



## Zeis Hall voting station averaging 250 voters per day

More than 350,000 voters cast ballots in first five days of N.C. early voting as candidates campaign across the state

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For the first time in UNC Asheville's 80-year history, the campus community can skip a special trip to the polls and vote on-campus at Zeis Hall, the new science building.

By noon Tuesday, 1228 votes had been cast on campus.

"Having UNC Asheville designated as a host site for one-stop voting is a wonder-

ful opportunity to serve the university community, as well as the greater Asheville community, by providing them the chance to exercise their right to vote," said Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Bill Haggard.

From Oct. 16 to Nov. 1, the campus community can both register to vote and cast their vote in room 018 of Zeis Hall. The voting station is open Monday through Saturday to students, teachers, campus employees and any Buncombe County residents.

Zeis voting captain Eva Scippa said she saw a steady stream of voters and even a few instances of voters waiting in line since the station opened Oct. 16.

"People seem really eager. They want to vote. We had five people waiting at nine," she said, noting the station opened at 10 a.m.

"It's pretty easy," said freshman student Ashley Kraus, who voted the first day the Zeis station opened. "It's very accessible.

Despite the convenience,

Kraus acknowledged she found herself unprepared to make an educated choice about several offices on a ballot with more than 30 choices. She chose to submit an incomplete ballot.

"I didn't know enough information, and I didn't want to do a straight-party vote," she said.

Scippa said incomplete ballots are still counted.

Another voting captain, Alan Escovitz, said the campus voting station can help voters avoid being caught un-

prepared.

"They can look at a sample ballot in advance," he said, pointing to a stack of yellow sample ballots by the door. "And they can always come here and ask questions."

In addition to sample ballots, one-stop voting at UNCA also includes curbside voting. Curbside voters pull their vehicle into the designated area marked at Upper Lot 7A, the parking lot nearest Zeis. When a car rolls over a tube in the parking lot, voting staff inside Zeis hear a bell that lets them

know someone outside wants to vote.

A staffer comes out with paperwork and a secure binder, and curbside voters fill out the ballot from inside the car.

Scippa agreed the process is comparable to full service at a gas station.

While some disabled people use curbside voting, anyone can use it, including people who are elderly, sick or having any kind of difficulty get-

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## Kenny George suffers setback

Surgeons have amputated part of senior basketball player Kenny George's right foot, *The Citizen-Times* reported Friday.

Citing George's high school coach, the paper broke the news after a long period of silence from George and basketball coach Eddie Biedenbach.

"This is a really terrible setback for Kenny," Biedenbach said in a statement. "He worked so hard to get into the situation where he could play last year and was working hard to be ready for this season."

George contracted a staph infection in his foot while attending basketball camp in August, and is expected to remain hospitalized in Iowa for another month, according to a report on www.ESPN.com.

## Obama, McCain campaign in N.C.

Sen. Barack Obama and rival Sen. John McCain both campaigned in North Carolina last weekend.

McCain gave a thirty-minute speech before 7,000 supporters in Concord Saturday.

Obama spoke to 10,000 people at a rally in Fayetteville Sunday.

Both campaigns are fighting for the state's 15 electoral votes.

Several polls show N.C. as the closest state in the nation.

Gov. Sarah Palin, McCain's running mate, spoke at a rally at Elon University last Thursday.

Sen. Joe Biden, Obama's running mate, spoke Thursday at a rally at Meredith College in Raleigh.

## Events promote alcohol awareness



EMILY GRAY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Students took turns driving a golf cart while wearing drunk goggles Tuesday on the quad, among other activities promoting responsible partying including an alcohol-free social hosted by Founders Hall resident assistants.

## Gummy bears help demonstrate the danger of date rape drugs

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Resident students downed a keg and played drinking games in Highsmith University Union Sunday.

This alcohol-free event (the keg contained root beer) kicked off Alcohol Awareness Week. Founders Hall resident assistants hosted the social, which aimed to teach students about safe partying practices.

"I think the Grotto party was educational in the fact that we learned about how much people drink in drinking

games. I myself, totally sober, got caught up on questions and ended up drinking a lot more root beer than I wanted to, but as far as prevention I doubt it is effective," freshman Marie Lackey said.

Coordinators of the party covertly slipped gummy bears in various drinks throughout Sunday evening, trying to imitate stealthy predators and other unexpected problems that arise when drinking in public.

Each color gummy bear represented a different scenario, including date rape drugs and alcohol poisoning.

"I was impressed at the end when I found three gummy bears in my drink, which were supposed to represent 'roofies.' That part scared me a bit. I think people will drink on college campuses regardless of how many efforts there are to prevent it," Lackey, an 18-year-old from Burlington, said.

It shocked sophomore Cecelia McKoy how easily gummy bears were slipped into people's drinks without them noticing at all, she said.

During the drinking games, party goers kept a tally of every root beer or cream soda

they drank.

The social resembled a scenario in which people would actually drink, McKoy said. The lights were dim, there was plenty to drink and eat and loud music playing. People were dancing and hanging out like they would at any party.

Some students doubted the effectiveness of the social, since the environment only mimicked a real party.

"(The social) sounds like eighth grade to me," Gary Grubbs, a Psychology student

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## Poll finds Obama leading in WNC

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A recent poll conducted by UNC Asheville mass communication students suggests the Democratic party is poised to do well in Buncombe County.

"The results of the poll suggest that Asheville and the county are leaning toward Barack Obama, and that Obama will bring Hagan and Shuler along with him," said Mark West, a professor of mass communication whose classes conducted the survey.

"The question, as always, is whether people are telling us what they really intend to do or whether they're telling us what they think we want to hear. And the number of undecided voters in the presidential election - almost 18 percent - is still high enough to change the outcome of the election."

"One thing this poll indicates is that we're unlikely to see some sort of landslide, especially in North Carolina. The large number of undecided responses this late in the election may reflect real indecision, or it may reflect a hidden preference for McCain."

The poll results indicated that 38 percent of respondents said they would vote for Shuler, 15 percent for Mumpower, and 34 percent said they were undecided.

"Again, I would say that the election is far from decided. Mumpower's primary strength is in the rural areas," West said.

### Presidential Choice in Buncombe County

Obama	42.5
McCain	29.7
Undecided	17.8
Other	0.9
No Answer	9.1

(values by percentage)

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