

The Daily Tar Heel

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Governor unveils budget plan

BY THE NUMBERS



N.C. Gov. Mike Easley wants to see more funding for education.

Would fund growth, nix in-state hikes

BY INDIA AUTRY
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Mike Easley wants to expand funding for all levels of education and raise the cigarette tax, according to his budget proposal released Wednesday.

Easley's \$16.9 billion budget would offset any financial aid cuts by President Bush, including those to Pell Grants, and take on the costs of increased enrollment at colleges and universi-

ties, said Ran Coble, director of the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research.

"He's asking North Carolina to do what the federal government isn't doing," he said.

Easley would give community colleges, the UNC system and private colleges \$84.5 million more in resources. The budget calls for a freeze on in-state tuition increases at UNC-system schools, as well as \$73.6

million for system enrollment growth and \$19 million for financial aid.

But the majority of Easley's additional \$532 million in assistance to education wouldn't go to higher education, Coble said. K-12 is still the priority, but the governor is shifting his focus from the lower to upper grades.

"He's putting more emphasis on high schools this time," Coble said.

Easley would expand the Learn and Earn program, which allows students to receive a high school diploma and an associate's degree in five years.

A N.C. Supreme Court ruling earlier this year demanding better education for poor areas is likely to be behind an expansion of the programs for disadvantaged and low-wealth students, totaling an additional \$41.6 million, said Ferrel Guillory, director of UNC's Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life.

"It's responding to the Leandro case — that everybody gets a good education, no matter where they are,"

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 6

16.9	35
In billions, dollars in Easley's budget	In cents, proposed hike in cigarette tax
74	0
In millions, dollars for college growth	Dollars from tuition hikes for residents

A LOVE SUPREME



DTH/WHITNEY SHEPTE

Ray Vega plays trumpet at the kickoff of the 2005 Carolina Jazz Festival in the Student Union Cabaret on Wednesday night. The festival, which is in its 28th year, began with a panel discussion called "Thinking in Jazz," which allowed all the featured musicians to tell stories about their backgrounds and

influences. The discussion was followed by a jam session with all featured musicians. The festival will continue through Saturday and will include not only professional musicians but also members of the faculty and both high school and college students. Students can obtain tickets at a discount. For the full story, see page 12.

Insurance might be required

Officials could implement new policy by fall of 2006

BY KATIE HOFFMANN
STAFF WRITER

Semester to semester, Bob Wirag sees uninsured students leave the University for circumstances beyond their control.

"Every year it happens," said the director of the University's Student Health Service. "Students don't think they'll get sick or hospitalized, but then they end up dropping out of school because they need to get a job to pay for their hospital bills."

To alleviate such situations, UNC-system officials are considering making health insurance mandatory for all students — a step that follows in the path of other public institutions of higher education.

Health directors at the 16 universities in the UNC system have met with the state insurance office to discuss plans, and officials said such a mandate is likely to go into effect in fall 2006 but could become policy as early as next fall.

"We think it's a good idea to pursue so that all students would have health insurance for both the physical and mental illnesses that come up during college," said Margaret Jablonski, UNC-CH vice chancellor for student affairs.

Other public institutions — such as the University

SEE INSURANCE, PAGE 4



Vice chancellor Margaret Jablonski is backing the insurance push.

Cases alter academic climates

BY KATHERINE EVANS
STAFF WRITER

University officials throughout the nation are watching with interest as lawyers involved in the Alpha Iota Omega lawsuit at UNC try to hash out a compromise before Monday's deadline.

The Christian fraternity's lawsuit against UNC is the latest episode in a legal movement that has swept across some of the country's top public universities during the past five years.

The cases haven't been cataclysmic, officials said, but they have sparked important dialogue — while at the same time forcing leaders to make sure that the polarization the cases have caused won't lead to further conflict.

"I think that we always have to be concerned about the climate," said Gerald Rinehart, associate vice provost for student affairs at the University of Minnesota.

In 2003, the Maranatha Christian Fellowship — a campus religious group — sued UMin. It claimed that forcing campus groups to sign an "equal opportunity statement" violated their constitutional right to free expression.

The case led to increased debate on campus, Rinehart said, and he fears that extremism could have a chilling effect on tolerance at the university — especially of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students, or of the students who

SEE SETTLEMENTS, PAGE 4

These are the first in a series of stories documenting the culminations of the yearlong efforts of Dance Marathon and UNC Habitat for Humanity. Both groups will be holding their banner events this weekend — activities that will be covered in a 2-page spread inside The Daily Tar Heel on Monday.

Marathon unites service groups

BY VIRGINIA WOOTEN
STAFF WRITER

The largest charity effort on campus, Dance Marathon raised more than \$170,000 and featured more than 600 dancers last year.

The organization's size has the potential to overshadow other campus charities, but many student leaders claim it actually unites the different service groups.

Founded in 1998 by then-UNC student Michael Bucy, Dance Marathon raises money for families with children at the N.C. Children's Hospital.

Now in its seventh year, it is one of the most well-known charity events on campus.

"Everyone in Dance Marathon is pretty much involved with other organizations as well," said junior Shannon

O'Shaughnessy, co-president of the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega and Dance Marathon's dancer coordinator.

"No one does just one thing. It's a great way to bring cohesion and unify people from all organizations for one cause."

O'Shaughnessy spends about 15 hours a week working with Dance Marathon on top of the 15 hours she spends a week on efforts for APO.

The Greek system historically has played a large role in the marathon. More than 250 Panhellenic members are volunteering this year.

But many leaders of other campus charity organizations said it doesn't hurt them that Dance Marathon takes center stage each spring semester.

"We serve children in a different capacity," said Dave Scott, a senior and co-president of APO.

The service fraternity concentrates on other local charities, including Carolina Pediatric Attention, Love and Support, a buddy system for cancer patients.

"If anything, I think it complements what we do," Scott said.

While maintaining a spirit of cooperation, campus charities are forced to recognize Dance Marathon as the definitive high-profile organization at UNC.

"They are so well-established that they have good name recognition," said

SEE CHARITIES, PAGE 4

Habitat to build a home

BY NATALIE HAMMEL
STAFF WRITER

On Friday morning, when many students are still sleeping off their Thursday nights, volunteers for UNC Habitat for Humanity will begin the intensive endeavor of building most of a house in just three days.

Known as a "Blitz Build," it's a project Chapel Hill hasn't seen since 1998. When completed, it will provide a UNC employee and her family with a home.

The house's structure might go up in three days, but raising the money to build it has taken a lot longer.

For about a year, Habitat has been raising funds to meet a target of \$30,000 — one-half the cost of the house.

Will Harrison, fund-raising chairman for Habitat, said the group has brought in between \$17,000 and \$18,000.

Several other organizations, including the Kenan-Flagler Business School, the Department of City and Regional Planning and Orange County Habitat for Humanity, are contributing to the building costs.

Together, Harrison said, the groups have generated about \$56,000, only a bit shy of the full \$60,000 price tag for building a Habitat house in Orange County.

SEE FUND RAISING, PAGE 4



DTH/MIKE RAABE

Susan Moeser (right), University organist and the chancellor's wife, talks with guests at Chapel of the Cross after playing an hourlong benefit show.

dive
ONLINE

Local band reels audiences in with new album
Heard Together a good portrait of Tar Heel scene
Check out the arts calendar at www.dthonline.com.



ONLINE
ANSWER MAN
UNC sophomore Bernard Holloway appears on "Jeopardy." More stories at www.dthonline.com.

WEATHER
TODAY A.M. ice, H 35, L 26
FRIDAY Mostly cloudy, H 47, L 26
SATURDAY Sunny, H 53, L 27

