

Campaigns for student office come to a close, results in Tuesday evening

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Last week Meredith community was in the thick of student elections campaigning. This year, students saw the bright campaign posters and candidate speeches seen in years past as well as many things new to elections this year, such as online voting and a candidate meet and greet session.

Campaigning officially kicked off last Monday with the candidates' speeches held in Kresge Auditorium. The speeches were only for students running for a campus-wide office. Students had the opportunity to hear speeches for class elections at meetings held during the week.

All of the candidates stressed increasing student

involvement in campus events. At the end of the speeches, each candidate was asked how she would balance her activities in order to adequately serve her fellow students. Elizabeth Loftis, a junior running for SGA President, said she was experienced at balancing her responsibilities, but she would have to drop some existing activities in order to fully serve her fellow students. Kelly Beth Smith, who is also running for SGA President, said attaining a healthy balance is important and she would also cut back on some of her activities. Lindsey de la Fosse, who is running for SGA Vice President, said she planned to focus on the Senate. Her opposing candidate Katie McGrail said she tends to focus on one thing at a time.

The candidate Meet and Greet, held Wednesday afternoon from 11-1, was new to the election process this year. The event was a way for students to get to know the candidates better and to find out what they stand for.

McGrail said she thought the Meet and Greet was "a novel idea" and "was a positive way to support investigating each candidate and the issues at hand." Elections Board Chair Michelle Scott said the event did not go as well as they had hoped. She said, "We would still like to do it again next year, but perhaps at a different time such as the ten o'clock hour and maybe even after the campaign speeches have been given."

New to the elections process this year is online voting. Students will receive

a personalized email with a link directing them to the voting website. They will log in with a password and username contained in the email, make their selections and submit their ballots.

Scott said there are many advantages to online voting. Students can vote anywhere and at anytime they want from 9 a.m. Monday to 7 p.m. Tuesday. "They can vote at 3 a.m. if they wish!" Scott said. Students who are studying abroad also have a chance to vote. Students will also have an easier time seeing which candidate they are selecting. Another advantage, Scott said is that "students will be able to click on a candidate's name in the ballot and a biography that contains infor-

mation about the candidate's experience, goals, and reason for running" will pop up.

McGrail thinks that online voting will get more students involved in the process. "The convenience and availability of a ballot through email will definitely show more participation in campus-wide elections," she said. However, she thinks that students having to register to vote for class elections by hard copy will inhibit them from voting in that portion of the elections.

Scott hopes that students will vote more for the candidates of their choice. She said "I hope that students realize that this new idea and method is for them and not for anyone else."

Reedy Creek con't from page 1

The NCDOT hopes the new trails will make Hillsborough Street into a "significantly more bicycle and pedestrian friendly street," Norman said. The finished project will enable residents and local students to walk or bike to the NC Museum of Art, the Museum of Natural Science's Green Environmental Education Center, the Loblolly Trail in Schenck Forest and Umstead State Park.

Campus Police Chief Frank Strickland said students need not worry about unwelcome intruders from the new trails. He said gates will be installed at the end of each greenway, and will be controlled by campus police. The gates will be unlocked at 8 a.m. and closed at dusk.

Campus Police will work with Raleigh Parks and Recreation to maintain proper conduct on the walkway, but that Campus Police will have jurisdiction on the

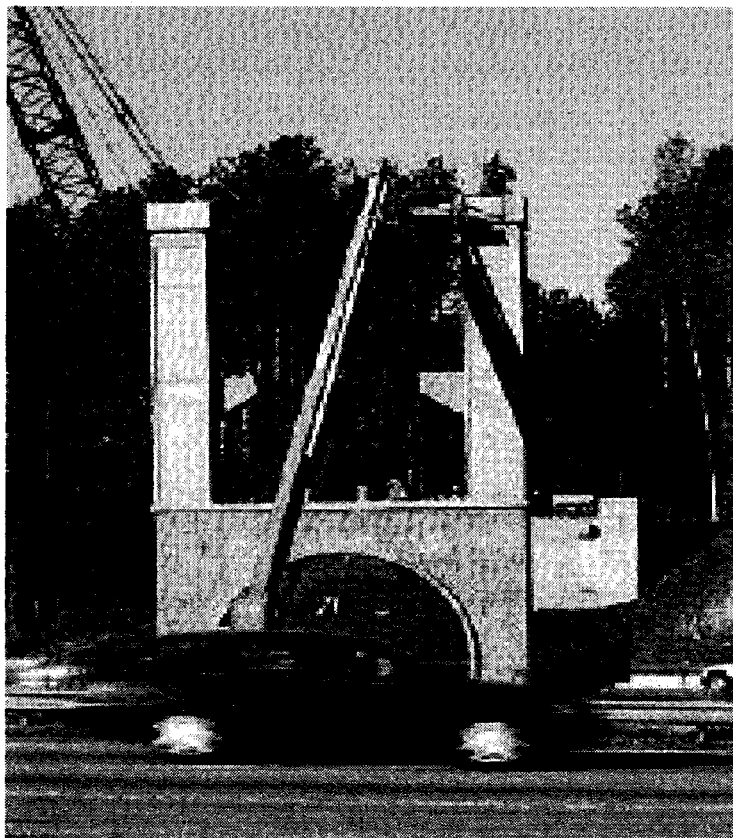


photo courtesy of www.triangle.com

greenway. The area will be patrolled 24 hours a day. Strickland said Campus Police has the right "to take any necessary action to keep the campus safe." He said no one, including stu-

dents, will be allowed on the greenway after dark.

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