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CAA: Death Threats Triggered Re-election

CAA leaders say in a letter that they should not have had to hold a re-election in the Homecoming race.

By SHANNON SNYPP
Staff Writer

Carolina Athletic Association Co-presidents Hunter McCrossin and David Cohn cite death threats and an unfair election process this year as reasons for wanting to hand the Homecoming elections to the Elections Board.

The Homecoming candidates, with the exception of Cori Ahrens, were originally disqualified from the competition

this year after being accused of violating publicity laws.

A campuswide e-mail supporting candidate Lester Crafton and fliers distributed by the Black Student Movement in support of candidates Janora McDuffie and Ashley Cohen violated these laws.

McCrossin and Cohn both said in a letter to the editor of The Daily Tar Heel that they were forced into a second election that was both unfair and unwarranted.

CAA cabinet members received an excess of 25 threats from unknown sources that included physical violence as said in the letter.

It was important that people realize the Black Student Movement did not influence the CAA's decision to hold a re-election, Cohn said.

But CAA remained firm in its opposition to the re-election despite the pressure applied by the BSM.

"The only reason we had the re-elections were the threats that occurred prior to the re-election, and we felt we had to react to them," Cohn said.

The CAA now wants to abandon control of the Homecoming elections due to the death threats and what they considered an



CAA Co-president David Cohn said the re-election was held after CAA members received nearly 25 threats.

unfair election, as stated in the letter.

"If people have a problem with what happened, at least they will now know the truth," he said.

A proposal is entering Student Congress to place the elections in the hands of the Elections Board, which handles student government elections, McCrossin said.

"Right now, we're looking at the way Homecoming is run, and if changes are made to the election process, then we can prevent incidents like this from occurring in the future," said Reyna Walters, student body president.

"We need to go through the current laws and incorporate changes into the election laws by establishing a clearer code."

Both Cohn and McCrossin said they

thought the Elections Board would be better equipped to handle the election.

The CAA is less capable than the Elections Board in running the elections due to a lack of resources, McCrossin said.

Heather Faulk, Elections Board chair, said that she agreed with the decision to turn the responsibility over to the Elections Board.

"The Elections Board has the equipment, people and knowledge whose sole purpose is to run elections," she said.

Homecoming Queen Janora McDuffie said she applauded the decision of Cohn and McCrossin to publish this letter.

"I think it is definitely a good thing, because there has been so much confusion recently that it will be nice to shed

some light on the subject," she said.

Homecoming King Ashley Cohen also praised Cohn and McCrossin's letter.

"It is definitely a good idea because it comes directly from the people controlling the event and will tell the final truth," Cohen said.

McCrossin and Cohn said they were disappointed that the Homecoming elections overshadowed the rest of the events this year.

McCrossin said, "I really think there was so much controversy surrounding the Homecoming election this year that it took away from the unity that should be experienced at Homecoming."

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

Group Protests 'Assassin School'

By RUDY KLEYSIEBER
Staff Writer

The Franklin Street post office was decorated in bright banners and enlarged newspaper clippings as demonstrators protested the School of the Americas Wednesday.

"We're trying to inform people about the existence of the School of the Americas," said Frank Coyle, a member of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, which organized the event with the local chapter of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

The school, located at the U.S. Army's Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga., has trained Latin American soldiers in combat skills and torture techniques since 1946, according to vigil documents.

Coyle said Wednesday's vigil, during which protesters handed out fliers and held signs, was held to raise awareness of the school and gain support for a larger vigil of prayer and civil disobedience at Fort Benning on Sunday.

UNC sophomore Dennis Markatos said he and other students have formed an unofficial coalition tentatively titled SURGE - Students United for a Responsible Global Environment.

SURGE is organizing a trip to the Fort Benning vigil this weekend, and more than 60 people from the Triangle, including an estimated 20 UNC students, will participate, Markatos said.

"It's going to be great because it'll be a new experience for many with the

idea of protest, which is often marginalized as a radical activity, but actually normal people are doing it," Markatos said.

"The feeling is so strong in this community that we have vigils popping up everywhere," he said.

Markatos said he helped organize a similar student vigil on campus Monday.

"It's the abuse of human rights by graduates of the SOA and the fact that Americans finance it through the Pentagon that makes the school such an abomination," Coyle said.

"It's all a part of the big picture of American militarism around the world," Coyle said.

Joanne Busiel, a participant in Wednesday's vigil, said she was arrested one year ago during a protest at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning when demonstrators trespassed onto the base.

"I believe very strongly that the School of the Americas is a dinosaur that needs to be closed," Busiel said.

"The very committed people will be ready to 'cross the line' - that is, to walk on the base as trespassers - on Sunday," said activist and vigil participant Margaret Misch.

"I would hope that students and the public would become aware of these issues, but I understand that they have other priorities."

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Marnie Clark of Chapel Hill (front) joins several protesters gathered outside the Franklin Street post office to hand out flyers calling for the shutdown of the U.S. Army School of the Americas, which is located in Fort Benning, Ga. The flyers allege that the school trains Latin-American soldiers in combat and torture techniques.

DTH/MICHAEL KANAREK

Black Wins Nomination for Speaker

The General Assembly still has to approve Rep. Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, as Speaker of the House.

By HOLLY NEAL
Staff Writer

Members of the N.C. House Democratic Caucus united Wednesday to nominate Rep. Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, as their candidate for Speaker of the House.

Democrats met at the Velvet Cloak Inn in Raleigh to elect Black, the only candidate who ran for the position.

Danny Lineberry, special assistant to Black, said education would be one of Black's top priorities as the new leader of House Democrats. "Black wanted to run because he wants to continue to make schools better," Lineberry said.

He said Black was concerned with the UNC system and hoped to use his new post as majority leader to advance higher education in North Carolina. "In

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N.C. Rep. Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, was the only candidate who ran for House Speaker.

Housing to Turn Illegal Policy Into Voluntary Smoking Ban

The ban permits students to smoke on balconies, but it encourages them to seek out other places to smoke.

By ASHLEY STEPHENSON
University Editor

A proposal that would change UNC's ban against balcony smoking to a voluntary ban is expected to become policy after Thanksgiving Break if it is approved.

Residence Hall Association President David Jernigan said the voluntary ban would allow students to smoke on balconies, but would encourage them to seek other places to smoke out of consideration for other students.

Director of University Housing Wayne Kuncel presented the proposal to the Housing Advisory Board Tuesday.

"It's kind of like the way it is in Kenan Stadium," Jernigan said. "You are allowed to smoke in the seats, since it's an outdoor place, but people are asked to smoke in the concourse area (instead), and most people respect that."

Under Article 64 of the N.C. General Assembly, the University's ban on balcony smoking was found to be an illegal amendment to its original 1993 smoking ban.

After an article appeared in The Daily Tar Heel Nov. 11 outlining the illegality of the ban, some student smokers took to the balconies with papers in hand to prove they were not in violation.

Kuncel said UNC Housing had not officially repealed the ban, but said it had recognized a question about the ban's legality. For the proposal to take effect, Kuncel said Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Services Dean Bresciani must approve it.

Kuncel said he assumed Bresciani would be in favor of the proposal since Bresciani attended the meeting of the advisory board. "I anticipate that the



Director of University Housing Wayne Kuncel said the proposal should be in place after Thanksgiving.

proposal will be in place when we return from Thanksgiving," he said.

Kuncel said the proposal was being reviewed by University housing staff members so they could provide feedback. Once the language of the proposal is decided, Kuncel said he planned to pass it on to Bresciani.

But in the meantime, students on South Campus are free to light up on balconies. "During this time, we will not be enforcing the ban," Jernigan said. "Resident assistants have been instructed not to issue any violations."

Jernigan said if any students had received violations for smoking on the balconies prior to the discovery of the ban's illegality, the violations would be removed from students' records.

But now that some students will flock to balconies with cigarettes in hand, issues have been raised about how to deal with the trash generated by student smokers. While Kuncel said he was hesitant to place ashtrays on the balconies, Jernigan said ashtrays were the only way to curb the debris created by cigarettes.

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GOP Elects Livingston To Replace Gingrich

Republican representatives unanimously backed Rep. Bob Livingston, R-La., as the new Speaker of the House.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Rep. Bob Livingston collected unanimous Republican backing Wednesday to become House speaker and quickly pledged action in the new Congress to cut taxes and preserve Social Security. J.C. Watts, the only black among 223 GOP lawmakers, won a leadership post, too.

"There are some who insist the Republican era is over," Livingston, R-La., told fellow GOP lawmakers still reeling from the loss of seats in this month's elections. "But that's like saying the American dream is over. It isn't true, and they know it."

He pledged cooperation with the Democrats, then added, "We will do so to advance Republican principles" of less government.

Livingston, 55, a pragmatic conservative and chairman of the

Appropriations Committee with a history of working with Democrats, was nominated without opposition to succeed Newt Gingrich as speaker.

Gingrich bade farewell to the Republicans whom he led to power four years ago, handed a gavel to Livingston to signal the shift in power, then left Washington with his wife for a Florida vacation.

"Bob Livingston is totally in control right now," Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y. declared in the corridor outside the meeting room, even though his formal ascension won't occur until Congress convenes on Jan. 6.

Livingston's victory was sealed nearly two weeks ago when Gingrich stunned Republicans with a decision to

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U.S. Rep. Bob Livingston, R-La., pledged to cooperate with Democrats if he is elected Speaker.

INSIDE Thursday

Let's Get Swingin'
What's that dance in those Gap ads? Ever wonder where swing dancing got started? And why has it made such a splash? Check out this week's Diversions. See Page 5.



Blessed Ones
A Winston-Salem church ventures away from the Southern Baptist Convention, protecting homosexuality in the congregation. See Page 4.

Today's Weather
Mostly cloudy; Lower 60s. Friday: Chance of rain; Upper 60s.

Every vice is only an exaggeration of a necessary and virtuous function.

Ralph Waldo Emerson