

The Daily Tar Heel

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FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1998

Volume 106, Issue 39

News/Features/Arts/Sports: 962-0245
Business/Advertising: 963-1163
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
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Candidates enjoy support from locals

Residents have donated thousands of dollars to U.S. Senate campaigns.

BY TONY MECIA
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS EDITOR

Although the election is still a week and a half away, some local residents have already voted — with their checkbooks.

The two leading Democrats who square off in the May 5 U.S. Senate primary, D.G. Martin and John Edwards, have raised tens of thousands of dollars from Chapel Hill supporters, campaign financial records filed last week show.

From the start of the campaign until March 31, Martin raised \$26,550 in large donations from Chapel Hill sources, and



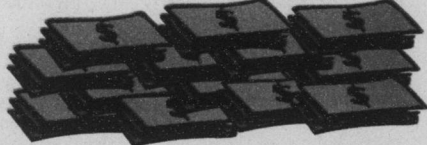
Professor THAD BEYLE said he was surprised at the amount of money John Edwards had been able to raise in the area.

In the Green

D.G. Martin has received about twice as many big contributions from Chapel Hill-area people as has his opponent in the May 5 primary, John Edwards. Some notable contributors from both sides:

D. G. Martin			John Edwards		
Donor	Association	Amount given	Donor	Association	Amount given
Robert A. Bashford	UNC medical professor	\$1,000	Steven A. Bernholz	Bernholz Law Firm	\$1,000
Jack Behrman	Retired UNC business professor	\$500	Kenneth S. Broun	UNC law professor	\$300
William B. Blythe	UNC medical professor	\$1,000	Celia Harnett	UNC graduate student	\$1,000
May Martin Bryan	UNC law student	\$1,000	J. Kirk Osborn	Attorney	\$1,000
Water W. Burns	UNC medical education office	\$250	Linda Perry	(unknown)	\$1,000
Camilla Crampton	UNC Hospitals technician	\$250	Roger Perry	East West Partners	\$1,000
H. Shelton Earp III	UNC medical professor	\$500	Stephen Schewel	owner, The Independent	\$1,000
Donald Heyman	UNC professor emeritus	\$500	Ronald Strom	The Ron Strom Company	\$1,000
Gail Henderson	UNC medical professor	\$500			
Jeffery A. Lieberman	UNC medical professor	\$500			
Charles T. Ludington	UNC English professor	\$500			
William O. McCoy	UNC-system vice president	\$1,000			
C.D. Spangler	Former UNC-system president	\$1,000			
Laura Svetkey	UNC professor	\$500			
B.R. Wilcox	UNC medical professor	\$500			

SOURCE: FEDERAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION



DTH/JAKE ZARNGAR

Edwards took in \$15,300.

Edwards, who's loaned his campaign \$1.5 million so far in 1998, outspent Martin almost 10-to-1 in the same period.

Federal law requires campaigns to disclose the names, addresses and occupations of all individuals who contribute more than \$200.

Smaller contributions are not itemized.

The law forbids individuals from contributing more than \$1,000 per election.

Edwards is a trial lawyer who lives in Raleigh. This is his first campaign for political office, but he has emerged as a

front-runner by getting his message out in numerous television ads. Edwards graduated from the UNC School of Law in 1977.

Martin, who lives in Chapel Hill, is a former vice president and lobbyist for the UNC system.

He ran unsuccessfully for U.S. Congress in 1984 and 1986.

Edwards, Martin as well as five other Democrats hope to win the May 5 primary and have a shot at Republican incumbent Lauch Faircloth in November.

A look at the Federal Elections Commission records reads like a Who's

Who of Chapel Hill heavyweights.

Edwards' big supporters include former Chapel Hill mayor Kenneth S. Broun.

Meadowmont developer Roger Perry and Stephen Schewel, the owner of The Independent are also on record as contributing to Edwards' campaign.

Of Edwards' 17 contributors with Chapel Hill connections, nine are lawyers.

"John Edwards is pleased with the level of support that he has found in Chapel Hill and around the state," said

SEE CONTRIBUTIONS, PAGE 6

W. Michigan might pick Floyd for post

BY ANDREW MEEHAN
STAFF WRITER

The Board of Trustees of Western Michigan University will likely decide today if its next president will be UNC's Executive Vice Chancellor Elson Floyd.

The board interviewed Floyd for the job Tuesday. He is among five finalists for the post. Floyd could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Richard St. John, a board member, said Floyd was a very strong candidate.

He said Floyd arrived a day early to talk to the mayor of Kalamazoo, the town where WMU is located, and attended classes at WMU, St. John said.

"Many of us were very impressed with his initiative," he said. "(Floyd) shows a real interest in Western Michigan University and the area (around the campus)."

Board member Richard Chormann said Floyd's experience with outreach

programs and at a research institution were strong qualities.

WMU is not the first university to consider Floyd for a high post. He was one of two finalists earlier this year for the presidency of the University of Kentucky's board of higher education.

Floyd removed himself from consideration from that post, saying he wanted to finish working on the Carolina Computing Initiative, which will require freshmen to own computers in 2000.

"(Chancellor Michael Hooker) and I have a full agenda," Floyd said on April 5. "Right now, I don't know of a situation that's going to present itself that would cause me to leave the University."

But an article in The Kalamazoo Gazette in Michigan quoted Floyd as telling WMU's board Tuesday that he was ready to move on from UNC.

"I really do feel that I've fulfilled my duties and responsibilities (at UNC), and it is time to move on and do other things," Floyd said in the article.

Hooker said he was not surprised by Floyd's interview at WMU despite his rejection of Kentucky's offer. "I knew that (the board) was looking at him," he said. "Elson is certainly ready."

Along with Provost Richard Richardson, Floyd is Hooker's second in command. Richardson handles the academic affairs, and Floyd handles everything else.



Executive Vice Chancellor ELSON FLOYD is one of five finalists for the presidency of Western Michigan University.

Students, teachers praise area charter schools for innovation

BY MATT LECLERCQ
AND ANGELA LEA
STAFF WRITERS

Sitting on the hall floor outside their classroom, two fourth-graders seemed to answer the question that officials across the state are asking.

Do charter schools really work? These children are among the first students in the state to experience this new and controversial alternative to public education.

"You learn so much more here than in other schools," said Michael Heath, a 9-year-old student at Village Charter School in Chapel Hill. "You learn about eight times more."

Both Heath and 9-year-old Erin Moore immediately agreed the work was harder at the charter school than at the traditional schools they had attended last year.

But they said they loved their work, including story writing, field trips, kite-building and higher-grade math.

"Everybody knows each other," Moore said. "At my old school, the other grades didn't have real contact

with my grade."

Principal Nancy Adams said smaller class size was only one advantage of charter schools.

"This is a whole new outlook on education," Adams said. Her school is one of three charter schools in Orange County that is nearing the end of its first year.

"It's a school that is organized with parents so that there's total parental involvement in all aspects of the establishment and running the school."

The N.C. General Assembly passed legislation last year that allowed any private, nonprofit board of directors to apply for a charter to open a public school, said education consultant Richard Clontz of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

Charter schools offer parents an alternative to regular schools while keeping their children in the public sector, he said.

This year, 34 charter schools across the state had fewer than 5,000 students. Enrollment has already doubled for next fall with an additional 29 charter schools, he said.

The group Financial Reform for Excellence in Education received the charters to open the Orange County Charter School in Hillsborough and Village Charter School.

School in the Community in

Carrboro was established by Fred Good of the Association of Quality Schools.

While any group can apply for a charter, academic and financial guidelines must be met during the year to keep the school open, Clontz said.

"They are the most scrutinized group of schools in the state," he said. "Everyone has a magnifying glass over them to see what they are doing."

In fact, Clontz called the program a test that could drastically alter how regular schools are managed.

New and better concepts in teaching that are developed in charter schools could be implemented in all schools some day, he said.

"It's an experiment in education that could have a tremendous impact on education in the years down the road," he said.

Polly Barrick said her two children were thriving after she moved them from New Hope Elementary School to Orange County Charter School.

"For me, academics was the most important thing," she said. "From my experience, the focus in public schools was not on academics."

"(The charter school) is a smaller school, and there's more individual attention," she said.

School in the Community lead-teacher Amanda Hughes said her school also promoted more personal classroom



Amanda Hughes, left, head teacher for the School in the Community in Carrboro, speaks with students in an advisory meeting Thursday. The charter school was started last fall and has about 85 students in grades 6-12.

interaction.

"The most important thing is that kids get into a relationship with the teacher and not see them as the enemy, but the advocate," she said.

Parents like Barrick who volunteer at their children's charter schools help staffs that are almost always short-handed. "This is a parental movement," Jordan said of volunteers at Village Charter.

Pointing to the furniture and supplies in her classroom, she said almost everything had been bought, donated or made by parents. "I even have a mother that

comes in once a week and cleans the room and organizes my desk."

Margaret Mitchell, whose son is a fifth-grader at Village Charter School, said she volunteered eight hours a week.

"Because it's a grass-roots effort, you have parents who are highly involved and much more intimate," Mitchell said.

Parents and teachers also have more power in charter schools to shape what is taught. However, the schools must adhere to the standard course of study, Clontz said.

Orange County Charter School Principal Bill Estes said that with the dif-

ferent curriculum he expected his students' end-of-year test scores to be at or above the county average.

"Give us three or four more years, after we move into a large building and get more stabilized, and you'll really see a difference," he said.

The unconventional approach of charter schools has stirred controversy in the county, but no school has faced as much criticism as the School in the Community, said Good, the school's founder.

SEE CHARTER, PAGE 6



Last fall, some UNC students cheered on Franklin Street in front of the Chi Omega sorority house as part of Bid Day, when sororities announce their future sisters.

Tradition plays role in differences between fraternity, sorority rush

Women must visit each sorority, while men may pick and choose which fraternities they want to see.

BY PAUL HOBSON
STAFF WRITER

High school seniors planning on going Greek this fall had better brush up on rush rules because the road to accepting a bid is long and winding.

The University's 11 Panhellenic Council sororities must weave through a series of rules and regulations, while the 22 Interfraternity Council fraternities operate under a looser system.

"Rush in its purest form is two people talking to each other, and (UNC sororities are) trying to get back to that," Director of Greek Affairs Ron Binder said.

Sorority rush is divided into several stages that involve one-on-one talking, skits and food.

It begins with "open house," when rushees

spend 25 minutes at each sorority, visiting every house by the end of the night, Binder said.

Sororities then decide whom to invite back for the second round, called the "food round." Rushees can visit up to eight sororities during this stage.

Rushees and sororities then whittle their lists down to three choices and rank those choices when they meet again on "pref night."

A computer program matches candidates with chapters, trying to give each her first choice, Binder said. Eighty to 90 percent (of rushees) get their first choice and 75 percent pledge, he said.

But some say the rigid schedule requiring rushees to spend an equal amount of time at each house and restricting social contact might be intimidating. "It's a pretty time-consuming process, especially if you're a freshman not knowing where everything is," said freshman Helen Holmberg. "After the first day, I had no idea which (sororities) to choose. They all ran together."

SEE RUSH, PAGE 6

INSIDE Friday

Light my fire

While smoking among the general population decreased, an increasing number of students continued to light up on college campuses across the nation. Page 4

Today's weather

Mostly sunny;
high 60s;
This weekend: Sunny;
high 70s

Open call

If you are staying in Chapel Hill this summer, why not write for The Daily Tar Heel? We are looking for staffers to fill positions at all desks. All you have to do is come by the DTH front office, Student Union Suite 104, to sign up. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.

John Dewey