

## Stretch out the stress:

Tips on how to relieve stress and maintain sanity/See page 8

## Knight time:

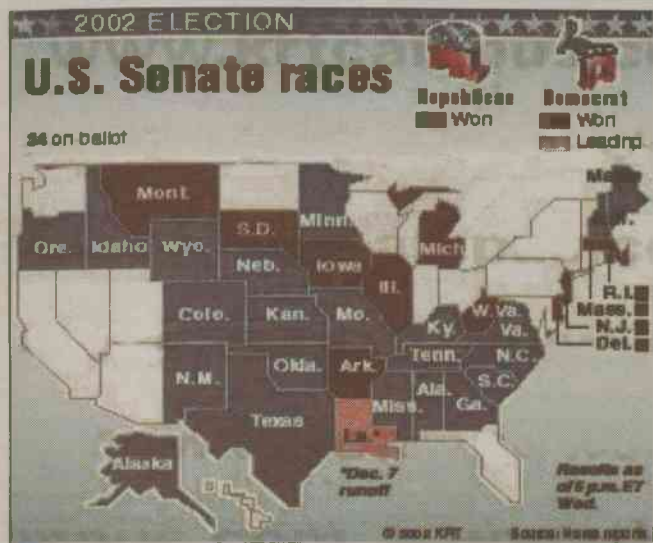
Seahawks open season at Texas Tech/See page 11

# the Seahawk

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## Women take stand on birth control

SARAH BROTHERS

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Severe muscle pain, painful intercourse, 50 extra pounds in weight gain, loss of hair and depression are just a few of the side effects experienced by a patient after taking her new medication.

That was nearly eight years ago when Shelly Borsits started receiving Depo-Provera shots. Today, after years of help from a professional nutritionist, she says that she is almost back to normal.

Borsits is just one of the thousands of women to have this experience. Other women have reported even more adverse side effects. But they also have something else in common; many of them believe that their symptoms were a result of the birth control they take—Depo-Provera.

Depo-Provera is a form of birth control that is taken into the body by an injection. The major difference between Depo-Provera and other forms of birth control is Depo-Provera only needs to be injected four times per year.

“Depo-Provera stores itself in women’s muscle tissue and fat. Considering that it causes women to gain so much weight and not be able to get it off— it is like the poison literally sits in our bodies keeping us sick,” Borsits said.

After Borsits’ “life-altering experience” with Depo-Provera, she created a Web site to help other women in the same situation

and to encourage them to get a second and third opinion.

Over 4,000 women from around the country have signed her guestbook and shared their Depo-Provera horror story.

“These [side effects] can happen with any hormonal contraceptive,” said Carolina Bullock, Public Relations Manager for Pharmacia Corporation. “Clinical trials show that women typically gain 5 pounds.”

Depo-Provera is 99.7 percent effective, according to a Web site and an advertisement seen in recent issues of the Seahawk. The Web site, depo-provera.com, says that it is estimated that you are 15 times more likely to accidentally get pregnant while on the pill than on Depo-Provera.

“It’s real effective because it’s only given four times per year,” said Dr. John Irving, a gynecologist at the Azalea Coast Family Practice in Wilmington. Irving added that since it is an injection that lasts three months, there are disadvantages.

“It’s useful for some cases, but when it has side effects, the only thing you can do is ride it out,” said Irving. “There’s nothing you can do because you already got the shot.”

Side effects most often seen by Irving include acne, depression, increased appetite and noticeable weight gain.

After reviewing complaints posted on her Web site, Borsits

SEE DEPO PROVERA, PAGE 2

## Election gives GOP majority

TAYA OWENS

STAFF WRITER

The GOP in Wilmington celebrated on the evening of Nov. 5 as they blew away the Democratic competition across the board.

Despite a poll based at UNCW and put out by Walter DeVries suggesting that registered voters were looking for change, voters chose to keep most of the same candidates in their positions.

Republicans have traditionally represented New Hanover County, as all four members voted to the Board of Education are Republicans and three of the four are incumbents.

“Most incumbents this year were Republican,” said Stephen Meinhold associate professor of political science at UNCW. “It was hard to be a Democrat challenger.”

Republicans Bill Caster and Bobby Greer maintained their positions as County

Commissioners. Caster, also a UNCW political science professor, said he thinks the people are satisfied with the work of the incumbents.

The biggest change with this election was David Redwine’s loss of a seat in the State House. As a long time Democratic incumbent, Redwine was the chief budget writer. He will be replaced by Bonner Stiller.

“It looks like the House may go Republican,” Meinhold said, in which case riding on the coat-tails of the Presidential government may be beneficial.

The Republican victory was not a total wash. In the United States House, Democrat Mike McIntyre kept his seat for the next two years, beating his opponent by more than double the votes.

Sheriff Sid Causey kept his position as head of county law enforcement after defeating Mark Benson.

UNCW student and

Libertarian Ty Jacobus did not have much of an impact in the State House’s 19th district. However, Jacobus managed to gather more votes than any other local Libertarian, with 2,565 votes. Incumbent Republican Danny McComas will keep that seat.

U.S. Senate-elect Elizabeth Dole was also represented strongly in New Hanover County. She will become the first woman to serve as a US senator for North Carolina.

“She is very popular with the President and that will be very beneficial for us,” Caster said. “She’s an excellent politician and good candidate,” said Caster.

Out of 115,200 registered voters, 52,992 cast their ballots for the senator’s race. An unofficial tally shows a 46 percent voter turnout.

Information on the election results can be accessed at [www.nhcgov.com](http://www.nhcgov.com).

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