



Shuler wins, Democrats take control of Congress

by Adam Beeson
Editor-in-Chief

Following national trends, Western North Carolina voted for change in this year's mid-term election.

Democratic challenger Heath Shuler defeated eight-term incumbent U.S. Rep. Charles Taylor in North Carolina's 11th District on Tuesday. The win was a key victory for the Democrats, as the party took control of the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time since 1994.

The former NFL quarterback, running for his first political office, took 51 percent of the 11th Congressional District including all four Brevard precincts, areas that Dr. Ralph Hamlett, associate professor of political science at BC, says Taylor should have won.

"Taylor has brought so much funding into the area," Hamlett said. "The Democratic Party got out the vote and I think that is what won the election. Local



Elected U.S. Rep. Heath Shuler

Democrats started organizing (the campaign) last summer. It was a grassroots campaign."

BC senior Seth Mathlery worked with the Transylvania County Republican Party on the Taylor campaign and says that the defeat illustrates Western North Carolina's desire for change.

"Shuler's victory is evidence that people in Western North Carolina want change in Washington," Mathlery said.

A Swain County native, Shuler retains moderate positions many key issues: he opposes abortion, supports gun rights and disagrees with gay marriage, stances that led many mountain residents wondering if he was indeed a Democrat.

"Heath Shuler did a fine job running as a Republican on a Democratic ticket," Mathlery said.

On the issue of Iraq, however, Shuler sides with the Democratic Party in calling for a comprehensive change in course, a stance that led BC sophomore BJ Wanlund to vote for the 34-year-old.

"I don't care who is in office as long as we find a new plan for Iraq," Wanlund said. "At this point, anybody is better than Charles Taylor."

Wanlund said that Taylor's questionable ethical record also influenced his vote.

Questions about Taylor's ethics in office began to surface this year as the *Wall Street Journal* named him one of the most corrupt members of Congress. Earlier reports had connected Taylor with nearly \$10,000 in campaign donations from convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

Senior Michael Spradlin voted for Shuler on Tuesday as well. Spradlin said that he felt Shuler just ran a better campaign than his Republican opponent.

"I didn't like the smear campaign that Taylor was running," Spradlin said.

Speaking to supporters outside of the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Asheville, Shuler said that his priorities as Congressman are to create more jobs for mountain residents, improve health care cover- see Election, page 2

Mold results yield no reason for concern

by Matt Rutherford
Managing Editor

Recently, President Van Horn released a summary of the mold findings and has held two different student-based meetings.

According to the summary, Administration began their investigation of the mold allegations on Sept. 28 of this year. Since then, no conclusion has been made because the results have not finished undergoing testing.

The testing was carried out during the time mold is most common in the area. Apparently, the mold is also common in households throughout the town. The inspec-

tor believed that even though there was mold in ventilation shafts, that there was not enough to be considered a threat. However, it was discovered that moister in the HVAC units all over the Villages is the main culprit.

Maintenance and General Housekeeping were notified. Students are also to blame for the recent rise in mold; doors propped and windows kept open while the air conditioning was in operation contributed to the growing moisture.

The college took two extra steps to nullify the current issues. One was the testing of a mold called *Aspergillus*, which has 100 differ-

ent strains—two of which are dangerous to those with weakened immune systems. Second, the college made sure there was no active mold growing in the walls.

The results of the testing suggest the mold is not toxic, but the complaints received from the students living in the most mold-ridden areas are quite possibly real. The only way to find out is to consult a physician to confirm that a mold allergen is actually causing the distress of the students.

The molds considered to be potential allergens are *Aspergillus*, *Basiodiospores*, *Bipolaris/Drechslera*, *Curvularia*, and *Epicoccum*.

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