

# Workers Make Elections Happen

BY MELANIE FLOYD  
Staff Writer

For some, Election Day is more than just stopping by the polls on the way to work — it is work.

From precinct workers to the director of the county board of elections, from UNC Young Democrats to UNC College Republicans, Nov. 3 is the culmination of months of preparation.

Bill McDonald, who has worked at the Eastside precinct in Chapel Hill for the past five years, said he avoided politics on Election Day.

"There are two Republicans and two Democrats that work at my precinct," McDonald said. "It doesn't matter, though. We're all close friends. There are no politics that day. We don't get involved — we're just paid workers."

McDonald said one of the highlights of working at the poll site from 6 a.m. to about 8:30 p.m. was getting to see all the voters. "I enjoy it," he said. "I get to see all my neighbors that I don't get to see very often. I love to see people get involved and vote."

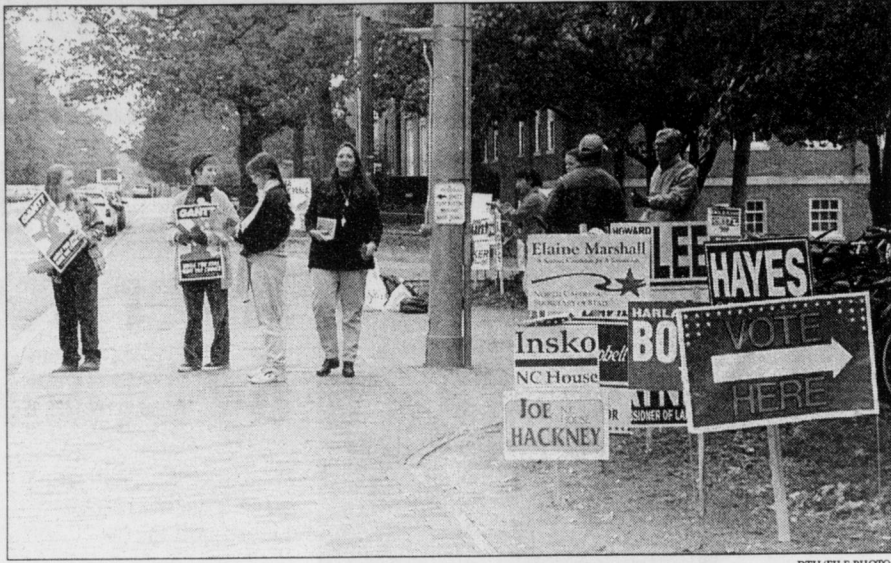
Poll workers have little downtime during the day, McDonald said. They are responsible for checking voters in, explaining how to use the voting machines and ensuring no influential literature is in the booths.

"We rotate around doing different chores so nobody's doing the same thing all day long," he said.

After the polls close, poll workers use a computer to tally all the votes from their precinct and then telephone to the Orange County Board of Elections.

"We get really happy when the last precinct calls in," said Carolyn Thomas, director of the Orange County Board of Elections. "We total them up and then put the totals on the Internet."

Thomas spends most of the day



Though many students participate in the elections with a vote and a few quick glances at the numerous campaign signs, Election Day is the culmination of months of preparation for candidates and poll workers.

answering questions from call-in voters and precinct workers, she said. Her office typically receives more than 100 phone calls on Election Day.

Although Election Day is just the beginning for the elected candidates, it is the end of a long road for Thomas.

The Board of Elections starts its preparations 50 days before each election by designing the ballots, making sure the machines are in top shape, training the 154 poll workers and making sure all 42 voting sites are available.

Thomas is also busy in the days following each vote doing recounts and

closing shop until the next election, she said.

"The day after is more hectic than the day of elections," Thomas said. "After it's all over, the board meets on the Friday following Election Day to verify everything and send their certified numbers to the state."

UNC students are also getting involved in the Election Day frenzy. Emily Howell, co-president of UNC's Young Democrats, said the group was busy encouraging students to vote.

"We want students to realize the importance of their vote," Howell said.

"We are doing everything we can to get students to the polls."

Young Democrats members will be working at different campaign sites — calling people to encourage them to vote. Howell said student government would be offering Point-2-Point shuttle rides to the polling sites.

Craig Warner, a spokesman for College Republicans, said his group would help monitor several of the polling sites to ensure a fair election.

The State & National Editors can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

# Water, Gas Bonds Up for Approval

While Gov. Jim Hunt backs the \$1 billion in bonds, the state treasurer says they are not good fiscal policy.

BY JESSICA JONES  
Staff Writer

North Carolina's fate in water, sewer and natural gas improvements will be decided Tuesday as voters choose whether or not to spend \$1 billion in state bonds.

State leaders are divided over whether spending the money is a good idea.

According to a press release from the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, \$500 million would be used to fund water and wastewater capital projects, \$300 million for water and sewer loans and \$200 million for natural gas funding in coastal and highland rural communities.

Grants for water and sewer improvements would give priority to projects that improve water quality without promoting sprawl, the press release stated.

The water bonds will improve wastewater treatment and drinking water quality by updating plants and pipeline infrastructure, said Don Reuter, director of public affairs for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"We think it's very important to the future of our state," he said.

Reuter said some systems in the state were almost 80 years old and needed considerable repair. He said the addition of natural gas to rural communities

would be a good economic opportunity. Businesses prefer gas as a fuel source.

Though Gov. Jim Hunt endorses the bonds, State Treasurer Harlan Boyles said he did not.

"Borrowing more money in prosperous times is not a good fiscal policy for North Carolina," Boyles said.

Boyles said though \$1 billion was the bond amount, the amount owed would total \$2 billion when payback was added.

"We know from the past, when budget crunches arose, the budgets were balanced on the backs of our educational problems and our public employees," Boyles said the natural gas bond was appalling because the proceeds were earmarked for private enterprise.

Sen. John Kerr, D-Wayne, who sponsored the bill, said the state had problems with old water and sewer systems, and that the bonds would not raise taxes.

But Boyles stated in a press release that this was not the whole truth. "Our state Constitution requires that debt service be paid from the first funds available, so there will always be money to pay off bonds," he stated. "However, this requirement will reduce the amount of money left over to pay for school improvements (which rely upon taxes)."

Kerr said now was the time to borrow money because interest rates were low. "It's a must, a step forward," he said.

"If any part of the state is hurting, we're all hurting," Kerr said. "We're all in this together."

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## Campus Calendar

### Monday

3:30 p.m. — **Dubravka Ugresic**, visiting professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, will read several of her stories in the Bull's Head Bookshop.

7:30 p.m. — **The Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies** will debate "Resolved: Twenty-four hour news media have been detrimental to journalism" on the third floor of New West.

Guests are welcome to speak or listen.

7:30 p.m. — **Merlin Holland**, Oscar Wilde's only grandson, will present "Killing One Peacock with Two Stones: Dorian Gray and the Downfall of Oscar Wilde" in Paul Greene Theatre. Holland will answer questions afterward. The event is free and open to the public.

### Tuesday

3:30 p.m. — **Todd Taylor**, assistant English professor, will discuss his new book, "The Columbia Guide to Online Style," in the Bull's Head Bookshop.

### Wednesday

2:30 p.m. — **Keith Brown**, author and broadcast journalist, will speak about his book, "Sacred Bond: Black Men and Their Mothers," in the Bull's Head Bookshop.

5 p.m. — Undergraduates through **Youth Angst Society** will read their poetry and prose in the Bull's Head Bookshop.

### Thursday

3:30 p.m. — **Nancy Parrish**, adjunct

history professor at Virginia State University, will discuss her book "Lee Smith, Annie Dillard and the Hollins Group: A Genesis of Writers," in the Bull's Head Bookshop.

### Items of Interest

■ **University Chamber Players** will perform at 8 p.m. on Friday in Person Recital Hall. Professor of Music Donald L. Oehler will direct.

■ **Pat Conroy**, author of "The Prince of Tides," will read from his work at 2 p.m. on Sunday in Memorial Hall.

Proceeds will benefit a new Thomas Wolfe Prize and annual lectureship. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students and are on sale at the Student Union box office.

■ **"Mother / Smother / Other / Lover"**, a multimedia exhibit describing motherhood, will be on display through Nov. 19 in Hanes Art Center.

■ **Volunteer Orange!**, a service of the Triangle United Way, has immediate volunteer needs. If interested, call 929-9837.

## For the Record

The Oct. 27 article "History Spells Out Frustration" should have stated the Graduate and Professional Student Federation Senate received 25 percent of graduate student fees as a result of a 1994 referendum.

The Oct. 29 editorial "Divided We Fall" contained the same error.

The Daily Tar Heel regrets the errors.

# NOVEMBER AT STUDENT STORES

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|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b></p> <p>We're celebrating <b>Native American Month</b> with <b>15% off</b> all Native American titles</p> | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Dubravka Ugresic reads from her stories at 3p.m.</p>   | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>Todd Taylor speaks on <i>Columbia Guide to Online Writing (Style on the Internet)</i> at 3:30p.m.</p>   | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>Keith Brown reads from <i>Sacred Bond: The Relationship Between Black Men and their Mothers</i> at 2:30p.m.</p> | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Nancy Parrish reads from <i>Annie Dillard and the Hollins Group</i> at 2:30p.m.</p> <p>← Youth Angst Society, 5p.m.</p> | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>Back in stock! <b>Latte and Cappuccino Mugs</b></p>                      | <p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Homecoming!</b> Charlie Choo-Choo Justice will be signing books at halftime on the North side of Kenan Stadium during the Maryland Game</p> |
| <p><b>8</b></p> <p>Work off stress with a <b>UNC Duncan Yo-Yo</b></p>  | <p><b>9</b></p> <p>3Com will be demonstrating the new <b>Palm III</b> in the RAM Shop on Nov. 9 &amp; 10</p>      | <p><b>10</b></p> <p>Art Benavie reads from his book <i>Deficit Hysteria</i> at 3:30p.m.</p>  | <p><b>11</b></p> <p>JP Seaton and James Sanford talk about <i>The Clouds Should Know Me</i> By Now at 3:00p.m.</p>                 | <p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Recycled Products</b> are <b>10% off</b> in School Supplies this week.</p>  | <p><b>13</b></p> <p>Liven up your work space with a new <b>Mouse Pad</b></p>                | <p><b>14</b></p> <p>The <b>UNC Basketball Calendar</b> is in!</p>   |
| <p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>ARTCARVED</b> Official <b>Carolina Rings and Announcements</b> 1-800-278-7644</p>             | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>It's not too late for December graduates to order their <b>announcements!</b></p>             | <p><b>17</b></p> <p>Jerry Cotten discusses <i>Light and Air: The Photography of Bayard Wooten</i> at 3:30p.m.</p>  | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>Theda Purdue reads from <i>Cherokee Women</i> at 3:00p.m.</p>  | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>Reynolds Price reads from his new book <i>Learning a Trade</i> at 3:00p.m.</p>   | <p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Animal Crackers</b> rock! The Pit Stop has lots of lowfat snacks</p> | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>Show your support for the Tar Heels with a <b>Hand Clapper</b></p>  |
| <p><b>22</b></p> <p>Calendars are <b>15% off</b> all month long!</p>   | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>Fight off the chill in bright, warm, fuzzy <b>fleece!</b></p>                                 | <p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Popcorn is 25¢</b> in the Pit Stop, ACC Express, Osler &amp; Blue Ram</p>   | <p><b>25</b></p> <p>Start writing your holiday newsletter! The RAM Shop has a variety of festive <b>printer paper</b></p>          | <p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>STORE CLOSED THANKSGIVING</b></p>   | <p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>THANKSGIVING BREAK STORE CLOSED</b></p>                              | <p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>THANKSGIVING BREAK STORE CLOSED</b></p>  |
| <p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>THANKSGIVING BREAK STORE CLOSED</b></p>   | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>Get a large <b>fountain drink for 25¢</b> in the Circus Room, Osler, Nook, &amp; Blue Ram</p> | <p><b>Regular Hours:</b><br/> <b>Saturday</b> 10am-9pm<br/> <b>Sunday</b> 1pm-11pm<br/> <i>Hours may change due to holidays and home football games. Sorry, we cannot fulfill mail order requests.</i></p> |  | <p><b>Monday-Thursday</b> 7:30am-11pm<br/> <b>Friday</b> 7:30am-9pm</p>  |   | <p>Visit the store on the web at <a href="http://www.store.unc.edu/">http://www.store.unc.edu/</a></p>  |

All readings are in the Bull's Head Bookshop. Reading times may change—check our web site for updates.