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New budget plan would slash teaching positions

By Steve Politi
Assistant University Editor

The UNC system would lose more teaching positions and fewer administrative positions under a new plan accepted Thursday by state education appropriations subcommittees.

The plan proposes increasing cuts in teaching positions from 1 percent to 2.5 percent and decreasing cuts in non-teaching positions from 10 percent to 5 percent.

The General Assembly aims to cut \$59.2 million from the system's budget. Legislators in education appropriations subcommittees have been meeting for several weeks trying to decide where to make cuts.

UNC-system administrators devised the new plan because many of the non-teaching positions have important roles in the academic side of the University,

said Ray Dawson, system vice president for academic affairs.

"The proposal was presented as a question of teaching versus administrative," Dawson said Sunday. "That's a nice generalization, but it's not wholly accurate. We have to have these administrative people in support positions."

The non-teaching positions include admissions counselors, financial aid counselors and assistant deans.

System administrators considered input from the chancellors at each of the 16 system schools when devising the new plan, which now will be reviewed by the full appropriations committees, Dawson said.

"All the chancellors expressed deep concern about the first proposal," he said. "If it had stayed at 10 percent (for non-teaching positions), we would have been facing a large number of layoffs. I think we may still have some at 5 percent."

The system would lose about 210 faculty positions under the new plan, most of which are now vacant.

Ruffin Hall, budget committee coordinator for UNC's student government, said members of student government supported the plan.

"We're totally against all cuts, regardless," he said. "The position that we would have been in with the old plan would have been dramatically more severe."

Jay Robinson, chief lobbyist for the system, explained to legislators at Wednesday's House subcommittee meeting that it was easier to cut more from the \$500 million teaching budget than it was to cut from the non-teaching budget of \$100 million.

Hall said, "It's a less severe blow. It's

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Cuts to Smith Center funds could eliminate some sports

By Karen Schwartz
Staff Writer

The N.C. General Assembly's proposed cut of up to \$600,000 from its support of the Smith Center's operation would devastate the athletic department and could force the elimination of some sports at UNC, department officials said last week.

It also contradicts an agreement made between the University and the state when the center was built, Athletic Director John Swofford said.

When construction of the Smith Center was first proposed in the late 1970s, the state agreed to pay half the operating

costs if the center was built with private funds, he said.

"This makes it even more disturbing that the state might cut funds, considering that the building was built under those conditions," Swofford said.

The remainder of the center's \$1.5 million operating budget is funded with revenue from basketball games and concerts, he said.

The N.C. House education appropriation subcommittee has proposed a cut of \$600,000 from the \$800,000 the state provides for the Smith Center's operation each year. A similar Senate subcommittee has proposed a cut of \$400,000.

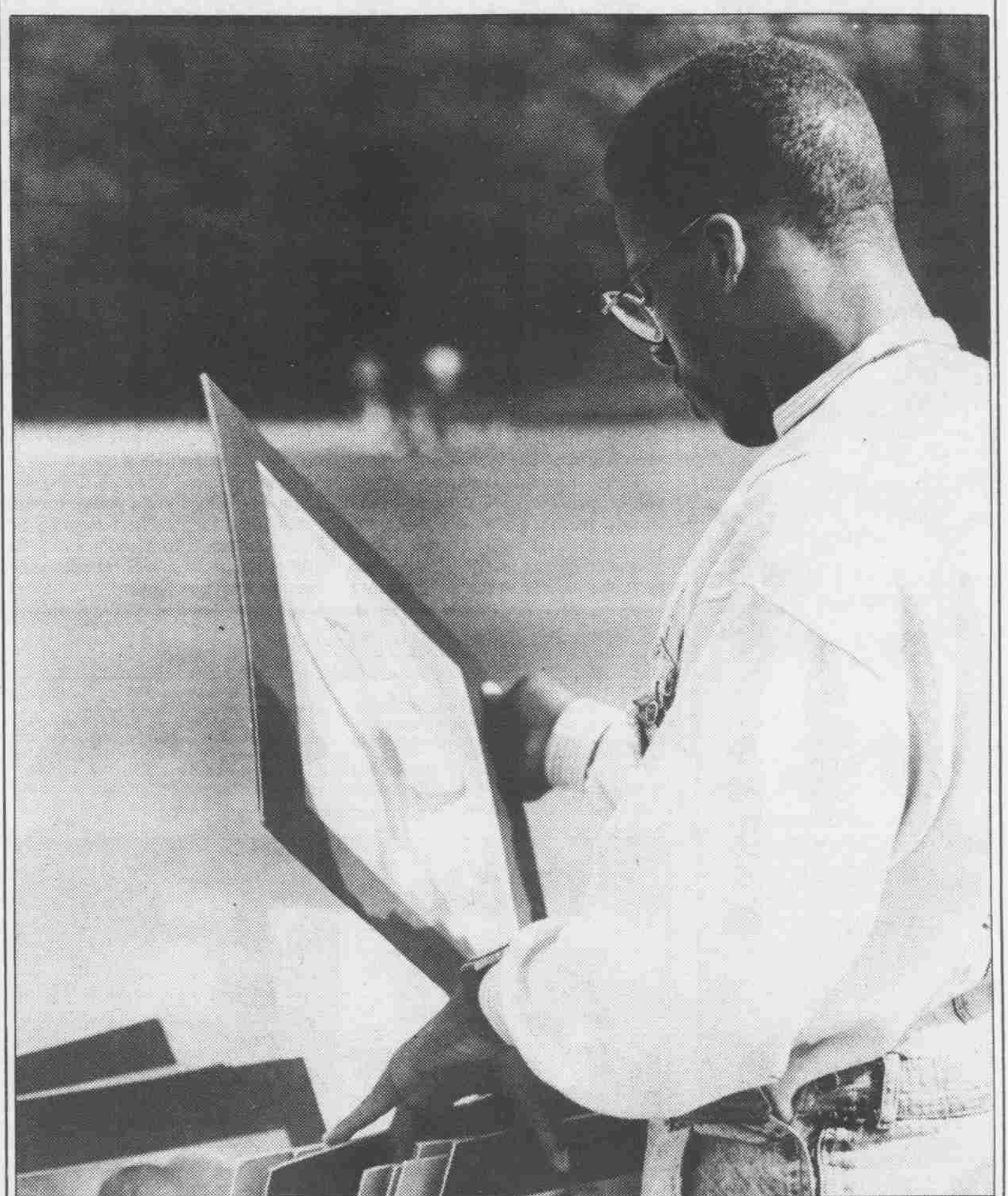
The University's athletic department would have to absorb the losses from whatever cut is made, Swofford said. "It obviously would be very problematic," he said. "Our budget is not flexible enough to take that kind of hit."

It is too early to determine what specific areas of the department's operations would be affected, Swofford said.

The cuts could affect the sponsorship of some sports or could force some to be eliminated, he said. "That would be a worst case scenario."

Associate Athletic Director Jeff Elliott said the cuts would pose problems

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DTH/Susan Tebbens

Art browser

Tim Smith, a freshman from LaGrange, surveys art sold by Margaret Miller, a Chapel Hill resident who travels across the

United States selling African-American memorabilia. Her display was part of the Black Greek Council's festival Friday.

Pinetum deed may contradict land-use plan

By Adam Ford
Staff Writer

A deed limiting the use of the area proposed for the construction of the Ridge Road extension may contradict part of the University's land-use plan, the president of a neighborhood group said Sunday.

Mary Dale, president of the Laurel Hill Neighborhood Association, said residents were concerned about the proposed Ridge Road extension because it would run along the edge of an area of trees and greenspace, known as the pinetum, near the southeast perimeter of the campus.

The deed for the pinetum, donated

to the University by the estate of William Coker in 1954, prohibits use of the land other than as a park and botanical garden, Dale said.

She told the Chapel Hill Newspaper that ownership of the land would revert to the Coker family if the pinetum were ever encroached upon.

But the deed does not explicitly forbid the construction of a road on the land.

It states, "No buildings shall be placed upon said... area except such as shall be used directly and solely in connection with the establishment and maintenance of said garden and park area, for example, green houses... a home or homes for necessary caretakers."

"The pinetum was given to the University to be protected, and that is how it should remain."

Lisa Abbot
SEAC co-chairwoman

Gene Swecker, associate vice chancellor for facilities management, declined to comment on the deed's effect on the land-use plan but said administrators would review it.

The deed gives Laurel Hill residents the right to use the pinetum. "This said

easement is reserved for the use of the parties... and all persons purchasing property... in the area of said Chapel Hill Outfall," or the Laurel Hill area.

University officials have met with residents to explain the plan, but they have not addressed all of the issues, Dale said.

"Dr. Tuchi said it might be 15 or 20 years (before construction began), but I don't think the time frame should matter," she said.

Tuchi, vice chancellor for business and finance, was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

Lisa Abbott, co-chairwoman of the

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CBS' Rather to speak about former colleague

By Billy Stockard
Staff Writer

Dan Rather is coming to town. Rather, who has anchored "The CBS Evening News" since 1981, will visit Chapel Hill April 26, the last day of classes.

He will speak about Nelson Benton, a graduate of UNC's RTVMP department and a CBS News colleague.

Benton died in February 1988. Rather will fly from New York for the 10 a.m. speech in Memorial Hall, said Gorham Kindem, chairman of the Radio, Television and Motion Pictures Department.

He then will return to New York to anchor the evening news broadcast that day.

Donna Dees, a CBS spokeswoman, said Rather would speak about "his memories of Nelson Benton."

But she could not give any more information or details about the speech, she said.

Kindem said Rather will give a 30-minute speech and then open the floor to questions. The speech is free and open to the public.

"This is the first of what Kindem hopes will be a series of speeches given in honor of Benton.

Benton was a 1949 graduate of UNC who won an Emmy in 1974 for covering Watergate and the White House at the time of President Richard Nixon's resignation.

Kindem said he hoped the speeches would take place about once a year. Other UNC graduates such as CBS' Deborah Potter and Jim Lampley may be asked to speak in the future.

CBS' Charles Kuralt, former editor of The Daily Tar Heel, also may be invited.

"It's important for people to see that our department has taught courses in broadcast journalism for a number of years," Kindem said.

"Our broadcast journalism courses have about half RTVMP majors and half journalism majors."

The money for the lectures will come from the Nelson Benton Memorial Fund, Kindem said.

But Kindem said he thought Rather would be speaking for free.

Benton's widow, Mildred Benton of McClain, Va., said some of her husband's colleagues approached her

after his death to discuss setting up a memorial fund within the RTVMP department.

She said Kindem suggested funding a lecture series with some of the money.

Mildred Benton, who asked not to be directly quoted, said she would attend the April 26 lecture with her family.

She also plans to donate Nelson Benton's papers to the University, she said.

These papers include scripts and notes from every story he covered. Her husband kept so many papers that she still is sorting them, she said.

David Moltke-Hansen, director of the Southern Historical Collection and curator of manuscripts at Wilson Library, said Friday that the library would be interested in obtaining Nelson Benton's papers if Benton's wife were to offer to give them to the library.

The University has the largest collection of papers documenting journalistic history in the South, Moltke-Hansen

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UNC Provost O'Connor ranked in top three for presidency by Pitt SBP

By Bonnie Rochman
Staff Writer

Students and faculty at the University of Pittsburgh are impressed by UNC Provost Dennis O'Connor, a candidate in their search for a new president.

O'Connor, who is one of five finalists being considered for the position, was interviewed at Pitt last week.

Brent Saunders, Pitt student body president, said he and other leaders of other major student groups met with O'Connor.

Although all of the candidates have excellent credentials, O'Connor seemed very personable and showed a sincere interest in students and their activities on campus, he said.

"I personally feel he's very qualified — one of the top three (candidates)," Saunders said.

The selection process should be completed by the end of May, he said.

Farrell Rubenstein, chairman of the Pitt search committee, said all of the remaining candidates were well qualified.

But he declined to comment on any specific requirements candidates must meet.

"We are impressed with (O'Connor's) record and the way he has

communicated," he said.

Bob Reteshka, assistant director of communications at Pitt, said the selection process was a thorough and painstaking procedure.

"The Board of Trustees formed a search committee, and it considered applicants who mailed in applications (and) suggestions from alumni, and it hired an executive search firm," he said.

The search committee will forward the names of three finalists to the office of the BOT chairman. The chairman's office will give the name of one candidate to the full board, who will vote on that person.

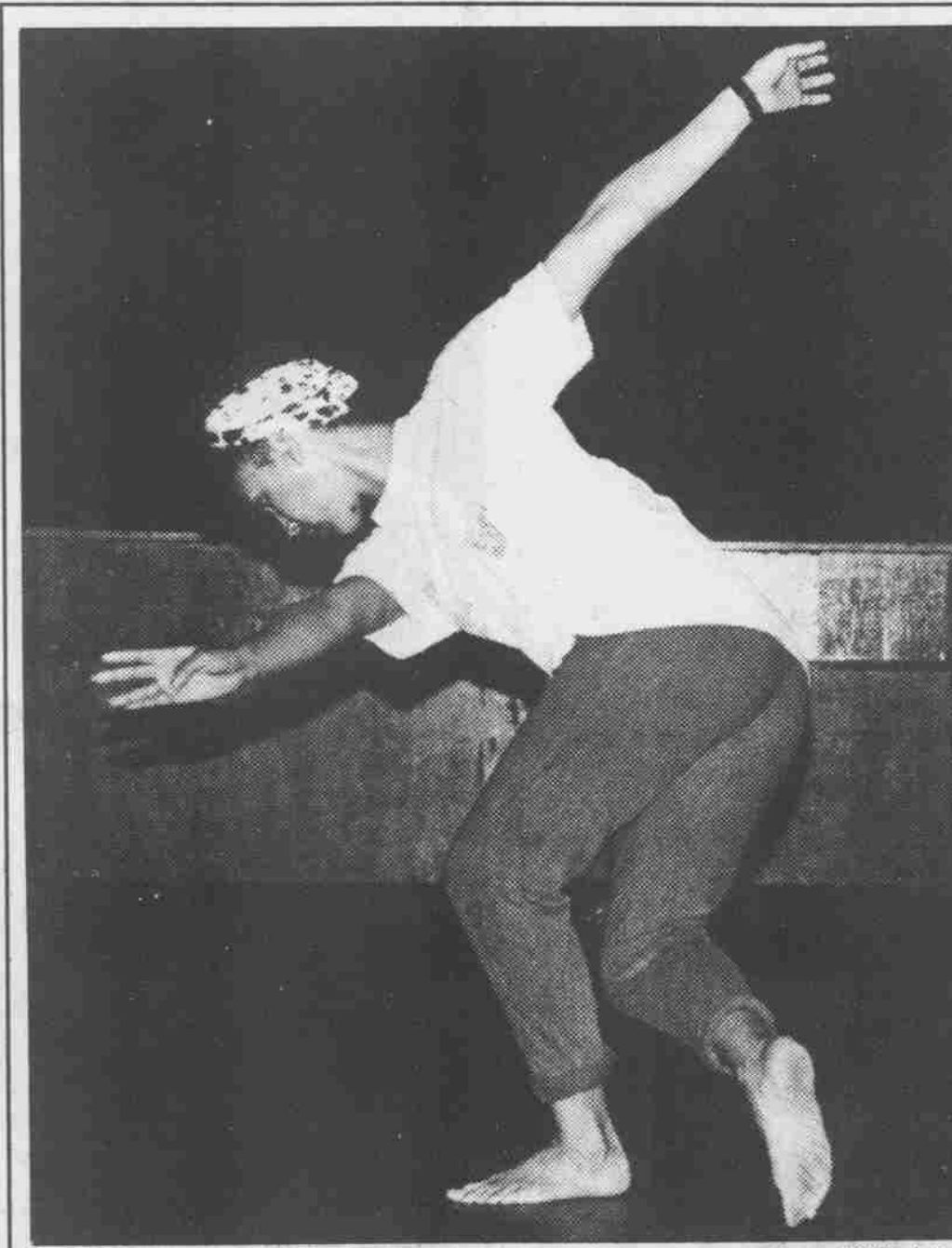
The search committee has been looking for a new president since last summer, Reteshka said.

Pitt has about 34,500 students on five campuses, including the main campus in Pittsburgh, he said.

It is a state-related school, meaning it is funded by both public and private funds, and offers 404 separate degree programs, he said.

Leslie Poszar, the present Pitt president, will leave after the end of the 1990-91 school year.

"He is turning 65 and decided it's time for him to pursue other interests," Reteshka said.



DTH/Sarah King

Dynamic dancer

Toija Riggins, an Opeyo! dancer, performs in Jah Glory. The Opeyo! company presented their spring recital with Afro-Two and the Ebony Readers Friday at 8 p.m.

The reward of energy, enterprise and thrift — is taxes. — William Feather