

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 114, ISSUE 15

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2006

www.dailytarheel.com

Trustees look to join tuition, fee talks

Want more oversight in fee process

BY BRIAN HUDSON
NEWS EDITOR

The University's governing board will begin discussions today on ways to revise the process of increasing student fees after an outcry from students regarding this year's hikes.

The Board of Trustees' audit and finance committee will be briefed this afternoon on the University's fee process, and based on the discussions, proposals for changing the fee process will be drafted for the committee's May meeting.

"It was simply a matter of we want-

ed to understand more thoroughly the recommendations we were getting on fees," said trustee John Ellison, vice-chairman of the finance committee.

He said trustees generally have been satisfied with the way in which tuition proposals have been drafted, and a change to the fee process could more closely mirror that.

Two trustees, including Ellison, sat on the tuition advisory task force this year, and he said one course of action might be adding trustees to the chancellor's committee on student fees.

Motivation for the analysis of the

fee process came largely from an outcry from students about this year's approval of a \$50 athletic fee hike.

Many students were opposed to the hike, which was backed by the Department of Athletics, because they felt it unfairly taxed them for a service they don't use.

Trustees were not fully aware of the way in which the proposal was drafted, a lack of knowledge which Ellison said limited their ability to react.

"Once it gets to the Board of Trustees, they don't know what's going on," said Student Body Treasurer Daneen Furr, a member

SEE TUITION/FEEES, PAGE 4

What are the tuition and fee advisory boards?

The University forms two bodies each year to discuss UNC's tuition and student fees. The groups draft proposals that will go before the Board of Trustees for approval, then to the UNC-system Board of Governors.

Tuition advisory task force

The committee comprises faculty, staff and student representatives, as well as two trustees. The provost and the student body president oversee the group, which advises administrators on tuition policy, drafts the first set of hikes and targets where potential tuition revenue will be spent.

Chancellor's committee on student fees

The committee also is composed of faculty, staff and student representatives but no trustees. The committee meets during the fall, and its proposals are sent to the chancellor, who then forwards them on to the Board of Trustees. The student body treasurer is an ex-officio member of the fees committee.

Attend the meetings

TODAY

University affairs committee at 2 p.m. in the Morehead Building Faculty Lounge

Audit and finance committee at 2:30 p.m. in the the Carolina Inn

Buildings and grounds committee at 3:30 p.m. in the Carolina Inn

Board of Trustees convenes at 5 p.m. in the Carolina Inn

THURSDAY

Board of Trustees re-convenes at 8 a.m. in Morehead Building Faculty Lounge

Attacks renew political tensions

Pit incident latest to spotlight Islam

BY KAVITA PILLAI
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Whether the March 3 hit-and-run in the Pit can be placed in the same category of violence as the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks is a point of contentious debate.

But both events, Muslim leaders say, highlight the need for discussion and understanding, especially on diverse college campuses such as UNC.

At universities nationwide, Sept. 11, 2001, marked a shift in dialogue by bringing greater attention to Islam.

"Whether or not that discussion has been balanced with different perspectives is hard to measure," said Rabiah Ahmed, a spokeswoman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Some say events such as the World Trade Center attacks pique the community's interest as people struggle to understand how they could have happened.

"I think it opened up the lines of communication because people had a general interest in why the people claim what they did in the name of Islam," said Arif Khan, a member of the executive board of UNC's Muslim Students Association.

Still, Ahmed said universities across the nation can improve understanding of Islam by bringing Muslim professors educated in varying schools of thought to campus.

She cited a 2004 controversy surrounding a scholar who planned to teach at the University of Notre Dame until his visa was denied.

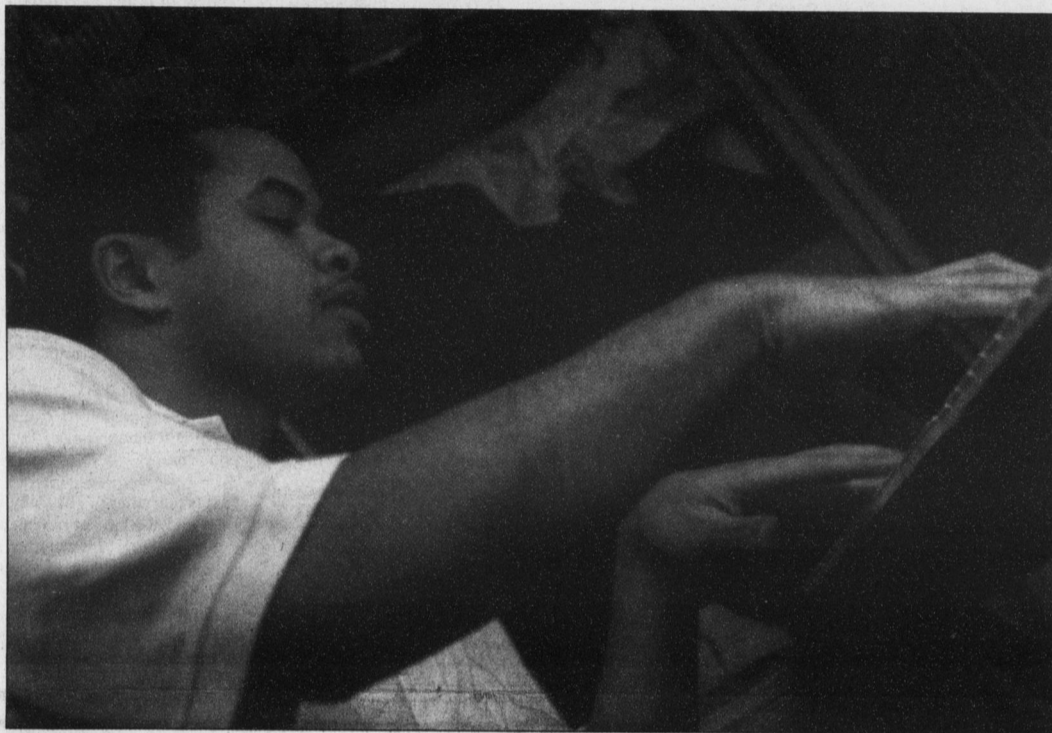
"I think his voice would have been wonderful and would have created great insight into what Muslims in the entire world are thinking," Ahmed said.

"If scholars like him ... are denied entry into the U.S., how would we ever be able to access their perspectives and let them engage in the marketplace of ideas?"

Ahmed, who graduated from UNC in 2003, said the University is more open to different perspectives than some other campuses. She noted that the atmosphere at UNC after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks was one that promoted unity.

"I remember the solidarity events that happened to show Muslim stu-

SEE DISCOURSE, PAGE 4



Making music in his Ehringhaus Residence Hall room, Taylor Johnson plays the keyboard during a January jam session. The sophomore pianist and music enthusiast mixes beats with original playings and recordings. He hopes to make it big as a professional recording artist.

DTH/ISAAC SANDLIN

STUDENT TURNS TABLE FOR SELF

Sophomore close to inking recording deal with New York label

BY JACKY BRAMMER
STAFF WRITER

"All this is so new. It feels like I'm jumping in the deep end, but I'm ready," says Taylor Johnson as he sits in the Student Union, excitedly recounting his story.

Johnson, a part-time R&B and hip-hop producer, is shy and calm but almost bursting at the seams with anticipation for what is about to happen.

He's on the verge of signing a contract with Akeeda Entertainment, a small New York record label.

"It's nerve-racking, but at the same time it's exciting."

The sophomore Ehringhaus Residence Hall tenant is an avid pianist who has performed twice at the annual "I, Too, Sing

America" concert during Martin Luther King Jr. Week and at other University banquets.

Johnson says he also is negotiating deals for some of his tracks with Carl Thomas, Christina Milian and an investment firm that represents an NFL quarterback.

Put simply, he could be on the cusp of making it big. But Johnson is staying grounded.

"You hear those stories about a guy who gets some exposure and forgets about who he was — that's the last thing I want to happen," he says.

Johnson's uncle Kirk Johnson was a drummer and producer for Prince in the 1980s, so maybe it just runs in the family.

As he paces across his snug dorm room,

Johnson says it is hard for him to imagine how far he has come.

Growing up in Burnsville, Minn., he was exposed to music at an early age.

At five, his parents enrolled him in classes for classical piano. He was removed from the lessons after only a year, but much to his parents' confusion, he kept playing and practicing.

At 14, Johnson's musical interest shifted to hip hop and R&B.

He didn't have a lot of equipment — just a keyboard and a few tape recorders. But with this foundation, he started to play recordings of his own, looping tracks to make catchy beats. He would mix and match live

SEE MAKING IT, PAGE 4

Weigh all sides before acting

Readers of these pages are quite familiar with our latest campus controversies: The DTH's own decision to run a cartoon depicting the Prophet Muhammad and the shocking SUV assault by a recent graduate intent on protesting American actions affecting Muslims abroad.

We've been off and running with rampant rhetoric: Is the DTH "insensitive" or "justified" in its editorial judgments? Is the assailant someone isolated by mental illness or a "terrorist"?

GUEST COLUMNIST

Judith Wegner is chairwoman of the UNC faculty.

Next week: Michelle Schaaf

What's there to discuss?

Why is dialogue needed? As someone trained in law, I find it best to walk into the heart of controversies such as these, to get interested rather than defensive, to wonder why conversation has escalated to public name-calling and why listening has been squelched by talk.

I think there's a human tendency to "keep it simple, stupid." Our rapid-fire media and hunger for public drama often overtake our capacity to pause and reflect.

When teaching first-year law students, I sometimes assign "difficulty papers." The goal is to pose a story problem for analysis, then give students points for seeing, naming and explaining what specific facets are

SEE DIFFICULT, PAGE 4

Lottery given go-ahead with lawsuit dismissal

Slotted to begin sales March 30

BY STEPHEN MOORE
STAFF WRITER

N.C. lottery opponents ran low on luck Wednesday when their lawsuit was dismissed by Superior Court Judge Henry Hight.

In his decision, he noted several reasons as to why the N.C. Institute for Constitutional Law, which filed the case, was wrong to allege that the lottery is unconstitutional.

The institute argued that the lottery was approved in an unconstitutional manner.

It contends that the legislation should have been considered a revenue bill, requiring three readings on three separate days.

Instead, the N.C. General Assembly pushed it through in one day amid shouts of disapproval.

Hight discredited the main

argument that the lottery is a tax, stating that "the Lottery Act does not provide for the raising of money on the credit of the state."

Robert Orr, executive director of the institute, said that he is unhappy with the decision, and that he would further discuss with his clients as to whether they should pursue appealing the case.

"I think we were certainly disappointed that the arguments that we had advanced about the

unconstitutionality of the lottery were not persuasive to the judge," Orr said.

"We felt strongly, and still do, about the merits of our argument."

Orr said that if they decided to appeal, they most likely would ask to skip over the appellate court and go straight to the state Supreme Court.

Rep. Paul Stam, R-Wake, is a plaintiff in the lawsuit along with Sen. Eddie Goodall, R-Union, and the N.C. Common

Sense Foundation. Stam said he is ready and willing to push the case to the next level.

"Well it's a pure question of law, and this judge was, respectfully, wrong, and we're going to ask for an appeal," he said. "Kill that snake called the lottery."

Until they make a decision on whether to follow up with an appeal, it appears as if the lottery will remain on track, with scratch-off tickets going on sale

SEE LOTTERY, PAGE 4

online | dailytarheel.com

ARTS BLOG Information about three local bands that put out recent albums

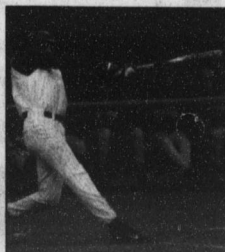
OPINION BLOG The Opinion Desk is seeking talented cartoonists for its page

SPORTS BLOG Thoughts and tidbits from the NCAA tournament opening round sites

nation | page 7

PULLING OUT

N.C. universities continue campaigns to divest from doing business with Sudan — an act already approved by the California university system.



sports | page 9

HIT PARADE

No. 3 North Carolina slammed Towson, 11-2, on Tuesday. Five players recorded multi-hit games for the Tar Heels, who pounded out 15 hits in all.

today in history

MARCH 22, 1975 ...

Reverse discrimination in an affirmative action program was held to be allowable in the law school's annual "Moot Court" competition.

weather



Sunny
H 54, L 30

index

police log 2
calendar 2
crossword 5
sports 9
edit 10