

# The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 113, ISSUE 40

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2005

[www.dthonline.com](http://www.dthonline.com)

## UNC might have to curb growth



BY ERIC JOHNSON  
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Faced with the possibility of a \$29.4 million reduction in state funds for the coming academic year, UNC-system leaders have expressed concern about the cuts' potential impact on the long-term goal of expanding access for in-state students.

Increasing enrollment to accommodate a burgeoning population of high school graduates has been one of the system's core initiatives in recent years.

But recent comments by system

President Molly Broad and Board of Governors Chairman Brad Wilson suggest that the goal could be threatened if state spending on higher education does not keep pace with the booming student population.

"To fail to accommodate that enrollment growth would be unprecedented," Broad said during last Thursday's board meeting. "It would be to fail to fulfill the university's mission."

"To have to fulfill that mission out of the hides of the other students seems equally unfair," she added.

Wilson said continued budget cuts of the magnitude proposed last week by the N.C. legislature's joint education appropriations subcommittee could make it increasingly difficult to strike a balance between access and quality.

"How can we continue to let students pour in, but yet we're not able to deliver to those that are already there and those that are going to continue to come?" he said, also during Thursday's BOG meeting.

"One way to moderate resource allocation is to narrow that front

door."

Broad said any move to curtail enrollment growth would be wrong for the state and for the university, but campus officials said the combination of increasing enrollment and flat appropriations is severely stretching resources.

"There comes a point where you cannot protect access any longer," said Mark Lanier, assistant to the chancellor at UNC-Wilmington.

"With the severity of the cuts that are being discussed right now, it's

something we have to take a look at."

UNC-W grew by 4.5 percent between the 2003-04 academic year and the fall 2004 semester, adding 495 students to reach a total population of 11,574.

"I think the reality throughout the state is that no one wants access to be diminished in any way," Lanier said. "(But) given the low level of state appropriations that we receive, we may

SEE ENROLLMENT, PAGE 4

## Faison fuels conflict with bold agenda

Rep. makes waves with his proposals

BY WHITNEY ISENHOWER  
STAFF WRITER

Many first-year legislators come to the N.C. House and try to blend in by sneaking in the back door.

Bill Faison thought it better to barre through the front.

With his debate-sparking legislation, the freshman Caswell County Democrat hasn't been afraid to raise a ruckus — or stir up a few county commissioners.

"Representative Faison has struck out in a bold new direction with his first time around," said Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange.

Faison's more controversial pieces of legislation include a redistricting bill for Orange County and two bills that could halt a Carrboro annexation unpopular with affected residents.

"He is introducing bills that have a little more impact than some of the other first-year legislators," said Rep. Verla Insko, D-Orange. "It's

not that typical, but it's certainly not unusual."

The newcomer won office after beating Orange County Commissioner Barry Jacobs in the Democratic primary for House District 50, which includes Caswell County and parts of northern Orange County.

In Orange County, Jacobs — the choice of much of the county establishment — won 53 percent of the vote, while Faison garnered only 41 percent.

But in the manufacturing-heavy Caswell County, Faison used his down-home style to his advantage and ran to a win of 52 percentage points. It gained him a seat in the House, as he had no Republican or Libertarian opponents in the general election.

Now, in a county he lost by 12 percentage points, Faison says he tries to stay involved.

"If you're under the impression that I'm at war with the county commissioners, then that's just not so."

But his critics lament his

SEE FAISON, PAGE 4

## Thrower wants one more shot

BY DEREK HOWLES  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Find some North Carolina students who've seen Laura Gerraughty around campus. Show them her picture and ask if they know who it is.

Odds are they won't say she's a three-time NCAA shot put champion or one of the youngest shot putters at the 2004 Olympics.

No, it's a safe bet that they'll recognize her as something entirely different: "the girl with the sling shot."

And why not? After all, Gerraughty is an expert in launching stuff — namely shots, hammers, discs and 35-pound weights.

But she doesn't use the "sling shot" to fling those things. And despite joking that she'll be "the

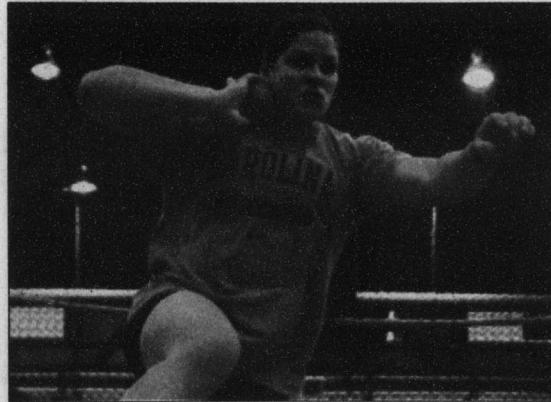
life of the pool party now that I can launch water balloons," it's not intended for that, either.

No matter how it appears, the thing's not a slingshot or water balloon launcher at all — it's a medical device. Gerraughty wears it to try to correct a condition that forced her to quit throwing the shot earlier this year. It's a condition that could force America's shot put queen, at the tender age of 21, to abdicate her throne forever.

Gerraughty's rise to shot put royalty began when she shattered the national prep record in the girls' shot put by almost two feet as a high school thrower in Nashua, N.H.

Still, a curious stiffness stemming from the constant bending

SEE GERRAUGHTY, PAGE 4



North Carolina shot putter Laura Gerraughty redshirted the spring season after suffering from a wrist injury that could end her career in the shot.

BY KATHERINE EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

By the time everyone settled into their seats at Chancellor James Moeser's student forum Tuesday, it was clear that no one wanted to discuss Tom Wolfe's novel "I am Charlotte Simmons."

Instead, Moeser — who said he hoped to discuss the novel as well as proposed UNC-system budget cuts — fielded questions and complaints from frustrated Aramark Corp. workers and the students who support them.

While Student Body Vice President Adrian Johnston prefaced the meeting by describing it as a way for students to open a general dialogue with Moeser, Aramark employees used it as a chance to voice concerns about their

employer.

The controversy surrounding Aramark, the private contractor hired by the University in 2001 to provide food services, reached a head earlier this semester when pro-union employee Vel Dowdy was arrested and charged with embezzlement for allegedly giving away meals.

During Tuesday's forum, many workers shared stories of workplace negligence, unfairness and sexual harassment.

"Aramark treats these people like cattle," said Leslie Sumpter, a union advocate and former Aramark employee.

"They move you around like cattle. These people deserve better."

As the meeting wore on, it became clear that UNC officials will not intervene until Associate University Counsel Joanna Carey Smith finishes her investigation of the allegations.

"We need to make sure we're dealing with facts — not just allegations, but with truth," Moeser said.

Moeser encouraged employees to contact Aramark directly through the corporation's 24-hour hotline.

"You are all employees of Aramark," he said. "You are going to have to go to Aramark."

Although Moeser said he has told Aramark officials that administrators expect the corporation to adhere to its contract with UNC, student advocates said the University should

go beyond the contractual agreement and take swift and immediate action in safeguarding the rights of Aramark employees.

Vocal students, many of them members of Student Action with Workers, want Moeser to support unionization by card-check voting. That process would allow workers personally to solicit signatures in support of collective bargaining.

But Aramark officials said they prefer a secret ballot process for unionization.

Moeser maintained that taking any stance on unionization would violate the University's neutrality. "We are not in the position to do that."

The results of Smith's investigation, administrators say, will determine their plan of action.

"Our role is to help facilitate conversation among everyone," Margaret Jablonski, vice chancellor for student affairs, said earlier Tuesday.

Dowdy, who is on paid leave pending trial, was present at the forum and said the meeting was successful and went better than she had expected.

"It's a big step for us," she said. "My next step is to get my job back. We're going to keep on making steps till this gets done."

Contact the University Editor  
[atodesk@unc.edu](mailto:atodesk@unc.edu).

## Students mixed on officials' openness

BY GREG STEEN  
STAFF WRITER

Campus administrators pride themselves on their efforts to reach out to students, saying that they strive to make themselves available to hear concerns.

But in a University community filled with more than 20,000 student voices, some say they have found the only way to make themselves heard is through a demonstration of force.

A rally held Wednesday in support of Carolina Dining Services employees culminated with participants storming South Building and demanding to meet with administrators.

A week earlier, representatives of Student Action with Workers said it was Chancellor James Moeser's refusal to meet with the group that led them to stage a sit-in at South Building.

But Christopher Payne, associate vice chancellor for student affairs, said all student groups have ample opportunities to meet with University officials.

Student affairs is available "if they

SEE OFFICIALS, PAGE 4



INSIDE

IN FULL BLOOM

Town project lets residents adopt downtown flower boxes to increase community involvement PAGE 10

SPORTS

SNEAKING UP FROM BEHIND

Four-run inning clinches North Carolina's win against Wilmington in season's largest comeback PAGE 9

WEATHER

TODAY Partly cloudy, H 71, L 45

THURSDAY Mostly sunny, H 73, L 54

FRIDAY T-storms, H 79, L 59

