The Daily Tar Heel lews/Features/Arts/Sports Friday, October 9, 1998 2 105 years of editorial freedo Chapel Hill, North Carolina © 1998 DTH Publishing Corp. All rights reserved. ents and the University nity since 1893

Volume 106. Issue 93

House Votes for Inquiry



SHARIF DURHAMS **EDITOR**

Political Gaming By Representatives Is Politics at Work

oday is the last day for voter registration, and now there's plenty of reason to keep those students who tend to parade through lecture halls with voter registration

forms busy signing students up. After all, there's an important refer-endum at stake. Will the nation keep it's 42nd president or will he be boot ed out of office?

During Watergate, politics played a large role. But voters' opinions never had the impact that our near-instant polling has now. Politicians were basically tripping over each other this week to see whether their constituents wanted to boot the president they elected two

years ago "This election is crucially important in determining what the next phase of this inquiry looks like," said Thomas Mann, director of governmental stud-

ies at the Brookings Institution, a polit ical think tank. Senior White House officials, Senate and House political aides and other various spin meisters spent the day on Thursday counting constituents votes

Ironically, the counting for Clinton is much simpler. Five hundred and thirty five men

and women, many of whom are up for re-election, control his fate.

Now whether Congress impeaches Clinton, censures him or just lets him go, his presidency is behind an eight-ball.

Whether he deserved it or not, the man many Americans trusted to lead them will forever be tainted with mistrust

Clinton's misdeeds did most of the job ruining his reputation; partisan politics hurt it further. And the politi-cal games played by Clinton's

Democratic colleagues have also made the serious accusations of perjury and obstruction of justice seem more like political gamin

Unfortunately, this is not a game, and the nation's leaders are realizing, hopefully, that the political wrangling has hurt.

"We're all profoundly hurt by what the president has done," Democratic leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri said

"But this investigation must end fairly and quickly. It has hurt our

nation and children. We must not

compound that hurt." So voters who chose to give Clinton

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House Republicans, mostly from the Judiciary Committee, address the media after a partisan vote for an unlimited investigation of allegations of presidential misconduct, despite Democratic appeals for a more narrow probe.

Majority of N.C. Representatives **Vote for Inquiry**

Rep. Howard Coble, R-N.C., says the House inquiry is appropriate and necessary.

BY COURTNEY WEILL State & National Editor

WASHINGTON - As the rain poured down on Capitol Hill on Thursday afternoon, eight of the 12 N.C. Representatives in the House cast their votes toward a daunting new era in American

politics. The House voted 258-176 in favor of conducting an unlimited investigation into President Clinton's activities, making him only the third U.S. president to face the prospect of impeachment proceedings

Rep. Howard Coble, R-N.C., a

were appropriate and necessary "There are too many loose ends dangling and they can be secured only with additional investiga-tion," he said.

"This is not a fishing expedition. No one is trolling for addi-tional evidence," Coble said. "Contrary to what my Democratic friends have said, this has been handled in a very even-handed manner.

Rep. Cass Ballenger, R-N.C., so cast his vote with the also Republican majority. "Just as President Clinton took

an oath of office when being sworn in as President of the United States, I too took an oath as a member of Congress to uphold the law," Rep. Cass Ballenger, R-N.C., said in a press release. "For that reason, I fully sup-

ported the passage of this resolution.

Mike McIntyre, D-N.C., - crossed party lines to vote for the unlimited inquiry proposed by Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill.

voted against the Hyde resolution and in favor of a proposal by Rep. Rick Boucher, D-Va., that limited the length and the scope of the



Rep. David Price, D-N.C., hurries back to his office following Thursday's afternoon of debates and the final vote. Price supported a limited impeachment inquiry, but voted against the open-ended inquiry, which the House eventually passed.

"I voted for the Boucher alternative because it would make for a more focused and fair and more expedited inquiry; all of which we need to ensure," said Rep. David But the rest of state Democrats

Price, D-N.C. "We need to do a thorough job but we also need to have a reas

Clinton Supporters Fail to Limit Probe On Impeachment

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The House triggered an open-ended impeachment inquiry against President Clinton on Thursday in a momentous vote cast in the shadow of midterm elections Thirty-one Democrats joined majority Republicans in increas-

ing the peril for the embattled chief executive. The 258-176 vote opened the way for nationally televised impeachment hearings later this year, with possible witnesses ranging from Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr to Monica Lewinsky, Linda Tripp and other central characters in the sex-and-cover-up drama that has commanded the nation's attention for nine months.

Clinton, the nation's 42nd president, becomes the third occupant of his office to face serious impeachment prospects. Andrew Johnson was impeached by the

House in 1868 but remained in office after the Senate fell one vote shy of forcing his removal. Richard Nixon resigned in 1974 rather than face impeachment over Watergate.

"I do not think that we want to settle for less than the whole truth," said Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., chairman of the Judiciary Committee. To the nation watching on television

 as well as to openly skeptical Democrats sitting across the aisle in the House chamber- he pledged fairness in the months ahead.

"Too much hangs in the balance for us not to rise above partisan politics,' Hyde said

At the White House, press secretary Joe Lockhart said the proceedings in the Republican-controlled House had become "infected with politics and partisanship. ... As we move for-ward, we will work with the committee, and we hope that the process becomes more fair because I think that's what the American public expects and deserves," he said.

House Democrats argued in vain for an inquiry limited to

done," said Democratic leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri. "But this investigation must be ended fairly and quickly. It has hurt our nation and it's hurt our children. We must not compound the hurt."

unfolded. Underscoring the gravity of the moment, Speaker Newt Gingrich presided throughout.

scanned the House chamber and saw many empty seats, he grabbed the microphone to urge that absent lawmakers drop

whatever they were doing and "get their tails here." There was plenty of partisanship on display. When Rep. William Delahunt, D-Mass., complained that

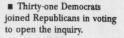
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INVESTIGATING THE PRESIDENT More Coverage, Page 5



Washington, D.C. students say they hope the Clinton scandal will end soon.

Despite the House vote, Clinton struggled to keep Thursday a normal day.



Rep. Henry Hyde, R-III., said he did not think the House wanted to settle for less than the truth

Starr's evidence, to be wrapped up by Dec. 31. "We're all profoundly hurt by what the president has

The visitors gallery was packed as the historic debate

And when one Democrat, Rep. David Obey of Wisconsin,

member of the House Judiciary Committee, said the proceedings Bob Ethridge, D-N.C., and Rep. inquiry

See REACTION, Page 5

UNC Football Player's Trial to Begin Today

Jon Hall played in UNC's first football game against Miami of Ohio, but missed the team's last three games.

By MONICA DEV Staff Writer

Suspended UNC football player Jon Hall will have his first appearance today in Orange County District Court at 9 a.m.

The starting right guard for the Tar Heels was suspended indefinitely Sept. 15 after being issued an arrest warrant

Sept. 9 for misdemeanor counts of communicating threats and domestic assault on a female. He was suspended from all football-related activities

"He is personally suspended from the football team until this is cleared up," Hall's attorney James Williams said on Thursday

"He's been personally embarrassed, but he's trying to keep a cheerful dispo-sition and move on," Williams said. Hall's suspension has already forced resolved

the junior from Hagerstown, Md., to miss games against Stanford, Georgia Tech and Clemson universities. Hall started for UNC in the season-opening plaints loss against Miami University of Ohio

on Sept. 5. Steve Kirschner, director of media relations for foot ball and men's basketball, said Hall's team posi-tion would be decided after his case had been

John Hall UNC senior was the Tar Heels Katherine Stanley starting right guard filed both combefore being against suspended fr Hall on Sept. 8. Neither Hall the team on Sept. 15 nor Stanley could be reached for comment Thursday.

Hall's court date is not the UNC football team's only brush with legal trou bles this season.

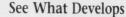
Defensive tackles Ricco McCain and Varian Ballard each served 10 days in jail in August.

Those jail terms were handed down because the two did not fulfill community service sentences stemming from an assault outside Gotham nightclub in December 1997. McCain and Ballard were dismissed from the team.

The University Editors can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

Hamm Lends A Hand

Former UNC women's soccer player Mia Hamm held a socce clinic at Fetzer Field on Thursday to raise awareness for the upcoming 1999 Special Olympics in Raleigh. See Page 9.



With support from Chancellor Michael Hooker, the Office of Economic Development will use a \$400,000 University grant to help the state battle unemployment

Friday



and low wages. See Page 3.

Today's Weather

Mostly sunny; mid 70s Weekend: Mostly sunny mid 70s.

We don't make any judgements. We simply begin a search for truth. Judicial Committee Chairman Henry Hyde, R-III.