

7 months of discussion break legislative records

By JANNETTE PIPPIN

Controversial legislation such as a \$9 billion highway bill kept state legislators on their toes, but it was the seven-month session that broke the records.

After 215 days, the N.C. General Assembly adjourned Aug. 12 — breaking the record for the longest session. The previous record was set in 1983 with the House working 138 days and the Senate working 137, according to records in the General Assembly's library.

"It was a very trying session for a number of reasons, but mainly it was too long," said Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange.

Highlights of the 1989 session included a \$9 billion highway trust fund bill, a revised state income tax code and a merit pay proposal for state employees.

The highway bill, approved July 28, will finance a statewide plan for building four-lane highways and urban loops and paving rural dirt roads during the next 13 1/2 years.

A 1-cent vehicle sales tax increase and an additional 5-cent tax on gasoline will fund the bill.

Controversy regarding the tax increases and a diversion of funds kept the bill on the floor most of the session.

Diverting \$335 million from funds for the highway plan during the first two years will pay for teacher and state employee raises.

"The most important piece of legislation is the budget and the allocation of money," Hackney said.

"With this bill being such an important and far-reaching one, there was a lot of conflict over increasing taxes and whether to use some of the funds for pay raises."

Not everyone was satisfied with the bill, but legislators agreed the bill is better than nothing at all.

"It's one of the largest appropriation bills that has been passed since I've been in the legislature," said Sen. A.D. Guy, D-Onslow. "I think the state will fare well."

Besides the pay raises accompanying the highway package, state employees can now receive more merit pay. On the last day of the session, legislators gave final approval for guidelines on a 2-percent merit pay raise for state employees in addition to a 4-percent salary increase approved earlier in the session.

Also on the last day, the General Assembly approved revisions to the state income tax code regarding pension tax exemptions. Revisions allow retired state, local and federal government employees to receive identical \$4,000 state income tax exemptions on their pension. For the first time, private business retirees

will get \$2,000 exemptions. Rewriting the tax code came in response to a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down a Michigan law taxing pensions for state and local retirees in a different manner than federal employees were taxed. North Carolina had a similar law.

In other business, the General Assembly raised tuition at state universities by 20 percent for state residents and removed pork-barrel spending from the budget. The spending allowed legislators to use funds for local projects in their district.

In the final days of the session, the governor's bid to receive veto power failed in the House.

"The session was a success for me personally and overall also," said Sen. Robert Shaw, R-Guilford. "But several items were left undone."

Debate over legislation that could lower the legal level of intoxication in the state from a blood-alcohol content of 0.10 to 0.08 is being held over until next session.

Discussion about revisions to the state's Open Meeting Act was also put on hold.

Mayor unopposed for fall race

By JESSICA LANNING

Assistant City Editor

Chapel Hill Mayor Jonathan Howes will campaign unopposed for his second term this fall and the candidate said he prefers running unopposed.

"It is less taxing — I can concentrate on my job rather than campaign for it," Howes said, describing the pressures that can build up when running a competitive campaign.

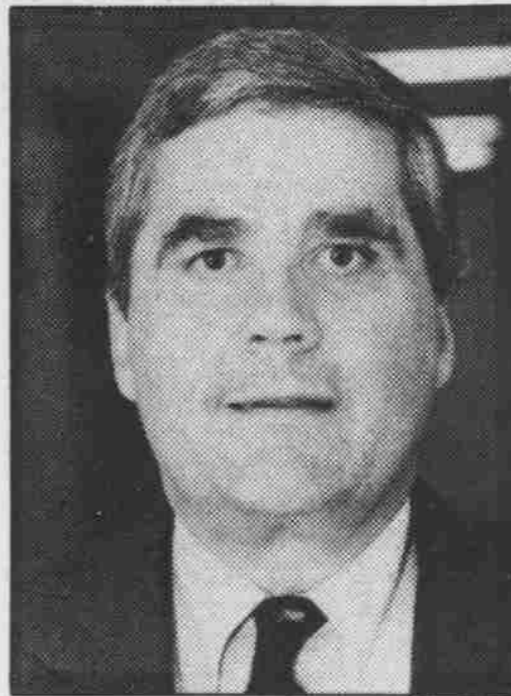
Running unopposed will also keep expenses down and save time needed to raise money, he said.

"I think people in this community consider it unseemly when you spend money when you don't need to."

The money remaining from his campaign two years ago, along with additional personal funds, will be used for newspaper and radio advertising and other campaigning expenses, he said.

Howes still plans to campaign actively for votes to defeat any possible write-in candidates and to participate in local political forums.

Attending forums is the "standard vehicle" for campaigning in Chapel Hill, Howes said. He plans to attend forums on Oct. 3 for the Alliance of



Jonathon Howes

"These are what I consider the most important strategic issues with long-term significance to the town." Anyone running for a council seat should think about and address these issues, he said.

First elected in 1975, Howes has served three four-year terms on the council and will have served in Chapel Hill government for 16 years at the end of his present term as mayor.

Employed by the University in the Department of City and Regional Planning, Howes teaches courses in politics and planning and a seminar in planning and government.

Howes said he chose to run for re-election because he did not want to leave some projects in midstream.

The new library, the new addition to the municipal building and the recycling program are some of the projects Howes hopes to complete during his next term as Chapel Hill mayor.

"I think two years is a short period of time and certainly not a sufficient amount of time. I'd like to spend at least two more years working on these programs."

Neighborhoods and on Oct. 28 for the League of Women Voters.

Howes said he believed there were five major issues that will be important in the upcoming elections. These issues include downtown and revitalization of that area, housing and the homeless, transportation, recycling and the environment, and drugs and crime.

Watch for expanded Editorial and Sports coverage in The Daily Tar Heel

SAVE

Buy Used Textbooks At

TAR HEEL

TEXTBOOKS

Corner of Mallette & Franklin • 929-5228

- Free Parking at the Door
- Official UNC Textbooks
- School Supplies

We Buy Back Books Year Round!!

"Your Used Textbooks Headquarters"

Fall Hours:

Mon.-Fri. 8 am-late

Sat. 10 am-5pm

Open Sun., Sept. 3 Noon-5 pm

Open Labor Day Regular Hours



Ram Triple
 When Harry Met Sally
 Nightly 7:00-9:00 (R)
 Sat & Sun Matinee 2:00-4:00

Dead Poets Society
 Nightly 7:15-9:40 (PG)
 Sat & Sun Matinee 2:20-4:40

Relentless (R)
 Nightly 7:30-9:15
 Sat & Sun Matinee 2:30-4:30

EASTERN FEDERAL THEATRES
CHAPEL HILL PLAZA 3
 ELLIOT ROAD at E. FRANKLIN
 967-4737
 \$3.00 ALL SHOWS BEGINNING BEFORE 6PM

3:20	He's	7:20
5:20	crude. <i>Uncle Buck</i>	9:20
3:10	TURNER & HOOD	7:10
5:10	TURNER & HOOD	9:10
3:00	Heart of Dixie	7:00
5:00	Heart of Dixie	9:00

SHOW TIMES FOR TODAY ONLY!

Maggie's
 MUFFINS
 FRESHLY BAKED
 Muffins & Bagels
 Coffee, Tea, Sodas & More!
 Open From 7am Weekday
 8 am Sat. & Sun
 407 W. Weaver St.

CAROLINA SPECIAL
 6 group classes
 \$25 with ad

RELAXATION through EXERCISE
 YOGA brings

- Vitality • Flexibility
- Strength • Synchronicity

2 miles from RAMS PLAZA
 HATHA HOUSE
 Jo Anna Spector 489-0516

WORK FOR YOURSELF

As a campus representative you'll be responsible for placing advertising materials on bulletin boards and working on marketing programs for clients such as American Express, Boston University, Eural, and various movie companies, among others. Part-time work, choose your own hours. No sales. Many of our reps stay with us long after graduation. If you are self-motivated, hard-working, and a bit of an entrepreneur, call or write for more information to:

AMERICAN PASSAGE NETWORK
 6211 W. HOWARD STREET
 CHICAGO, IL 60648
 (800) 727-5783 or
 (312) 647-6880
 CHICAGO DALLAS LOS ANGELES
 NEW YORK SEATTLE