

# The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 113, ISSUE 41

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2005

www.dthonline.com

## Lobbyists give Senate group an earful

*"It's hard to get a good read because people switch (stances on the lottery) from time to time."*

BY ERIN FRANCE  
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — Lobbyists furthered talks with the state Senate's lottery committee Wednesday morning, voicing their feelings on the bill narrowly passed earlier this month by the House.

Men and women in business suits and with serious demeanors serenaded the 19-member committee with their thoughts on the bill — the biggest topic in the early months of this year's General Assembly.

Some of them wanted the Senate to take the House bill and run with it. But Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand, a Cumberland County Democrat, said the committee will discuss the measure again next week.

"It'll be a couple of weeks before we get to it," he said.

The House bill, which passed with a one-person majority, would allot 50 per-

cent of net revenues from a lottery to building new schools. Twenty-five percent would go to college scholarships, and 25 percent would go into what legislators call an "education enhancement fund."

Speaker Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, said he doesn't think the House will pass a lottery again if the Senate makes major changes.

But Sen. Vernon Malone, D-Wake, said the chamber needs a thorough discussion because some senators have changed their minds in the past.

"It's hard to get a good read because people switch from time to time," he said.

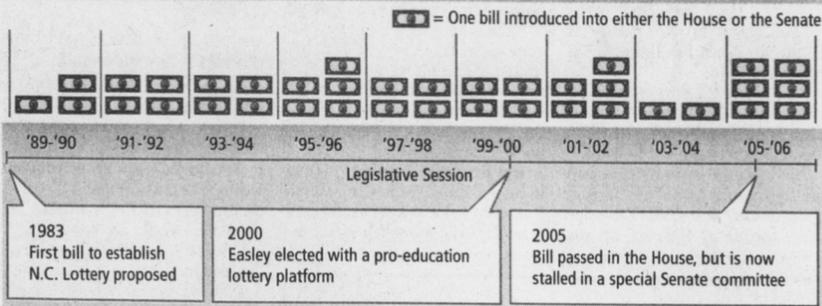
Malone, though generally supportive of the bill, said he could reconsider his position if opponents present a strong argument.

Elaine Mejia, director of the N.C. Budget and Tax Center, sought to do exactly that.

SEE **LOTTERY**, PAGE 4

### Looking for the right numbers

A state lottery has been on the N.C. General Assembly's docket for 22 years, but it's never been able to get over the hump, and legislators say North Carolina has suffered. The bill is closer to passing now than it has been in a long time, but it still must clear a special Senate committee and earn more votes.



SOURCE: N.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DTH/FEILDING CAGE

### OBSCENE ROCK 'N' ROLL



DTH/WHITNEY SHEPTE

Freshman Ashley Barbour prepares for the Pauper Players' production of "Footloose" at Playmakers Theatre on Wednesday night. The musical, which tells the story of a high school student who moves from Chicago to a small farming town, will be performed April 29 and 30 and May 12 through May 14, with all shows beginning

at 8 p.m. and a matinee show starting at 2 p.m. April 30. The UNC performance is based on the 1984 film starring Kevin Bacon, but the students added new songs to the score. The performances will feature songs by some of the most recognizable performers of the 1980s, including Kenny Loggins and Sammy Hagar. For the full story, see page 10.

## Student Congress mobilizes its forces

Recruits students to fight proposed UNC-system cuts

BY ERIN ZUREICK  
STAFF WRITER

Student Congress members hit the ground running Wednesday in their quest to prevent what they see as a shortfall in the University's financial future.

As UNC prepares for the possibility of a 4-percent budget cut, student government officials are fighting back by organizing trips to Raleigh and encouraging students to get in touch with their local legislators.

The representatives' Wednesday trip to the Legislative Building took place less than 24 hours after Congress unanimously passed a resolution to condemn the proposed cuts, which could cause UNC to see a reduction of \$29.4 million in state funds.

Congress Speaker Luke Farley said student officials mobilized quickly once they realized the devastating effects the proposal could have.

"This is a brutal cut," he said. "It's the first step toward a lower-quality education at UNC."

SEE **BUDGET**, PAGE 5



SBVP Adrian Johnston said the cuts will hurt many student efforts.

## Leaders anticipate summertime work

Officials eye cuts, 1-precinct voting

BY GEORGIA CHERRY  
STAFF WRITER

Summer will be all work and no play for student government officials.

And they're excited about it. Leaders will spend their time planning and re-evaluating policies as they prepare for the upcoming year.

"There's more simplicity in the summer," said Student Body President Seth Dearmin. "It's easier to gain access to administrators, and everything's just more laid back — a great atmosphere to get things done."

The Dearmin administration plans to knock out preliminary work on its platform this summer, he said. By the beginning of the semester, the new leader hopes to organize his platform points and divide them among committees.

Dearmin said his most specific goal for the summer is to complete work on establishing a single campus voting precinct — a change that must be approved by the General Assembly.



Seth Dearmin, student body president, plans to knock out platform goals and get things in order during the summer.

For the past two years, student government officials have lobbied to turn the campus's six voting precincts into one.

Such a move could be especially helpful with local elections on the horizon. Municipal races typically attract far fewer students than state or federal elections, but student officials say a single precinct could change that.

Dearmin said members of his administration will travel to Raleigh and lobby for the precinct.

They also will be there for another reason: to fight against the proposed 4 percent budget cut for UNC-system schools.

"If our administration does anything this summer, we have to stop the budget cuts from happening," said Adrian Johnston, student body vice president. "It's \$29 million."

SEE **SUMMER**, PAGE 5

## Outsourcing worries employees

Storeroom workers hope against cuts

BY LINDSAY MICHEL  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

A change in the way University researchers get their materials has some worried that it could increase the price of their work and others concerned that it might cost them their jobs.

The UNC Scientific Storeroom, which supplies chemicals, gases and other laboratory materials to

campus, will go up for bidding to potential vendors next month.

University officials say these companies will provide more cost-efficient transactions between manufacturers and customers.

"I guess it's just their idea of cutting the fat," said storeroom manager Allen Taylor, who has worked in the storeroom for 10 years.

Storeroom employees are

skeptical about whether outsourcing their operation to a large company will be in UNC's best interest — or theirs.

The "fat" Taylor referred to could include workers' jobs, said Greg Hawkins, who has worked in the storeroom for 24 years. If the new vendor wants to cut costs, he said, workers could be among the first things to go.

"If you're thinking about what's

SEE **OUTSOURCING**, PAGE 5

*"We have been looking at ways that we can drive the cost down. And one of the ways ... is by taking out the middleman."*

MARTHA PENDERGRASS, SERVICES

## Activist efforts stalled as semester nears end

BY KATIE CLINE  
STAFF WRITER

The arrest of a Lenoir Dining Hall cashier catapulted UNC students and Carolina Dining Services employees into a marathon of activism during the past month.

They conducted meetings. They signed petitions. They stormed South Building in protest.

"What happened this semester is really an amazing consolidation of worker power and student power," said Jillian Johnson, student organizer for Service

Workers United and a member of Student Action with Workers.

But with the end of the semester just days away, efforts have slowed almost to a standstill.

Activists have put the spotlight on creating a better work environment through collective bargaining, but officials said they have no timetable for change — if it comes.

That worries many students and workers, who say turnover in the dining work force this sum-

SEE **ARAMARK**, PAGE 4



Vel Dowdy, a Lenoir Dining Hall cashier, was arrested in March and charged with embezzlement. Her arrest added fuel to a campaign for workers' rights.

**dive**  
**ONLINE**

Local hip-hop conglomerate takes over Cat's Cradle in a night filled with solid performances. Find these and more stories at [www.dthonline.com](http://www.dthonline.com).

**INSIDE**

**ON DISPLAY**  
Students get a shot at showing off their creative handiwork in Lincoln Center, local schools **PAGE 11**

**WEATHER**

**TODAY** Mostly sunny, H 72, L 53  
**FRIDAY** Few showers, H 81, L 61  
**SATURDAY** T-storms, H 74, L 49