THE DAILY CLIPS

April 8, 2011

News, commentary, and opinion
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Budget cuts look grim for UNC

BY ERIC FERRERI - Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL The UNC system would lose 3,200 positions and 9,000 course sections if dealt a 15 percent budget cut next year, officials said Thursday.

About 1,500 of those 3,200 positions would belong to faculty, said officials, who were attempting to move the talk of budget cuts from theoretical to tangible. Many of those would be filled positions, they said.

As speculation about the budget continues to swirl, UNC system officials are trying to illustrate as specifically as possible the damage that could be done to public higher education. Some projections have put the cuts as high as 30 percent, though legislative leaders say the more likely cut will be about 15 percent.

That's about $405 million, far more than the UNC system can eliminate by nibbling around the edges, officials say. At the UNC system's Board of Governors meeting Thursday, officials gave more than a dozen examples,
campus by campus, of the effects of the cuts, in hopes of influencing the debate in the legislature.

"We've got hundreds upon hundreds of examples," Charles Perusse, the system's vice president for finance, told board members. "We just took out a handful to put a face on what a 15 percent [cut] means."

A few examples:
- At UNC Charlotte, the average time it takes for a student to graduate would increase by a full semester, mostly because fewer classes and instructors would make it harder to take the courses they need.
- At UNC-Chapel Hill, job cuts would force the admissions office to close two days a week for about half the year.
- N.C. State would eliminate six fire protection and police positions - 9 percent of its total.
- Winston-Salem State would eliminate 9 percent of its faculty.
- N.C. Central University would cut 12 positions in finance, human resources and information technology, infrastructure jobs that could leave the campus open for compliance problems, Perusse said.
- The UNC School of the Arts in Winston-Salem might close its filmmaking school.

These and other examples aren't hyperbolic or exaggerated, said Holden Thorp, chancellor at UNC-CH. On his campus, a 15 percent cut would lead to more than 200 layoffs, he said. And students would suffer significantly through the loss of instructors, class sections and other resources. "It really is ugly," Thorp said. "You're talking about qualitative changes to education."

Budget cuts over the last four years have totaled about $620 million, and hundreds of jobs have been lost.

At times Thursday, UNC officials appeared torn between two messages.

Tom Ross, the system president, warned repeatedly of the dire consequences of pending budget cuts, but he also cautioned that the state's budget process is still in its early phase. Gov. Bev Perdue has released her budget proposal, but the House and Senate have not yet. After that, the two sides will negotiate. The state is trying to fill a budget hole of $2 billion to $2.5 billion.
Ross acknowledged that the university may, as early as next year, consider slowing enrollment increases, the first small encroachment on the state's long-held insistence on access to education.

"It sends the message that we may not have room for you," Ross said of limiting enrollment. "I worry about what the impact of that message may be. But we may have to look at it."

In some places, access is already being limited. At UNC-CH, the nursing school is cutting next year's enrollment 25 percent, and the school of social work has decided not to accept two new classes of master's degree students to an online program serving the western part of the state.

University and state leaders also project a grim outlook for financial aid.

State Treasurer Janet Cowell told UNC board members Thursday that the state's Escheats Fund, a pot of money from which the state doles out about $175 million a year or more in grant aid to needy college students, is dwindling fast. The state used to only tap the fund's interest; over the last few years, it has dug "into the cookie jar," Cowell said, and at the current pace, the fund could run dry in three or four years.

"We're drawing this thing down, and we're on an unsustainable path," Cowell said of the fund, which comes from the sale of unclaimed property.

That's a significant concern for Charlie Nelms, chancellor at N.C. Central University, where about 90 percent of students receive some form of financial aid.

"Without a doubt, it will significantly impact access as well as retention," Nelms said Thursday. "The people who can least afford to take a cut will be hit by it."

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N.C.'s constitution - are they serious?
BY GENE NICHOL

CHAPEL HILL North Carolina's legislators seem oddly bipolar when it comes to the state constitution.

On the one hand, many are frantic to constitutionalize. Proposals to outlaw gay marriage, impose a Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, limit leadership terms, reform the annexation process and a host of other ballot initiatives approach center stage. The new Republican majority apparently believes intensely in the usefulness, perhaps even the sanctity, of state constitutional constraint.

On the other, the same lot seems well content to ignore, and even flout, the restrictions the North Carolina constitution already contains. Proposal and electoral ratification - the processes of amendment - are thought vital. Enforcement and compliance matter little at all.

Consider, for example, our ancient requirement that "the General Assembly (assure) that the benefits of the University of North Carolina, as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the State free of expense."

Two decades ago, the state provided 81 percent of the funds needed to teach undergraduates in the UNC system. By last year, the share had fallen to 63 percent. Tuition, since 2000, has skyrocketed - up over 175 percent. A year ago, the student tab was boosted twice in quick succession - lifting rates by 18 percent on some campuses. Over $600 million has been cut from the system in the last four years. According to some, a gash of up to 30 percent, this year, is in the offing. We slouch toward a new higher education funding model.

Not to worry, explained Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger. Public university education in North Carolina is still a bargain, and Tar Heel parents can shoulder a heavier burden. "If you would say that UNC-Chapel Hill is a peer with Michigan and Virginia, then I don't see how you can look at those comparisons and say we don't have low tuition."
Of course, there's something of a logical misstep there. If UNC-Chapel Hill is less expensive than Michigan and UVa - schools that have no "as free as practicable" mandate and have long abandoned the low tuition model - I'm not sure that says anything at all about permissible tuition levels at Asheville, Pembroke, A&T, Central, East Carolina, State and the other campuses of our dispersed system.

And, more centrally, it seems clear that Berger seeks only to modestly outpace the market. But that's not what our constitution demands. It states a bold preference that our university system, like its K-12 counterpart, be offered "free of expense." Measuring how close Carolina can, in practice, come to that ideal is a function of our resources and public spending priorities. It's not determined by what Berkeley does. Berger's comparative assurances take no instruction from the text of our constitution whatsoever.

Beyond this, but similarly, last month the legislature voted to abolish four high school standardized, end-of-course exams. Wake County Superior Court Judge Howard Manning had informed the legislators, pointedly, that eliminating the tests would make it impossible to enforce his existing decrees designed to assure a "sound basic education." The proffered statute, he explained, is "impermissible and would constitute a violation of children's rights under the state constitution."

Manning's logic was straightforward. Without such continuous, uniform examinations, teachers who fail in their mission could not be identified. Nor could the state monitor whether the demanded quality of instruction was delivered. Adults may grumble, he asserted, but the right "to a sound basic education" is "vested in every child in North Carolina."

Legislators brushed aside Manning's warning of "constitutional confrontation." Heeding the complaints of parents and teachers, and hoping to save $2.6 million annually in administrative costs, lawmakers ditched the tests not required by the federal government.

And that's my point. The statehouse treated the testing issue as if it operated simply at its own discretion. The mandates of our state constitution - the Leandro case be damned - deliver no compulsion. The dictates of Washington might, to be sure. But North Carolina's constitution is safely ignored. It's just talk. Not real law.
Of course, that can't be Manning's view. Much of our K-12 system has been held to violate legal command. Manning is not only empowered, he also is required to assure that the transgression is remedied. All things being equal, of course, we wouldn't have judges deciding what tests to give. But all things, the Leandro case explicitly determined, are not equal. And equal they must become.

Perhaps before our legislators initiate new state constitutional commands, they should take seriously the ones we already have.

Gene Nichol is a professor of law at UNC-Chapel Hill and director of the university's Center on Poverty, Work & Opportunity.
A juror in the James Richardson trial said he thinks Richardson is innocent and that pressure during deliberations forced his guilty vote on Wednesday.

Lamuel Anderson, juror No. 12 in the trial, who asked to be excused from the jury late in the deliberations, said Thursday that he “caved.”

He appeared on WOOW AM radio Thursday morning with Carolyn Melvin, a private investigator who has been working with the Richardson family. Melvin said she received a tip after the trial that one of the jurors had a problem with his decision. Anderson spoke with reporters outside the Evans Street radio station.

“I believe he was not guilty,” said Anderson, the only black man on the 10-woman, two-man panel. He said that in the final moments before he changed his position he felt, “pressure, stress and a desire to return to his life.”

District Attorney Clark Everett said later Thursday Anderson's statement will not affect Richardson's conviction in the June 30, 2009, shooting deaths of Landon Blackley and Andrew Kirby outside The Other Place nightclub.

Richardson can use the information as part of an appeal if he chooses to, but the conviction stands until then, Everett said.

The juror said evidence did not place Richardson in the white BMW that drove past The Other Place. He believed strongly that there had to be more than one person in the car, based on the pattern of spent bullet casings found in the street after the shooting.

“This was something that was blowing my mind the entire time. I tried to convince my fellow jurors of that, but became convinced they had already made up their minds,” Anderson said.

Richardson said in court that the Greenville police “got the wrong guy.”

“If he was there and he didn't do it, he certainly hasn't told us who did,” District Attorney Clark Everett said.
Greenville Police Department Deputy Chief Joe Bartlett said Thursday the department is confident in its investigation. “We're very proud of the work done by our officers during the past two years,” Bartlett said.
The investigation will be reviewed to learn whatever lessons can be taken to improve investigative operations, Bartlett said.

“That's no different than what we do with every other investigation,” he said.

Anderson's stance last Friday prompted the jury forewoman to ask Judge W. Russell Duke about the possibility of a hung jury. Duke instructed jury members to continue deliberating and Anderson spent the weekend feeling stressed, he said. The pressure peaked Monday when the jury shifted from 9-3 in favor of guilt to 11-1 in favor of guilt, Anderson said.

On Tuesday he asked to be excused. Duke again instructed the jury to work toward a unanimous decision, while holding onto individual convictions. Melvin, the private detective, on Thursday offered a letter that Anderson said he wrote but never delivered to Duke expressing his stand.

When Duke polled all jurors individually on Wednesday about their guilty votes, Anderson told Duke he agreed with the rest of the panel. Anderson said the jury forewoman told him Wednesday they would not be able to leave the deliberation room without a unanimous verdict. Some jurors asked him if he was holding out because he and Richardson are both black, Anderson said. He also said one juror revealed that another juror's husband is a friend of Everett.

Everett denied Thursday that he knew any of the jurors or their husbands. He said Anderson was given the opportunity to speak his mind when he stood up to be polled. “He was asked eight questions by the judge about returning his verdict on the crimes, and on every question he said, 'yes.' That's why you poll a jury,” Everett said. “Juries have always been in stressful situations where they have to make decisions.”

Anderson said he polled the same as the other jurors because of “compulsion” and stress to “get this thing over and be on with my life.” He said he felt badly about his decision after the verdict was handed down and Richardson was sentenced to consecutive life terms.

“Sometimes we would like to hold on to our convictions, but we can't under pressure. That's basically what happened,” he said.

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Editorial: Verdict no cause for celebration
Friday, April 8, 2011

The community may draw some satisfaction from the guilty verdict handed down to James Richardson on Wednesday for his role in a 2009 drive-by shooting that claimed the lives of two young men. Richardson was sentenced to consecutive life sentences for the double murder and additional time for related gun charges.

Yet, there is no cause for celebration in the loss of two lives and another wasted by this tragedy in downtown Greenville. One can only hope that the families of victims Landon Blackley and Drew Kirby can find some measure of peace and healing with the conclusion of the trial, and that this community can now strive to close the wounds so brutally inflicted early one summer morning.

Nearly two years have passed since the early morning in June that saw shots fired at a local nightclub on Fifth Street, killing Blackley and Kirby and irreparably altering the community's landscape. The increased deployment of police officers each weekend remains the most visible of the changes made in the aftermath, solidifying crime and public safety as the most prominent issues facing Greenville.

On March 14, the Pitt County Courthouse served witness to the beginning of the most prominent proceedings in recent memory. The jury on Wednesday returned a guilty verdict against Richardson, though he continues to maintain his innocence. The families of the victims asked District Attorney Clark Everett not to seek the death penalty, wanting to show the mercy absent the night their sons were slain. That left Judge Rusty Duke to level a prison sentence that would see the J.H. Rose High School graduate and former basketball standout spend the remainder of his life behind bars.
From the time the tragedy unfolded downtown, this community has called for justice in memory of those killed. In some measure, that has been delivered here, but questions arose a day later when one juror contended he was pressured by his peers to return a guilty verdict. That raises question about the integrity of the results, despite the determined effort of Judge Duke, and provides fodder for Richardson's almost inevitable appeal.

Expect the legal system to grind on, attempting to provide some closure to those affected. As it does, no joy will be taken from any of this. With two lives lost and another thrown away in a matter of minutes on that June morning, there may be cause for satisfaction with this verdict, but no reason to celebrate.
Ahoy mateys! Set sail for PirateFest
The Daily Reflector
Friday, April 8, 2011

Uptown Greenville's fifth annual PirateFest will be held in downtown Greenville from 5-9 p.m. today and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday.

The festival begins with a Buccaneer Bash from 5-9 p.m. today at Fourth and Evans streets. The Freeboot-Friday-style event will include live music, beer and wine, children's activities and roving pirates. Bands performing include 5th Generation from 5-6:30 p.m. and Tropic Culture from 7-9 p.m. The Shadow Players Stage Combat Group will show off the pirate ways at 6:30 p.m.

PirateFest Street Festival continues from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday with the following:

**Arts and Treasure Isle**
Fine arts and crafts will be for sale and on display along Evans Street between First and Fifth streets. Area arts organizations also will have booths, as well as demonstrations and children's arts activities. Uptown Greenville restaurants will have food for sale. There will be live music throughout the day, as well as a cold beverages at the Buccaneer Bash Grog Garden.

**Roving Pirate entertainers**
Several visiting theatrical pirate groups will wander the streets during the day, sharing their artistry in the form of song, storytelling, swordplay and dress. Though some of them are scheduled to perform at the festival's soundstages, much of their time will be spent roaming the streets of Greenville and interacting with guests. Bring your camera as they love to have their picture taken. Pirate entertainers include The Shadow Players, The Moody Crewe and The Devilmen of Cape Feare.
**Historical trolley tours**

Historical trolley tours will be offered at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The tours leave from Fifth and Evans streets, across from Starlight Cafe, and last approximately an hour. Local author, historian and artist Roger Kammerer will lead the tour.

**Pirate encampment**

Head to the Town Common for black powder demonstrations throughout the day.

10 a.m.: Pirate parade held by the Motely Tones, beginning at Fifth and Evans streets, a pirate costume contest will be held at the end the parade on the Town Common
10:15 a.m.: Black powder demonstration
10:30 a.m.: Pirate school by the Moody Crewe
11 a.m.: Shadow Players Stage Combat sword fight, on the courthouse square
11:45 a.m.: Black powder demonstration
Noon: Parade of Pirates, beginning at Fifth and Evans streets
1 p.m.: Shadow Players Stage Combat sword fight, on the courthouse square
1:30 p.m.: Pirate school by the Moody Crewe
2 p.m.: Black powder demonstration
3 p.m.: Shadow Players Stage Combat sword fight, on the courthouse square
3:30 p.m.: Pirate School by the Moody Crew
4 p.m.: Black powder demonstration

**Buccaneer Bash Main Stage**

At the corner of Fourth and Evans streets.

11 a.m.: Rebekah Todd
Noon: Old Man Whickutt
1 p.m.: Barefoot Wade
3 p.m.: Blue Tulip Trio
5 p.m.: The Donald Thompson Band

**PotashCorp Little Pirate's Pavilion**

On Evans across from the courthouse, Little Pirates Pavilion includes live music, the School of Pirate, crafts, activities and giveaways along with educational displays on the life of a pirate. For a small fee, little Pirates can enjoy an inflatable Pirate Ship and other bounces provided by Fun Time Promotions. On the stage:

11 a.m.: Blackbeard history and story telling
11:15 a.m.: “Pirates Sail Up the Tar River” mask and storytelling performance
Noon: Pitt County School Groups
1:30 p.m.: Live music
3 p.m.: Blackbeard history and story telling
4 p.m.: The Puppet Lady and Friends
5:15 p.m.: Old Man Whickutt
International Ports O'Call
For 15 years, thousands of people have come together to celebrate the diversity that makes Greenville the jewel of North Carolina. This open-air festival takes place on the Town Common and features music, food and attractions from nations around the world.

A large cultural pavilion featuring costumes, games, and crafts from the native lands will be available. On the stage:

11 a.m.: Greenville Chinese School
11:30 a.m.: Hmong Student Association
Noon: Tropic Culture
1 p.m.: Expressions of Panama
1:15 p.m.: Hmong Student Association
1:30 p.m.: Nahla Hamad and Hypnotic bellydancers
2 p.m.: Expressions of Panama
2:15 p.m.: Turkish Music Chorus and folk dance
3 p.m.: Classical Indian Dance
3:10 p.m.: Mirage Middle Eastern Dance
3:45 p.m.: Bollywood Indian Dance
4 p.m.: African American Dance Ensemble
The University of North Carolina will review the policies and procedures for using an alert system to notify the Chapel Hill campus of emergencies, Chancellor Holden Thorp said Thursday.

Some UNC students told police they were robbed at gunpoint early Monday inside Morrison Residence Hall. One man was arrested after the incident, and a second man is being sought.

Campus police didn't implement the Alert Carolina system to send messages to students and staff about the robbery, prompting some concern among students. Police said they didn't believe the situation posed an ongoing danger to the campus, so they simply posted a notice about the robbery online.

Thorp said in an e-mail to students on Thursday that he believes police handled the incident properly, but he said he has asked a group of administrators and a student representative to review how the Alert Carolina system is used during emergencies.

"Our emergency preparedness should always reflect constant re-evaluation of current procedures, along with best practices within the higher education and law enforcement communities," Thorp wrote in the e-mail.
Do you have what it takes to survive a zombie attack? You can test your skills from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. April 13-20 when a Humans vs. Zombie game will be played on the East Carolina University campus.

Humans vs. Zombies (HvZ) is a game of moderated tag played on college campuses. A group of human players attempts to survive a “zombie outbreak” by outsmarting a growing group of zombie players. The ultimate goal of the game is for either all Humans to be turned into Zombies, or for the humans to survive a set amount of time. The game is open to ECU students, faculty and staff. Registration is not required and a bandana is needed to identify Humans and Zombies.

Humans can defend themselves using socks and/or nerf guns. With these items, the goal is to hit a Zombie player with a thrown or launched item, thus stunning the Zombie player. Zombies are unarmed and must tag the Humans to gain a kill thus turning the human player into a zombie.

Game moderators Patrick Rawlings, Nikolaas Fishel and Chuck Russell posted on the Human vs. Zombie website that they have spoken with ECU administrators and altered the rules to adhere to ECU campus and policies.

There will be safe zones where the game is temporarily suspended and cannot be played. These include: steps of a building or breezeway; dorm rooms; bathrooms; academic buildings; library; sports and rec center; student health services and dining halls.
The play area will only be played on ECU's main campus between 10th, Fifth and Contanche streets and Bennet Way.

No realistic-looking weaponry can be used; blasters may not be visible inside academic buildings or jobs on campus; players may not use cars.

For more information, visit www.ecuhvz.com.
UNC-CH maintenance workers, joined by students, protest the schedule change. About 70 university construction workers have worked four 10-hour days since 2008; UNC-CH says it can't cover the work that way.

**UNC-CH workers protest 5-day weeks**
BY JESSE JAMES DECONTO - Staff Writer
CHAPEL HILL Dozens of students stood in solidarity with several UNC-Chapel Hill building maintenance workers who skipped work Thursday to protest a schedule change that will force them to work five, rather than four days a week.

About 70 construction workers opted to work four 10-hour shifts each week when given the choice in 2008. University administrators now say they need all 150 tradesmen and women to work five eight-hour shifts.

University officials said in a statement that the loss of 31 positions over the last couple of years has made it too difficult to cover all the tasks that need doing.

"The dual work schedules result in inefficiencies, such as too few employees with the range of skills required to meet ongoing maintenance requirements," the statement reads.
Brick mason Chuck Grant, a vocal opponent of the change, said four-day workweeks are more efficient because they eliminate one day of travel, setup and cleanup on job sites. He cited a Brigham Young University study suggesting four-day weeks increase job satisfaction and productivity.

Chuck Brink, an electrician who sits on the campus Employee Forum, said an extra day of commuting will cost employees in fuel and maintenance expenses.

"That's going to effectively be a pay cut," he said.

Brink said inflation and static salaries mean workers' incomes are going down, while their workload goes up with every construction project. "We haven't hired anybody in forever, and we keep getting more square footage to take care of," he said.

Administrators say the Chapel Hill campus has a $645 million deferred-maintenance backlog, and five-day weeks will help reduce that.

They say the Facilities Services department has cut $7.5 million from its budget since 2008.

"If the university absorbs additional state budget cuts, as expected, Building Services still will be required to reduce service levels and eliminate additional positions," according to the statement.

University spokeswoman Susan Houston said the new schedule won't save money in salaries but will make work more efficient.

"It's more of a matter of making sure all the days are covered," she said.

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Icons teach children well at collegiate schools of rock
By Mary Beth Marklein, USA TODAY
Updated 22h 39m ago

Todd Rundgren strode on stage wielding a guitar and wearing a graduation gown. His appearance was billed not as a concert but as a recital. And while fans know him as *A Wizard, A True Star*, students at Indiana University called him Professor.

College towns have always been an important venue for rock stars. But Rundgren, 62, wasn't just passing through on tour. The performance was a culmination of his two-week gig as a Wells Scholars Professor, one of Indiana University's most prestigious honors.

Lately, it seems, a steady stream of rock 'n' roll icons are bringing their expertise into college classrooms. Tommy James, 63, who rose from obscurity when a Pittsburgh radio station played *Hanky Panky* in 1966, has spoken to students at several colleges near his home in New Jersey and is in talks to visit more campuses in the fall. Blues rocker Steve Miller (*The Joker*), 67, helped develop a curriculum for budding musicians at the University of Southern California. Melissa Manchester (*Midnight Blue*), 60, teaches a songwriting class there this semester. And Mark Volman (*Happy Together*), 63, of The Turtles, who began college at age 45 and holds two advanced degrees, chairs the entertainment industry studies program at Belmont University in Nashville.

If today's college students don't recognize the names, well, they probably know the songs. And while their parents and many of their professors grew up with the music, there's more going on here than a trip down memory lane. For better or worse, rock 'n' roll is
getting respect from academia. The '60s and '70s marked rock's golden age, and these guys are the elder statesmen.

"There's never been a time quite like it, and there probably never will be again," says Indiana University music professor Glenn Gass, who arranged Rundgren's visit. "It's rock's classical period, the same way Beethoven, Mozart and Haydn were classical musicians. We've got a chance, while the artists are still alive, to benefit from their experience."

Artists such as Bo Diddley, Lou Reed and local boy John Mellencamp have dropped by Gass' classrooms since he began teaching rock history in 1982. But in recent years, rock 'n' roll has been embraced more formally, particularly on campuses based in the heart of the nation's music industry.

New York University, where James spoke in February, opened its Clive Davis Department of Recorded Music in 2003 to focus on the entrepreneurial side of the business. Two years ago, USC launched a bachelor's degree program in popular music performance. Belmont's entertainment studies program started in 2007. Fordham University's law school this week sponsored a conference on Bob Dylan and the law. In some cases, the pilgrimage to the classroom is a matter of parental pride. USC nabbed John Fogerty (Proud Mary, Fortunate Son) for a class session in February because his son, Shane, goes there.

He says he was happy to pass on what he knows. "For years and years as an adult, I walked around saying, 'Man, I wish I'd had that, a relative who could show me how to get started,' " he says.

Lessons for next generation
It's also a way to reach a coveted audience. "That's where the next generation of music fans is coming from," says James, who has spoken at NYU, Rutgers and Montclair State University. "The college radio market is one of the last bastions of sanity in the music business, the last place where there's independent thought."

And, as pioneers who came of age during a tumultuous time for the music business, they have lessons to share. If there's a single message they're sending, it's that success requires far more than musical talent.

"Friends of mine had more talent, but they were lazy," says Motown hitmaker Lamont Dozier (Baby I Need Your Loving), 69, who gives master classes at USC. "You have to put the work into it, and you have to want it really bad."

In some ways it's ironic that these legends, many of whom made it big without benefit of a college degree, are endorsing rock music as a college subject.

"When I was young, the academic world very much looked down their noses at rock 'n' roll," says Fogerty, who tried junior college briefly. Being a rock singer "became sort of a
badge of honor. You were fighting the good fight even though everybody seemed to be against you."

Miller, who had a band while in school, attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison for four years but left six credits shy of an English degree. He says his best education occurred in high school and on the road. "College was just an opportunity for gigs," he says.

Now, as an artist in residence at USC, he treats his students as if they're business majors. The first lesson he gave students was about starting their own publishing company so they own their work. This summer, they're invited to come backstage before his show in Los Angeles.

"They all have this fantasy they're going to be rich, or (life will be) like some video they've seen on MTV," he says. "I want them to understand what it is you have to do when you want to do this. I want them to see the trucks drive up and the (crew) unload the grimy equipment."

Others tell personal tales of losing millions of dollars by signing away rights to their music. In his talks, James explains his anguished and sometimes "scary" relationship with Roulette Records founder Morris Levy, who eventually was convicted of extortion in 1988 in a case unrelated to business dealings with James.(Levy, who died in 1990, was the model for Herman "Hesh" Rabkin, the Mob-connected record mogul in HBO's The Sopranos who defrauded musicians.) Volman and bandmate Howard Kaylan lost rights to not only their songs, but also their names. (They performed with Frank Zappa as Phlorescent Leech & Eddie.)

"We were so nave and so unskilled and unschooled that we were ripe to be taken advantage of," says Volman, whose program teaches intellectual property and copyright law alongside composing and music theory.

Rundgren, too, makes for a rich case study. After '70s hits Hello It's Me and I Saw the Light, he moved away from radio-friendly music, and promptly lost a big segment of his audience. He found commercial success as a producer for other bands, including Meat Loaf and Patti Smith, and maintains a devoted fan base.

"He knew he let a chance at heartthrob stardom slip by, but the longevity of his career is largely due to his unending curiosity and creativity — the unexpected twists and turns that made being a Todd fan so demanding at times, but ultimately so rewarding," Gass says.

While on campus, Rundgren co-taught a course on his life and music, participated in a class on The Beatles, offered production advice and stumbled across Nick's English Hut, a popular student hangout. During halftime at a home football game, he led Indiana University's marching band on his song Bang the Drum All Day.
"I got completely immersed in it," Rundgren says. "I enjoyed the experience of spending time with intrinsically intelligent young people. They don't have a whole lot of experience, but they have a whole lot of knowledge."

And he gained new insight. Senior Esther Uduehi, 21, who was unfamiliar with Rundgren's work before the course, challenged his unflattering views of today's pop-culture stars (think: Lady Gaga, Justin Bieber).

"Being an artist can mean you are conveying a message that attracts the audience you want," says Uduehi, a Rhodes Scholar. "For instance, Justin Bieber's songs are meant for teenager and young girls, so his lyrics and overall image should reflect this." Rundgren says her pushback prompted him to "look a little harder" at today's pop charts. "I had only been listening to the more obvious and hyped kinds of examples of contemporary music," he says. Later, he adds, "I don't think all contemporary artists can be lumped together, but I confess that when I look at Justin Bieber, all I see is a hairdo."

Credibility in classroom
At Belmont, students say Volman's perspective as an insider gives him credibility.

"Everything he tells us is stuff you want to know or need to know instead of just textbook stuff," says music business major Raven MacDonald, 22. "The first day in class, I was like, 'This is an actual rock star instructing us.' "

A "borderline C" student in high school who figured he would do sheet-metal work like his father if his band didn't take off, Volman visited a college with his oldest daughter and saw himself there, too. He earned a bachelor's degree from Loyola Marymount University in 1997 and a master of fine arts two years later.

"I really began to realize that I could combine what I had done in my life and was doing in my life into a process where I could give people an understanding of the business I have been in," he says. Volman still tours, but says, "I feel like at this point I'm a teacher, and I'm proud of that."

Among his rock-star peers, Volman is a minority. Along with Rundgren, Dozier and James, he made it big before he ever set foot on a college campus. Fogerty "dabbled" in junior college, and Manchester spent a semester at NYU (where she studied alongside Paul Simon and actress Olympia Dukakis) but found that work "was simply more filled with adventures."

Most have no regrets.

But a parent can still hope, James says. "My mother, until the day she died, was waiting for me to come to my senses and go to Notre Dame, waiting for this music thing to be over."