

Budget cuts might impact student loans

Congress eyes education act

BY LAURA PHELPS
STAFF WRITER

Members of the U.S. Congress are discussing the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in the midst of federal budget negotiations.

And as mandates to cut spending and curb a rising deficit are handed down, federal funds that cover student loans could suffer.

"(A) budget reconciliation process is occurring right now in which Congress has the autonomy to cut funding to certain entitlement plans such as pension funds, Medicaid and student loans," said Jennifer Pae, vice president of the United States Student Association.

She said the House had proposed cutting \$9 billion from the higher education budget. The House Education Committee voted Wednesday in favor of cutting \$15 billion from student loan programs during the next five years.

"Cuts of \$9 billion translate into higher costs for the average college student of \$5,800 in the form of mandatory fees, lack of loan consolidation programs and higher interest rates on loans," Pae said.

She also said the reason education is being targeted as an area to cut funds is that it only comes up for reauthorization every five to seven years, and this year happens to be one of those years.

The proposed legislation led to significant protest by students who have responded by distributing online petitions and making continuous phone calls to congressmen.

"The proposed cut would be the single largest cut to higher education in history," Pae said.

Thirty-nine percent of college students already are suffering from unmanageable debt, she said. Cuts in education funding would make higher education a more costly and less attractive endeavor.

Tony Pals, director of public information for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities said the move by the House Education Committee to cut \$15 billion from student loan programs unfairly targets students.

"Instead of using that money to help students, it would go to balance the budget, reducing the deficit and increasing tax cuts."

He said that by shifting money out of student loan programs, college would become even less affordable.

"We don't think students should

be asked to shoulder an undue share of the burden in (balancing the federal budget)," Pals said. "In short, we see this as a raid on student aid."

The Senate also has been negotiating cuts, which would add up to \$13.65 billion during five years, according to a press release from the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

"The Senate is taking the majority of its cuts out of student loan programs," Pals said, adding that the Senate bill does call for a small increase in the Pell Grant.

Sen. Michael Enzi, R-Wyo., chairman of the Senate HELP committee, has a more positive outlook on the cuts.

"This agreement makes higher education more accessible and affordable while still contributing to overall deficit reduction and meaningful reductions in mandatory spending," he said in a press release from Wednesday's committee meeting.

But Pae said the additions to the Pell Grant are not sufficient.

"A \$100 increase will not offset the expected \$5,800 rise in costs."

Staff writer Matt Knepper contributed to this article. Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

ROTC

FROM PAGE 3

something is suffering," he said. "Sleep is what gets cut most."

As much as the cadets have focused on physical training in preparation for Ranger Challenge, cognitive skills are just as important, said Lt. Col. Steve Morris.

A land-navigation course during the Ranger Challenge requires as much brain as it does brawn.

Aside from the University's general curriculum, the ROTC program requires additional classes exploring leadership and command and military operations.

"We are an academics-first type of program," Morris said.

And unlike many students, cadets' grade point averages directly affect their post-education destinations. GPA is a consideration when Army ROTC students compete against cadets nationwide for desired positions.

"GPA figures in greatly in them getting exactly what they want in terms of the branch they get when they graduate," Morris said. "GPA is a huge part of the evaluation."

The additional requirements of



DTH/ALISON YIN

ROTC cadet freshman Dom Lerario practices for the Ranger Challenge during the early morning hours at Hooker Intramural Fields on Monday.

being a cadet and a student can be a burden at times, and they sometimes call for sacrifice, cadets said.

Brian Cox, a senior international studies major, said his course load of 22 credit hours this semester caused him to drop out of the Ranger Challenge for a time.

"I basically told myself if I was up past 2 (a.m.), I wouldn't come to practice," Cox said.

And Cox, a member of the A team who already has served active duty in the army, said a high GPA and a good transcript helps cadets distinguish themselves.

"If you do well, it looks good," he said. "It's going to help you get promoted."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

ROBBERY

FROM PAGE 3

way the occupants tossed two shotguns out of the vehicle, he said.

Officers had recovered only one of the firearms — a fully-loaded, double-barreled 12 gauge — as of 3 p.m. Thursday, though a box of shells and a number of knives were removed from the car, according to police.

The vehicle finally pulled over on I-40 about a mile from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, according to Orange County police reports.

Hillsborough police thought the suspects' motives were simple.

"Three people came here from Raleigh to rob people, and that's what they did," said Hillsborough Sgt. Scott Nicolayson.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

MONTROSS

FROM PAGE 3

seek a relationship with God.

"Heaven is a pretty awesome place, from what we've heard and what we believe," he said. "But we have to take the first step."

Serving to others and being true to oneself were the main points of Montross' speech.

He said that helping others is one of the most important things a Christian can do to serve God — "the feeling you get from helping others is what warms you."

Alex Terry, a freshman English major, comes to all the fellowship's large group sessions, but he said that the event was special and that he related to Montross.

"He focused on how to survive in the world while still being true to your beliefs."

Montross said he enjoyed speak-

ing for the students.

"It was flattering to have the attendance," he said. "It's good to see young faces coming out to something like this."

InterVarsity holds large group meetings every Thursday. It also supervises small groups that meet weekly to discuss Christianity and issues of faith.

Montross acknowledged the fact that as an athlete, he is looked up to — especially by young people.

"I think athletes have a responsibility to be a role model," he said.

But he said talking about his faith is the best way to serve that role.

"I said I was proud of being on the national championship team, I'm proud of playing in the NBA, but that's not what I want to be remembered for."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Robert H. Wolfe

©2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

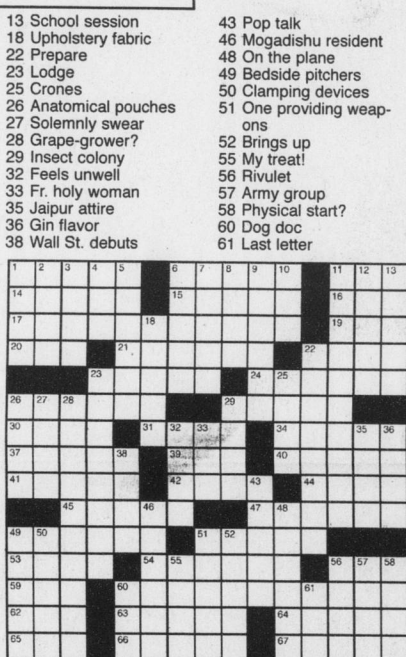
ACROSS

- 1 Picture volume
- 6 Follows orders
- 11 Time off work: abbr.
- 14 "The Maltese Falcon" co-star
- 15 Be off
- 16 "My Sons"
- 17 Safe locator?
- 19 P. Hearst's kidnappers
- 20 At the stern
- 21 Writer Hemingway
- 22 Pontiac muscle cars
- 23 Use a crane
- 24 Larcenies
- 26 Enjoys
- 29 Peachy keen!
- 30 Hertz rival
- 31 Facility
- 34 One hundred forty-four
- 37 Italian geothermal pioneer
- 39 ___ about time!
- 40 Of bristles
- 41 Series shutout
- 42 Why don't we
- 44 Prefix with dyme or drome
- 45 Dental-care product
- 47 Gary Player's nickname
- 49 Very
- 51 "The Sheik of ___" (1921 hit)
- 53 Foxy
- 54 Rita of "West Side Story"
- 56 Kind of runner

DOWN

- 1 Edison's middle name
- 2 Bum around
- 3 Champagne description
- 4 WWW address
- 5 Shooting star
- 6 Ken and Lena
- 7 "John Brown's Body" poet
- 8 St. Louis bridge
- 9 Actress Mimieux
- 10 Sun. oration
- 11 Having size EEEE?
- 12 Mete out

ABBE SNL SPADER
LARD LOO AURORA
AJUDGE IS ONEWAY
NAT RIDES TANTE
AMANTH A TENDSA
SOBEIT IDA ARNE
TALES KEY LUKAS
INEZ ANI MODEST
SENTENGEWITHA
UAE EEE TLES
PLANE LANAS SAC
POMADE SENTENCE
ENABLE AMI TURIN
DENSER PAN ABET



HOME SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 3

she is her primary instructor.

"It's really up to me to figure out what I want to learn about and how I want to go about learning it," says Brown, who lives in Greensboro.

Burkholder says that she is there as one of Brown's resources but that Brown sets her own curriculum.

"Different approaches work better for different young people," Burkholder says.

Brown says this approach has helped give her time to take on a job and pursue other interests such as music and dance classes.

"It's been wonderful for her to pursue these activities in kind

of a more nonpressured way," Burkholder says.

Brown says that though it is more difficult for her to get involved in theater projects outside of high school, she doesn't feel like she's missing out on other typical high school activities.

"There are options out there," she says. Brown still keeps in touch with her high school friends, who have suggested that she go to prom.

Patti Holt Grassler, a Chapel Hill resident and part-time attorney, home-schools her fraternal 9-year-old twin daughters, Abbey and Hayley. She says that when she mentions that to people, they react with mixed emotions.

"It's either an, 'Oh, I can't believe you're doing that,' or, you know, 'Great idea,' she says.

Holt Grassler and her husband, Frank Grassler, decided to home-school their daughters after one of them said something was wrong at school last fall.

"We actually did it as an emergency measure," Holt Grassler says about their discovery that the girls weren't getting an adequate education in math at their private school.

The family finds creative ways to teach the girls, which include incorporating learning and traveling. They have visited cities such as Seattle; Charleston, S.C.; and Washington, D.C., and also have traveled outside the country to England.

Even ordinary household chores, such as cleaning out the refrigerator, can become learning opportu-

nities. This week, one day's lesson plan included "refrigerator science," where the twins examined food items underneath a microscope.

"I know them well enough to know how to be creative for them," Holt Grassler says.

Lindsay Johnson, a junior communications and English major at UNC, says her home-school education allowed her the flexibility to pursue other interests and allowed her to take more advanced courses.

Johnson used tutoring, tapes and self-instruction to learn college-level material while pursuing a music career as a singer and songwriter and taking on internships.

"It was just more efficient overall because I didn't have to deal with a lot of the conflicts you deal with in high school," she says.

The time management skills she learned through home-schooling have helped her at UNC, she says.

"In college, you learn how to be independent and you have to manage your time, and you can be flexible with your schedule."

Rebekah Sharpe, a senior international studies major, also says the transition to college wasn't difficult.

Sharpe says she plans to home-school her children in the future.

"There's so much you can teach your own kids that they won't learn from being in a classroom with a teacher who has to teach 29 other kids."

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

CAA'S 7th Annual Hooker 5k

Sunday, October 30 • Carmichael Auditorium
Race Starts 8am ~ Race Day Registration 7am

Pre-register in the Pit all week
\$10 registration fee includes T-shirt

Proceeds benefit Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

www.unc.edu/caa

Only the screams remain.

GROSS FARMS
Haunted Maze & Trail

They don't call it
GROSS FARMS for nothing!

1606 Pickett Road • Sanford • (919) 498-6727
www.grossfarms.com

October 20-22, 27-31
THURSDAY IS COLLEGE NIGHT
\$2.00 DISCOUNT WITH COLLEGE ID

GROSS FARMS

UNIVERSES' Slanguage

"...a work of heart and soul that distills the essence of the city."
— New York Times

An underground subway ride with the beggar, the battery seller and the preacher who rile the train riders.

The sights and sounds of New York City in rap, gospel, riffs, and other poetic forms.

A full evening work where traditional theater synthesizes with poetry, storytelling, rhythm, music, song, and dance.

Sat., Nov. 5 @ 8pm
Reynolds Theater, Bryan Center, Duke University
Tickets: \$5 Duke, NCCU, UNC students
Call 919-684-4444

presented by Duke Performances
www.duke.edu/web/dukeperfs

YOUSSOU N'DOUR Egypt
& **FATHY SALAMA'S CAIRO ORCHESTRA**

a singer with a voice so extraordinary
that the history of Africa seems locked inside it

tuesday, november 1 at 8pm
memorial hall, chapel hill
919-843-3333