

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 113, ISSUE 3

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2005

www.dthonline.com

Budget gives boost to UNC system

BY THE NUMBERS

1.3 **73.6**
In billions, state's likely shortfall In millions, enrollment growth funds

11.8 **1**
In millions, financial aid funding Percent budget cut to UNC system

OFFICIALS SAY THEY'RE PLEASED WITH GOVERNOR EASLEY'S PLANS

BY LAURA YOUNGS
SENIOR WRITER

UNC-system schools got a boost from the governor this week with a budget proposal that promises to fully fund enrollment growth and financial aid needs.

But with an estimated \$1.3 billion debt looming over the state, debate has just begun about how to allot the money.

Under Gov. Mike Easley's proposal, system schools would get \$73.6 million in enrollment growth funding — the amount requested by the Board of Governors — and another \$11.8 million for financial

aid. That number includes \$3.2 million to cover cuts made last year to the federal Pell Grant by Congress.

Part of the aid money will come from the General Fund, while the rest will come from the state's Escheats fund, said J.B. Buxton, Easley's senior education adviser. The Escheats fund consists of the interest from unclaimed inheritances sitting in banks.

The proposal also calls for tuition freezes for in-state students. But schools could face a 1 percent budget cut, which would make for some difficult decisions when added to previous cuts, said Jeff Davies, UNC-system

vice president for finance.

The General Assembly reduced system schools' budgets by 1.7 percent last year.

Easley's proposal also includes \$2.4 million for a joint partnership between system schools and N.C. community colleges that aids in teacher preparation, as well as \$1 million for scholarship loans for prospective teachers.

The N.C. Teaching Fellows program will see a \$330,000 boost to establish a new scholarship for college juniors and seniors.

Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland, said Senate members are supportive of Easley's budget proposal. "Easley has worked very hard to put a program together that will help the university without costing the students additional amounts of tuition."

Officials say they are pleased with the

numbers, but some say they wish other programs had made their way into the budget.

"I think it indicates the governor's strong commitment to higher education, and (BOG members) were generally pleased with that level of support," said Brad Wilson, BOG chairman.

But he said he had hoped for \$4 million to aid the state's nursing shortage, as well as equity funding for UNC-Wilmington and Appalachian State University.

Davies said he is concerned about a proposed 2 percent increase in state employee salaries, saying it's a positive step forward but won't be enough to address the need for competitive salaries for faculty and staff. The BOG originally asked for a 6

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 4

Honors track slow to change

Fiscal challenges delay expansion

BY ERIN ZUREICK
STAFF WRITER

The much talked about expansion of UNC's Honors Program has hit a standstill, as officials continue to search for funds that could make the initiative a reality.

Chancellor James Moeser first highlighted the proposal in his 2002 State of the University address, arguing that bolstering the program would ensure that UNC stayed competitive with its peer schools.

But the University has yet to line up a major sponsor, and no changes will occur until officials secure about \$20 million in funding through the Carolina First campaign.

The campaign, UNC's private fund-raising effort, has pledged to raise \$40 million for the Honors Program by June 2007.

Del Helton, director of communications for the Arts & Sciences Foundation — the fund-raising arm of the College of Arts & Sciences — said the campaign has raised about \$12 million to \$13 million of that money.

The expansion would include at least 10 additional faculty positions, which in turn would help increase enrollment, said James Leloudis, associate dean of the program.

"A smaller program definitely puts us at a competitive disadvantage," he said, noting that he hopes to find a funding source within the next year.

The Honors Program accepts 200 students from a pool of about 3,500 incoming students each year.

Leloudis said he wants to see annual enrollment bolstered to 350 students, or 10 percent of each class.

Such an increase would place the number of students in the Honors Program in line with peer universities.

Steve Farmer, director of undergraduate admissions, said the Office of Admissions often uses the Honors Program as a selling point when recruiting potential students to campus.

"Students are attracted to the notion of working within a smaller community," he said.

SEE HONORS, PAGE 4

ON AMERICAN SOIL



DTH/SARA LEWKOWICZ

Abby Hogan, 8, clings to her father, Maj. Tim Hogan, on Wednesday night at the New River Marine Corps Air Station in New River after he returns from a seven-month stint in Iraq. Hogan is a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Medium Helicopter Squadron 365, also known as the Blue Knights. His family, along with the families of several other Marines, showed up in order to greet the returning soldiers.

UNC both helped, hurt by spotlight

BY CATHERINE ROBBS
STAFF WRITER

When the members of Alpha Iota Omega fraternity filed a federal lawsuit questioning UNC's nondiscrimination policy, the University found itself smothered in press releases, headlines and media scrutiny.

But it might not be a bad thing, some officials said.

Despite the potential to smear the University's image, the case could become a venue to prove UNC's dedication to discourse.

"Good public relations is about getting people to recognize that you do have values and that you are willing to listen to contrary point of views," said Larry Lamb, professor in public relations in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

In response to the debate sparked by the 2002 summer reading selection, "Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations," UNC issued press releases and invited the community to join in the discussions.

Officials also have opened the summer reading selection process to the media.

"Making the process as visible as possible can sometimes be a very helpful technique because people may react based on not having enough information," said Lois Boynton, professor in the journalism school.

This type of two-way communication between the parties

involved is a public relations measure to avoid crisis, said Tom Kelleher, professor in the journalism school.

While serving as a means to educate the public, providing an atmosphere of open communication can frame UNC as a forum for debate.

"On the whole, I take these controversies as an affirmation that Carolina is the type of place I want to do my scholarship and teaching," said James Leloudis, associate dean of the Honors Program. "It's an institution actively engaged with key issues in our society."

Despite these benefits, the accusations against the University also can project a negative image.

"Publicity is very difficult, particularly when the issue is large and emotional and gets to the core of how people feel and what they believe," Boynton said.

Recent controversies such as the AIO lawsuit and the Quran summer reading selection fit Boynton's description because

SEE PUBLICITY, PAGE 4



Assistant honors dean James Leloudis said controversy is good for UNC.

Student rebuilt UNC's Habitat

BY ELANA JONES
STAFF WRITER

With more than 2,000 members, UNC Habitat for Humanity is one of the largest student organizations on campus — but it couldn't have been done without Matt Williamson.

"The biggest thing for me was driving publicity and fund-raisers. ... I really wanted to harness the energy of so many excited students," said Williamson, who took the group's reins in 1991.

"I used to joke with the director of the Campus Y — I told her that by the time I left campus, everyone would have heard of Habitat for Humanity."

Habitat for Humanity International was founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller to provide decent, affordable housing for people across the globe. According to the organization's Web site, Habitat has either

built or rehabilitated more than 175,000 homes for 750,000 people in more than 3,000 communities since its inception.

"The club was founded before I got to Carolina, but the general campus meetings consisted of about eight people — and two of them were the co-chairs," Williamson said.

At the same time, Dr. Henry Clark, chapter adviser of Habitat, recruited Sigma Nu fraternity and Chi Omega sorority with Chapel of the Cross church to form the first UNC Habitat Partnership.

"I wanted young people to participate in an experience that involved giving rather than receiving," Clark said.

As president of UNC Habitat, Williamson mostly was concerned with increasing the organization's visibility on campus and also coordinated the first official UNC Habitat Spring Break trip.

"The first time we took a Spring Break trip for Habitat, we went to New Orleans and it coin-

SEE HABITAT, PAGE 4

Marathon gears for long haul

BY ALI GRAY
STAFF WRITER

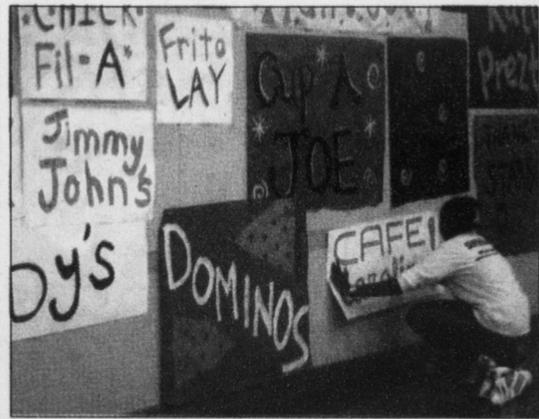
As 7 p.m. approaches, committee members will hang the last of the hand-painted banners adorning the walls of Fetzer Gym.

Dancers will boost their strength, relishing in midday naps in the last hours before they take the floor.

And men's basketball coach Roy Williams will prepare to kick off the seventh annual UNC Dance Marathon.

Starting tonight, hundreds of dancers will remain on their feet for 24 hours to raise money for the For the Kids Fund, which benefits the N. C. Children's Hospital.

Everything will be ready to go,



DTH/PERRY MYRICK

A Dance Marathon committee member hangs up signs in Fetzer Gym Thursday night in preparation for the 24-hour philanthropic event.

Planning for the marathon has been under way for about 11 months.

"It's pretty much an ongoing process," said junior Julia Shalen, the overall coordinator.

SEE MARATHON, PAGE 4

ONLINE

■ States with stricter laws see less binge drinking
■ Poet reads from latest book, upcoming work
For these stories and more, visit www.dthonline.com.

INSIDE

GHOST TOWN
Students fail to reserve spaces in UNC's apartment complex **PAGE 2**



SPORTS

HEELS' HOUSE
Women's basketball team beats UVa. to finish with perfect home record **PAGE 6**

WEATHER

TODAY Partly cloudy, H 49, L 27
SATURDAY Sunny, H 53, L 29
SUNDAY Mostly cloudy, H 52, L 32

