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Inside This Issue...



Lopez wins SGA presidential election Mervin takes Vice Presidency in runoff

THOMAS M. RUYLE

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In the quietest spring election in years, Adrien Lopez won last week's SGA presidential election by a nearly two-to-one margin over challenger Dan Fall. Of 1,066 votes cast for president, Lopez gained 690, Fall received 366. Write-in candidates received 10 votes.

A runoff election was needed to choose Skipper Mervin for the vice-presidential seat. Neither Mervin nor his opponent, Stephen Hernandez, gained a plurality in the main election. Mervin defeated Hernandez, 338 votes to 276, in the runoff.

This year's total of 1,086 votes cast (in the main election) exceeds the total cast in spring elections of the past two years combined. Elections Board Chairwoman Jeanette DeRenne attributed the rise to better publicity and the ease of the new on-line system.

"As far as I know, it's the best voter turnout we've ever had," she said.

Lopez, who will be sworn in next Tuesday, will represent the student body with a vote on the UNCW Board of Trustees, and will have final responsibility for budget of nearly \$400,000. She served as Freshman class president during the 1998-99 academic year, and has served in leadership roles with the UNCW NAACP chapter as well as P.E.A.C.E. (People Educating with an Active Commitment to Equality).

During her term as freshman class president, she was censured for her involvement in an unauthorized journey to represent UNCW in the N.C. ASG (Association of Student Governments), but retained her seat. She did not serve in SGA during her sophomore year, rejoining the SGA after a semester in Spain last semester.

Eight legislators were also elected last week, although as many as 32 seats remain open—including all rep-

resentation of next year's senior class. DeRenne said that those seats can be filled by appointment or petition. Executive board positions are open for application at the SGA office.

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New SGA Legislators

Junior Class President
Kristen L. Packard

Junior Representatives:
Mary C. van Bergen
Erica N. Smith

Sophomore Representative:
Gina M. Pugh

Cameron School Representative:
Christina W. Smith

On-campus Representative:
Clifton D. Williams

Off-campus Representatives:
James G. Harrington
Joseph A. Allsbrook



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Adrien Lopez



Skipper Mervin

Safe-Ride hits the streets; vouchers on sale in Union

TODD VOLKSTORF

STAFF WRITER

Safe-Ride, the program designed to ensure UNCW students have a safe and reliable transportation alternative around Wilmington, has finally begun.

"It's kind of only a little bit a lot late at this point, but at least it's started and all the pieces are in place for next year," said Chris Dorre, Safe-Ride committee member.

After several revisions to previous plans for the

program, which at one time included the use of a student-run shuttle service, the Safe-Ride committee settled on a plan that utilizes vouchers for cab fare.

Students with a valid UNCW identification card can purchase the vouchers at the information desk in the University Union. Each voucher costs \$1.50

but is worth \$5 in cab fare. Students are limited to buying five vouchers a month.

Dorre said the idea behind Safe-Ride came from a similar program at Texas A&M University. He learned about that program, which involves students carpooling with other students, while attending a student leaders conference last year.

Implementation of the UNCW program, however, has not been a smooth ride. Dogged with money issues, logistics, and the attitude of some that Safe-Ride encourages underage drinking did not deter the SGA from pushing forward with the idea.

Dorre said people sometimes get the wrong idea about Safe-Ride. "It's not just for people who are out drinking," he said.

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SAFE RIDE

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Beach Buggy Taxi	792-0232	SPONSORED
Coastal Yellow Cab	762-3322	BY SGA
Let's Taxi	450-3999	Expires
Port City Taxi	762-1165	May 1, 2001
Sandhills Transportation	798-8299	

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