

## The Daily Tar Heel

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## IN DEPTH

# Busing system faces budget cutbacks

By JENNIFER FOSTER  
Staff Writer

### Analysis

Chapel Hill Transit, the public transportation system which serves Chapel Hill, Carrboro and UNC, is examining options to combat a possible cutback in federal funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

President George Bush's administration is suggesting that the U.S. government reduce federal Urban Mass Transit Authority grants, which the Chapel Hill Transit uses to subsidize the operations of the Chapel Hill bus routes.

If the funding cut occurs, Chapel Hill Transit will need to increase fares, increase taxes or decrease services to continue bus routes, said Scott McClellan, administrative assistant with Chapel Hill Transit.

Chapel Hill Transit has been receiving federal assistance since the 1970s, McClellan said. In the current fiscal year, the transit system received approximately \$1.2 million to \$1.3 million in grants.

The amount, mainly used to subsidize the operation of the Chapel Hill bus routes, will make up a third of the bus service's operating budget. Officials do not know how much this year's cutbacks will affect the budget, but they expect to receive less than last year, he said.

The Chapel Hill Transportation

Advisory Board has known for some time that the federal funding situation was bad and was going to continue to worsen, said Student Body President Bill Hildebolt, a transportation advisory board member.

Hildebolt said Chapel Hill was now facing a "double-whammy," because not only was the amount of federal funding decreasing, but Durham also had decided to apply for federal aid for the first time this year.

Because Durham and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area are in the same region and only a certain amount of federal funding is available for each region, the Chapel Hill Transportation Advisory Board has been expecting some heavy losses, Hildebolt said.

McClellan said that as more North Carolina cities made use of the grants, resources would become less available for the Chapel Hill Transit. Until the 1990-1991 fiscal year, which begins July 1, there had been a surplus of funding for mass transit grants for the federal government to allocate, he said.

The revenue loss would be split between Chapel Hill, Carrboro and the University.

Hildebolt said if the option of increasing fares was chosen, students and

low-income residents would be hurt the most. He said he did not think low-income residents, who depend on public transportation to get to their jobs, should have to face any increased hardships.

McClellan said it still was too early to predict which option would be chosen to subsidize the transit program. "It's too early to say what, if any, fare increases will take place. At this particular time, no options can be excluded."

Hildebolt said he thought increasing taxes might be possible. This would affect both Chapel Hill and Carrboro residents and students, most of whom live in off-campus apartments and who ride the bus on a regular basis.

Taxes already are collected from the owners of apartment complexes, who pass the costs on to apartment residents, Hildebolt said.

"I think there is some room for increase there without a whole lot of hardship," he said, adding that the taxes paid by student apartment residents are now very low.

If the cuts in funding occur and the area loss in federal funding is the \$300,000 projected total, preliminary budget reports for Chapel Hill and Carrboro show possible tax increases of 1 cent in each town.

Chapel Hill also may have to in-

crease property taxes to pay for bus maintenance and operations and the new park-and-ride lot on U.S. 15-501, according to projections. Taxes, which are now 57 cents for every \$100 of property value, could be increased to 60 cents.

An additional option to combat the decreasing funding is to reduce services. There are two ways to do this, McClellan said.

One option is to decrease the quality, not quantity of service. McClellan said decreasing bus maintenance would be an example of this type of cutback. The buses would still run on a full schedule, but the quality of service would not be as good.

The second option, he said, would be to decrease the amount of services offered by the transit system. This would mean decreased services and routes for the buses.

This option would not be well-received by most UNC students who depend on Chapel Hill Transit for transportation to and from campus.

Carla Lawrence, a graduate student from Havelock, lives off campus and uses public transportation. She said she would not be in favor of reducing service. Most of the time, it's a hassle for people who live off campus to wait for the bus, she said. "To cut service would really hurt a lot of people."

## Campus Calendar

**1991 Senior Calendar**  
Class of 1991: Marshal applications are now available at the Union desk and are due by 5 p.m. Friday. No experience needed. Pete and Chris will hold office hours every Thursday from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Please come by and meet us.

### SENIORS 1991

**WEDNESDAY**  
10 a.m.: The UNC Young Democrats announces that The Orange County Board of Elections will hold a voter registration clinic in the lobby of the Union until 5 p.m. today through Friday. Democrats, Republicans and independents may register to vote in the May primaries and November elections.

The International Center announces that British Universities North America Club, an organization sponsored by the Council on International Educational Exchange, will have representatives in the Union until 5 p.m. today through Friday. Democrats, Republicans and independents may register to vote in the May primaries and November elections.

The Institute of Latin American Studies presents Beatriz Schmulker, visiting professor from Argentina, who will be speaking on "Democracy in the Family and the Community: The Role of Latin American Women," in 210 Union.

The Presbyterian Campus Ministry will hold a Lenten Prayer Service until 12:20 p.m. at the Presbyterian Student Center at 110 Henderson St.

The Institute for Research in Social Science will hold "PC SAS, Session 6," an IRSS Statistical Analysis Short Course with Jose Sandoval, in 02 Manning. Call 962-0509 for more info.

SHS Outpatient Subcommittee and Student Government will be in the Pit until 2 p.m. Help us to help you; come by, fill out our questionnaire and give us your positive and negative suggestions and comments. We can not serve you without your help!

2 p.m.: IRSS will hold "SPSS PC, Session 6," an IRSS Statistical Analysis Short Course with Jose Sandoval in 02 Manning. Call 962-0509 for more info.

2:30 p.m.: The University Counseling Center will offer a workshop "Making Decisions About Majors and Careers," until 4 p.m. at Nash Hall. Phone UCC at 962-2175 for information and sign-up. We will offer another workshop on April 11.

3:15 p.m.: UNC Anthropology presents "The Symbolic Movements in the Apotheosis of James Cook, Explorer" with Gananath Obeyesekere of Princeton in 308 Alumni. Call 962-8092 for more info.

3:30 p.m.: UNC Psychology presents "Judging Test Quality: Moving Beyond Traditional Test Validity" with Nancy Cole of the Educational Testing

Service in 112 Davie. Call 962-2053 for more info. UNC Center for Stochastic Processes presents "One-Dimensional Bi-Generalized Diffusion Processes," with Yukio Ogura of Saga University, in 324 Phillips. Call 962-2307 for more info.

The Association for Women Faculty will hold a free informational panel on Sexual Harassment in 303 Dey Hall. Topics for the panel include the peer counseling program and resources available at UNC to deal with sexual harassment. Discussion encouraged. Find out how the system works and how to make it work for you!

4 p.m.: UCPPS will hold Job Hunt 105: Off Campus Job Search Workshop for seniors and graduate students in 210 Hanes.

UNC-Duke Physics and Astronomy present a joint colloquium "Hydrodynamic Winds From Protostellar Accretion Disks: Numerical Simulations," with Michael Norman of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Illinois, in 265 Phillips. Refreshments will be served at 3:30 p.m. in the 271 Phillips.

5 p.m.: The UNC Vegetarian Society will have a free vegetarian dinner until 7 p.m. in Gerrard Hall. All are welcome — homemade meals, recipes and general info.

Women's Forum will be meeting upstairs in the Campus Y.

The Human Rights Committee of the Campus Y will hold an informational meeting for new members on the second floor of the Y. All interested parties please attend.

5:30 p.m.: The Lutheran Campus Ministry will hold its weekly communion service followed by a fellowship meal at 6:15 p.m. We are located in the Campus Center of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Rosemary Street. Welcome!

The Newman Center invites you to feed your body and your mind! Come to Student Night at the Newman Center. Dinner will be followed by a program on peace and justice. All are welcome!

6 p.m.: The Wesley Foundation will meet at 214 Pittsboro St. behind the Carolina Inn. The program will be on relationships. Dinner is \$2. There also will be a council meeting at 5 p.m. prior to the program and dinner.

7 p.m.: UCPPS announces a presentation by Sears in 209 Hanes.

The UNC Young Democrats will host Democratic candidate for Senate Bo Thomas in 104 Howell. Thomas will speak about his campaign and the Senate race. Refreshments will be served.

The UNC Shag Club will meet in Carmichael, Dorm's Ballroom. All students interested in The Shag should be there. Members bring money for Myrtle Beach and Beach Blast.

7:30 p.m.: The Carolina Indian Circle will have meet in the Campus Y.

8 p.m.: 1990 Carolina Symposium presents "Bloods: An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Black Veterans," with author Wallace Terry in 121 Hanes Art Center. Call 962-8313 for more info.

11 p.m.: WXYC FM 89.3 will play the new album from Savage Republic - Customs - in its entirety with no interruptions.

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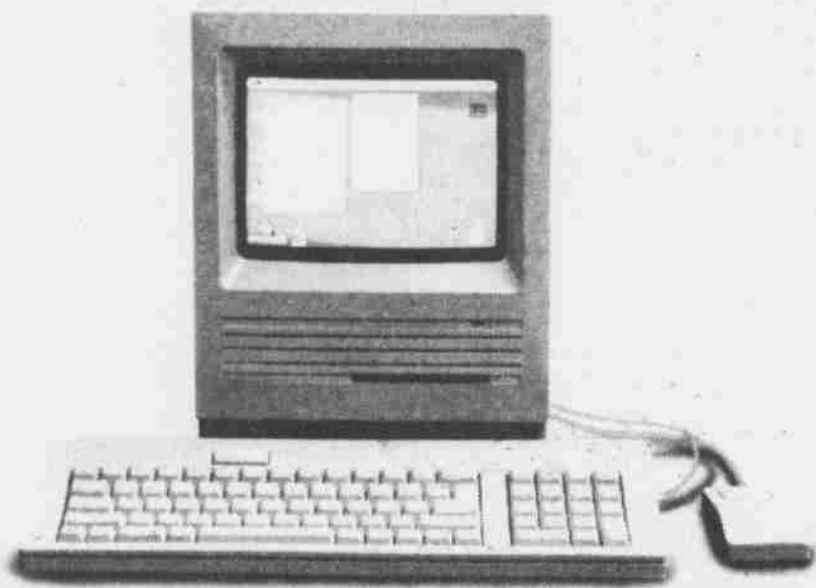
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## Bomber production scaled back

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is considering scaling back production of the B-2 bomber. Air Force Secretary Donald Rice said Tuesday in public comments on the Pentagon's review of major weapons systems.

"We think there are some alternate profiles ... with some very modest effect on the total cost of the program," Rice told members of the Senate Ap-

ropriations subcommittee on defense.

Rice said legislation pending in Congress that would stop production of the plane at the current number would cost \$33 billion to \$34 billion.

Rice said the most efficient production rate for the plane's manufacturer is 29 planes a year. "It would inevitably get up to a lower production rate on the order of two-thirds, perhaps three-fourths what had been peak rate."

### For the Record

In Tuesday's story, "Abortion rights organizations to co-sponsor campus Pit rally," the co-sponsor for the campus rally tour was incorrectly identified by

National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) officials. NARAL's co-sponsor is the Hollywood Policy Center. The DTH regrets the error.

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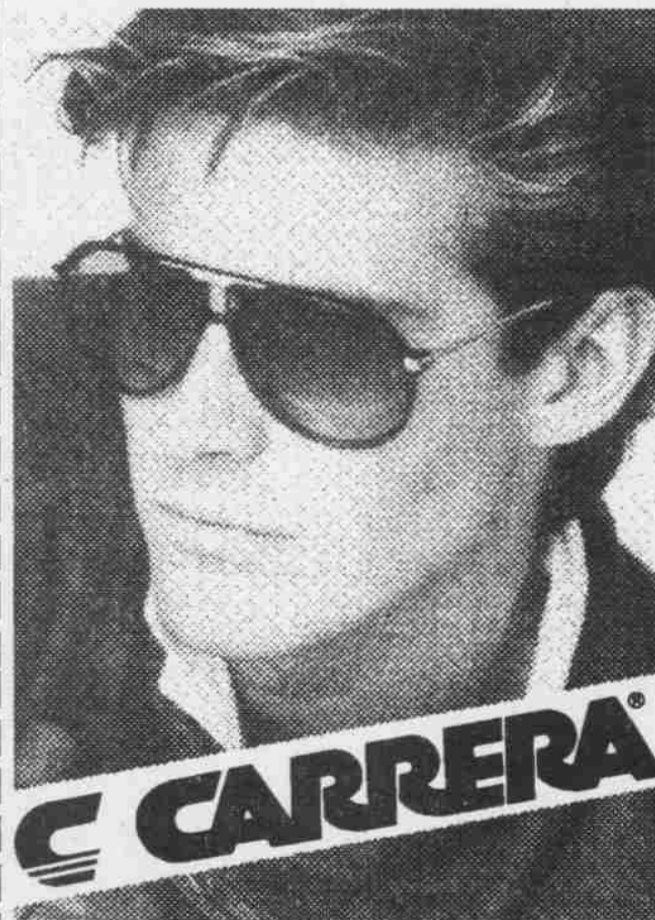
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