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N.C. Candidates Brace for Elections

North Carolina candidates got in some last-minute campaigning Monday, while preparing for election night.

By KATHLEEN HUNTER
Staff Writer

The handshaking and speech making are coming to a close.

Today, the voters take center stage to decide the outcome of dozens of elections across the state, including a crucial U.S. Senate contest and a surprisingly tight state senate race.

But neither candidate in the hotly contested U.S. Senate race rested Monday as they scrambled to reach as

many constituents as possible. John Edwards and Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., were both out campaigning to bring in the election-cinching votes.

Edwards said he attended rallies in Raleigh, Greensboro, Charlotte and his hometown, Robbins.

"We are campaigning hard," Edwards said. "I offer people an individual voice for issues that matter."

Jonathan Felts, Faircloth's campaign spokesman, said the Senator was enjoying the final day on the campaign trail.

"He's having a great time flying around the state, talking to people one last time, and saying thank you to the people who have been working so hard for him the past six years," Felts said from Faircloth's campaign headquarters.

Both candidates said they were entering the election with confidence.

"I feel great," Edwards said. "I think we have a lot of momentum. I feel very optimistic."

Felts said the Faircloth camp was ready to see the results.

"We are all excited," Felts said. "This is the day we have been waiting for all year. Our only major concern is that people get out and vote."

"This year more than ever, one vote can make a difference," he said.

Candidates in other state races stressed the importance of voter turnout as well.

"The key tactic is getting people to vote," said Rep. David Price, D-N.C., who is running against Republican Tom Roberg for his 4th district seat.

Dick Ellis, campaign spokesman for Roberg, also said the voters were the key to victory.

"We think that people are going to realize that Mr. Roberg is a businessman, and Mr. Price is a politician," Ellis said.

In the race for the two Dist. 16 N.C. House seats, voter turnout topped can-

"I think, without a doubt, that (voter) turnout will be the key to victory. I am optimistic that we will get a good turnout."

SEN. HOWARD LEE
D-Orange

didate concern.

Sen. Howard Lee, D-Orange urged Orange County residents to get to the polls.

"Most importantly, people should exercise their right to vote," he said. "In my case specifically, cast one of the votes for state Senate for me because of my strong leadership role in the area of education."

Lee said he was expecting to see high voter participation.

"I think, without a doubt, that turnout

will be the key to victory," he said.

"I am optimistic that we will get a good turnout."

Sen. Eleanor Kinnaid, D-Orange, echoed Lee's prediction.

"Turnout in Orange County is what will win the election for us," she said.

But Republican challenger P.H. Craig said he hoped voter turnout would work in his favor.

"Whoever gets their voters to the polls, that's the magic," Craig said. "That's what will do it."

Craig said he was looking forward to seeing the outcome of the election.

"I am very excited," he said. "I have run a good campaign, and I think my chances are good."

"We just have to wait for the verdict," Craig said. "There's not much we can do now to change the forces that be."

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Vacant Seat Filled Amid Argument

School board member David Kolbinsky walked out of Monday's meeting after Keith Cook was appointed.

By ANGELA LEA
Staff Writer

An Orange County Board of Education meeting was disrupted Monday when one member attacked the other for not supporting the board's appointment to a recently vacated seat.

The board voted 3-2 for Keith Cook to fill the vacant position left by board member Larry Haverland, whose resignation took effect Monday.

Before the official vote, board member David Kolbinsky nominated candidate Andrew Joseph for the position and voiced his opposition to Cook.

Kolbinsky said he was concerned

Cook was motivated by political ambition and would use the position to catapult him to a spot on the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

Kolbinsky said that selecting Cook over the other four candidates would lead to a divided board due to the controversy surrounding Cook's motives.

"We have an opportunity to take two paths tonight," Kolbinsky said. "One leads toward consensus, and the other will further divide us."

Although Kolbinsky said board cohesiveness was important, board member Rick Kennedy accused Kolbinsky of consistently refusing to compromise. "I can't think of a single substantial example of compromise from (Kolbinsky's) side of the table."

Kennedy then read a list of issues about which he said Kolbinsky had been unresponsive. These included Kolbinsky's vote against school bonds and his hesitation to extend the contract of Superintendent Randy Bridges.

Kolbinsky repeatedly asked board chairwoman Delores Simpson whether

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The Orange County Board of Education chose candidate Keith Cook to fill a vacancy on the board.

U.S. Senate Race Tight, Poll Says

Although the Carolina Poll predicted voter turnout will be low, it shows that the Senate race will be close.

By KELLI BOUTIN
Staff Writer

While the latest Carolina Poll forecasts a tight race in today's U.S. Senate race between Democratic candidate John Edwards and Republican incumbent candidate Lauch Faircloth, the North Carolina candidates said predicted, low voter turnout would not affect their chances for victory.

Of the likely voters identified by the poll, 42 percent said they planned to vote for Edwards, while another 42 percent said they would vote for Faircloth, said Phil Meyer, who assisted with the poll's analysis and is the Knight Chair in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

The poll predicted that only 30 percent of North Carolina's 5,685,000 voting-aged residents would actually cast a ballot in this election, which has grabbed the national spotlight as the leading senatorial race.

Meyer said a total of 589 people responded to the poll, which is conducted via telephone by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the Institute for Research in Social Science at UNC.

The 30 percent expected turnout was lower than the last two senatorial elections that did not occur during a presidential election year, Meyer said.

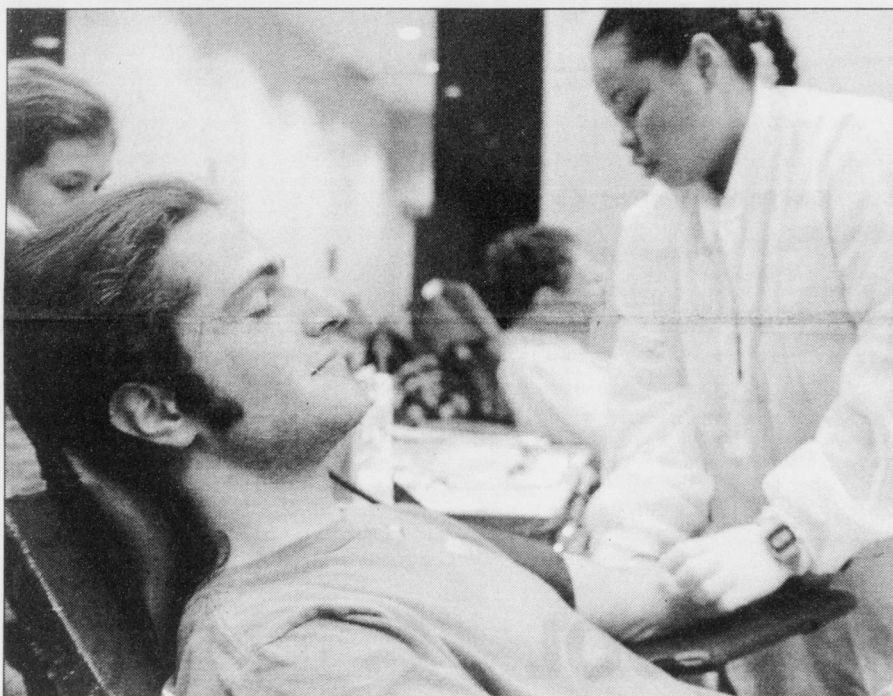
George Rabinowitz, political science professor, said low voter turnout would favor incumbent Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., because Republicans had a history of being more faithful voters than Democrats. But he predicted a close race between Faircloth and Democratic candidate John Edwards because North Carolina had a large contingent of Democratic voters.

"If there's high turnout, I think Edwards would be the winner," he said.

Jonathan Felts, a spokesman for the

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THE GIFT OF LIFE



Chris Hoffman, son of deceased UNC Professor Dave Hoffman, donates blood Monday at the Kenan-Flagler Business School. The Hoffman Memorial Blood Drive was organized to honor the accounting professor who taught at the business school for more than 20 years before his death last November.

DTH/KATY PORTIER

Driver's License Road Test Ends in Crash

By REYNOLDS RICHTER
Staff Writer

A Carrboro woman got an unexpected crash course in driving Monday morning during a driver's license road test.

While parking her car, she mistakenly stepped on the gas instead of the brake and drove through the front window of chandelier shop.

Huai Qing, 28, of 303 Smith Level Road, was taking the road test at 8:30 a.m. when the test examiner instructed her to park in front of Lights Unlimited in Carrboro Plaza, Carrboro police Capt. John Butler said.

"The woman hit the curb," he said. "Instead of hitting the brakes, she hit the gas and went through the plate glass window."

No one was injured in the accident, but the test examiner took the rest of the day off, said Jon Parks, spokesman for the N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles.

The accident resulted in a total of \$10,000 in damages to the store, Butler said. The building's frame and windows sustained about \$3,500 in damages, and the damaged merchandise was an estimated \$6,500, he said.

Michelle Driver, a Lights Unlimited

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Workers from Rice's Glass Company build a wall around the window of Lights Unlimited in Carrboro Plaza. Huai Qing crashed through the store's front window Monday during the road test for her driver's license.

DTH/JON OSTENDORFF

Memorial Today for UNC Junior

The student died Sunday when a car operated by an intoxicated driver struck him on Hillsborough Street.

By PAUL HOLSCHER
Staff Writer

Friends and family of a UNC junior killed Sunday described him as an avid reader who loved music as much as he loved life.

Temple Charles Lee, 20, of 104 Syme Avenue, Greenville, died Sunday after being struck by a car at 12:45 a.m. on Hillsborough Street.

Visitation is today from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel, East Fifth Street, Greenville. Memorial services will be at 4 p.m.

Belinda Lee, Temple Lee's mother, said her son treasured his many friends in Greenville and Chapel Hill. "Temple loved life and loved Chapel Hill," she

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INSIDE Tuesday

Pick Your Poison

Voters can look at their choices for those who will represent them and their picks on this year's two bond issues by reading and marking the Orange County sample ballot. See Page 7.

Back to Black

In the last day's before this year's election, President Clinton is trying to mobilize black voters, a traditional bloc for his party, to put Democrats into the Capitol building and the nation's state houses. See Page 2.



Today's Weather

Rainy; Mid 50s.
Wednesday: Mostly cloudy; Upper 50s.

It is only shallow people who do not judge by appearances.

Oscar Wilde