

# Easley gives budget pitch

## Raise in sin taxes to fund reforms

DEVIN ROONEY  
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The N.C. General Assembly came into session Tuesday and has begun to mull over Gov. Mike Easley's \$21.5 billion budget proposal, which includes tax increases that many legislative leaders questioned due to the recent economic downturn.

The two state legislative bodies must both take the proposal into consideration before drafting their own budgets. The groups must come to an agreement on the state budget, along with Easley, by June 30.

The tax increases on alcohol and cigarettes will help fund budgeted increases of teacher and state employee salaries, and \$68 million for mental health care.

N.C. Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, the majority leader in the

N.C. House of Representatives, said this isn't the time for tax increases.

"I think it's a session where we'll be looking for efficiencies rather than raising taxes," he said.

When presenting the budget Monday, Easley argued that the increases on alcohol taxes were a drop in the bucket for consumers, but made a difference for patients in the state mental health care system.

"It's not a significant amount to the consumer, but it's a significant amount to the mentally ill," he said.

Easley also suggested that if the tax increase was burdensome for any citizens, they might be alcoholics.

"My thought is if 4 cents a can, if that causes somebody economic hardship, then they are probably drinking too much and are going to be customers of mental health, substance abuse centers anyway."

N.C. Sen. Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, the N.C. Senate minority leader, said citizens earning the lowest incomes are hit

hardest by these tax increases.

"In tough economic times, it is not the time to raise taxes, particularly taxes that hit the poorest people."

There was also concern about the disparity between wage increases for state employees and public school teachers.

Easley's budget proposal includes an average 7 percent increase for public school teachers, which will bring N.C. teacher salaries up to par with nationally competitive wages, but only a 1.5 percent cost-of-living increase and a one-time, \$1,000 bonus for state employees.

Hackney said this probably won't pass the N.C. House.

"The house historically does not pass a budget with that kind of disparity between teachers and state employees, and I would predict for you that there would not be that kind of disparity this time, either."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

# UNC bows out early in ACCs

## Wolfpack shuts out Tar Heels

BY DAVID REYNOLDS  
STAFF WRITER

One mistake was all North Carolina State's Lindsay Campana needed to end No. 13 North Carolina's run through the ACC softball tournament in the semifinals.

Campana guided Saturday's upset of the top-seeded Tar Heels (50-11-1) with dominant pitching, allowing only three hits and zero runs while striking out seven in seven innings of work. N.C. State (31-26) won the game 1-0.

"She's a very good pitcher; she has a drop ball that she places really well inside and out," UNC sophomore Danielle Spaulding said. "But I think we were pressing and that we didn't really play our game. We were chasing balls that we shouldn't have, and I think we helped her out a lot."

UNC pitcher Lisa Norris nearly matched Campana's elite performance, giving up just four hits in six innings. But one mistake, a change-up that N.C. State sophomore Kristine Bechthold hit over the fence in the second inning, marred her otherwise masterful game.

North Carolina threatened to score in the sixth and seventh, but ultimately UNC hitters could not capitalize against Campana with runners on base.

The loss came as a shock and major disappointment for a team that posted an 18-2 conference record in ACC history, and swept the Wolfpack during the regular season.

Spaulding said the team is already looking forward to the NAAs.

"Although it meant a lot, we're over it, and we're ready to move on," she said. "It's not the end of the world."

UNC started off its ACC tournament weekend on a roll, getting a perfect game from Spaulding in a 6-0 victory in quarterfinal action Thursday against Virginia. But then showers in College Park, Md., washed out all of Friday's games and delayed Saturday's contests.

The rain forced tournament officials to rework its double elimination format into a single elimination bracket due to time constraints.

Coach Donna Papa said the format change hurt the Tar Heels because it eliminated their advantages in pitching depth and overall consistency. UNC lost two games in a row only once this season.

"I really feel like we had the pitching to handle a tournament like that, and when it changed it changes the whole complexity of it and makes it a different tournament," she said.

The semifinal exit put a damper on a week full of individual awards for the ACC regular season champions. Spaulding took home ACC Player of the Year, Papa earned ACC Coach of the Year and five other Tar Heels garnered all-ACC nods.

UNC's season will continue next week in the NCAA tournament, where they will compete in a region with No. 15 national seed Georgia.

Papa said that although they were not able to complete their goal of winning the ACC tournament, they hope to accomplish their other main goal of making the College World Series by doing all the little things right they did not do against N.C. State.

"We've got to execute and look at the things you need to do and the things we've been doing all year to be successful," Papa said. "If you don't do those things, any team can beat us; it doesn't matter on paper what you've done."

North Carolina will host Brigham Young (42-18) on Thursday in the opening game of regional play in the NCAA tournament.

Regional play consists of a double elimination tournament between four teams assigned to a specific regional site. The other two teams in the Chapel Hill regional are No. 15 national seed Georgia and Campbell (41-23).

Contact the Sports Editor at [sports@unc.edu](mailto:sports@unc.edu)

SOFTBALL	upset of the top-seeded Tar Heels (50-11-1) with dominant pitching, allowing only three hits and zero runs while striking out seven in seven innings of work. N.C. State (31-26) won the game 1-0.
Virginia	0
UNC	6
N.C. State	1
UNC	0

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## BLUE LIGHT

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Earlier in the meeting, Halpern delivered a presentation that showed the present light levels on McCauley Street and argued that increased lights would ruin the aesthetics of a historic neighborhood.

"What happened to stars being part of our evening walks?" he said.

"A Thomas Wolfe could not find inspiration today perambulating Vance Street at night, though he might still encounter it along some parts of McCauley."

The council held an open meeting April 8 to hear resident concerns about not only the proposed lights and call boxes but the most useful locations for installation.

UNC alum Bret Dougherty said after the May 5 meeting that he feels this vote might be the last straw, and he threatened to move from the McCauley Street neighborhood.

"I'm tired of seeing drunk kids," he said, adding that he wishes the University would direct more effort toward keeping rambunctious students off the streets late at night.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## GOVERNORS

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getting scheduled and organized," Gardner said.

And Perdue, who about a month before the primary made the switch to entirely positive television advertisements, might not play as nicely in the general election.

Kochman said it is unclear whether she will stick to positive ads, considering the N.C. Republican party ad which ran before the primary that criticized Richard Moore and Perdue's endorsement of Barack Obama.

"In terms of whether or not she'll run only positive campaigns, we'll need to see; the one thing that we've seen is that the Republican Party started attacking Richard Moore and Bev Perdue," he said.

"It's certainly disappointing that they chose to go down that path — it's that kind of politics of distraction that voters are fed up with."

Until the political campaigns gear up again, both candidates are working their day jobs.

Perdue is currently fulfilling the lieutenant governor's duty as president of the N.C. Senate, which has reconvened for a short legislative session, and McCrory is keeping

"I don't think you're going to find those issues changing much between now and the general election."

**TOM GARDNER**, MCCRORY SPOKESMAN

busy by running Charlotte.

McCrory has indicted the leadership in Raleigh as ineffectual, and Perdue's position leaves her open to criticism as part of the state government establishment.

The disparity in the two jobs' influence highlights what could be a major factor in the election.

Perdue, in her two terms as lieutenant governor, five terms as an N.C. senator and two terms in the N.C. House of Representatives, has built up a strong familiarity amongst the voting public across the state.

But Gardner said McCrory's campaign is not daunted by Perdue's widespread influence.

"McCrory also has pretty high name recognition; he's been mayor of Charlotte for seven terms now."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu)

## PRIMARIES

FROM PAGE 3

radio, they see in the newspaper some word of mouth is that Obama has nearly clinched the nomination, that he's getting very near to it," he said.

"I think people take it in stride."

Luckily for Clinton, many of the remaining contests are in states with demographics more favorable to her.

Guillory noted that it's not all going to be a cake walk for the Clinton campaign.

"At the same time, however, Oregon is much more favorable terrain for Sen. Obama," he said.

He added that it's rumored Clinton is merely continuing in order to leave the race with her head held high.

"There's some speculation ... She'd like to win a state or two, and then finish the campaign gracefully," he said.

The battle has turned in Obama's favor, so if Clinton has stayed in with a real hope at the presidency the burden is on her to shake things up.

"The path to the nomination is much clearer and smoother for Obama than for Clinton today as a result of North Carolina."

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