

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 112, ISSUE 141

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005

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Bush takes steps toward bold agenda

Social Security, democracy key for 2nd term

BY INDIA AUTRY
STAFF WRITER

The future of America will be protected by a new Social Security system at home and democratic rule worldwide, President Bush said Wednesday night during the State of the Union address before Congress.

Social Security, put in place almost 70 years ago, hasn't adjusted to current demands, Bush said, calling the system archaic and outdated.

"The system on its current path is headed toward bankruptcy," he said.

Past proposals such as limiting benefits

for wealthy retirees and President Clinton's suggested raise of the retirement age will be carefully considered.

"All these ideas are on the table," Bush said. "I will listen to anyone with a good idea."

Privatizing Social Security payments will give investors more for their money, Bush said, perhaps leaving enough money for individuals to pass on to their children.

"As we fix Social Security, we have (a responsibility to create) a better deal for our younger workers," he said. "We want to set aside part of that money so (they) can

build a nest egg."

Changes in the system won't affect retirees or those who will soon join their ranks, Bush said.

UNC political science professor Isaac Unah said that Bush's willingness to consider other proposals might be sincere, but that he won't compromise on privatization.

Bush's portrayal was attractive, but it ignored important issues, Unah said. Stock market money isn't protected from mismanagement by corporate leaders.

"That's your personal freedom, but



President George W. Bush focused on social security in his Wednesday State of the Union address.

someone else is managing your money."

Bush also has strategically downplayed the risk of stock market investments, Unah said. "He's not talking nothing at all about what might potentially

happen if people make the transition into the system he's currently proposing."

The partisan reaction to Bush's Social Security talk — Republicans standing and Democrats sitting out applause — reflects the divisiveness of the issue, Unah said.

The threat of poverty for retirees isn't the only security issue for the United States,

Bush said. Nondemocratic governments, such as Iraq under Saddam Hussein's rule, must be transformed from breeding grounds for terrorists into democratic allies against the war on terror, he added.

UNC political science professor Layna Mosley said the links Bush drew between a pre-war Iraq and terrorism are misleading. There's no evidence of Iraqi terror before the U.S. invasion, but the confusion the war caused might have attracted it.

"Now it is true that al-Qaida likes to go to Iraq because it's an easy place to be," she said.

Bush said the insurgents' continued vio-

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Service leader steps down

Dubose resigns from Campus Y

BY BRIAN HUDSON AND JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ
SENIOR WRITERS

After taking a 10-day hiatus from his post last semester, Campus Y Co-president Derwin Dubose said he had reassessed and renewed his faith in the direction of the organization.

He decided Wednesday that the direction no longer included him and resigned from his position.

"I've completed all of my platform at the Y, and we've done everything I expected to do in leaps and bounds," he said. "My work is done."

Dubose will resign officially from the position next Thursday, two days after Campus Y members elect next year's leaders.

He said he decided to resign after the elections to facilitate the transition to new leadership. As a lame-duck president, his role in the office would have diminished.

"When your platform is done, really, there is not much to do other than the day-to-day maintenance," he said.

Elizabeth Sonntag, co-president of the group, will assume sole leadership of the Campus Y until the end of her term in late March.

While she acknowledged Dubose's contributions, she said the organization will run smoothly with a single student leader.

"One person stepping down is not going to stop us from accomplishing our goals in the time that we have left," she said.

SEE RESIGNATION, PAGE 4

"One of the most precious things at the University is the serious role that students play in decision-making. ... There was some damage done." JAMES MOESER, CHANCELLOR



Speaker Charlie Anderson (right) hands Chancellor James Moeser two resolutions made Tuesday night by Student Congress. Anderson drafted the resolutions, which oppose the out-of-state tuition hike and the cumulative \$150 athletics fee increase approved by the Board of Trustees.

CHANCELLOR COMES UNDER FIRE

BY JENNY RUBY
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

What was billed as an informal chat quickly became an emotional exchange Wednesday when students put the University's leading administrator on the spot.

Vocal student leaders demanded an explanation for recent tuition and fee decisions from Chancellor James Moeser during the Chancellor's Open House in Graham Memorial.

More than 80 students assembled for a chance to ask questions of the chancellor, who explained his position for the first time to those directly affected by the Board of Trustees' approval of a controversial student fee hike and a tuition increase for the coming year.

About 30 minutes into the meeting, Charlie Anderson, speaker of Student Congress, passed Moeser two resolutions condemning the \$950 tuition hike for nonresidents and a two-year \$150 increase in the athletics fee.

Congress passed both resolutions, which were written by Anderson, Tuesday night. Students questioned why trustees passed

the fee proposal after the Student Fee Audit Committee and Chancellor's Committee on Student Fees both rejected the plan. The proposal seeks to provide stable funding sources for both merit-based scholarships and Olympic sports programs.

"Frankly, I was as surprised as anyone else that action was taken by the Board of Trustees," Moeser said.

The BOT lowered both in-state and out-of-state tuition recommendations accordingly by \$50, yielding respective proposals of \$200 and \$950. But students still are fuming over the fee proposal — presented just days before the board's meeting, forcing student advisory committees to hold emergency meetings.

"It was more than just a procedural thing," Anderson said. "Beyond that, the substance of the fee was also a serious problem for us. If we had gone through the entire (fee approval) process, we might have thought it was worthwhile."

Moeser insisted that this was the first time a proposal had been issued and approved with-

out following the established process. But he agreed with students that the BOT's sudden decision was not necessarily the best path.

"One of the most precious things at the University is the serious role that students play in decision-making," he said. "I think we have to recognize there was some damage done."

Student Attorney General Carolina Chavez said she is concerned about the lack of consideration for the recommendations of both student advisory committees. "I count on my administration to really reflect what our needs are," she said.

Anderson said he wishes Moeser had given students more of a voice during the trustees' meeting. "We really needed him to step up and say 'I am going against my advisory committees,'" Anderson said.

Moeser also addressed the concerns of an out-of-state student who questioned the value placed on nonresidents by the University.

"If you look at people who hold leadership

SEE OPEN HOUSE, PAGE 4

Council ties could influence elections

BY SUSIE DICKSON
STAFF WRITER

To increase student involvement in town politics, student body president candidates have a variety of plans to get students out to the polls for this year's municipal elections.

And one candidate's plans have resulted in an endorsement that has candidates questioning how much the town should be involved in student elections.

According to Orange County election records, only 329 voters aged 18 to 22

voted in Chapel Hill's November 2003 municipal elections.

Candidate Seke Ballard said he wants to get students involved in town elections by first getting Chapel Hill Town Council members to represent students as they do all residents.

"We're over half of their constituency," he said. "Their job is to make decisions that are in all of our interests."

Ballard said the impending redevelopment of downtown parking lots 2 and 5 should interest students because both will result in additional housing and retail space.

Candidate Seth Dearmin, who worked with former Student Body President Matt Tepper to rally for an on-campus voting precinct, said the precinct is vital to student involvement in town elections.

He also said he thought the voting precinct could feasibly be open for this fall's town elections, increasing student voter turnout.

Candidate Leigha Blackwell said that registering every student to vote is the first step to getting them involved in town politics.

She said she thinks students should be concerned about town issues such as lighting and safety.

Blackwell also said she would like to have a student committee for the council to serve as a liaison between students and town

SEE TOWN, PAGE 4

Ballard, Jensen garner endorsements

ASA, Sangam split on SBP selection

BY MARTA OSTROWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Student body president candidates met a divided audience Wednesday night as they presented their platforms at a multicultural forum.

The event, co-sponsored by Sangam and the Asian Students Association, resulted in an endorsement for two candidates.

Tom Jensen received an endorsement from Sangam, and the ASA endorsed Seke Ballard.

"We decided to sponsor Tom Jensen," said Prerak Bathia, politi-

cal chairman for Sangam.

"Even though the other candidates did very well, we felt that he had the qualities that we were looking for."

In contrast, ASA members sponsored Ballard.

"We felt that he is the most involved on campus and minority affairs," said Kelli Clancy, political chairwoman for ASA. "We thought that he would best represent our organization."

Talks of tuition and improving multiculturalism dominated the forum, and attendees said that in

the end, Jensen and Ballard had the best plans to address these concerns.

"Tuition is definitely the biggest issue in the running," Jensen said. His platform calls for creating a "Quality Student Retention Fund" through the University's Carolina First fund-raising campaign that would put money away to combat cost hikes.

Ballard echoed Jensen's comments. "Keeping tuition low and making Carolina available to everyone is very important."

If elected, Ballard hopes to mobilize student voters at all 16 UNC-system schools to rally against tuition hikes. He also

would encourage the guardians of all system students to write letters to trustees and administrators opposing such increases.

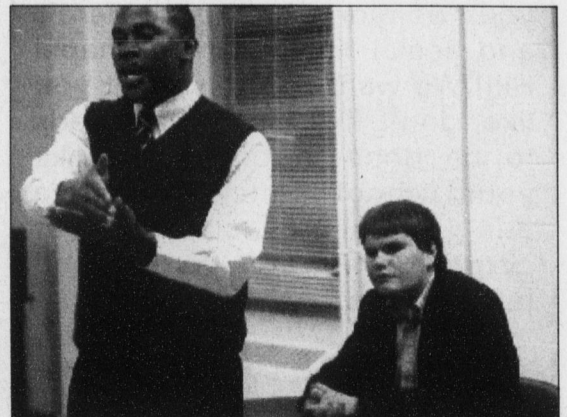
Although the candidates had dissimilar views regarding the best way to augment diversity, each one said it is a major campus issue.

If elected, Ballard said, he hopes to create an international festival that would be similar to UNC's annual Fall Fest.

Similarly, candidate Seth Dearmin said he plans to hold more events in the Pit and aid more multicultural groups.

"It's not only about just having

SEE SANGAM, PAGE 4



Candidates Seke Ballard (left) and Tom Jensen were endorsed by ASA and Sangam, respectively, following the groups' Wednesday night forum.

dive
ONLINE

Check out the online Arts & Entertainment section for a review of the latest from Ani DiFranco and for critiques of the not-so thrilling "Elektra" and "Hide and Seek."



SPORTS

NOT JUST ANOTHER WILLIAMS

Jawad Williams, the leading scorer on the men's basketball team, is also their quiet leader PAGE 11

WEATHER

TODAY Wintry mix, H 41, L 31
FRIDAY Partly cloudy, H 47, L 31
SATURDAY Sunny, H 56, L 30

