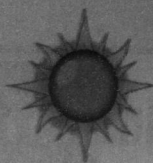


Battling AIDS
Speaker ignites
crowd. See Page 3



System Scrutiny
The University of Virginia
is taking steps to reform its
honor court. See Page 9



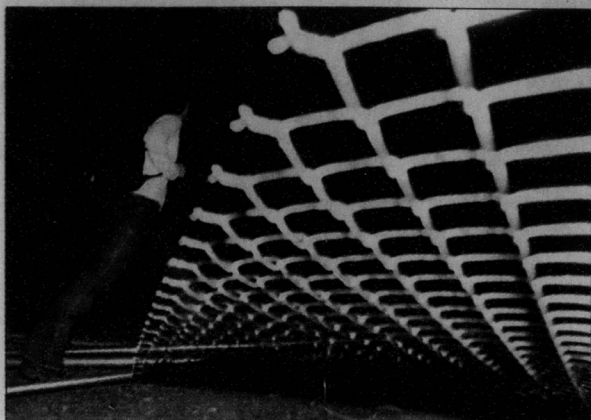
Makin' It
Today: Showers, 63
Thursday: Cloudy, 56
Friday: Sunny, 53

The Daily Tar Heel

www.dailytarheel.com

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Wednesday, November 29, 2000



DTH/ARIEL SHUMAKER

A student walks over the fence in front of Hinton James Residence Hall. The fence was torn down by irate students Monday night.

Residents Refuse to Accept Fence

By AISHA K. THOMAS
Staff Writer

Residents of Hinton James Residence Hall are taking action against the temporary fence preventing them from crossing Manning Drive, attempting to destroy the fence and vowing to keep it down.

The fence was installed because officials were concerned that pedestrians were jaywalking at Manning Drive, said Christopher Payne, director of the Department of Housing and Residential Education.

But residents say the fence only causes more inconveniences.

"I think the fence is kind of pointless," said sophomore Allison Jackson.

"People are going to cross the street there anyway."

The new fence forces residents to go through the back door of Hinton James and walk along Skipper Bowles Drive before crossing at the Manning and Skipper Bowles intersection.

But many students continue to cross Manning in front of Ehringhaus Residence Hall after traveling down the Hinton James driveway and walking along the fence.

Freshman Hilary Greene said the fence creates more safety problems than it resolves. "I'm surprised that it is still up," she said. "As long as it is up, somebody is going to get killed trying to cross that street."

Many residents have complained about the location of the fence, so the Hinton James Area Government sponsored a forum Monday night for students to voice these concerns.

But after the forum, irate students took matters into their own hands and tore down part of the fence.

Junior Jonathan Lowman was one of many Hinton James residents who said they would not allow the fence to stay. "It's just going to get knocked down," he said. "If somebody else doesn't do it, I probably will."

University officials said they do not want to inconvenience students and that they are disappointed students are vandalizing the fence.

"We recognize that (the fence) wasn't the best solution, but it was a solution," said Associate Director of Housing Larry Hicks.

"We are not going to go back and forth with students on that, but the fence will be replaced if it is damaged."

Students also said it takes an extra 10 minutes to get to class because of the detour.

Some students said the fence is so inconvenient, they want to move next semester.

"South Campus is already out of the way, and now there is at least 15 minutes added to your morning," said senior

See HINTON JAMES, Page 5

Bush Pursues 'Finality' From Supreme Court

On Friday, the Bush team will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Florida court decisions and end state ballot recounts.

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court should "forestall an impending constitutional crisis" over Florida's 25 electoral votes, lawyers for George W. Bush argued Tuesday, while Al Gore's lawyers said the court should not interfere.

Bush, whose appeal the high court is set to hear Friday, said the justices can bring "legal finality" to the presidential election by overturning the Florida courts and ending any further ballot recounts.

Florida's decisive 25 electoral votes were awarded to Bush on Sunday night. Gore is fighting to overturn results of the Florida election and claim those electoral votes, and with them the White House.

"By acting now to reject the Florida Supreme Court's unwarranted intrusion into the regulation of the manner of appointing electors, this court will eliminate the potential for a constitutional crisis" over who picks the electors and how, Bush's lawyers wrote.

Gore's team called the Republican arguments "insubstantial" and said the Florida court "played a familiar and quintessentially judicial role" in interpreting state law. They asked the justices to affirm the ruling and avoid trampling on what is supposed to be a matter of state law.

"Principles of federalism counsel strongly against interference by this court," the Gore legal team said in its brief.

At the same time, the vice president is asking a Florida judge to undo the secretary of state's certification of Bush as the winner. That certification came after the Supreme Court agreed to take Bush's appeal.

It is not clear how a high court decision would affect the case now.

"It's very complicated, and I don't think anyone knows for sure," said Gore lawyer Laurence Tribe.

If the justices think they do not have enough time left to decide, they could opt not to hear the case after all. Bush's filings Tuesday, however, argued that the court still has a role to play.

Bush asked the justices to overturn a Florida Supreme Court ruling that allowed hand recounting of votes to continue past a state-imposed deadline of Nov. 14, saying the manual reviews opened the door for Democrat Gore to continue legal contests for weeks more.

"The Florida Supreme Court's decision, which conflicts with both federal statutes and the federal Constitution, will thus continue to affect, and has the theoretical potential to change, the outcome of the presidential election in Florida, and thus the nation," Bush argued.

He wants the results of ballots recounted since Nov. 14 omitted from the official state election tally.

That would give Bush a 930-vote margin instead of his current 537-vote lead.

Bush Prepares
For Presidency,
Legal Battles
See Pages 6 & 8



Democrat Al Gore asked a Florida judge to reverse the certification of Bush's win.



Republican George W. Bush wants the Nov. 14 vote count to be final, giving him the presidency.



DTH/MIKE SUTTON

Immediate Reaction

By MICHAEL MCKNIGHT
Staff Writer

Millions of Americans went to bed on Election Night thinking Republican candidate George W. Bush had been elected the 43rd president of the United States. But by the next morning, it was clear voters in the state of Florida had managed to elude the projections of nearly every network analyst in the nation — twice.

At about 8 p.m. Tuesday, the five major television networks and The Associated Press all predicted Democrat Al Gore would be the winner in Florida. A short time later, all six organizations retracted their projections.

Just after midnight it became clear that Florida's 25 electoral votes would put either candidate over the top in the hunt for the 270 electoral votes required to win the presidency.

At 2 a.m., the same five networks, minus the AP, called Florida for Bush and pronounced him the next president of the United States. After 3 a.m., the networks made their third and final call of the night — saying the race in Florida was too close to call.

Three weeks after the votes were cast, the election isn't the only thing still up in the air — some think the media's credibility is as well.

Several major television networks have begun internal investigations into their Election Night activities in hopes of discovering what went wrong and why projection practices that worked in the

past failed this time around.

But while the media is looking into the problems of Election Night, some in the industry have gone on damage control duty to counter the harsh criticism they have received from various media analysts after the election miscalls.

Not only are the networks looking into the miscalculations on Election Night, Congress is as well.

A congressional probe planned for January will look into the networks' early calls of the presidential race in Florida and its impact in places where polls had not yet closed.

Steve Randall, senior analyst at the media watchdog group Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, said this year's election coverage is just another incident that has caused public perception of the news media to take a downhill slide.

He said the reason the networks made premature calls was simple — they violated one of the principal rules of journalism by relying upon a single source, the Voter News Service (VNS), to make their calls.

VNS is an organization funded by ABC News, CBS News, CNN, Fox News, NBC News and the AP and provides projections to all of them on Election Night.

Like Randall, UNC journalism Professor Charlie Tuggle said the projections and retractions on Election Night indicate serious problems in the way the networks handle election coverage.

Tuggle, who recently conducted an audience assessment poll on live news reporting, said that according to his sur-

vey, the networks' rush to be the first to report election winners was unnecessary because most viewers care more about a network's accuracy than whether it is the first to break a story.

The recent criticism the networks are receiving from media watchdog groups and analysts in the aftermath of the election has some in the broadcast industry on the defensive.

Barbara Cochrane, president of the Radio-Television News Directors' Association, blamed this year's miscalls on the closeness of the race. "Very few elections are as close as this one. That's what made the calls more difficult," she said.

Cochrane said that while this year's miscalls were understandable given the closeness of the race, they were unfortunate because candidates often rely on the networks when deciding whether they should celebrate or concede. "When the networks declared Bush had won Florida, Gore was relying on that and prepared to make his concession speech and then had to take it back," she said.

The networks themselves are keeping quiet, at least until they complete their internal investigations.

Kelly Keane, a spokeswoman for CNN, would not go into detail about CNN's projection procedure, but she said the network relied upon information from VNS in conjunction with its own research to make its projections.

Keane said there is an internal investigation under way at CNN. She refused to comment on whether CNN sacrificed accuracy to make the first projection.

"Again, that's part of the review. We're dissecting what happened on that night, so I really can't comment," she said.

See MEDIA, Page 5

Congress To Pay Off Large Debt

Settling its debts will leave Congress with fewer funds for student groups, despite this semester's surplus.

By JASON ARTHURS
Staff Writer

While Student Congress might finish this semester with an unexpected surplus in this semester's budget, it faces a debt \$44,000 larger than usual due to optimistic projections in last year's annual budget funded by student fees.

Congress plans to pay off the debt next semester, a move that will leave few dollars available at that time for campus groups, said Finance Committee Chairman Mark Townsend. Only a few weeks ago, Congress faced a quickly dwindling pool of funds to allocate to campus groups this semester, taking time to question exactly how it would dole out the remaining dollars in the subsequent allocations fund.

But when no groups requested money during the final finance committee meeting, leaving \$5,431 originally earmarked for allocations this semester, Congress and student body leaders began looking ahead to next semester — specifically to fill in a more than \$44,000 hole dug just last year, Townsend said.

"We're going to take all this debt and eat it next semester," he said. "We just want to nip it in the bud."

Student Body Treasurer Patrick Frye said that while Congress typically runs in the red because of miscalculations of revenues from student fees, overly optimistic projections and a start-off deficit of \$5,195 caused the current debt to be about \$44,000 more than it should be.

Frye said the \$193,666.90 annual budget for 2000-2001, drawn in February of last year, is between 5 and 11 percent higher than it should have been.

The overall budget figure is based on enrollment projections and subsequent student fee collections, money rolled over from the previous year and estimated reversions — money not spent by groups that must be returned.

Frye said the budget figure for this year was presented by last year's Student Body Treasurer Ryan Schlitt. Schlitt probably made the optimistic



Student Body Treasurer Patrick Frye says this semester's budget surplus surprised him.

See CONGRESS, Page 5

Get your facts first, and then you can distort 'em as much as you please.

Mark Twain