

The DTH turns 114 today. See page 5 for the story.

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Easley budget could reduce tuition cap

BY ERIN FRANCE
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

RALEIGH — Gov. Mike Easley's 2007-09 budget could have a significant impact on resident undergraduate tuition for UNC-system students.

The full scale of that impact will take several months to realize as the budget goes through revisions in the N.C. Senate and House.

Easley released his recommendations Thursday, and they include an increase of 11.3 percent for university funding.

According to system President Erskine Bowles' four-year tuition policy, an increase of that amount would lower the current 6.5 percent cap on resident undergraduate tuition, effectively limiting



N.C. Gov. Mike Easley proposed an 11.3 percent increase in system funding through 2009.

potential hikes to 1.2 percent. "There is absolutely no doubt that if the university's budget went up by the amount proposed by the governor's budget, it would impact the cap," said Joni Worthington, UNC-system associate vice president for communications.

Complicating the issue is the fact that Easley's proposal does not earmark any of the more than \$200 million requested for faculty

salaries during the next two years. "That's our No. 2 priority, and we will work with the legislature very hard to include it in some form or fashion," said Andy Willis, UNC-system vice president for government relations.

The draft suggests a 2.5 percent increase for all state employees, which includes faculty at system schools but does little to meet the university's salary goals.

"I don't want to poke holes in the governor's budget," Willis said, adding that Bowles and his staff will be meeting with legislators to lobby for a larger salary hike.

Bowles has said in the past that funding for faculty salaries is the most important factor in alleviating campus pressure to raise tuition.

Chancellors often cite faculty pay as the driving force behind hikes.

But with the possibility of a sharper limit on tuition, the system might have to look elsewhere to push faculty salaries up to the desired 80th percentile of peer institutions.

Willis said nonresident tuition probably would not be used to raise the extra revenue, despite the fact that there is no annual limit on out-of-state rates.

"They're not going to try to make that up through out-of-state tuition," he said. "I don't see the Board of Governors allowing that to happen."

The board's primary budget priority — financial aid — received appro-

Other priorities in Gov. Mike Easley's proposed 2007-09 budget

- ▶ Eliminates the income tax for 545,000 low-income individuals and families
- ▶ Cuts in half the income tax for 629,000 more low-income individuals and families
- ▶ Includes a 5 percent average pay increase for public school teachers
- ▶ Sustains the \$1 million funding for military morale, welfare and recreation grants to military installations
- ▶ Provides \$3.6 million to expand prison-bed capacity to meet both current and future inmate population needs
- ▶ Funds the N.C. Biotechnology Center with \$3.5 million to help the state remain a recognized leader in the field

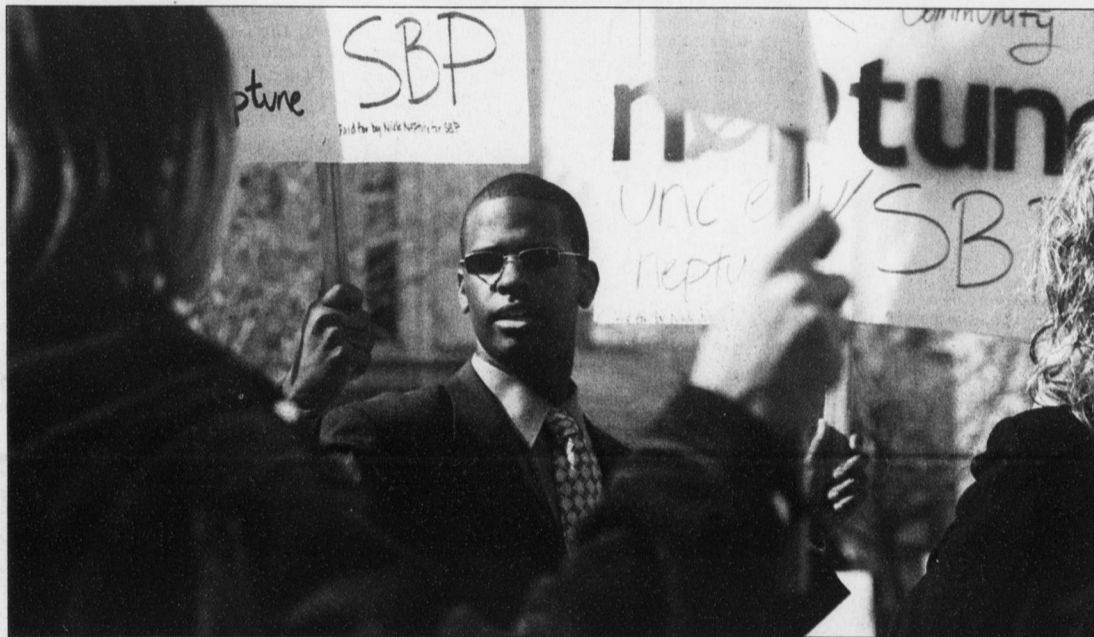
The budget will go through three more revisions in the N.C. General Assembly over the next few months before becoming law.

SOURCE: The N.C. state budget

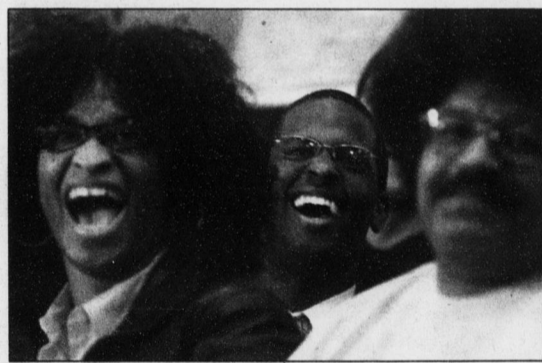
SEE BUDGET, PAGE 4

The Daily Tar Heel followed student body president candidate Nick Neptune from the outset of his campaign to give readers an inside look at what it takes to seek the highest office in UNC student government

Inside the trenches



Former student body president candidate Nick Neptune campaigns in the Pit on Monday, trying to close the gap between himself and eventual winner Eve Carson. He said his favorite part of the campaign was being able to meet students that he otherwise would not have run across.



Neptune views a Carolina Week feature on him on the Feb. 13 election night with his parents, Donna and John Neptune, of Winston-Salem.



Neptune and his staff meet at Franklin St. Pizza & Pasta on the eve of the runoff election to discuss final strategy and reflect on the campaign.

BY KATIE HOFFMANN FEATURES EDITOR

It's fitting that Nick Neptune's favorite show is "The West Wing."

"It gives an insider view of how politics works," said Neptune, a junior American Studies major who said his favorite place is Washington, D.C. "It's the art of government."

A view of Neptune's personal politics unfolded in the past 10 months, as he found out first hand what it's like to run — and come up short — for student body president.

The Nepteam

It began last year on Valentine's Day, minutes after the announcement of Student Body President James Allred's election win.

"A few people came up to me in Carroll 111 and asked me when I was going to start the campaign," Neptune said. "I was

like, what?" He said the idea of running for the position had been planted in his head long ago, but he had yet to thoroughly consider it.

He did, and two months later, in May, the Nepteam was born. First on board was campaign manager Andrew Brown.

Neptune's suitemate from freshman year, Tabitha Messick, chief of campus outreach, and Amanda Zalaquett,

chief of logistics — both juniors Neptune's known since freshman year — hopped on soon after.

Katie Baker, Neptune's chief volunteer coordinator, met him

through a friend when they took a spontaneous trip at 9 p.m. to Washington, D.C., to see the confirmation hearings for Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts.

"I wanted to work with him pretty much from the moment I met him," said Baker, a junior political science major. "There's something about Nick. He has a passion for higher education."

Throw in sophomore Logan Liles, who met Neptune in the fall through student government, and the "inner core" was complete.

In the weeks leading up to the election, the group decided every detail of Neptune's life — when he got a haircut, when he woke up, which part of campus he'd be on and when he could eat.

"That's the nature of a campaign," Neptune said. "The candidate is campaigning 24 hours a day."

Drawing on experience

Neptune said his preparation for the race and his platform started when he came to UNC.

"I've been involved in and out of student government for the past three years," Neptune said. "I formed my platform out of that experience."

He said he based his platform,

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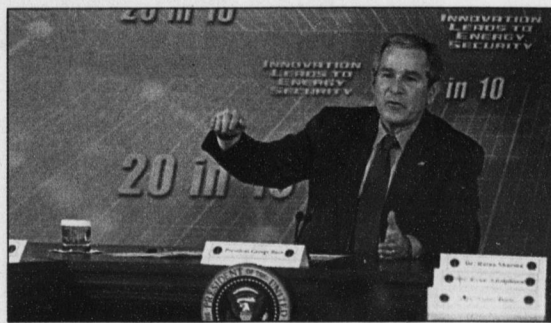
Why we chose to follow Nick Neptune: apps.dailytarheel.com/blogs/category/newsroom

Bush touts N.C. energy future

BY BRENDAN BROWN
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

FRANKLINTON — A small town in rural North Carolina perhaps is an unlikely place for President Bush to promote his energy independence goals for the next decade.

Yet rising from the farmlands of Franklinton is a facility at the forefront of developing technology to turn organic waste into fuel for consumption — a key element of the president's effort to reduce U.S. oil use by 20 percent in 10 years.



President Bush speaks about his plans to reduce fuel consumption at Novozymes North America Inc. in Franklinton on Thursday morning.

SEE BUSH, PAGE 4

Nation dances for good causes

BY MEGHAN DAVIS
SENIOR WRITER

When several hundred students collapse with exhaustion Saturday in Fetzer Gymnasium, they will have capped a year of fundraising with 24 hours of dancing — certainly an impressive feat.

But the University's Dance Marathon isn't alone in using a dance floor as a fundraising tool.

The grandfather of all dance marathons is Penn State

SEE MARATHON, PAGE 4

Dance Marathon around the country

Penn State

- ▶ Founded: 1978
- ▶ Benefits: The Four Diamonds Fund for pediatric cancer patients
- ▶ Dances for: 46 hours
- ▶ Number of dancers: 700
- ▶ Event: Feb. 15-16
- ▶ Raised: \$5.2 million in 2007

UCLA

- ▶ Founded: 2001
- ▶ Benefits: Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric Cancer Foundation and

University of Iowa

- ▶ Founded: 1994
- ▶ Benefits: Children's Miracle Network
- ▶ Dances for: 24 hours
- ▶ Number of dancers: 1,000
- ▶ Event: Feb. 2-3
- ▶ Raised: \$31,000

- two camps for AIDS patients
- ▶ Dances for: 24 hours
- ▶ Number of dancers: 650
- ▶ Event: Feb. 17-18
- ▶ Raised: \$330,345.70

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POLITICAL WEB Sites such as Facebook play a bigger role in campus elections

JOB FRIENDLY Forbes names Raleigh-Cary the best city in the country for jobs

DANCE FEVER Friday Arts Columnist Ben Pittard returns to say he loves to boogie

GHOULISH DELIGHT Carolina Theatre's eighth annual Nevermore Film Festival is set for this weekend and will feature the debut of films from Germany to Thailand.

THE BUZZER SOUNDS Seniors Ivory Latta and Camille Little say goodbye to fans Thursday during their final home game, a blowout win against Wake Forest.



this day in history

FEB. 23, 2004 ... Testimony surfaces that a candidate's boyfriend coerced votes in the runoff election. The controversy delays certification of election results.

weather

Sunny H 54, L 26

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