

or 12% uition

salary increases. The unity has the second-highest in the system of students qualify for financial aid, percent, Ammons said. 's far higher than the sys-wide average of 49 percent.

Elizabeth City State Uni-ty, at 82.8 percent, has e students in need of aid. alf the new tuition revenue, at \$900,000, would be put financial aid.

ne other half would raise lty salaries, which are far w national averages, nions said. Full professors at U earn an average of 000 annually, about 60 per- of the national average.

he faculty has stood with students and made certain did everything they could maintain the quality of the emic "experience," nions said. "These salaries ar out of line."

though several other UNC em universities' tuition eases have been larger in r amounts, only one other's risen more steeply by per- age. At UNC Asheville, on has increased 130 per- in the past four years. The age increase at all 16 insti-ns was 80 percent.

ot all NCCU's increase was ested by the university, ver. Some was from sys-wide tuition increases.

CCU Finance Committee ees are scheduled to hear week about the impact of on increases on students about the competitiveness the university's faculty ies.

he problem is, we need to onto faculty," said Shawn art, director of research, uation and planning at U.

TABLE

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was a separate sale for the Goddard items," Sack said. The entire auction lasted little more than an hour, he said.

The table's auction drew special interest. Items like the table rarely come up for sale, and when they do, they generate great interest.

"It puts a lot of pressure on these great pieces," he said.

After the \$5 million dollar mark, the number of bidders dwindled, and the interest rose. Sack had to contend with Leigh Keno, of "Antiques Roadshow" fame, who was bidding for a client.

"It's not a question of competition, it's a question of the open market," Sack said.

Sack's father had a principle of going after exceptional pieces, and that is what he was doing, he said.

Before the auction, the table was conservatively valued at \$2 million to \$5 million, he said. But auctioneers let the market determine the object's worth.

The bidding ended with Sack's \$7.5 million offer, with the auction house's fee bringing the total price to \$8.416 million.

"It's a one-of-a-kind type of object," Gronning said. "The opportunity to purchase such an object comes along once in a lifetime."

For Sack, who's been dealing in antiques for seven decades, the art of American furniture represents the spirit of independence and innovation.

"It's inspirational, it's living history, it's like a lost culture," he said. "It's our culture, and it's expressed in this furniture."

Sack was carrying on the family tradition when he bought the table once owned by Brown University founder Nicolas Brown.

His father, Israel Sack, set the record in 1989 for the most expensive piece of American furniture when he bought



SACK



KENO

AT A GLANCE

Name: Nicholas Brown
Chippendale mahogany
scalloped tea table

Price: \$8.416 million

Dimensions: 26 inches tall
x 33 inches wide x 19 inches
deep

Age: Circa 1760

Craftsman: John Goddard,
Newport R.I.

Brown's secretary desk at Christie's for \$12.1 million.

Sack and his family were furniture dealers in New York with an office on Fifth Avenue. Sack, who will turn 90 next month, started working with the family firm in 1934, before the value of American furniture was recognized.

"I was a second-generation dealer. There were no museums and we were in the foreground."

Sack's father set the standard in the appreciation and collection of historical American furniture.

"My father was a pioneer of it," he said. "We had a great reputation, we gave rooms to museums."

Seventy years later, Sack is still in the business as a private consultant, with an office just outside of Durham. "As long as I can, I'll continue on," he said "I love it with a passion."

At the moment, the table is being crated in New York to be shipped to Sack. Whether he'll use it or not is to be determined.

"Collectors use their furniture, their silver, they just use it carefully. Decorative arts were made to be used as well as to be beautiful," he said.

leaders at a Super Bowl party Jacksonville, Fla., and reports a dinner with ex-girlfriend Jdana Jarjura, Simpson says the difficulties have been greatly exaggerated.

"I trust Nick totally, and trusts me," Simpson told Weekly magazine in an issue hitting newsstands today. "We are committed to our relationship."

The stars of MTV's "New weds: Nick & Jessica" have been beset by tabloid speculation their marriage's imminent doom. But Simpson, 24, says that even when they are in different places they are close.

"He's always the last person I talk to before I go to sleep."

What Bowl? He's got Oscars ad

LAS VEGAS — Casino impresario Steve Wynn doesn't need the Super Bowl. He's got the Oscars.

The billionaire will use Hollywood's biggest stage to air a commercial about his \$2.7 billion Wynn Las Vegas megaresort that's slated to open April 28.

Wynn decided to book time on the Academy Awards, which will air Feb. 27 on ABC, after the NFL shot down a national Super Bowl spot on Fox because his commercial was associated with gambling, a long-standing league taboo.

4th of July with John in Philly

PHILADELPHIA — Singers Elton John will entertain Fourth of July events in Philadelphia to promote awareness and raise money for the fight against HIV/AIDS.

John will perform with Peter Nero and the Philly Pops orchestra at the Philadelphia Freedom Concert and Ball.

Organizers said they hope to draw 1.5 million people and raise \$2 million for the Elton John AIDS Foundation and Philadelphia's I Magnus Hirschfeld Fund.

John said he recently spent time in South Africa and saw the foundation's work in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

New York

Star is moving on after breaking up