

# The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 115, ISSUE 50

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2007

www.dailytarheel.com

## State budget lag affects UNC system

### UNC schools awaiting new budget proposals

BY ERIC JOHNSON  
SENIOR WRITER

RALEIGH — In what has become common practice, state lawmakers headed into the July Fourth holiday without a new budget in place.

The official start of the fiscal year was July 1, but legislators failed to agree on a spending plan before the deadline. The state is operating on a provisional budget until Aug. 1, which means universities and other state agencies will have to wait before finalizing their own plans.

"We just haven't got much done," said

Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand, D-Cumberland.

"It has just been slow happening."

Without a full budget in place, university administrators continue operating at current spending levels. That means that any new initiatives or staff positions remain on hold until lawmakers decide whether to provide funding.

"It holds people up in the sense that they'd like to know what their allocations are going to be," said Steve Allred, executive assistant provost at UNC-Chapel Hill. "We essentially just wait to see once the budget is done, and

make whatever changes they authorize in the final version retroactively."

Allred was careful to mention that all pay raises would be retroactive to July 1, so faculty and staff won't miss out no matter how long the budget process takes.

While the delay is an inconvenience to university officials, it no longer causes major disruptions. With the legislative debate so often carrying over into July, deans and faculty members have grown accustomed to the uncertainty.

"We have not had a budget come in before July 1st except once in the last ten years," Allred said. "We're certainly familiar with the circumstance we find ourselves in now." Rob Nelson, UNC-system vice president

for finance, said the most important concern for campuses would be to get enrollment growth and financial aid funding in place by Aug. 1. Without that money, schools would have difficulty accommodating the annual growth in student populations.

"We generally get enrollment growth and financial aid in the August continuation," Nelson said, meaning that lawmakers would likely provide those funds even if they have not settled on a final budget by the end of July.

For the time being, legislators seem to be a long way from even discussing the higher education budget. With disagreements about Medicaid funding, tax levels and debt

SEE STATE BUDGET, PAGE 5

### Initiatives awaiting funding

- ▶ Indigent Care at UNC Hospitals: \$7,500,000
- ▶ Nurse Scholars Program: \$2,750,000
- ▶ Prospective Teacher Scholarship Loan Program: \$1,571,465
- ▶ Teacher Mentoring programs: \$2,156,000
- ▶ Research Competitiveness Fund: \$15,000,000

## LOVE IS HERE FOR OLIVER!

BY CHRISTINA STRAUCH  
STAFF WRITER

Audiences will be wanting more once they've had a taste of "Oliver!" as performed by a group of 43 professionally rehearsed local youngsters.

The ArtsCenter of Carrboro and PlayMakers Repertory Company have teamed up to create a unique opportunity for these kids to participate in a professional production of this show based on Charles Dickens' classic novel, "Oliver Twist."

This special performance about an orphan who is adopted into a gang of pickpockets graces the stage of UNC's Paul Green Theatre July 13 to 15.

"The bar is set very, very high," said Lauren Hodge, director of the Youth Performing Arts Conservatory at The ArtsCenter. "It's a rare and unusual experience for these young people."

The program affords the youngsters a chance to be trained and rehearsed as if they are professional actors.

"People will be surprised at the level of professionalism shown throughout," said Los Angeles-based director Tom Quaintance. "The kid who is playing a workhouse boy is getting as much attention as the kid who is playing Oliver."

UNC senior Matthew Baldiga, who plays Fagin, is the only cast member more than 18 years old.

"I think one of the best ways to build theater communities is by teaching children, by taking them to the theater," Baldiga said.

And he's not the only one who has felt the difference in working with these youngsters.

"There's excitement and energy from having these kids in these rooms which are usually dark over the summer," Quaintance said of UNC's Center for Dramatic Art. "This production gets to what the heart of what musical theater is about, the excitement of being out on the stage for the first time."

And the story of Oliver only bolsters the magic which the cast brings to the stage.

"The music's great, and the script's great," Quaintance said. "All we have to do is tap into the boundless energy of the kids," he said.

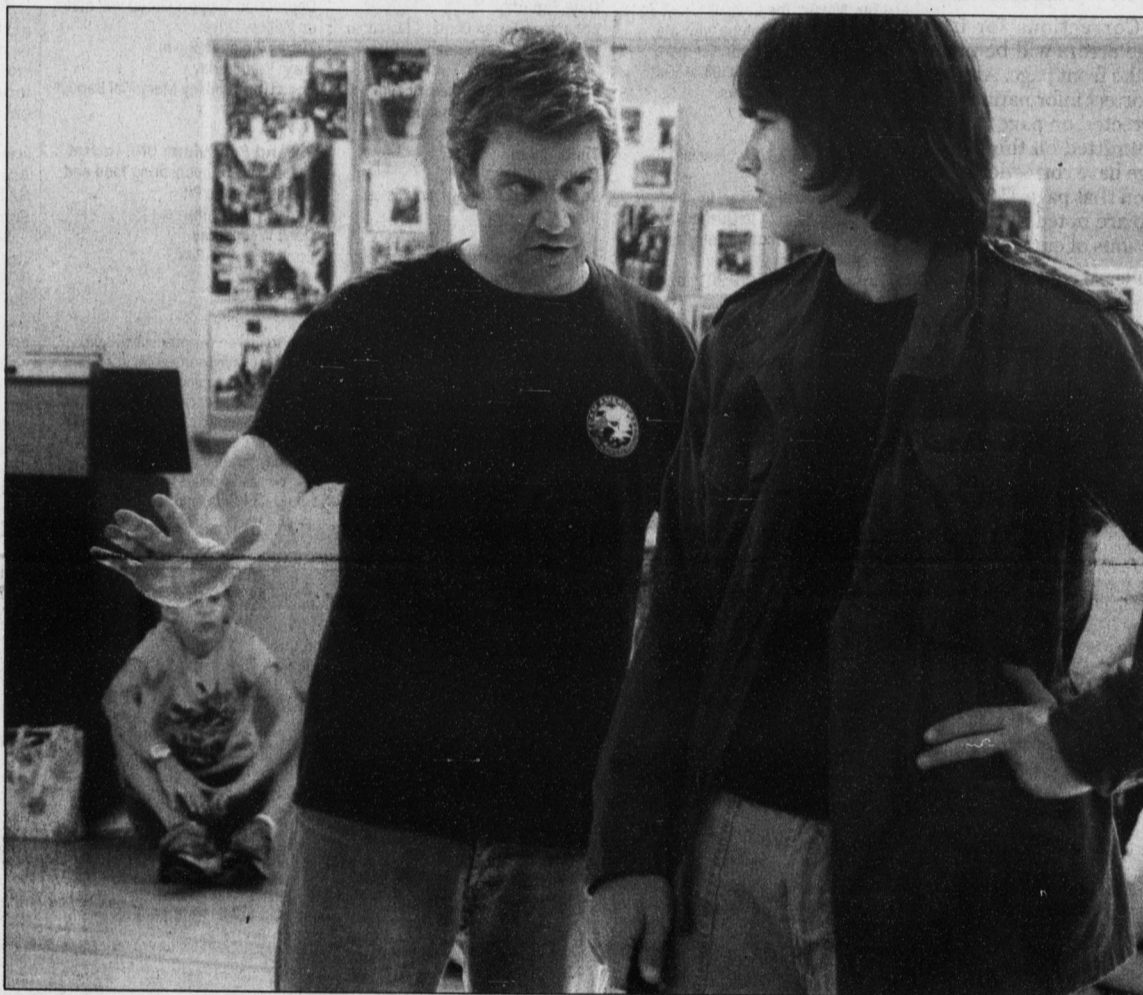
Having the support of two community organizations has breathed a breath of fresh air into the production, too.

"It's a unique opportunity to get some of the professionals of PlayMakers combined with people from the ArtsCenter that probably hasn't been seen around campus," Baldiga said.

Quaintance agreed.

"One of the things that is great for me coming in as a guest director is the incredible support that PRC has given in terms of company members and scenic design," Quaintance said. "It's electrifying having this much of the community

SEE OLIVER, PAGE 5



Tom Quaintance, director of "Oliver!" provides stage direction for Christopher Stevens-Brown, 14, who plays the part of Bill. "Oliver!" opens on July 13 at the Paul Green Theatre at the Center for Dramatic Art. Quaintance, based out of Los Angeles, Ca., has worked on several Broadway productions.

## Local, organic food on the rise

BY BETSY BROWNE  
STAFF WRITER

As consumers become more conscious of what they eat, grocery stores have expanded their selection of organic and locally grown foods.

Customers such as Martha Jenkins, a Harris Teeter shopper from Chapel Hill, have clear reasons for buying organic products.

"I just think that's what's wrong with health in the United States, all the pesticides and preservatives," Jenkins said.

Jean Marr, a customer at Whole Foods, said she also tries to purchase organic products.

"I like to try to eliminate pesticides from our diet. I like to support organic farmers and support locally grown as much as possible," said Jean Marr, a customer said.

The price of organic foods does differ from non-organic ones, as seen in the organic and "regular" types of Harris Teeter peanut butter, which sell for \$3.79 and \$1.79, respectively.

The increased price is not a problem for some shoppers.

"I never mind paying," Jenkins said.

"With some things, like bananas are a big one, you shouldn't buy organic — it doesn't

make any difference," she said.

The higher prices do concern others, such as Weaver Street Market shopper Julie Lawhorn.

"(I buy organic) if I can afford it," Lawhorn said, explaining how it is difficult for people with tight budgets to buy organic products.

"I feel like it's unfair that fruits and vegetables are difficult to access for people with low incomes and organic is out of reach altogether," said Lawhorn.

Others like Dana Camberra, who recently moved to Chapel Hill, do not always purchase organic foods.

"(I buy) sustainable, local, not necessarily organic, but high quality," Camberra said.

He also mentioned the higher prices, but his main concern seemed to be whether organic food was an improvement.

"No one's explained the clear benefit (of organic foods)," he said. "The quality of food doesn't always seem to be as visually appealing."

Marr said organic food has come a long way.

"I can recall when organic stuff looked really

SEE ORGANIC, PAGE 5



Sheila Neil, manager of the Carrboro Farmers' Market, gives Scarlett Simmons a tomato seedling as her mother, Lisa Simmons, watches.

## Festival for Eno hails environment

### Celebrates with music and crafts

BY ALEXANDRIA SHEALY  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Don't be surprised if Durham looks a little bit greener this weekend.

For the 28th year, more than 100 performers, some of the regions finest crafts artists and many other groups will gather on the banks of Durham's Eno River for the annual Festival for the Eno.

The festival opened Wednesday and will continue this weekend on Saturday and Sunday.

"Although this is the 28th year, we've added new things every year," said Robin Jacobs, executive director of the Eno River Association.

### IF YOU GO

Time: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., July 7-8  
Location: West Point on the Eno, Durham City Park  
Info: www.enoriver.org/festival/

"Every year it's a little bit different."

Jacobs' organization puts on the festival to promote awareness and raise money for the protection of the Eno River basin.

And with big names in North Carolina performing arts such as the African American Dance Ensemble, MidTown Dickens and John McCutcheon among others, the Festival for the Eno doesn't have any problems drawing a large crowd.

This year, its organizers expect around 40,000 people to attend.

SEE ENO, PAGE 5

online | dailytarheel.com

**Emergency Alert** UNC is signed on to receive emergency text messages

**Mishandling money** State rep. Mary McAllister fined for fundraising abuses

**Summer fun** CUAB activities during the summer are still attracting students

city | page 4

**Parking trouble**

Local council plans to reduce parking fees and implement free parking on Sunday have been meet with worries about negative impacts on business.

arts | page 9

**I smell a ratatouille**

"Ratatouille," the latest film from the Academy-award winning team of Brad Bird and Pixar, is a feast of French food and fun for the whole family.

campus | page 4

**Starbucks not fair**

Though Starbucks is slated to open within the coming year, many on campus are against the arrival of a Starbucks in Rams Head due to fair-trade issues.

dive blog

For more arts reviews, visit [dive.dailytarheel.com](http://dive.dailytarheel.com)

index

calendar .....2  
sports .....6  
games .....9  
opinion .....10