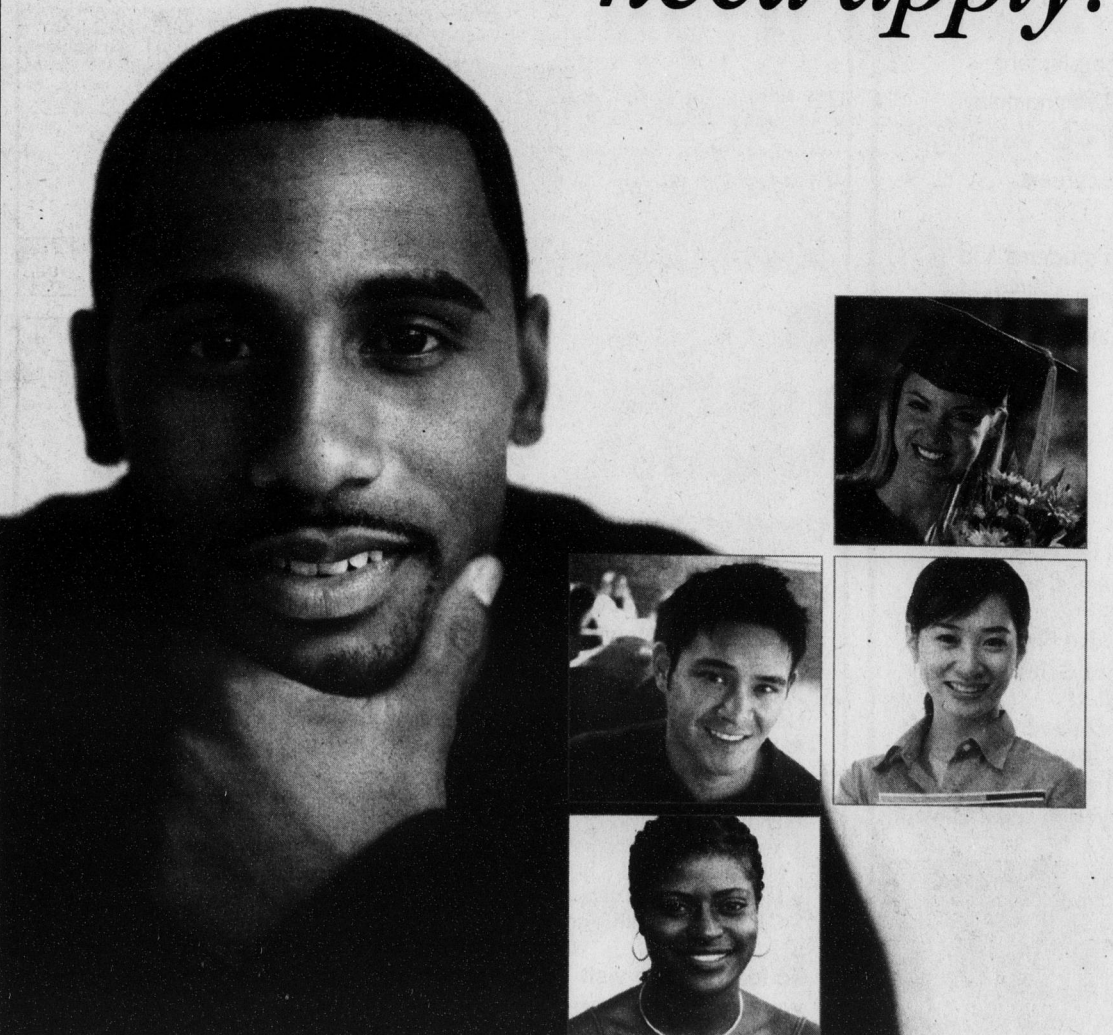
ONE LOCATED NEAR YOU



VOTED STUDENTS' #1 TANNING SALON
CHEAPEST RATES AROUND
CLEANEST SALON IN TOWN

TAN YOUR HIDE 15-501 S. & Smith Level Rd. 919-342-7177
TAN YOUR HIDE 2 151 E. Rosemary St. 919-933-2117

Only grads with extreme talent need apply.



HEARST FELLOWSHIPS

This is the kind of opportunity that only comes once in a lifetime. The prestigious Hearst Fellowships program is now accepting applications from qualified candidates. If you plan to graduate with a journalism degree or have compelling experience in journalism, photography or graphic design, this program can put your career on the fast track.

The Hearst Fellowships enable you to receive two years of hands-on work experience with pay and benefits. The program is dedicated to recruiting, training and retaining the best talent in reporting, editing, photojournalism, design and graphics. If accepted, you'll have the advantage of working at three or more Hearst newspapers or at Hearst's Washington Bureau.

The process is tough. The selection competitive. That's what makes it such a great opportunity for the few extremely talented graduates who earn Hearst Fellowships. Don't miss this chance to work with some of the best people in the business. If you've got what it takes, Hearst Fellowships has the program to launch your successful career. Apply now.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: DECEMBER 1, 2004

For more information on how to apply, contact Kenn Altine at:

Phone: 713-362-7906
Email: kenn.altine@chron.com
Address: Hearst Fellowships
801 Texas Avenue, Ste. 823
Houston, TX 77002

