

Congress allots CAA tickets

Gives group 86 tickets instead of 90

BY STEPHANIE NEWTON
STAFF WRITER

Student Congress voted to limit the number of men's basketball ticket allotted to the Carolina Athletic Association during its meeting Tuesday night. Athletic association members only will have 86 tickets reserved per home game next year, compared to 138 reserved seats last season and the 90 the group was aiming to obtain for the coming season. Yet the allotment was greater than many in the CAA and Congress had anticipated. The Rules and Judiciary Committee approved Sunday night an amendment to the Student Code that would allot 50 tickets to the athletic association. Congress voted unanimously Tuesday to attach an addendum to the bill that increased the ticket

allotment to 86. Congress chose the number because it would afford the 43 CAA cabinet members with two tickets each next year. CAA officials initially requested that Congress limit the ticket number to 90. CAA President Justin Johnson said the additional four tickets would have benefited the organization. If membership in the group increases in future years, CAA leaders would be forced to return to Congress to seek more tickets, Johnson said. "In the long run, my people wouldn't have had to come back." Four extra tickets also would have provided the CAA with room for recruitment, Johnson said. Johnson defended athletic association members' request for seating at games by stressing that CAA

members who are organizing ticket distribution cannot obtain tickets in the manner that other students do. The legislation also assures that Congress' decision won't affect the number of tickets given to members of Carolina Fever — currently 200. The decision to regulate CAA's ticket distribution follows yearlong scrutiny of the organization by student government and the student body. Most recently, CAA officials were accused of dipping too deeply into the till and reserving inordinate amount of tickets for themselves. The debate peaked when a Congress representative took CAA leaders to the Student Supreme Court over the ticket cap. Tuesday, representatives of the University's athletic community appeared before Congress to defend CAA, claiming that much has been done of late to remove the tarnish from the organization's name. "I think there has been a lot of

control that has been reeled in that was not there the past year," said Clint Gwaltney, assistant athletic director for the Smith Center and ticket operations. Gwaltney, with whom student officials have been working to discuss the overall ticket distribution method and a separate plan for students with spouses, supported the CAA's claim to 90 tickets. Congress also passed Tuesday legislation granting the organization \$4,000 for programming. While some Congress members debated the possibility of limiting the \$4,000 to booking fee purposes for the Homecoming concert, the bill passed with no attachments of this nature. "If we had to pull all that money toward a booking fee, we'd have to look for a lot more money from other groups," Johnson said.

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State could replicate shift in N.Y. Medicaid

BY SETH PEAVEY
STAFF WRITER

North Carolina and New York are the only two states that force counties to pay a fixed percentage of all state Medicaid costs. This year, North Carolina counties had to allot a total of \$440 million for Medicaid costs in their budgets — an increase of 67 percent from 2000. New York counties, which have seen their Medicaid costs double in the last seven years, also have been hurt. But New York eased the burden by approving a budget April 19 that will cap the growth of county Medicaid costs at 3.5 percent for 2006. By 2008, this figure will be reduced to 3 percent, and the state government will begin paying the full administrative costs of the program after 2008. "It was critically important for counties to have the ability to rein in the local share of Medicaid so they can cap the growth and not have to raise taxes," said Mark LaVigne, spokesman for the New York Association of Counties. North Carolina now is considering whether to follow suit. Several proposals have been brought before the N.C. General Assembly, including a recommendation by the bipartisan Blue Ribbon Medicaid Commission to cap spending at 2004-05 levels and to phase out county spending on Medicaid during the next five years. Medicaid costs for N.C. counties have increased by 10 percent or more in each of the last several years, said Rebecca Troutman, director of research and public technology for the N.C. Association of County Commissioners. But revenue from property taxes, the primary means by which coun-

ties pay for Medicaid, is increasing by less than 8 percent annually. Medicaid costs are troublesome for poor, rural counties where eligible recipients make up 20 percent or 30 percent of the population. "All new tax revenue is being funneled to Medicaid," Troutman said. Medicaid is a federal entitlement program that pays medical costs for qualified individuals and low-income families. The federal government determines who will receive Medicaid benefits, but individual states have flexibility regarding certain benefits. North Carolina provides its residents with 28 of the 34 optional benefits. For the 2005 fiscal year, the General Assembly has allocated \$2.16 billion, or 15.9 percent of the state budget, to Medicaid. This is compared to the 11.8 percent allocated to the UNC system. N.C. counties, which are responsible for 15 percent of the state's share, will pay \$440 million on top of the legislature's \$2.16 billion. "Half of our counties are paying more on Medicaid than on school construction and renovation and other costs associated with education," Troutman said. The fate of the proposals to lift the burden placed on counties is uncertain, as the state faces painful spending cuts in Medicaid and other budget areas. "I can understand the perspective of both the state and the counties," said Gary Kugler, social services administrator for the N.C. Division of Medical Assistance. "Neither the state or the counties have the money."

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APPOINTMENTS

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race relations on campus. "I don't think there is necessarily enough sharing of cultures," he said. "This is the time in their lives when students are supposed to be learning about people other than themselves, and if you don't do it now, you're not going to do it for the rest of your life." Johnston said Congress was looking for high-caliber individuals from different organizations, and he believes the body found them. "Amazing people apply for these positions," he said. "I'm really excited about the great work they're going to do in the next year."

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FELLOWS

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"I hope to have it operative by fiscal year 2006. It will probably take that long." The bill proposes \$6,500 scholarships for each fellow, though Price said funding will be determined by the number of states that pick up the program. He said the bill authorizes \$200 million to the program for high school seniors and undergraduate freshmen and \$100 million for the community college program. But actual appropriations would be determined by Congress every year, Price said. He added that he would work with the U.S. Department of Education to determine the funding for the program, if it passes.

COLLINS

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2001 to 2003. Before concluding with his poem "Japan," Collins told the audience that he recently received a check in the mail for \$25 from the magazine Modern Haiku. He joked that he won the "Cool Haiku of the Month" award and then said the check broke down into \$1.47 a syllable, "which is actually an extremely high rate of pay for any writer." Scott Dill, a high school English teacher, said he enjoyed the reading. "It was great; it was exactly what I expected," Dill said. "I'm a fan of his work, and it's great to see a personality behind that."

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DEDC

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Relief for Foy might come soon, as the board now is interviewing finalists for a permanent executive director post — viewed from the beginning as key to the group's efforts. With a permanent executive director, the role of the corporation might change to allow less prominent representatives to serve comfortably on the board.

Duties of the executive director will include the development of strategies for growth, as well as following the board's directives, the job description states. The group expects to hire a director by the end of its first full year. Didow said he hopes to guide the group as it makes reappointments for the future.

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HOKE

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doesn't tend to align so much with the University. And she said her job scope has grown along with the district. "I thought things operated at a fast pace when I came to the district," she said. "Every year, I thought it couldn't get any faster, but it did." Hoke said the job's rapid pace is

one of the aspects of her daily routine that she will miss the most. "There's never a dull moment, and there's always 10 things waiting to be done," she said. "The expectations will be a big difference. "Part of that will be good, but part of that I'm going to miss." Hoke said she plans to do some contract work in communications after she leaves the district. She also wants to spend more time

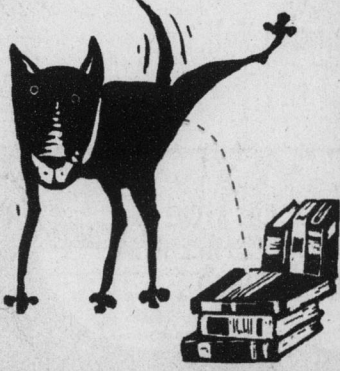
doing activities she enjoys, such as reading and gardening. Looking back, Hoke said she is most proud of the roles she played in helping to pass voter-approved bonds for schools, starting a free after-school program and setting up the district's public school foundation. "I continue to be amazed at the number of accomplishments and level of achievement in this district," Hoke said. "I'm not sure

all these things ever really make it into the public awareness." Despite her pride in the district, she said it is time for her to move on. "Spending 23 years in one place and one position is incredible," she said. "When I came here, if anyone said I would still be here in 2005, I would have been astounded."

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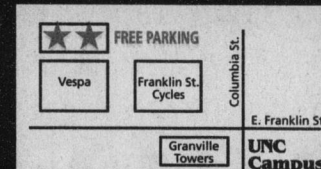
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<http://greeks.unc.edu/join/honor/omega/index.html>.
The application deadline is Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5:00 PM.