

School of Nursing dreads potential cuts to budget

BY JACKI SPIES
STAFF WRITER

Linda Cronenwett, dean of the School of Nursing, will be keeping her fingers crossed until August.

At that time, members of the N.C. General Assembly will announce their final budget cuts to the UNC system — and decide the fate of the nursing school's admissions and many of its programs.

The state already faces a large shortage of nurses, and the UNC system has taken a look at ways to fix the problem in recent years.

Cuts to funding at UNC-Chapel Hill's school would be a step back, Cronenwett said. Funding for the School of Nursing already has reached a dire situation, and any more budget cuts could drastically affect how the school operates.

"We have eliminated pretty much what we could in the budget cuts that came before, so we're just hoping that we are not asked to implement any further cuts," she said.

But in proposed budget scenarios submitted to the UNC-system Office of the President last week, officials said the nursing school likely would sustain further cuts.

"We have already squeezed enormously in maintaining our current number of students in times of budget cuts," Cronenwett said.

Because the nursing school offers a tight schedule of programs for students — almost all credit hours in the school are required courses — budget cuts would reduce the number of enrolled students.

"Our only option — given that we have minimal elective options

and all of our courses are essentially required — is to decrease admissions," Cronenwett said.

The nursing school would decrease enrollment by increments of eight to 10 students, though budget cuts wouldn't affect those numbers until the 2006-07 academic year.

Cronenwett added that budget cuts will have the greatest effect on undergraduate students, whose program requires close regulation by faculty members.

Students work in clusters of eight to 10 when working with a patient. Reducing a class size by 10 could cut one instructor.

Cronenwett said faculty members are discouraged each year when they review qualified students in the applicant pool and are unable to admit them.

Steve Allred, executive associate provost, said the potential reductions will have a ripple effect in terms of the number of certified nurses available in the state. "We all want to be able to go to the emergency room or hospital and know there are able nurses there."

Yet UNC's nursing school rejects hundreds of qualified students each year.

"Our state needs a dramatically increased production of nurses over the next 20 years in order to come close to meeting the projected number of people with health care needs at that time," Cronenwett said. "The state needs nurses in order for health care to be available to its citizens."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Latinos to assemble for legislative push

BY MEREDITH LEE MILLER
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Local and state advocacy groups hope to mobilize support for changes to laws considered unfair to Latinos in North Carolina.

A delegation of representatives will lean on grassroots support in making legislative requests April 6 at the second Latino Day at the Legislature in downtown Raleigh.

On this day, Latinos are encouraged to talk with legislators about issues that affect them and to suggest ideas for new laws.

Marisol Jiménez, advocacy director for the Latino-centered group El Pueblo Inc. in Raleigh, spoke to a group of youths and residents Monday at the Pa'lante teen center, at 110 W. Main St. in Carrboro, with the hopes of encouraging them to attend the event.

"We don't have to be victims to the laws," she said to attendees. "We have to challenge things."

Jiménez said local Latinos should be concerned about proposed legal restrictions on driver's licenses and access to in-state tuition — some of the focuses of this year's event.

"Without a driver's license you are just paralyzed around here," said Laura Wenzel, executive director of Pa'lante — a group committed to helping Latino youth.

She said immigrants who work in the area are handicapped by driving restrictions.

A bill now referred to the House Judiciary Committee would require legal residency and other requirements to apply for a driver's license.

A driver's license should be guaranteed as long as a person can pass a driving test and knows the rules

of the road, Wenzel said.

Access to higher education is also considered a crucial issue because Latinos who are undocumented citizens are not eligible for in-state tuition.

"We're investing so much money in educating these kids at the elementary and secondary level," Wenzel said. "But we're kind of wasting our money if these kids can't have access to a university."

Other issues being pushed for consideration include increasing the tobacco tax, addressing compensation for farm workers and increasing access to health care.

Wenzel said Pa'lante is working with El Centro Latino, an advocacy group in Carrboro, to bring more Orange County residents to the state capitol — including youths from the teen center.

Jiménez said it is important to encourage young people to participate even if they are unfamiliar with government or legal issues.

"It's a venue to do something constructive with their frustrations."

About 2,000 people attended the 2003 Latino Day, Jiménez said, noting that the number sent a strong message to legislators.

"It said you cannot ignore us anymore," she said.

Jiménez said those who are planning to attend the event should wear red as a sign of solidarity.

"Everyone should know that you won't be alone that day."

More information about Latino Day can be found by calling 835-1525 or at <http://elpueblo.org>.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Student officials debate openness of meetings

BY STEPHANIE NEWTON
STAFF WRITER

In the wake of debate over Adrian Johnston's nomination for student body vice president, a few students have placed increased scrutiny on student government proceedings.

Tonight, Student Congress will re-examine Johnston's appointment, which failed to garner approval during a contentious meeting last week.

Congress members wrangled over the nomination process, paying particular attention to the closed meetings of the committee that chose top applicants from which

Student Body President-elect Seth Dearmin made his appointments.

A few students have railed against the secrecy of such proceedings, questioning whether N.C. statutes or the Student Code should dictate operations.

But student government leaders said there is no solid precedent for open meetings of the selection committee, which filters applications for student body officer posts.

Student Solicitor General Matt Liles said student government uses the state's open meetings law as a guide: The nature of the body determines if a meeting is open or closed. As UNC is a public institution, it's implied that student government proceedings should be open to the

student body, Liles said.

The Code stipulates that meetings of the executive branch and its constituent committees are open. But the selection committee is not technically part of the executive branch because it includes members from all three branches of student government.

Student Body President Matt Calabria served on the committee and said the group closed the meeting on the basis of three factors — preventing bad blood, averting increased political pressure on committee members and ensuring that too many people didn't weigh in.

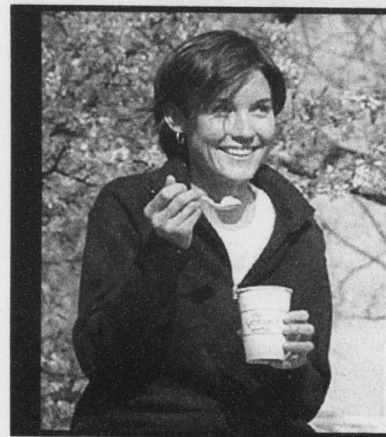
"The legitimate process requires that we don't talk about it," he said. To ensure that the committee

was in the right, Calabria spoke with University legal counsel. Legal advisers instructed student government officials that the committee did not meet all four state criteria to be considered a public body.

"These meetings have always been closed," Calabria said. "It was clearly the will of everybody in the room that the committee be closed."

But Carolina Athletic Association Treasurer Ginny Franks, who submitted a request for the information discussed during committee meetings, said debate about the meeting should center on the Code — not N.C. law. "I think student government is hiding behind legal services' interpretations of N.C. statutes. They are experts on N.C. law, but the Student Code is what applies here."

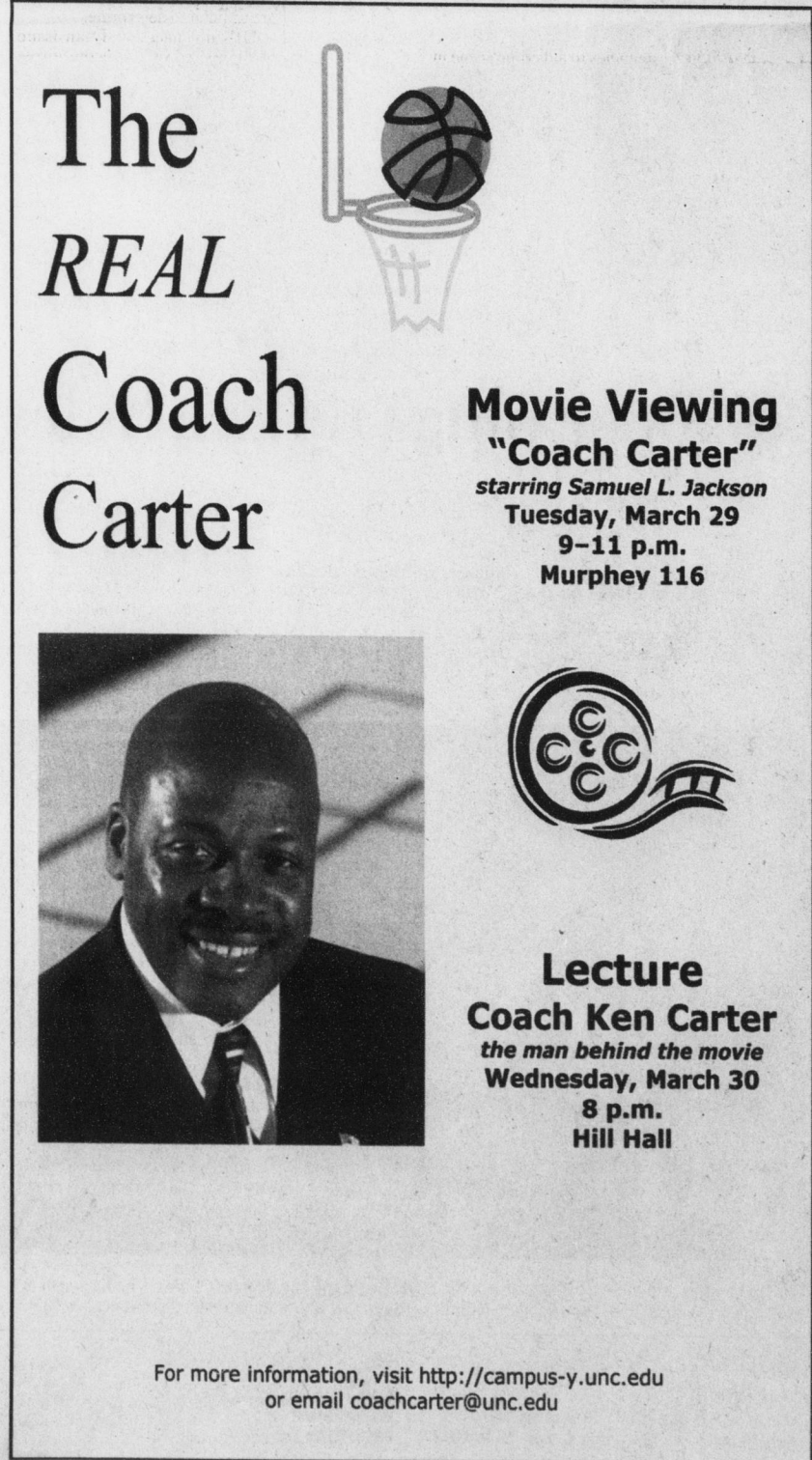
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Movie Viewing "Coach Carter" starring Samuel L. Jackson
Tuesday, March 29
9-11 p.m.
Murphey 116

Lecture Coach Ken Carter
the man behind the movie
Wednesday, March 30
8 p.m.
Hill Hall

For more information, visit <http://campus-y.unc.edu> or email coachcarter@unc.edu

FOR THE PEOPLE
CAROLINA SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer School registration begins:

March 21: Graduate Students, Juniors, Seniors, Visitors
March 23: All Others

Midnight Registration
Open to All Students
Tuesday, March 29 • 11pm-2am

First Session: May 17-June 21
Second Session: June 23-July 29

For complete class listings and course descriptions visit:
www.unc.edu/summer

FREE BEER

WHAT: Luau Party!

WHEN: Thursday, March 31st
9PM - ???

WHO: UNC students w/ student ID

WHERE: CAPITAL FITNESS

WHY: Only \$19.99 a month

WHY: Free food and pool volleyball

WHY: Open 24/7

WHY: Music by DJ Khaki

WHY: No cover, all donations go to Tsunami Relief!

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POLICE LOG

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ Carrboro police arrested a Mebane man at 5:30 p.m. Sunday and charged him with one felony count of possession with intent to sell and distribute marijuana, one felony count of maintaining a vehicle to store and one misdemeanor count of carrying a concealed weapon, police reports state.

According to reports, Calvin Lamont Farrington, 28, was stopped on N.C. 54 for having a mirror tint on the front window of his car. He was arrested after police smelled marijuana coming from the car.

Farrington was issued a \$2,500 unsecured bond and was scheduled to appear Monday in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ Carrboro police arrested a Glenwood Elementary School employee at 5 p.m. Thursday and charged him with one misdemeanor count of possession of marijuana, one misdemeanor count of carrying a concealed weapon and one misdemeanor count of resisting a public officer, police reports state.

According to reports, Henry Lee Carmichael, 18, was arrested on Barnes Street after police received an armed robbery complaint at Abbey Court apartments.

Reports state that the victim said he was robbed by three men. The victim said one of the men was carrying two knives and that another was wearing a hooded jacket.

According to reports, police then saw three men, one of whom was wearing a hooded jacket, walking on Barnes Street.

When police told them to stop, Carmichael ran away until police stopped him and forced him to the ground.

Carmichael was issued a written promise to appear May 9 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested a local man at 2:30 a.m. Sunday and charged him with one misdemeanor count of driving while impaired and one misdemeanor count of speeding, police reports state.

According to reports, Goebel Mason Kees, 21, was stopped for going 53 mph in a 35 mph zone on Airport Road.

Reports state that police smelled a strong odor of alcohol on his breath and that Kees performed poorly on field sobriety tests.

Kees registered a 0.12 percent on an Intoxilyzer 5000 test.

Kees was issued a written promise to appear June 27 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.