

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Leaders ready to talk tuition

BY ERIN ZUREICK  
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Tuition talks will kick off today when the campus body charged with examining hikes meets for the first time.

The tuition advisory task force's first meeting, which will be held at 12:15 p.m. in 105 South Building, will focus on providing members with the history and policy involved in tuition, said Provost Bernadette Gray-Little, co-chairwoman of the task force.

"Over the course of the meeting, we'll try to make sure people have familiarity with the background," she said.

As the meetings progress the 14-member group, which advises



Provost Bernadette Gray-Little said the tuition task force's first meeting will key on past years.

Chancellor James Moeser on tuition policy, will delve into specifics such as where revenue from potential hikes would be best directed.

When the group meets it will be without long-range tuition guidelines from UNC-system President Erskine Bowles. Bowles' proposal, which likely will set

the maximum annual tuition increases that each of the system campuses can request in the next four years, likely will not be unveiled until October.

The fifth and final meeting of the UNC task force is slated for Oct. 18.

Gray-Little said officials must work as though limits or guidelines will be imposed. "We might need to come up with different models," she said.

Student Body President James Allred, co-chairman of the task force, said the group already is attempting to improve tuition predictability — a step that is in sync with Bowles' vision.

Allred said UNC could look to peer institutions such as the University of

Virginia when creating a new model.

He said UVA. sets an upper and lower limit on hikes. An upper limit would assume that the legislature met none of the university's need. A lower limit would assume that the full need was met.

The adoption of such a policy would allow UNC students to know their options ahead of time, Allred said.

Another change is that student fees and tuition will be examined together.

Gray-Little said the work of the tuition advisory task force and the chancellor's committee on student fees eventually will be combined. "We're going to be

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## Bus stops set to give heads up

BY KAYLA CARRICK  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

The lyrics "the wheels on the bus go round and round, all through the town" might soon get more specific.

As early as today people taking the bus will be able to know exactly when it will pull in for passenger pick-up. Real-time technology will allow people to look online or on electronic signs to see exactly where in town their bus is rolling.

The town awarded a \$980,000 contract to NextBus Inc., a company based out of California, to make Chapel Hill Transit buses trackable with Global Positioning System satellite technology.

An approximate arrival time for the next bus will be accessible online through a link at [chtransit.org](http://chtransit.org).

The Web site asks passengers questions including which bus route, line and starting point they are looking for. The site then calculates the next arrival time for the bus and shows a link to a live map that displays all bus routes and each bus's current location.

Steve Spade, director of Chapel Hill Transit, said early last week that the plan was for the tool to be up and running today. Monday night he said the same tentative plan was still the case.

"It's still up in the air," he said. "Our current plan is to have this thing up and running Tuesday. If not then definitely sometime this week."

The time the system will be operating isn't exact because of testing performed last week, Spade said.

The technology predicts arrival times based on many things, one of which is history. The system needed to operate for a few days so that the computer could accumulate a history of the buses on the routes.

"The longer we run the service, the more accurate the predictions are," Spade said.

"We wanted them to run a few days before we turn it live to the public. There may be some glitches where it's a little off, but as time goes on it will get better and better."

Chapel Hill Transit is in the process of installing signs that will display when the next bus will roll in on a scrolling LED sign. Signs will pop up in the next couple weeks at 14 bus stops around town.

"We've encountered some difficulties getting power to shelters with signs," Spade said. "The ones we were able to get power to will have signs up this week."

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Chuck Schutte of The Boys From Carolina creates a makeshift dobro strap using nylon rope and metal ties from the Bynum General Store. Store owner Jerry Partin has bands play in or outside of his store as part of a music series to benefit the business. Partin said that although the shows help, they aren't a cure.

## STORE SINGS THE BLUES

BY TREVOR THORNTON  
STAFF WRITER

Jerry Partin is what features, columnists would refer to as "the salt of the earth" — greeting his store's visitors with a smile, whether they're there for the music or the canned goods.

While his down-home venue with rustic charm has begun to attract the best of area alt-country, acoustic and bluegrass artists, Partin has decided to hang it up.

The decades-old Bynum General Store has been in Partin's hands for 10 years.

Almost 10 miles south of Chapel Hill off of U.S. Highway 15-501 sits a ruined cotton mill, a tar-patched byway, a hot bed

of local music and the history of Partin's entire life and family going back three generations.

He is one of few residents left on Bynum Road who feel a connection with past generations.

"I was born and raised here," he said. "When I was a kid there were five stores, a hot dog stand and a theater, and this is all that's left."

"That's why I try to keep it open."

For the past five-and-a-half years, he has been keeping his tin-roofed relic — complete with a checkers table, an antique radio and wood floors that have been collecting 70 years worth of dust — open with the revenue he brings in by putting on the Bynum General Store Front Porch Music Series on Friday nights during the warm months.

But the series will end in late September, and Partin will close the store soon after.

IF YOU GO

Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Date: Friday, Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29  
Location: Bynum General Store, 950 Bynum Road, Bynum  
Info: 542-3853

ate and former Bynum resident, Molly Parsons, who brought in area musicians with the same goal of producing revenue for the struggling general store.

"Molly didn't let the ball drop," Partin said.

Since then Partin has had to do little asking to get artists to perform there. In fact most musicians, ask him to play the outdoor venue, which is now famous among them for being a fun gig to play.

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"I figured after 10 years I can't make it," he said.

The series began with an industrious University gradu-

### Where's the bus?

The following bus stops eventually will have LED screens that show passengers when the next bus will arrive.

- ▶ South Columbia Street at Carrington Hall
- ▶ South Road at Student Stores
- ▶ South Columbia Street at Health Sciences Library
- ▶ South Road at Fetzer Gym
- ▶ East Franklin Street at Carolina Coffee Shop
- ▶ Manning Drive at West Drive
- ▶ NC-54 Park-and-Ride Lot
- ▶ Friday Center Park-and-Ride Lot
- ▶ Southern Village Park-and-Ride Lot
- ▶ Pittsboro Street at the Credit Union
- ▶ North Columbia Street at Rosemary Street
- ▶ West Franklin Street at Caribou Coffee
- ▶ Jones Ferry Road Park-and-Ride Lot
- ▶ Eubanks Road Park-and-Ride Lot

## Local schools alter schedules

BY RACHEL ULLRICH  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

This year high school students in Orange County had more to get used to than new teachers on their schedules.

Both districts had completely new period systems with Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools shortening and adding classes and Orange County Schools moving to block scheduling.

So far the reactions are mixed. City schools added a class to make a seven-period schedule — a slightly longer day than students have faced in the past.

The move means that each class is five minutes shorter, lunch isn't as long as it used to be and school is 15 minutes longer.

Chapel Hill High principal Karla Eanes said the benefits to students make it well-worth the changes.

Eanes stressed that students who normally focused on academic rigor now may also take a class to pursue their interests.

"Maybe someone is really interested in ceramics but had to give that up for AP something," Eanes said. "They have time for both now."

David Thaden, principal of East Chapel Hill High School, said enrollment is up in academic electives.

Thaden said that because the graduation requirements were not changed, students still can take six classes and use the extra period as a study hall.

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### What's new

**City schools** Moved from standard 6-period schedule to a 7-period schedule

- ▶ approved in November
- ▶ allows for 7 50-minute periods each day, giving students the opportunity to take one more class than in previous years

**County schools** Moved from standard schedule to four period block schedule

- ▶ approved in January
- ▶ allows students to take four 90-minute classes per semester, which leaders say provides more focused instruction and learning

## Students max out credit card woes

BY MONIQUE NEWTON  
STAFF WRITER

Junior Brooke Taylor spent her summer in Chapel Hill, juggling three jobs to pay off credit card debt from the past school year.

With her four credit cards combined, she stacked up \$1,000 in debt.

"Normally I don't let it get to more than \$500," Taylor said.

"I think I just went out to eat too much and that kind of thing. It really adds up after a while if you're not paying attention."

But Taylor isn't the only one getting lost in the world of swipe and skeddaddle.

According to a study conducted by the Nellie Mae Corporation in 2004, 76 percent of all undergraduates start off the school

year with credit cards. But only 21 percent of these users pay off all their balances each month, the study shows.

The average outstanding balance on undergraduate credit cards was \$2,169.

"They can forget that they came to school to get an education and decide they came to party and shop," said James Smith, professor and economist in the Kenan-Flagler Business School.

"If that's what they do that's a prescription for disaster, and there are a few students every year who end up declaring bankruptcy."

A 10-percent discount on her purchases lured Taylor into getting two of her credit cards. Her charges, specifically food and gas, soon added up.

"Sometimes I used my scholarship money ... to help pay them off," she said.

But moderation is key not only with expenses. The worst move students make is opening another credit card to pay off their original debt, Smith said.

"You look up and have twice the amount of debt," he said.

"For the overwhelming majority of students, one (credit card) is fine, two is questionable and three is highly questionable," Smith said.

But students don't need to look far for credit and budgeting advice.

Senior Rachel Toler is a part of MasterCard's "Are You Credit

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### announcement

#### WE'RE HIRING

Interested in joining the nation's top college newspaper? Attend an interest meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in Union 3203.

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**DRINK UP** Duke's policies are already in line with new state laws, PAGE 7

**OFF THE BEATEN PATH** Carrboro aims to build a connector road, PAGE 13

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#### FAMOUS CRITTERS

Community artist Clyde Jones sculpts creativity with wood and a chainsaw that's been everywhere from the Smithsonian to the Union



### this day in history

SEPT. 5, 2002 ...

Michael Sells, author of controversial summer reading book "Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations," speaks at UNC about Islam's role in acts of violence.

### weather

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