

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Extra land, tax in works

### Sales tax other option on table

BY TED STRONG  
SENIOR WRITER

County officials are debating the best way to increase taxes as a way to get extra funds.

A pair of Orange County commissioners said Tuesday night that they support a real estate transfer tax for the county, rather than an increase in sales tax.

And several members of the Board of County Commissioners expressed worries about passing the referendum necessary to implement the new tax.

"(The towns) need to come forward and help support a new revenue source if we're going to put it to the public," board chairman Moses Carey Jr. said.

Because of new state law, each county government is now allowed to request, via referendum, a .4 percent real estate transfer tax or a .25 cent sales tax increase.

Board vice chairman Barry Jacobs and commissioner Mike Nelson said during the meeting that they would prefer the transfer tax.

But Carey said a final decision on the tax shouldn't be made until sometime in the fall, so county and town officials can talk about the issue. A public hearing on the issue is scheduled for Aug. 30.

Carey also said he wants more time to communicate with voters in general.

"A month and a half is not ... enough time, in my opinion, to sufficiently educate the public," he said.

County staff have looked at holding the referendums on either the Nov. 6 municipal election or the presidential primary, which will be May 6.

If any referendums are approved, the transfer tax could take effect as soon as Jan. 1 or July 1, and the sales tax could come into use as soon as April 1 or Sept. 1, 2008.

Nelson said that he thinks the May election would work better because there will be a bigger turnout with a presidential race and that the seniors who typically dominate municipal races tend to be wary of new taxes.

"I think it's a little more democratic," he said of the May contest.

County officials can put referendums on either or both taxes

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## UNC will fix diploma errors

BY WHITNEY KISLING  
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Almost 2,000 UNC diplomas have been distributed with incorrect information on them, and the University has agreed to reprint them, absorbing the cost.

Those undergraduate students who received a degree from the College of Arts and Sciences in May have been sent letters informing them that their diplomas contain inaccurate information about the dean of their college.

Instead of the title "Dean," under

Madeline Levine's name, the diplomas are printed with "Dean of the Professional School" — a school that doesn't exist at the University.

"This was a fairly small mistake, but it was a large error," said University Registrar Alice Poehls, whose department coordinates diplomas.

Former Student Body Treasurer Anisa Mohanty alerted Poehls to the error by e-mail last week, and the registrar's office sent letters Friday to all 1,896 graduates who have diplomas with errors.

The letter states that UNC will reprint

the diplomas for free and asks that the incorrect diplomas be sent back.

"Initially I'm sure that they sort of didn't know exactly how to respond," Mohanty said. "And the fact that she e-mailed me back with a finalized plan that evening — that was a really appropriate and timely response."

According to the registrar's Web site, 4,756 UNC students graduated in May, giving the college the largest percentage of graduates.

The diplomas should be ready within about two weeks, Poehls said, noting that

UNC paid to rush the new order.

"That's really all we can do," she said. "The University is simply going to try to get the right ones to them."

When graduates request their diplomas to be reprinted because of an error on the students' part, the University usually charges a \$25 fee.

The new order will cost UNC between \$3,000 and \$4,000 — which the registrar's office will foot.

"It's expensive, but it's got to be

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Former interim dean Madeline Levine's title was incorrect on diplomas.

"We're always so saddened when twins don't room together.  
We're best friends." BEVERLY KNIGHT, UNC TWIN



Twins Samantha and Sierra Moore read a magazine together in their apartment. Many twins live together during college, explaining that they encounter fewer conflicts with their siblings than with other roommates.

## Sharing genes and one room

### Twins still live together at UNC

BY WILL HALICKS  
STAFF WRITER

For the Formeister twins, the notion of being identical transcends appearance.

Sure, their physical resemblance is undeniable: They're both stocky and broad-shouldered, and they have the same propensity for telling long stories that trail off into ringing laughter.

But for the second year in a row, Marc and Eric will share something more — living space.

And the Formeisters aren't alone. Marc and Eric are just one set of twins living together at the University this year. "Being an identical twin is a different kind of bond," Marc Formeister said.

Because they grew up together, the two seniors have similar living habits and a strong connection that wouldn't be possible between strangers, Marc Formeister said.

The two didn't room together when they transferred to UNC in their sophomore year, Eric Formeister said.

But bad experiences with other roommates prompted the decision.

"Your friends versus people you can live with — two different groups of people," he said.

The two agreed that rooming together made things much easier, especially because they didn't have to worry about roommates with different needs or habits.

"My mom will ask me a question, and my response will be nearly identical to what he says," Eric Formeister said.

Samantha Moore, a senior, said the comfort and convenience of living with her twin Sierra eased the transition into college and created an anchor for her relationships at UNC.

"We came from a small town, so we were pretty shy," Samantha Moore said. "We only knew a handful of people coming up here."

She added that she has 21 years of experience rooming with her twin.

Sierra Moore said living apart would have been impractical, especially because the twins share everything from cosmetics to clothing.

"It would have been hard to go out and buy a second set of things," she said. "When we pick stuff out, I just hold it up to her to see what it looks like on me."

SEE TWINS, PAGE 7

## Wi-Fi updates plug in libraries



Freshman biology major Jonathan Young studies in Davis library. "It's quiet here. I'm going to use the wireless all the time," Young said.

BY KATY DOLL  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Davis Library has always been a haven for serious studying, but now it will serve as a Wi-Fi hot spot, too.

"In Davis Library, we had originally only eight wireless access points for the entire library," said Jim Gogan, director of networking. "We now have 99."

The Undergraduate Library also received a wireless update, with the addition of 13 new wireless access points, bringing the library's total access points to 17.

The updates totalled \$125,000 and were completed three weeks ago after nine months of planning and installation, officials said.

"It's not something that is inexpensive or something we under-

took lightly," Gogan said.

For the past several years student government members have requested an increase in wireless access in the libraries.

The libraries were noted as areas of high usage — marking them for more immediate updates.

Plans are in the works to expand Wi-Fi to other high-usage buildings, but any renovations depend on funding.

"Jim Gogan does have a plan on how to do it for the whole campus," said John Streck, associate vice chancellor for telecommunications.

"We will continue the execution of that plan, but it depends on funding, and funding is tight."

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## School year start not always smooth

### Students share first-day stories

The first day of classes brought the traditional mass of Carolina blue back to the Pit.

Although many were glad to get back, things didn't always go off without a hitch.

Here are a few of their stories:

■ Katherine Key — freshman, biology major

"I walked into my sociology class and opened a Diet Coke, and it spewed all over me. It even got on the floor and the desk. I was at the very front, too, so everybody

saw. It was really embarrassing."

■ Rachel Will — sophomore, journalism and Spanish major

"I went to a class that I was trying to get into, and no one was there," Will said.

Will walked all the way to the Kenan-Flagler Business School when she saw that the designated classroom was not being used for the Social and Behavioral Science course she was hoping to get into.

"I think I was just out of the loop on this one," she said. "I think they must have sent out an e-mail or something."

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### MONEY TALKS

University leaders begin discussing student-fee hikes on the first day of classes. A 3.6 percent increase is being proposed.

state | page 6

### WILTING IN THE HEAT

Residents with a usually resplendent garden at their Gimghoul Road homes are suffering from the drought — and so is everyone else.

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### FIRST-DAY JITTERS

Remember your first day of class at UNC? The DTH follows a freshman to see how she fared.

this day in history

### AUG. 22, 1998 ...

A new oven at Lenoir Dining Hall catches fire when papers were left in the oven during a test of the equipment.

weather

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