

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Candidates Gear Up for Elections

Student body president candidates Nic Heinke and Alex Bass were among 21 attendees at an elections forum Tuesday.

By **CARRIE CALLAGHAN**  
Staff Writer

Students solidified their intents to run for student government offices and to compete to receive the figurative torch Tuesday night.

Elections Board Chairwoman Heather Faulk explained the election processes and campaign requirements to 21 candidates and campaign assistants.

Among the attendees were Alex Bass and Nic Heinke, student body president candidates, as well as three Student Congress candidates, one candidate for senior class president and one candidate for Graduate and Professional Student Federation president.

Heinke said he had already started to consider his platform, which would focus on campus security, the racial atmosphere on campus and reducing student fees and tuition. "The less we have to pay, the better," he said.

Bass said he decided at the meeting that he would run for the office. "I was always leaning towards it," he said.

Bass said he had not formulated a campaign platform yet.

Brad Morrison, former speaker of Student Congress and an announced candidate for student body president, did not attend the meeting. Danya Ledford, former chairwoman of the external rela-

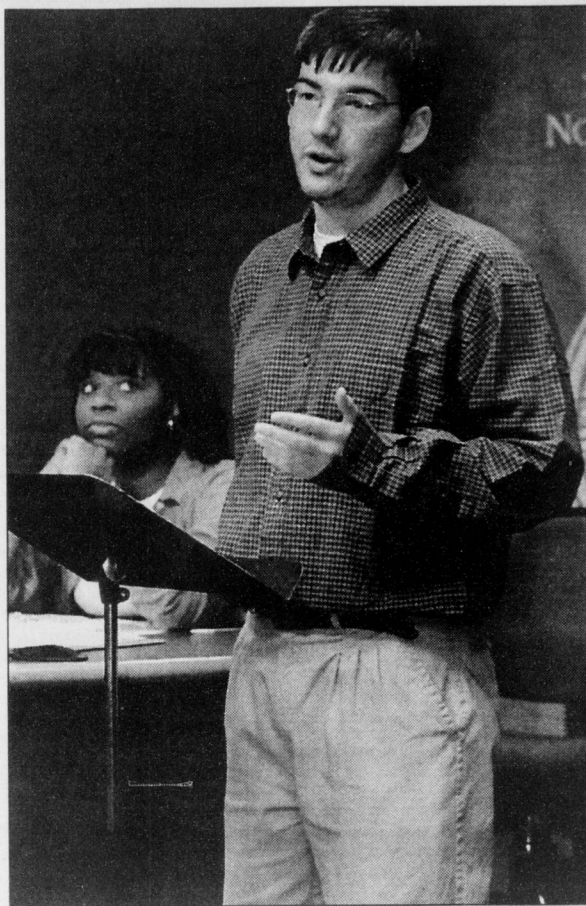
See FORUM, Page 8



Alex Bass



Nic Heinke



DTH/AMANDA INSCORE

Brad Morrison announces his immediate resignation as speaker from Student Congress as his replacement Morayo Orija (back) listens.

## Morrison Resigns Speaker Position To Run for SBP

By **DEVONA A. BROWN**  
University Editor

A semester-long push for Student Congress to gain power as a representative body by Speaker Brad Morrison ended when he announced his resignation to pursue other interests in Tuesday night's Congress meeting.

Ending speculation on what those interests were, Morrison confirmed his intention to run for student body president next semester.

"The costs could never come close to the benefits," Morrison told shocked Congress representatives of his time spent as speaker. He said no cost could stand in the way of the feeling he got when students were helped because of Congress members' actions.

Morrison said Congress became less of a group that dealt solely with funding for student groups and more of an entity that focused on students' concerns. "We have changed the role of Congress in the last few months," Morrison said. "This body has represented the students of the University."

That change in congressional representation under Morrison focused on expanding its power on campus.

One of Morrison's first attempts at increasing Congress' power was challenging whether Student

### STUDENT ELECTIONS

More Coverage, Page 3

- Contrary to previous years, only one person in addition to Morrison has left an office to take part in upcoming elections.
- Publications funded in whole or in part with Student Congress fees cannot print candidates' endorsements.

Body President Reyna Walters could make executive appointments without Congress' approval. He said then that the Student Code specifically said Congress had the power to "approve or reject all appointments made by the president ..."

Morrison's other goals included strengthening Congress' relationship with University administrators and requesting that executive cabinet members' be less active during Congress meetings.

With everything Morrison accomplished as speaker and expectations for his efforts to continue, many Congress members said they knew nothing of his resignation before Tuesday night's meeting. "It would be somewhat of a surprise to me,"

See MORRISON, Page 8

## Despite Drop in Deaths, HIV Still Plagues State

By **LINDSEY EMERY**  
Staff Writer

According to the N.C. AIDS Index released Tuesday, fewer North Carolinians are dying of AIDS, but researchers warned that more are living with the disease.

The N.C. AIDS Advisory Council released its second annual index, summarizing HIV-related statistics in the state. The council created it to emphasize that AIDS was still a problem.

"Although a lot of progress has been made, there is still a long way to go," said David Jolly, vice chairman of the N.C. AIDS Advisory Council.

The index states the number of infections that have been reported in each county since 1995 and points out the groups that are most at risk.

Orange County had a low number of cases reported - only 10 reported HIV infections and three AIDS victims.

Eileen Kugler, director of personal health services for the Orange County Department of Health, said the number of cases in the county had been both stable and small over the last four years.

"I would like to keep our numbers small and take preventative measures."

Kugler said students were only included in Orange County's statistics if they were considered county residents.

The highest number of reported cases were in the larger, urban areas of the state, such as Mecklenburg, Wake and Guilford counties.

Dr. Stephen Keener, medical director of the Mecklenburg County Department of Health, said the rates actually decreased in Mecklenburg over the past two years. But compared to other counties, the numbers look high, he said. "HIV is not limited to urban areas," he said. "It just hits them first."

Jolly said the disease could be found anywhere. "It is a myth that if you don't live in a big city, then you don't need to worry about it," he said.

There was a large increase in the number of HIV infections reported in urban eastern North Carolina.

Keener said women, young people - including college students - and blacks were among the most at-risk groups.

"We're hoping that (the index) points out the need for adequate funding for both prevention and treatment pro-

### Raging Epidemic

The N.C. AIDS Advisory Council released its statewide index Tuesday and officials say they hope the numbers will emphasize the importance of continuing AIDS awareness.

#### Top Five N.C. Counties with HIV Infections

County	HIV Cases	AIDS Cases
1. Mecklenburg	183	74
2. Wake	93	79
3. Guilford	89	27
4. Forsyth	73	42
5. Cumberland	72	30
Orange	10	3

■ Blacks comprise more than 75 percent of all cases of HIV reported to the state since during the past eight years. Blacks account for just more than 20 percent of North Carolina's population.

■ The Index reports that North Carolina had 1,011 deaths from AIDS in 1995. The figure dropped to 480 in 1997. HIV rates have not shown a decrease.

■ The state estimates that as many as 12,600 people in North Carolina are living with HIV or AIDS, or enough people to fill Reynolds Coliseum at N.C. State University in Raleigh.

■ In 1997, blacks accounted for 596 new reported cases and 878 cases of HIV. There were 198 new cases of AIDS and 268 cases of HIV reported for whites.

SOURCE: THE NCAIDS ADVISORY COUNCIL

grams," he said.

Donna Arrington, a member of the AIDS Advisory Council, said the state needed more prevention programs.

"It has been proven that for every dollar put on prevention, you save three (dollars) on care," she said.

Jolly and Arrington both said the money the state spent on AIDS-related prevention programs should increase. They said South Carolina, a state with fewer HIV-reported cases, spent almost \$1 million more than North Carolina on its prevention programs in 1997.

The index also raises the issue of the prevalence of other sexually transmitted diseases in the state.

The state has the fifth highest syphilis rate in the nation, Jolly said. "It has been proven that people who have another STD are three to five times more likely to contract HIV."

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## School Scrambles as Deadline Nears

School in the Community had to meet a required enrollment of 65 students by Tuesday afternoon.

By **C. J. CASH**  
Staff Writer

The School in the Community was one student shy Tuesday afternoon of meeting a state mandate of 10 additional students and a balanced budget.

The Carrboro charter school had to meet a state-required enrollment of 65 students by Tuesday.

During a state investigation of the school's enrollment, a projected budget deficit of \$85,000 was discovered.

But School in the Community offi-

cials said Tuesday that the budget had been balanced and was no longer an issue.

Last Monday, the advisory committee decided to recommend that the state Board of Education revoke the school's charter, which was granted last year, if administrators did not enroll 10 additional students and balance the budget in a week's time.

School in the Community lead administrator Debra McHenry said she had until 5 p.m. Tuesday to submit a list of ten students to the state and propose a new budget.

"I have nine (new students enrolled), and I have five applications out," she said Tuesday afternoon.

"One of (the five) I feel pretty confident about," she said. "I have part of the paper work but I just don't have the

whole packet."

McHenry said she will request a waiver today from the state to keep the school's doors open.

"I need one more student and I think I can get it."

Concerned with the possible repercussions of the school's closing, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools attempted to help the School in the Community achieve the required enrollment and balance its budget, Superintendent Neil Pedersen said.

"Our main focus was on the impact it would have on the students that were attending the school," he said.

Pedersen said he was worried that students currently enrolled at the School in the Community might drop out, and that there might not be enough support for those who enter Chapel Hill-

Carrboro City Schools.

Pedersen said he wrote a letter to the system's principals that requested they recommend the charter school to students who had dropped out, were on the verge of dropping out or had erratic attendance.

McHenry also said Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools helped balance the budget plan that she had completed Tuesday.

The school system provided the School in the Community with updated information about local funding and information regarding special education students, she said.

"And we fine-tuned the budget a little bit."

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## Suspect, Victim Share Roof

By **JENNIFER KNESEL**  
Staff Writer

Two-and-a-half months after George Nickerson was arrested for shooting his brother, Rayford Nickerson, the two are again living with their mother.

"They haven't been arguing or nothing," Susie Nickerson, 70, said. Her son, George Nickerson, agreed. "We're still getting along good," he said.

George Nickerson, 58, who was arrested and charged in his brother's shooting in September, will appear in Orange County Superior Court Monday on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

He was released from Orange County Jail Nov. 20 after he posted \$20,000 bond, reports state.

Although George Nickerson said the family is getting along, his brother still bears the physical scars of the attack. Rayford Nickerson now walks with a cane because of gunshot wounds that have made his gait unsteady.

"I can walk without the cane, but sometimes I can't walk straight," Rayford Nickerson, 56, said.

Rayford Nickerson was shot at nine times inside the store, BP employee Franklin Wilkinson said after the attack. He was wounded in the abdomen, chest and shoulder, reports state.

Now that the family is reunited, the question of why George Nickerson fired shots still remains unanswered.



DTH/JENNIFER GUTHRIE

Rayford Nickerson, who was shot nine times several months ago, stands in front of his house along N.C. 54.

Rayford Nickerson said he has never talked to his brother about the Sept. 13 incident and still does not know why he was shot. "We just got in a scuffle, and I think I asked him about money," Rayford Nickerson said. "I reckon he got mad because I had him on the ground," he said.

In a Sept. 15 interview Wilkinson said Rayford Nickerson entered the store around 7:45 p.m. and asked him to call 911. While his brother was using the phone, George Nickerson walked into

the station with a gun.

Wilkinson said George Nickerson fired nine shots at his brother, first from across the counter, then from within a five-foot range and from the door.

Although the family is currently reunited, Rayford Nickerson said his brother should serve time in jail for his crime. "He oughta get some time for shooting me for nothing."

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## INSIDE Wednesday

### Family Ties



A local family that was recently homeless struggles to make it off the streets and to stay together. See Page 5.

### AIDS Awareness Art

Several Franklin Street shops have set up art displays ranging from quilts to paintings designed to promote AIDS awareness. See Page 8.



### Today's Weather

Sunny;  
High 60s.  
Thursday: Sunny;  
Low 70s.

*The only truly dead are those that are forgotten.*

Jewish saying