

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Edwards Hints at His Support Of Nuclear Plant Protesters

By TRICIA BARRIOS  
Staff Writer

Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., offered preliminary support Monday for local government officials' fight against the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant.

Members of the Orange County government bodies met with the freshman senator to ask for his backing in organizing a public evidentiary hearing about the proposed expansion of the nuclear facility. The plant, located in Wake County, is owned by Carolina Power & Light Co.

Edwards, who listened to concerns from the Orange County Board of Commissioners, the Chapel Hill Town Council, a state senator and representative, representatives from both Durham and Chatham counties and a delegate from a local environmental group, offered some support of their efforts.

"This is my first meeting with anyone about the issue," he said. "I feel like, in fairness, I have

to at least meet with (CP&L). But it's very hard for me to imagine that it's not in the public interest to have a full-blown evidentiary hearing."

Jim Warren, director of N.C. Waste Awareness and Reduction Network, said the public hearings held by CP&L on Dec. 7 and Dec. 8 did not answer public safety concerns, and did not allow the county's team of scientists to discuss their findings against the expansion.

"It's easy for them to stand at a dog-and-pony show and answer questions that the general public can't possibly understand," he said. "This is nuclear science. If you want an open process, let's have a scientific debate."

When Shearon Harris plant officials revealed their intentions to expand the existing facility last year, leaders from the county government raised concerns about the safety of the proposal. Warren said the expansion was potentially unsafe and not cost-efficient, but CP&L officials disagreed.

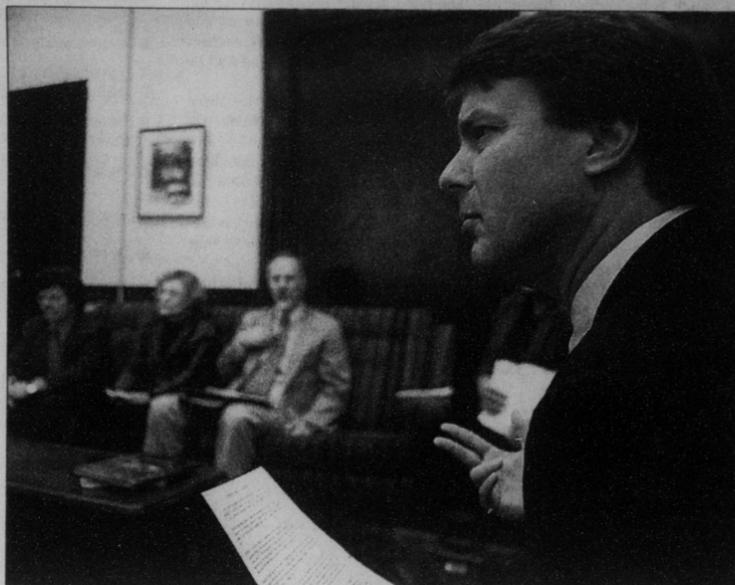
CP&L spokesman Mike Hughes said the two

methods of storage were equal in safety and that the dry cask storage method advocated by N.C. WARN would be more expensive. "We have technology that we have used as a plant for 11 years, and, as a company, for 20 years," he said. "We would have to learn a new technology. That's not safer. Our facilities are already built. We'd have to build new facilities."

Orange County Commissioner Barry Jacobs said the representatives were appealing to Edwards because they were forced into the position by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. "We came here not as adversaries, but as advocates of the county," he said. "It is costing Orange County a vast amount of money on an issue that we're just trying to get some truth on."

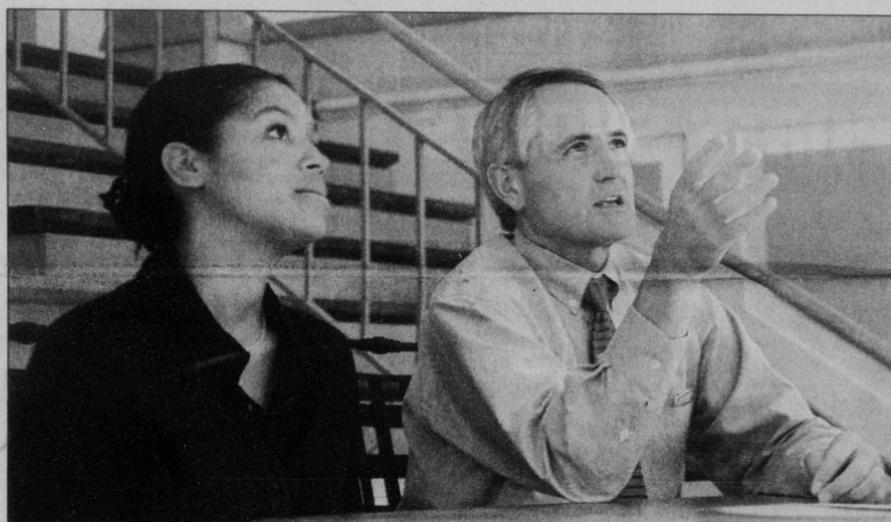
Orange County Commissioner Alice Gordon said she was frustrated by the lack of help from the NRC. "The frustrating thing for me ... is that we can't get that hearing," she

See EDWARDS, Page 6



Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., meets with Orange, Chatham and Durham county officials Monday to discuss the proposed plan to expand the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant.

## Opening the door



1998-1999 Student Body President Reyna Walters sits with the late Chancellor Michael Hooker in Lenoir Dining Hall as part of her student outreach. This year's presidential candidates are again stressing building such links.

By KATY NELSON  
Staff Writer

If this year's student body president candidates carry out their campaign promises, they will be rapping on students' doors long after election season.

With student elections one week away, candidates are responding to the complaint that communication between students and student government is lukewarm at best.

Current Student Body President Nic Heinke holds his Cabinet meetings at different locations on campus each week in

an effort to increase community awareness of student government.

Cabinet members knock on students' doors for the first hour of the Cabinet meeting, talking to students about their concerns. But members of student government might not have knocked on enough doors yet.

Freshman Hildy Fong said she had a difficult time finding information on how to join student government this year.

Fong recalled the orange bouncy balls dispersed throughout campus to advertise online bookstores. "I know more about bigwords.com than I do about stu-

dent government," she said.

Candidates said they recognized this lack of connection between Suite C and the daily lives of students, sparking them to integrate accessibility as a key part of their platforms.

Junior Michael Harris said that if elected student body president, he would be proactive instead of reactionary in increasing communication between students and student government.

He said he planned to expand Heinke's policy of holding Cabinet meet-

See ACCESSIBILITY, Page 6

## Students Debate Effects of Ruling

By KIM MINUGH  
Assistant University Editor

Student Congress Speaker Mark Kleinschmidt claimed victory Sunday in his Student Supreme Court trial, but the verdict hasn't left him celebrating.

Kleinschmidt said he feared the decision dropped excessive power into Congress' lap by failing to address the discrepancy between the Student Code and the Student Constitution.

The court unanimously upheld Kleinschmidt's Jan. 21 decision to withdraw the United States Student Association referendum from the Feb. 15 elections ballot and essentially upheld that the power of constitutional amendment belongs to Congress.

A 12-10 congressional vote in December passed the referendum. But Kleinschmidt opted to drop it from the ballot after realizing the December vote's clear violation of the code, which stipulates that such votes must pass by a two-thirds vote.

But four plaintiffs argued against Kleinschmidt's decision, citing the Student Constitution, which says amendments to the constitution must be passed by a simple majority, but at the direction of Congress.

Kleinschmidt said he feared that because the court upheld the code and

because Congress had the power of amendment over the code, the result of the verdict could be a tremendous shift of power to the hands of Congress.

"If you open (the constitution) up to interpretation, then it's very dangerous," he said. "It will have a disruptive effect on the system of checks and balances."

Kleinschmidt expressed concern that Congress would be able to dispute any constitutional clauses.

But sources told The Daily Tar Heel that although Kleinschmidt's arguments were valid, it wasn't likely Congress would abuse its power.

They said Congress' power was limited to deciding the ease or difficulty with which resolutions could be passed into referendums within Congress.

Beyond that, any referendum must still be passed by the student body and thus serves as a check on the power of Congress.

Supreme Court Justice Dan Roberts said student petitioning was the primary way to amend the constitution.

"We believed the amendment process was particularly important to students," Roberts said. "The student way is the primary way."

The court also denied the plaintiffs' estoppel argument, a plea to overlook the law in fairness. The plaintiffs argued that the referendum should have remained on the ballot in light of all their efforts to lobby for USSA support.

Since the verdict, students who support USSA are working toward getting the referendum back on the ballot through petition. The court ruled that the plaintiffs failed to utilize all available avenues to get the referendum on the ballot.

The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).



Speaker of Congress Mark Kleinschmidt said the decision greatly increased the power of the body.

As part of our student elections coverage, the DTH will examine the top five student issues based upon the paper's survey of 300 students.

MONDAY:  
Dining services

TODAY:  
The accessibility of student government

WEDNESDAY:  
Race relations

THURSDAY:  
Parking

FRIDAY: Tuition



## Baddour Calls Seating Summit

By WILL FOUSHEE  
Staff Writer

In an effort to further the discussion of lower-level ticket allocation in the Smith Center, Director of Athletics Dick Baddour has called a meeting with campus student leaders.

Baddour requested a meeting with Carolina Athletic Association President Tee Pruitt and Student Body President Nic Heinke on Feb. 16 to further discuss the seating dilemma that arose in January.

Because of inclement weather and anticipation of low alumni attendance, students with a UNC ONE Card were allowed to sit in seats normally reserved for the alumni ticket-holders at the Jan. 27 UNC-Maryland game.

The excitement surrounding UNC's victory sparked a debate over whether



CAA President Tee Pruitt and Student Body President Nic Heinke want to improve student seats at the Smith Center.

students should have more lower-level seats in the Smith Center.

"We look forward to the opportunity to work things out," Pruitt said. "We're not trying to fight the athletic department or the Educational Foundation. We're just looking for a compromise."

Pruitt has been leading talks with

members of both groups to find a solution to strengthen the atmosphere and fan support in the Smith Center.

"The crowd at the Duke game was great, but we're trying to make it that way at all the games," Pruitt said.

Pruitt said that since the Maryland game he had received more than 675 e-mail messages, the majority from alumni, who favored getting the students closer to the court. He said the CAA was examining a plan that would give students access to three sides of the court.

"We're looking at either standing bleachers or possibly the first 10 rows of sections 118 through 133," he said.

"We are not asking for more seats, just closer because we're willing to give up seats in the current student section."

Officials, who are bound to the com-

See SEATING, Page 6

## Graduation Deadline Friday for Senior Class

By JOHN MABERRY  
Staff Writer

This week marks a significant deadline for seniors preparing for their final months at the University.

All seniors must declare their intent to graduate by Friday, said Student Services Manager Betsy Taylor.

The registration form requires applicants to provide their names, majors, current schedules, number of current hours and signatures.

Taylor said the Special Events Office sent a packet of information about graduation, slated for May 21, to degree candidates announcing the deadline date.

But despite the University's attempt to inform students by mail, some seniors

are still unaware of the deadline.

"I'm sure they sent me something in the mail, but I didn't read it," said Chris Sears, an economics major from Dallas.

Other seniors echoed Sears' sentiments about University mail.

"We get so used to getting unimportant mail from the University that I probably just trashed any notification about a deadline," said Christian Poole, a physical education, exercise and sport science major from Bryson City.

Despite their nonchalance regarding University announcements, seniors have been registering. The College of Arts and Sciences reports that 1,400 students have registered for graduation out

See GRADUATION, Page 6

## INSIDE Tuesday

### A Calculating Kid

An eighth-grader at McDougle Middle School took first place in a local math competition. He is now training for the statewide competition and ultimately the national championship in Washington, D.C. See Page 5.

### Meet the Candidates

Five groups are in the running for 2000-01 senior class president and vice president positions. To find out more about the candidates and their backgrounds, peruse their profiles. See Page 8.

### Today's Weather

Cloudy;  
High 40s.  
Wednesday: Sunny;  
High 50s.

You only live once — but if you work it right, once is enough.

Joe E. Lewis