

BOARD EDITORIALS

# THE BOT'S BETRAYAL

The tuition proposals being discussed are just another example of how the UNC Board of Trustees doesn't see students — only dollar signs.

The UNC Board of Trustees discussed the next round of their favorite game Thursday — how to milk more money out of students. Judging from the four proposals for tuition increases that are on the table, undergraduates won't be alone in feeling the ever-growing squeeze of BOT-approved hikes. In all of the proposals except one, resident graduate tuition would climb faster than their undergraduate counterparts. Only the first plan, Option A — with \$300 hikes for graduate and undergraduate residents and \$800 for nonresidents — engages in equal-opportunity gouging. Of course it would be silly and unreasonable to demand that tuition never go up. But our BOT has made it clear that they want to get as much moolah as they possibly can out of students via tuition. Ever since 2004, trustees have pushed for a market-based approach to considering tuition increases. Needless to say, it comes as no surprise that three of the four tuition increases proposed stick it to graduate students disproportionately. After all, as BOT Chairman Nelson Schwab so kindly pointed out after Thursday's meeting, graduate tuition is "more com-

plicated" because of tuition remission and teaching fellowships — in layman's terms, the BOT believes that graduate students will suck it up and take the tuition hikes that are handed to them. Which brings us to the larger problem. It is explicitly spelled out in Article XI Section 9 of the N.C. Constitution that "... The benefits of The University of North Carolina ... as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the State free of expense." What part of the BOT's philosophy of charging as much as they think they can get away with meshes with the mission laid out in the state's constitution? No, many of the trustees have forgotten that mission for the state's first public university. And by forgetting that sacred and fundamental cornerstone of UNC's foundation, those trustees have betrayed the vision of the much-vaunted University of the people. Unfortunately, it looks as though they can get away with it for now. But a word of warning to the trustees: Eventually someone will enforce that constitutional mandate. Let's hope that day is sooner rather than later.

# A MATTER OF SAFETY

The University's lighting tour illuminated trouble spots, but officials need to keep an eye on lighting year-round with all the construction.

Recently, the University took a semi-annual tour of the campus lighting system. While it doesn't appear that there were extensive problems, it seems that construction has caused unsafe circumstances in some areas and that quick action by officials would be a welcomed response. Among the findings, the Thursday night tour by Electric Distribution Services discovered that some areas, namely near Venable and Jackson halls, were poorly lit in part because of construction, which had caused power outages and a lack of accessibility. Blue boxes — those emergency call boxes at different campus locations — also have become something of a concern for those on campus as construction has blocked several of them. Others are not easily identifiable. According to Student Congress, Odum Village doesn't even have blue boxes. Officials said Friday that the jurisdiction for these lights is in the hands of emergency services and telecom services, though facilities management is responsible for maintenance. No matter who's responsible for these lights, they were designed to provide a certain level of safety should a dangerous situation arise. For them to

become inaccessible or fall into disrepair is dangerous to those on campus and needs to be remedied. And while we thank officials for their commitment to fix the problem this week, it's important that with all of this construction, the utmost diligence is practiced year-round. With the University in its peak year of construction, it's expected that situations such as cut electricity or blocked lights can happen — however, those lights, especially blue lights, are important to everyone's safety. Construction will be a regular sight in UNC's domain for years to come, and officials should make sure lighting is at the top of the list to help ensure safety where it is needed. There is no doubt that the administration is concerned about safety, but they have let some holes develop in the safety net. They can do better and we all deserve better. Blocked paths and lots of noise might be an inconvenience, but blocked or disabled lighting is a safety issue — and one that should be monitored closely, both as a general rule and especially as construction progresses.

# IN NEED OF RESCUE

When the rescue squad desperately needs more money, Orange County Commissioners shouldn't be wasting our money on an efficiency study.

The Orange EMS and Rescue Squad needs new equipment and a new truck, but frivolous expenditures by the Orange County Board of Commissioners have trumped this need in the county budget for more than a year. The squad is a nonprofit service that is provided primarily by volunteers. And its budget is not enough to update the dilapidated, but much needed, lifesaving equipment. The squad had relied on community donations and fundraisers to pad their measly \$220,000 budget, but donations have ebbed. The Board of Commissioners has questioned the squad's need for a new truck and equipment. That one of the trucks repeatedly breaks down should be necessity enough. Yet when the squad came to the commissioners with a request for a new truck, they decided more information on the issue was needed and chose instead to fund a study on the way the rescue squad serves the residents of the county. Not that a study on efficiency is not a worthwhile concern, but when the rescue squad's trucks and equipment break down, the board should save the consultations for another year. Commissioners might have good intentions, but

their reasoning is unsound. It's outrageous that the Board of Commissioners is poised to spend \$6 million on the failing Triangle Sportsplex, but doesn't seem to see the necessity of working ambulances. If the rescue squad doesn't receive the necessary funds soon, it may very well become a thing of the past. Brian Matthews, a member of the squad's board of directors expressed concern about the squad's future to The Daily Tar Heel. "If donations continue to drop and other avenues don't work out, (bankruptcy) could happen," he said. If the squad is forced into bankruptcy as a result of the board's inaction, the residents of Orange County will be the ones to suffer as a consequence. The Board of Commissioners would do its citizens a grave disservice and endanger the lives of those that in the future will need emergency medical attention by refusing to act. The squad is not trying to fleece the commissioners — they volunteer for this and don't earn a profit. It's not the rescue squad that provides an ineffective or inefficient service — it's the Board of Commissioners.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The above editorials are the opinions solely of The Daily Tar Heel editorial board and were reached after open debate. The board consists of three board members, the associate opinion editor, the opinion editor and the DTH editor. The 2005-06 DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials. Address concerns to Public Editor Elliott Dube at [dubee@email.unc.edu](mailto:dubee@email.unc.edu).

READERS' FORUM

## Diversity fund is anything but 'A Waste of Money'

TO THE EDITOR: In Thursday's "A Waste of Money," the DTH editorial board showed a lack of organizational understanding and vision in their criticism of the new fund by the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs. This fund is an opportunity for students to be directly involved in forging a campus community that embraces diversity as a tool to enhance each of our experiences here at UNC. Last year, the chancellor's task force on diversity did a tremendous amount of research and set ambitious and admirable goals for the UNC campus. They imagined a day when we won't self-segregate in the Pit. We should be thankful that student groups have had Student Congress to go to previously, but this fund is not redundant. It is a signal to students that the University understands the importance of learning from those around you. More importantly, it demonstrates that the University is actively trying to engage students in the movement toward a campus of open exchange and appreciation of difference. We think that as students should be appreciative and seize

this chance to change our community.

Matt Hendren  
Sophomore  
Economics/Public Policy

Amon Anderson  
Class of 2005

## Wampler misrepresented his colleague's comments

TO THE EDITOR: In the Nov. 15 Viewpoints column by Kris Wampler, he grossly misrepresented and took out of context the comments I have made with regards to the stipends resolution in Congress. Wampler states in his column that I disregarded the half-dozen e-mails promoting the view that disagreed with my own. I did not; I responded to every e-mail explaining why I was going to vote the way I did. I mentioned the constituent e-mails to prove that the issue of student government stipends was one manufactured by a small number of members of Student Congress and that portraying the issue as a student outcry was disingenuous. In addition, I came to Congress with the e-mail written by Wampler to the College Republicans listserv outlining a form letter to be sent to members of Congress. I read the e-mail and noted that six out of the

seven pieces of constituent mail I had received regarding stipends had followed this form exactly. I stated that the sole e-mail I received from a non-CR encouraged me to vote against the referendum. Wampler also states in his column that I did not forward any anti-stipend or CR e-mails to the Congress listserv. I did not forward any of my constituent correspondence to the Congress listserv from either proponents for nor opponents of the resolution. I did forward the comments of former members of student government. I did bring constituent e-mails to Congress and mentioned both those that differed from and those that agreed with my views. It is The Daily Tar Heel's responsibility to ensure the words that appear in your paper are correct. Kris Wampler's heinous misrepresentation of my stance should have never been allowed to run in The Daily Tar Heel.

Anisa Mohanty  
District 6 Representative  
Student Congress

## Contact our representatives about cuts in financial aid

TO THE EDITOR: Last Thursday night, the U.S. House of Representatives voted

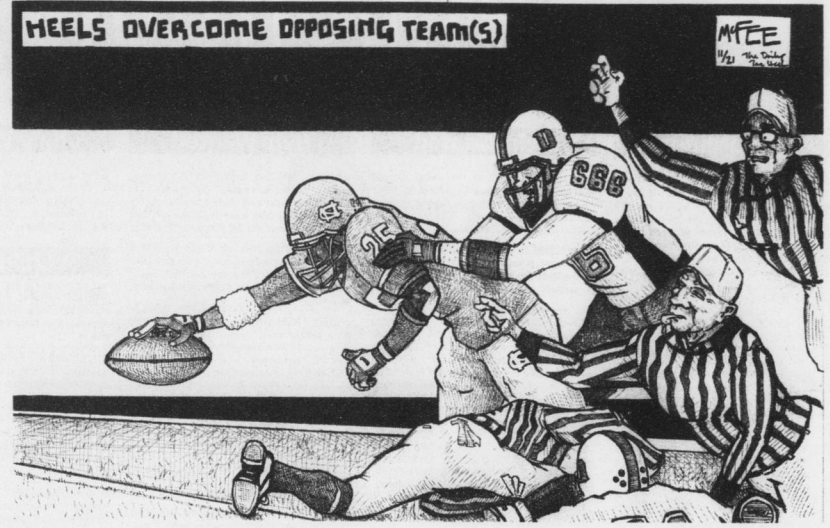
FROM THE DAY'S NEWS

"When it comes to buying a Sportsplex over funding the health care of the county, that's negligence."

JAMIE DANIEL, FORMER COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE, ON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' REFUSAL TO FUND THE RESCUE SQUAD

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Philip McFee, [pip@email.unc.edu](mailto:pip@email.unc.edu)



COMMENTARY

# Give thanks for blessings and the underappreciated ASG

Thanksgiving is by far the best holiday. I love turkey and football. Also, the idea of taking out a day to be thankful sits very well with me. I also like it when everyone participates. Thanksgiving is a holiday without a particular religious affiliation, meaning that every American can take the time out to say thanks in their own way.



MATT LILES  
HERE'S TO DOWN HOME

This year while every Tar Heel sits down at the table we should count the UNC Association of Student Governments amongst the things we are thankful for because for the past few years they have been pulling more than their weight in the fight to keep tuition affordable. Now, if you do not know what the ASG is, you are not alone on the UNC campus. UNC has taken a concerted effort to be uninvolved in the group's efforts on behalf of students. Every student in the UNC system — that is us plus the other 15 public institutions in North Carolina — pays \$1 to the ASG to give system students proper representation at a systemwide level. This makes the group the most representative and best funded student advocacy group in the state. The president of ASG represents all (about) 180,000 of us on the UNC Board of Governors. Before I go any further with this call to action, in the name of full disclosure, I must let the reader know that last year I was the vice president of legislative affairs for the ASG. I spent most of last year fielding questions about healing the rift between UNC and the ASG, and I am sure that my fellow Tar Heel Ginny Franks, who has since taken over the position, is in the same boat. So if at all seem frustrated, know that it comes not from malice but rather from first-hand experience witnessing the results of UNC opting out.

The Thanksgiving story I know involves Pilgrims arriving in the New World seeking a new life, much the same way you and I come to UNC. But the Pilgrims were ill-equipped to face the harsh impending winter. With the help of the Native Americans, the Pilgrims made it through that harsh winter and gathered to feast that next November to show their gratitude and thankfulness for being alive. In the tuition battle, the last five years have been a new world for students. The advent of campus-based tuition and the budgetary pressure that has come from the recent recession have threatened the existence of the entire UNC system. During that time the other 15 campuses have borne most of the load in advocating for affordable tuition at the General Assembly and the Board of Governors. Sure our student body presidents have gone to speak to policy makers about tuition, but mostly UNC has had little to no participation in ASG convenings — designed to present a formidable force for advocating for student issues. UNC's attendance at the ASG full-body meetings is sporadic, and save Ginny and myself, there has been no UNC interest in taking leadership roles. We have created a lens of arrogance and negligence for the other campuses to view us through. The ASG has gotten us through the winter, and it is past time that we invite them to the table and say thanks. Often there is a serious critique of the group's effec-

tiveness from our end, which is as it should be. SBP Matt Calabria had a serious meeting concerning grievances. Despite his effort, the follow-through has continued to be meek at best. ASG has both heard and then worked to change, while we still make offers to participate only if more change comes — never thinking that maybe an infusion of capable Tar Heels could change ASG from within. We have to work off the stigma of past arrogance that we got from things such as former SBP Matt Tepper's total disregard for systemwide issues. We must earn back the trust and respect in our capabilities as leaders and students that the other 15 campuses so eagerly want to give. UNC is the big kid on the block, we always think we can do it better, stronger, faster — and often we can. But we should do this from within the ASG. When students go to Raleigh to advocate, with buses streaming from all throughout the state, we should be represented by more than a paltry number of student leaders. And when there is a crisis about tuition or any other systemwide policy, we should give the other campuses no doubt but to look to us to lead the fight for student rights. We are a bigger part of the system than that, and if we are going to be the big kid on the block we should start to act like it. Now I may have done a better job putting you to sleep than the turkey will on Thursday, but my condensed message is that if we continue to refuse to fully commit and provide only hollow semantic support to the systemwide effort to achieve responsible tuition policy, then maybe none of us will make it through the next winter.

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**Speak Out**  
We welcome letters to the editor and aim to publish as many as possible. In writing, please follow these simple guidelines: Keep letters under 300 words. Type them. Date them. Sign them; make sure they're signed by no more than two people. If you're a student, include your year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff: Give us your department and phone number. The DTH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Bring letters to our office at Suite 2409 in the Student Union, e-mail them to [editdesk@unc.edu](mailto:editdesk@unc.edu), or send them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27515. All letters also will appear in our blogs section.

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**CORRECTION:**  
Friday's editorial cartoon by Philip McFee referenced William Jefferson Davie instead of William Richardson Davie. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.