

Budgeting education

North Carolina teachers criticize Martin's efforts to juggle pay raises, Basic Education Plan

By SUSAN HOLDSCLAW
Staff Writer

Gov. Jim Martin's promise to recommend a pay raise for teachers in his revised budget has left local educators wanting more and legislators asking where the governor plans to get the money.

"This is just a charade," said Woody Edmonds, principal of Grey Culbreth Junior High School. "He misled teachers during the campaign ... and now he's trying to find ways of getting around that."

Martin released his proposal for a 4.5 percent pay increase for teachers and state employees Monday night, less than 24 hours before angry teachers from across the state

marched on the Executive Mansion. The demonstrators were protesting his refusal to increase their salaries — a promise he made during the campaign but has failed to deliver.

"If teachers had not made some sort of noise, this (Martin's revised proposal) would not have happened," Edmonds said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

Howard Fried, a counselor at Chapel Hill Senior High School, agreed.

"He's trying to backpedal on his original proposal," he said.

The funding for the raises Martin has proposed will come from cuts in the Basic Education Program (BEP) — an eight-year, \$800 million plan

to upgrade public elementary and secondary schools — and the expected windfall profits in the form of capital gains tax payments from the sale of RJR-Nabisco.

If the windfall totals \$53 million, it will pay for a 4.5 percent across-the-board raise for teachers and state employees for three months, Martin told reporters after Monday's education summit.

This funding would allow the General Assembly to raise salaries by Oct. 1, and Martin said he hoped other spending cuts in the budget might allow the raise to begin in July.

Martin called the education summit last week and invited a bipartisan legislative delegation and educators

from state schools to discuss the state's education policies.

The governor spoke to the estimated 5,000 teachers assembled at the state fairgrounds in Raleigh Tuesday morning. In the afternoon, he met with a representative of the teachers as the others prepared to march.

Still, local educators' reactions to the plan were less than enthusiastic.

Fried said the governor's latest proposal, like the 5.7 percent pay raise he promised during the campaign, is unacceptable.

"It amounts to a reduction in pay in real dollars," he said. "We're still getting talk about the importance of education and the need to keep good teachers, but you can't go on year

after year asking people to do with less."

It's time to straighten out the confused salary schedule for teachers, Fried said, but he didn't agree with the way the governor wants to do it.

Edmonds said teachers deserve both a pay raise and the BEP.

"We've not gone far enough in the Basic Education Plan to stop now," he said. "(Martin) needs to look closely at finding money from other areas. He's robbing Peter to pay Paul."

Senate President Pro Tem Henson Barnes, D-Wayne, said the governor has only talked about what he would like to do, and he couldn't react to the proposal until Martin gives

legislators something more concrete.

"He's just thinking about it," Barnes said of Martin's plan.

But he questioned where Martin would get the money for the pay raises. Taking \$57 million out of the BEP "will not even come near it," Barnes said. He estimated it would take \$160 million to fund the raises Martin said his revised budget will include.

"He hasn't come up with a plan that even makes sense," Barnes said. Martin will submit the budget in April or May, when the amount of the RJR-Nabisco windfall gains will be more definite. He told reporters he hoped to have the rough outlines within a week.

Dukakis campaign leaves state Democrats in debt

By JENNIFER JOHNSTON
Staff Writer

The presidential elections are long over, but some financial reminders were left behind in North Carolina.

The N.C. Democratic Party was left with \$70,000 in debts when workers for presidential candidate Michael Dukakis, as part of the Victory '88 organization, left the state after incurring the debts in the last week of the campaign.

"Victory '88 was an offshoot of the Democratic Party in North Carolina with shared responsibilities between the state Democratic Party and the Dukakis campaign," said Margaret Lawton, press secretary for the N.C. Democratic Party.

The purpose of Victory '88 was to bring out more voters, not only for Dukakis but for all the Democratic candidates, she said.

According to Jim Van Hecke, former state Democratic chairman, it was a coordinated campaign. The state party was a co-signer on all the checks written by the campaign, he said. Toward the end of the campaign, Dukakis workers began running up large bills without consulting

the state party.

When the election was over, the Dukakis campaign workers left the state Democratic Party with \$70,000 in unpaid bills, he said.

"This happens very often in political campaigns," Van Hecke said. "Technically, the responsibility was ours."

The Democratic National Committee has agreed to pay between 73 percent and 75 percent of the debt, Lawton said. The state party does not yet know who will make up the difference.

According to figures from the Federal Elections Commission, the national Dukakis campaign ended up with a surplus of funds.

"The Dukakis campaign owes \$1,277,000, but is owed \$2,154,000 by others," said Scott Moxley, spokesman for the commission.

"The general campaign itself is not in debt," said Mary Wong, an accountant for the Dukakis campaign. It is difficult to track down who is responsible for debt in these kinds of situations because funds were shared and were not for the sole use of the Dukakis campaign, she

said.

When the state party asked the Dukakis campaign to pay the bills with the extra money, the request was refused, Van Hecke said. Dukakis is sending the surplus funds back to the federal government, he said.

The Republican Party did not seem to leave behind similar financial problems.

The Republican Victory '88 campaign has a surplus of \$7,000, said Bill Graham, chairman of the N.C. Banking Commission and former head of the state Bush campaign. The extra funds are due to late contributions that are still coming in, he said.

Nationally, the Republican Party owes \$202,537 but is owed \$445,000, according to the Federal Elections Commission.

"We're not like the Democrats," Graham said. "We don't run up our

Center's series of workshops helps students to write right

By SARAH CAGLE
Staff Writer

Undergraduate and graduate students can take advantage of a series of writing workshops at the Writing Center beginning this week.

And for the first time, the center is holding conversation classes for international students.

The writing workshops, led by doctoral English students, are open to writers at any level, said Tim Logue, teaching assistant at the center.

"There is a misconception that to come to the Writing Center means you need remedial work, but we work with students on all levels," Logue said.

The first and third workshops concentrate on improving prose writing on assignments in any

subject. The others, "Essay Exams" and "Fiction Analysis," target more specific skills.

"A student could benefit from all of the workshops," he said. "There is very little overlap."

Each writing workshop is given twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays in Greenlaw 222 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Students do not need to sign up beforehand.

The first workshop, "Writing in Style: Methods for Improving Your Prose," is Feb. 16. It will cover subjects such as sentence variety, transition and choosing verbs, Logue said.

The conversation class is an informal two-hour session that allows international students to practice speaking English.

"We have several international students who come in here every

week, and a lot of them have limited contact with native English speakers," Logue said.

Because of this limitation, international students have a particularly difficult time with writing assignments, he said. "Good written English and good spoken English go hand in hand."

The conversation classes are held in the Writing Center every Monday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Students who have other questions should make an appointment at the center, he said.

"Every student ought to know that if he or she is struggling with a paper, there is somewhere to go."

The center stipulates only that students do not come with last-minute problems and that they do not simply want papers to be proofread, Logue said.

Players

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released last week were surprising, said John Coster, author of the report.

"It came as a shock to me," said Coster, a professor at NCSU. "I wasn't really expecting it, but it would be unreasonable to expect them to keep up their grades."

"If you bring in people with low SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) scores — Proposition 48 kids — it's going to be difficult for them to make it through school. I feel sorry in a sense that this information had to break in the news, but it may be the only way to give these kids a chance. They may well be victims of a system," he said.

However, Winstead said NCSU does not have any Proposition 48 players on the basketball team.

Players classified under Proposition 48 lose their first year of eligibility for failing to meet either of two academic standards while in high school — a 2.0 grade point average and a score of 700 on the SAT.

"The admissions index, which predicts how a student will do in the first year of college, has been rising for the athletes at NCSU, Coster said. Unfortunately, the athletes may not be taking advantage of the extra help that is offered to them, he said.

The faculty senate was satisfied with the graduation rates Valvano presented in November, Coster said.

Eight of the 22 students Valvano recruited between 1980 and 1985 graduated from NCSU. Another three transferred and earned degrees from other schools, leaving an adjusted graduation rate of 50 percent.

"NCSU's overall five-year graduation rate is 54.2 percent, which compares favorably with that of the basketball team's," said Gary Barnes, associate vice president for planning at General Administration. The average five-year graduation rate for

the 16 UNC-system campuses is 44.9 percent.

UNC's five-year graduation rate is the best in the system at 71.2 percent; NCSU's rate is the second best, Barnes said.

UNC's basketball team has graduated 100 percent in the 1980s, Smith said.

Duke University basketball teams have also had academic success. Since around 1975, 44 players have entered Duke's basketball program, and 42 of them have graduated, while the other two transferred, said Chris Kennedy, Duke's assistant athletic director.

"I really monitor them closely to make sure they have their priorities straight," Kennedy said. "We have to depend on their sense of responsibility, so we try to develop this in any way possible."

"We look at our recruits closely to see if they have what it takes. We could reject a kid with a 1240 score on his SAT and take a kid who scored 840 — and that has happened," he said.

The University of Virginia has had very few academic problems with its athletes, said Richard McQuire, director of academic advising for inter-collegiate athletics. McQuire said only that a vast majority of Virginia's basketball players had graduated.

"We have a lot of supporting programs, but we do have a people who struggle occasionally," McQuire said. "The university will not allow unsatisfactory progress. The rules of satisfactory progress are such that you really have to move along. We have to provide structure for our guys."

Senators propose ban on Tennessee liquor

By GLENN O'NEAL
Staff Writer

A bill to ban all Tennessee-made liquor in North Carolina has been proposed by state Sens. Dennis Winner and Robert Swain in response to the reduced operations of the Champion Mill in Canton.

The cutback at Champion was forced by Tennessee's refusal to alter water quality standards in the Pigeon River.

Winner, D-Buncombe, said he had no interest in revenge when he proposed the measure.

The goal of the bill is to get Tennessee to reconsider its stance on the water issue and talk about the issue some more, he said. The main

idea is to get Tennessee's standards down to a reasonable level, he said.

"Someone has said that what they did was like dropping a neutron bomb on western North Carolina. It has been pretty devastating," Winner said.

Tim Pittman, communications director for Gov. Jim Martin, said the governor feels the proposed liquor bill is a symbolic gesture against Tennessee, but he does not take a position on it.

"The governor does not support active legislation against Tennessee but rather substantive measures that affect the quality of life in North Carolina, such as air pollution and lake levels," he said.

The governor was interested in two areas concerning Tennessee's environmental regulations, Pittman said. One is whether Tennessee can impose regulations on North Carolina lakes that drain into Tennessee.

The second concerns limiting the auto emissions from Tennessee that blow into the North Carolina mountains by prevailing winds, he said.

Melissa Massey, deputy communications director for Gov. Ned McWherter of Tennessee, said: "The governor's number-one priority is the clean-up of the river. He is sorry about the jobs that were lost and the adverse economic condition of the area. But this has been a problem for some time. He is very comfortable

with his decision."

Neither the Jack Daniels Distillery nor the George A. Dickel Company, which are Tennessee liquor manufacturers, has contacted the governor to change his policy, she said.

Roger Brashears, Lynchburg promotions manager at Jack Daniels, said he did not know how much of his company's liquor was sold in North Carolina, because the sales figures are confidential, but he did say the distillery's business would be hurt if the bill passes.

"We don't mix in politics. If it happens, it happens. It sounds like someone over there is biting off their nose to spite their face," he said.

Residents request restricted street parking

By KATHRYNE TOVO
Staff Writer

Parking along North Boundary Street between Rosemary and North streets may soon be restricted if residents in the area get their request approved by the Chapel Hill Town Council.

Residents of the area submitted a petition to the council Monday requesting that parking be prohibited along the east side of the street between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. during the week.

The area involved is included in the town's historic district, and there is already a parking restriction along the west side of the street weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sally Sather, of 206 N. Boundary St., circulated the petition and said all residents of the block had signed

it. The parking has become a serious problem for residents of the neighborhood in the last four to five years, she said.

Sather said she is not opposed to short-term parking along the street, but she said many owners leave their cars for weeks, and some even cover their cars.

"I don't think our neighborhood should become a parking lot for anyone," she said. "The storage parking needs to be stopped."

Sather said her driveway has also been blocked in by cars on several occasions, and she has had to have the cars towed away. Also, those who park on the street drive along the road looking for a parking space and create a lot of traffic, she said.

"We've been awakened at two in the morning by people trying to

squeeze into a space big enough for half a Honda," she said.

Donald Kellerman, of 205 N. Boundary Street, said he signed the petition because he was concerned about the traffic along the street.

"I don't particularly object to people parking there — I realize there is not an abundance of parking in Chapel Hill — but my concern is that there is not sufficient room for traffic to pass through," Kellerman said.

North Boundary Street resident C.B. Smith said he thought the car owners were primarily students because he sees them collecting their books before they leave their cars.

"I have no objection to students

parking here on the same basis as everyone else. But when they park and leave their cars here for five or six days, that is an unfair use of space."

Capt. Gregg Jarvis, of the Chapel Hill Police Department, said officers chalked the tires of the cars three weeks ago to determine if they were violating the town's abandoned vehicle ordinance.

According to the chalk test, more than 50 percent of the cars violated the ordinance by remaining parked along North Boundary Street from North Street to Campbell Lane for more than 48 hours, Jarvis said.

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