

**POLITICS**

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co-founder and president of Tar Heel Libertarians Russ Helms has been highly visible this election season.

Helms, a 28-year-old graduate student, said he spends 20 hours a week working with THL, leading outreach programs, organizing Pit-sits, participating in flier distributions and maintaining the content on THL's Web site.

Helms' passion for the Libertarian cause compels him to actively support Libertarian candidates and inform voters about their views.

"I'm passionate about defending people's freedom. I have always been a political geek," he said.

Helms worked in student government his freshman and sophomore years at UNC. He turned down running President Clinton's UNC campaign in 1992 when he came to realize his political affiliation lay with the Libertarian Party.

And now, at the end of his UNC career, Helms has chosen to take an extra semester to finish his graduate dissertation so he can devote more

time to THL.

Lately Helms has been spending much of his time promoting extensive THL outreach efforts. "If people hear what we have to say they will really like it. The message is well received when we get it out, but it's hard to get it out there," Helms said.

This allows Helms to reconnect with many younger students. "I enjoyed getting back in touch with the undergrads. They put so much into it. I feed off of their vigor and excitement," he said.

Helms and a dozen other THL members displayed this conviction and excitement when they protested against the exclusion of Libertarian candidate Harry Browne in the presidential debate held in October at Wake Forest University. "We marched, chanted and almost got arrested," Helms said.

Campaigning for Libertarian candidates is in full swing back at UNC. Helms is getting the word out on presidential candidate Harry Browne and on gubernatorial hopeful Barbara Howe, among others.

Looking toward his future, Helms said he is uncertain of his degree of political action. "I don't see myself as a politician. I want to start a family with

my wife, and being a father is all the leadership I can take."

**Jeff Nieman**

As a young boy, Jeff Nieman used to get in big trouble for staying up past his bedtime, glued to the television.

But it wasn't MTV or action movies that interested him, it was the 1984 presidential debates between President Reagan and Walter Mondale.

And 16 years later, the UNC graduate is managing a campaign to re-elect a state senator and is continuing his love for politics. Nieman enters this position with hefty student government experience under his belt, including two terms as president of the UNC Association of Student Governments.

"Politics was the one thing I found I was good at; I had an affinity for it," Nieman said. "I like the idea of having to aggregate different people's interest and varying diverse opinions together to make society the best it can be for people."

After his May graduation, it appeared Nieman was leaving politics.

He was hired by an Internet company for business promotion. But when Nieman found himself in a less people-oriented position, he called it quits. "I

have to be passionate about something to get up and do it every day," he said.

Nieman soon returned to politics when he was hired to manage the reelection campaign of Sen. Allen Wellons, D-Johnston.

Nieman commutes from Chapel Hill to Smithfield daily to work for Wellons. He places advertisements, puts up signs, gathers and coordinates volunteers and serves as a spokesman for the senator.

Nieman said he tries to play a positive part in the political system and reverse what he calls the "cycle of apathy" in the younger generation.

"I don't think our generation is any less interested in service to make our communities better," he said. "There is

a discord between them and the political process and it builds on itself. When young people vote less, politicians are less focused on them, which makes them vote less."

When Election Day is over, Nieman's job will end. But he isn't worried. "Things kind of work themselves out and take you on a path you may never have expected," he said.

Nieman plans on going to law school but is uncertain what will follow. He said, "When I was little, I wanted to be and astronaut and then an electrician, but politics is where my abilities lay."

The Features Editor can be reached at features@unc.edu.

**RALLY**

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you see between now and Tuesday night about this and about what this means."

Broad told the crowd that higher education is the key to keeping the state competitive. "As we enter this globally competitive economy, it will be the skill and ability of our workers to compete that makes the difference," she said.

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

**NO EXCUSE**

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its proximity to many potential voters. "We were trying to find a location centered around the population," Thomas said. "Students can walk there easily."

No Excuse Voting has been especially popular among college students. Reyna Walters, student coordinator for the \$3.1 billion higher education bond campaign, said that in working with students she has seen an overwhelmingly positive response to both No Excuse Voting and the bond.

The bond will finance capital improvements across the UNC system and at the state's community colleges.

"I have been working with a lot of campuses, making sure that they focus on voter registration," she said.

But Kinnaird said the program's success bodes well for the future. "It's been very successful, and I think it shows that there is a great need for it," she said.

"We need to continue to expand the opportunities to vote."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

**FIRE**

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improve safety.

"We're advocating it any way we can," Jones said. "When people start asking for it, then apartment managers

and complexes will start doing it.

"If people want to be safe, they need to say they need sprinklers."

Alyson Jackson-Snavely, director of emergency services for the Orange County chapter of the Red Cross, said the organization continues to provide services for those whose homes were

destroyed by the fire.

"We offer the big three - food, shelter and clothing," she said. "We just bought clothes for two victims whose apartment was completely destroyed."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.



**The University and Towns**

**IN BRIEF**

**Assault Suspect Pursued By Officers, Shots Fired**

Charges are pending against a suspect in a case of aggravated assault against a police officer.

The incident occurred at 10 p.m. Wednesday. Officers saw a vehicle run a red light at the intersection of Airport Road and Hillsborough Street. The vehicle drove into the Chapel Hill Police Department parking lot, almost striking an officer. The vehicle then continued up Airport Road, turned onto Estes Drive and was stopped at the intersection of Estes and Caswell roads. As officers exited their car, the suspect backed up and pulled forward toward the officers.

Reports state that one of the officers fired several shots into the vehicle.

The vehicle turned onto Caswell Road and continued about two blocks. Then the suspect fled from the vehicle on foot, reports state. He was stopped and taken into custody on Bolinwood Drive.

The suspect was transported to UNC Hospitals for a flesh wound on his leg.

As in every case where an officer's weapon is fired, the State Bureau of Investigation has been called in, and is conducting an investigation.

No motive has been established for the actions of the suspect.

**Sorority Scholarship Applications Due Today**

Applications for the Theta Nu Xi multicultural sorority scholarship are due today at 5 p.m. The \$300 scholarship will go to an outstanding undergraduate woman who best exhibits the qualities of scholarship, leadership, multiculturalism, service and sisterhood.

**Campus Calendar**

Today

noon - The Black Student Movement will be kicking off BSM Month in the Pit. Everyone is invited to attend.

7 p.m. - What would the economic system of a unified world look like? Come hear the Baha'i perspective in the Frank Porter Graham Lounge of the Student Union and share your own views in an open environment where diversity of thought is respected.

8 p.m. - The Carolina Tar Heel Voices, UNC's oldest coed a cappella group, will hold its fall concert with the

theme "THV Game Show Network."

Tickets are \$6 in advance or \$7 at the door. Get tickets in the Pit or reserve tickets by calling 962-THV1.

Saturday

1 p.m. - The Native American Student Coalition at Duke University is sponsoring an Exhibition Dance to kick off the November Native American Heritage Month.

The Exhibition Dance will include Lakota hoop dancers as well as 30 Choctaw dancers. Please come out to the Clocktower Quad on Duke's campus to support Native American Heritage Month.

Sunday

4 p.m. - Join the Carolina Union Activities Board in the Union Cabaret for a dinner theater discussion of interracial dating and a viewing of the film "Jungle Fever."

8 p.m. - A Pit Sleep-In will be held in the Pit from 8 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. in honor of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

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