

The Daily Tar Heel

Broad sees no systemwide hikes

SYSTEM PRESIDENTS RECOMMENDS NO ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASES

BY ERIC JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

The proposed budget being reviewed this week by the UNC system's governing body will not include any systemwide tuition increases.

UNC-system President Molly Broad decided to recommend a 0 percent increase after reviewing conflicting proposals from a systemwide tuition task force.

The task force, which includes administrators and student representatives from all 16 system schools, could not reach a consensus before presenting its recommendations to Broad's office.

"What they do is try to arrive collaboratively at a recommendation," said Jeff Davies, UNC-system vice president for finance. "They did not do that again this year."

Last year, the system's Board of Governors decided not to increase tuition after receiving dual proposals from the task force, one advising a 2 percent increase and another suggesting no change.

This year, the group suggested that the system raise tuition by either 0 percent or 2.2 percent.

"The folks on the zero side didn't budge, and the folks on the 2.2 side didn't budge," Davies said. "I think more of the committee members were interested in a 0 percent increase."

It appears likely that this year, the BOG will react favorably to the 0 percent recommendation.

"I think that will be very well received," said board member Brent Barringer. "I certainly haven't heard anyone arguing in favor of an across-the-board increase."

Officials at N.C. State University, where administrators pushed for a 2.2 percent increase during the task force's deliberations, said the N.C. General Assembly might be inclined to raise tuition if the BOG fails to offer its own increase.

"Our concern is that if they don't recommend a very small increase, the General Assembly will decide to place an even larger one on all of the campuses," said Tom Stafford, vice chancellor for student affairs.

The attitude of the state legislature toward tuition increases will depend heavily on the state's budget outlook, Stafford added.

No matter what the budget situation, Barringer pointed out that the General Assembly is constitutionally obligated to keep tuition affordable.

"The first source of funds for the university should always be taxpayer dollars instead of parent or student dollars," he

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Road plans finally OK'd

Cameron Avenue to see alterations

BY EREN TATARAGASI
STAFF WRITER

After months of discussion and debate about parking and bike lanes on Cameron Avenue, the Chapel Hill Town Council finally came to a resolution Monday.

The council unanimously decided on Resolution B, which will create 5-foot bike lanes on both sides of Cameron Avenue, 10-foot parking lanes with meters on the north side of the street and a 12-foot travel lane in each direction.

Town Manager Cal Horton said in his recommendation, which the council did not accept, that the current situation on Cameron Avenue was adequate but that parking meters should be added to existing parking spots.

According to town documents, the new meters could generate between \$49,000 and \$65,000 in annual revenue for the town.

Horton's recommendation did not include plans to restripe bike lanes or widen current spaces.

Loren Hintz, a resident and former chairman of the town's transportation advisory board, said he thought the resolution would help the town. "I believe the reinstatement of bike lanes will be beneficial."

Hintz was originally in favor of Resolution C, which would prohibit any parking on Cameron Avenue between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., but saw resolution B as the only compromise.

Kumar Nepalli, the town's traffic engineer, said that while he favored the manager's recommendation, Resolution B was feasible.

Nepalli said the approved changes could take as long as three months to implement.

According to town documents, current hours of parking on the north and south sides of Cameron Avenue will no longer be effective as of Feb. 15, 2005.

At that time, the newly approved parking meters will take effect, although all existing no-parking zones will remain in place.

Currently, on-street parking is prohibited on the south side of Cameron Avenue between 7 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. and on the north side between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

During the hours when park-

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Troops launch assault in Iraq

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. troops backed by thunderous air and artillery barrages launched a ground offensive Monday to seize key insurgent strongholds inside Fallujah, the city that became Iraq's major sanctuary for Islamic extremists who fought Marines to a standstill last April.

A military spokesman estimated 42 insurgents were killed across the city in bombardment and skirmishes before the main assault began.

Hours after starting the offensive, U.S. tanks and Humvees from the 1st Infantry Division

entered the northeastern Askari neighborhood, the first ground assault into an insurgent bastion.

In the northwestern area of the city, U.S. troops advanced slowly after dusk on the Jolan neighborhood, a warren of alleyways where Sunni militants have dug in. Artillery, tanks and warplanes pounded the district's northern edge, softening the defenses and trying to set off any bombs or booby traps planted by the militants.

Marines were visible on rooftops in Jolan. This reporter, located at a U.S. camp near the city, saw orange explosions lighting up the district's palm trees, minarets and dusty roofs, and a fire burning on the city's edge.

Masked insurgents roamed Fallujah streets throughout the day. One group of four fighters, two of them draped with belts of ammunition, moved through narrow passageways, firing on U.S. forces with small arms and mortars. Mosque loudspeakers blared, "God is great, God is great."

Just outside the Jolan and Askari neighborhoods, Iraqi troops deployed with U.S. forces took over a train station after the Americans fired on it to drive off fighters.

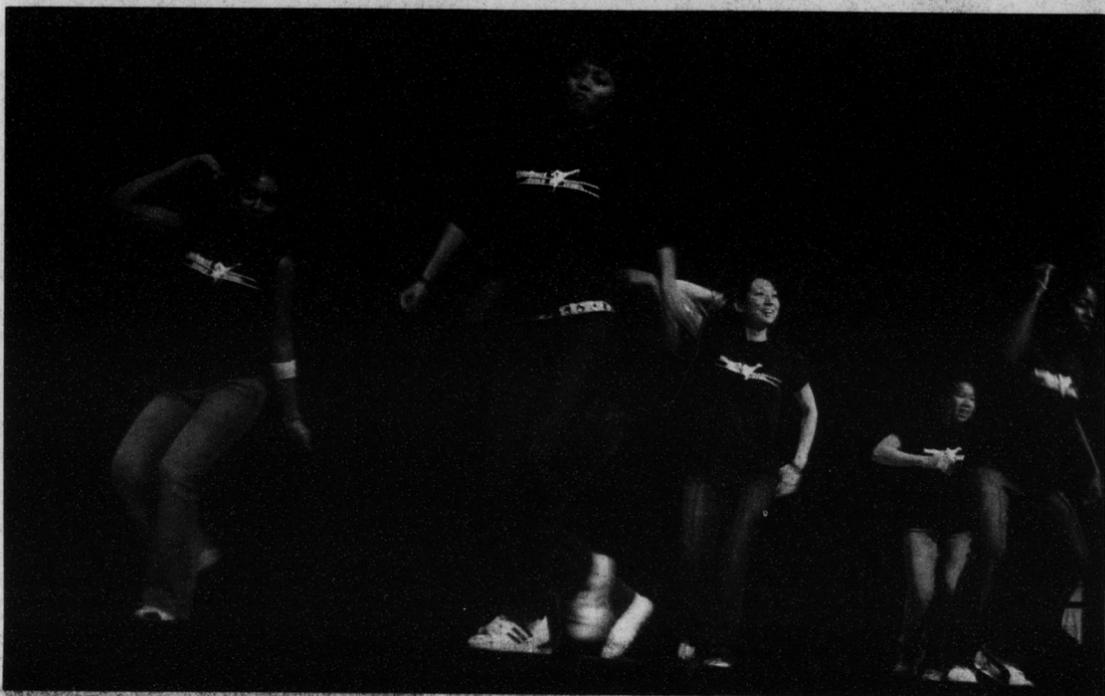
The top U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. George Casey, predicted a "major confrontation" in the operation he said was called "al-Fajr," Arabic for "dawn." He told reporters in Washington that 10,000 to 15,000 U.S. troops along with a smaller number of Iraqi forces were encircling the city.

The offensive is considered the most important military effort to re-establish government control over Sunni strongholds west of Baghdad before elections in January.

"One part of the country cannot remain under the rule of assassins ... and the remnants of Saddam Hussein's regime,"

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NIGHT OF THE DIVAS



DTH/PAT LAPADULA

Kamikazi Dance Team performs Monday during "Night of the Divas" in the Great Hall of the Student Union. The benefit show for the Orange County Rape Crisis Center was sponsored by Advocates for Sexual Assault Prevention, which organizes two shows a

year featuring diverse performance groups at UNC. The Orange County Rape Crisis Center is a nonprofit, volunteer organization that promotes awareness and prevention of sexual violence while providing aid services for victims and their families. For the full story, visit www.dthonline.com.

Pundits already place bets on 2008

BY INDIA AUTRY
STAFF WRITER

The day after last week's elections, pundits already were making projections about who will run for national and state office in 2008.

Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., is the most likely Democratic presidential nominee next time around, but some say she might have to beat out a couple of Tar Heels to get there.

Former vice presidential candidate Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., might compete for the White House again, but his failure to carry his home state or the South indicates he probably doesn't have a chance, said Don Carrington, vice president of the John Locke Foundation.

"I think it's going to be hard to overcome the

"I imagine (Gov. Mike Easley would) be kind of surprised to know his name was on the list."

THAD BEYLE, UNC POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR

Hillary machine," he said.

Voters put Gov. Mike Easley back in office last Tuesday for his second and last term, and there are nationwide whispers that the Democrat might soon head for the White House. The N.C. Democratic Party said that's a definite possibility.

Easley's ability to carry a Republican state has proved him a winner, said Schorr Johnson, the party's communications director.

If Easley chooses to pursue the presidency, he could make the cut, Johnson said. "He would have a lot to offer. He would be a very viable candidate."

Thad Beyle, a professor of political science at UNC, said he doubts that Easley has aspirations for the highest office in the country. "I imagine he'd be kind of surprised to know his

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Edwards likely to regroup with presidential aspirations

BY MARK PUENTE
STAFF WRITER

Only one week after Election Day, speculation has begun to fly regarding the next presidential race — and pundits already are wondering what it would take for the son of a mill worker to capture the Democratic nomination in 2008.

"John Edwards is going to spend the next four years running for president," said William Union, professor of political science at Mount Union College. "I think he is going to make a good run at it."

A self-made millionaire-turned-senator, the North Carolina Democrat went from first-term lawmaker to vice presidential nominee after only six years on Capitol Hill, getting tapped as Sen. John Kerry's running mate in Kerry's bid for the White House.

Now, Edwards faces unemployment in January after vacating his Senate seat. But he might have taken the first steps toward renewing his career during his forward-looking introduction of Kerry's concession speech.

"We didn't stop fighting for you when this campaign began, and we won't stop fighting for you when this campaign ends," Edwards said, striking a tone quite different from that of Kerry's conciliatory speech.

For Edwards' immediate future, politics

will be on hold while his wife, Elizabeth, confronts breast cancer. She decided to delay treatment until after the election.

But ultimately, if he wants to run for president, he must get back on the campaign trail — a job for which being unemployed might bode well in the coming years.

One pundit said it is crucial for Edwards to hit the "rubber chicken circuit" and get heavily involved with local party activists, speaking and grassroots organizing.

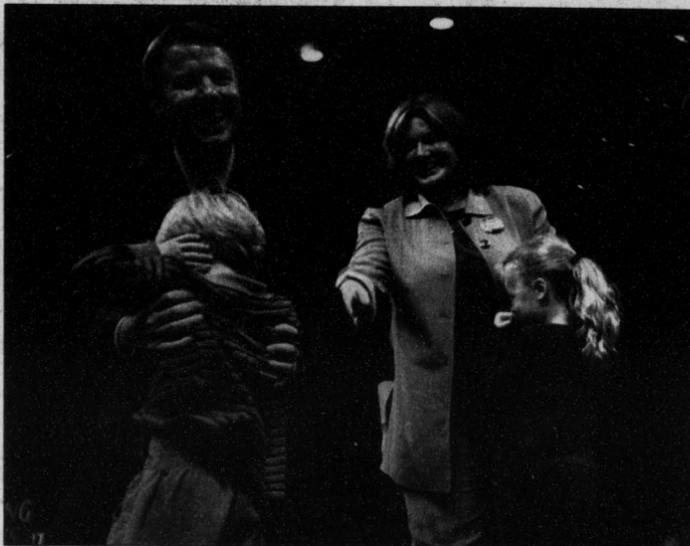
"Anybody who is going to be serious in 2008 is going to start having conversations after the 1st of the year," said Edward Sidlow, professor of political science at Eastern Michigan University. "Within 18 months, they have to start exploratory committees."

During the primary season in 2004, Edwards' bid for the presidency took him to Iowa's 99 counties before many of his challengers.

When he bowed out of the race after Super Tuesday, he did not sit idle on the sidelines, instead developing an aggressive fund-raising and speaking strategy that led to being selected for the national ticket.

Being a member of a losing ticket shouldn't hurt Edwards' chances for a comeback, said

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DTH FILE PHOTO/LAURA MORTON

A likely presidential candidate for 2008, N.C. Sen. John Edwards is joined on stage by his son, Jack; wife, Elizabeth; and daughter Emma Claire during a campaign stop in Raleigh last month.

ONLINE

- "Divas" raise money to benefit OCRCC
- Officials hold talks on privatization
- County schools to get online profiles

- Reed speaks on campus technology
 - Freshman phenom makes waves
- For these stories, visit dthonline.com.

INSIDE

A FEW GOOD MEN

UNC students who double as soldiers speak about the time they have spent in the hot deserts of Iraq **PAGE 2**

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THURSDAY Partly cloudy, H 66, L 52

