

The Daily Tar Heel

106 years of editorial freedom
Serving the students and the University
community since 1893

Tuesday, February 15, 2000
Volume 107, Issue 153

News/Features/Arts/Sports 962-0245
Business/Advertising 962-1163
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
© 2000 DTH Publishing Corp.
All rights reserved.

ELECTION DAY 2000

Deadline Pressure Intensifies SBP Race

By JOHN MABERRY
Staff Writer

While some UNC students spent Monday with their valentines, candidates for student body president had a date with their campaign staffs to make a final feverish push for votes.

Today's election will determine whether the candidates' hard work will be rewarded, or whether they should have spent their time on a romantic candlelight dinner.

"I'm just really tired," said candidate Preston Smith. "I'm kicking back now and just talking with people in the Pit. It's all up to the students now."

Despite the impending deadline for campaign activity, candidate Michael Harris has not attempted to alter his strategy.

"We're just going to continue doing

what we've been doing throughout the campaign, but it will all intensify here at the end," Harris said.

"We're trying to get all our people out, hit South Campus pretty hard. We'll be out in force (today)."

Today should prove to be a hectic but exciting day for the candidates as students visit the polls.

"I plan on getting very little sleep," candidate Brad Matthews said. "We'll be up as early as possible."

Several candidates stressed that personal attention to voters was the one variable that would separate them from the rest in the final campaign days.

"My opponents have 40, 50 people out there. I work by myself. Direct access. No sliding fliers under doors," Joshua Ray said.

Harris echoed his opponent's sentiments. "A lot of people are big on sending out advisers or staff, but you've got to get out there yourself," he said.

See CAMPAIGNING, Page 4



DTH/ELAIN DASSANI

Fliers smothered bulletin boards across campus for the past two weeks as candidates launched into UNC's election season. The political dust will soon settle as students hit the polls today.

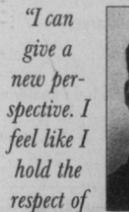


SBP Candidates' Final Sound Bites



MICHAEL HARRIS
SHELBY, N.C.

"I can reach all the people and relate with all of them, but I'm not the status quo."



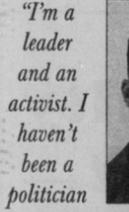
MATT MARTIN
GOLDSBORO, N.C.

"I can give a new perspective. I feel like I hold the respect of administration."



BRAD MATTHEWS
BOISE, IDAHO

"I've got the most experience, the best ideas and the ability to get it done."



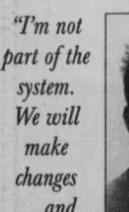
JOSHUA W. RAY
WAYNESVILLE, N.C.

"I'm a leader and an activist. I haven't been a politician this week."



ERICA SMILEY
JAMESTOWN, N.C.

"I've proven my concern for student interests and not for building my résumé."



PRESTON SMITH
RIALTO, CALIF.

"I'm not part of the system. We will make changes ... and bring new flavah."

Column Ignites Campaign for Bersticker

By BRIAN MURPHY
Senior Writer

Brian Bersticker hasn't played in a North Carolina basketball game since December because of a foot injury.

He hasn't been in trouble with the law. He hasn't even decided whether to redshirt this season.

But that hasn't stopped the 6-foot-11 junior from being a popular topic of conversation on campus this week.

After Brian Frederick's Friday's col-

umn in The Daily Tar Heel urged students to write in Bersticker for student body president in Tuesday's election, a campaign to elect Bersticker has taken hold.

Evidently the column by Frederick,

brother of former UNC basketball player Brad Frederick, has hit a chord with some in the student body.

"I'd consider voting for him because he might be something different than what's typical," freshman Shannon Harrington said. "But I don't know about having the basketball team as his Cabinet."

Signs at Saturday's basketball game and on campus Monday encouraged the write-in campaign. "BB 4 SBP," read one. "Tall. White. Sassy," read another. "He can dunk," read yet one more.



UNC junior
Brian Bersticker

For Bersticker, all the attention has been a surprise.

"I knew something was coming up. He (Brian Frederick) e-mailed me at the beginning of the week and said he was going to drop my name in an editorial about elections," Bersticker said.

"But I had no clue that he was going to start this campaign that everyone seems to be doing."

The campaign seems to be gaining speed with the proliferation of signs around the campus.

Other presidential candidates have even addressed the situation. Matt Martin suggested that the Tar Heel power forward could pull in triple digit votes.

At least one candidate, though, wasn't pleased with Bersticker's arrival in the race. "You got to show the students you're serious," Preston Smith said. "Not a joke like Brian Bersticker."

The seriousness of Bersticker's campaign is an issue with students as well.

See BERTICKER, Page 4

Students to Vote on Four Referenda

In addition to electing new student officers, today's ballot will include four referenda that require the approval of the student body before going into effect.

- Referenda 1 - For a \$3 increase in Student Activity Fee, to bring in more money for the growing number of student groups at UNC
- Referenda 2 - For the UNC-Chapel Hill to recognize double minors on transcripts
- Referenda 3 - For a student fee of \$1.05 per semester per undergraduate student to support APPLES, a campus service group
- Referenda 4 - For approval of a \$1.50 fee per student per semester for membership in the United States Student Association, a national higher education lobbying group

Elections Staff Prepares For Tiring, Tedious Day

By ALEXANDRA MOLLAIRE
Assistant University Editor

Elections Board members will rise out of their beds early this morning to gear up for a long day of manning poll sites and counting ballots.

While the first poll sites open at 9 a.m., the members are meeting at 7:30 a.m. to transport materials around campus. "We're getting computers from Hinton James (Residence Hall)," said Elections Board Chairwoman Catherine Yates. "Then we have to go to the

(Student) Union and pick up ballot boxes and materials."

The majority of poll tenders are Elections Board members, Yates said.

"Most people are going to be there all day," Yates said. "Some people are missing classes, and others are going in between classes."

Elections Board member Marie Hartwell, a senior from Old Fort, said students would need a UNC ONE Card to vote.

See ELECTIONS BOARD, Page 4

Former SBPs Recall Chaotic Campaigns

Student Body President Nic Heinke says even those who don't win tonight can still contribute to the University.

By C. B. MABEUS
Staff Writer

Many former student body presidents remembered running on little sleep and high nerves as campaign staffs prepared to make a final push for the vote on election eve.

On the night before election day, weeks of hard work and stress culminated, and many candidates pulled campaign staff members together to review last-minute schedules and tactics.

"The first thing I tried to do was to get the people on the core staff excited," said current Student Body President Nic Heinke.

"There's something about energy that's incredibly important," he said.

Former student body presidents used a variety of campaign techniques, such as going door-to-door in residence halls and campaigning in key campus locations such as the Pit and Chase Hall.

Former Student Body President Aaron Nelson surveyed about 2,000 students on a variety of issues to help build his campaign.

"I think one of the keys is to build a good, broad-based coalition," said Nelson, who held office during the 1996-97 school year. "It has to do with time and getting your message out."

"After that, it is pretty much said and done by Monday night," he said.

Reyna Walters, last year's student body president, said she increased her visibility through color coordination. Her campaign staff wore burgundy and white clothing while on the campaign trail.

"Anything that you can do to remind people to vote definitely helps," Walters said. "We tried to get people to vote who normally wouldn't vote."

Still, weeks of excitement, lack of sleep, and being on the go lead to a mix of emotions that build up the night before election day.

"The most difficult part of campaigning is campaigning. It was extremely stressful and time-consuming," Walters said. "I was very sick."

But Nelson said his stress was further complicated when The Carolina Review published an issue featuring him on the cover with horns on the eve of elections.

"I was sick. A campaign will take a lot out of you. I had a fever, I was delirious," Nelson said. "You can't work 20 hours a day for two weeks and have

See NIGHT, Page 4

INSIDE Tuesday

Dancing for a Cure

After raising more than \$40,000 last year for the UNC Children's Hospital, the UNC Dance Marathon kicked off again this weekend, with students and parents participating. See Page 6.

A Child Shall Lead Them

North Carolina freshman Joseph Forte has raised eyebrows among teammates and opponents for his savvy play. Forte was named ACC Rookie of the Week on Monday and averages 16.0 points per game to lead UNC. See Page 7.

Emergency Relief

The response time for Orange County Emergency Medical Services has increased an average of 39 seconds during the past few years because of decreasing volunteer personnel. See Page 9.

Real-Time Voting

Check out the DTH Online at www.unc.edu/dth for extended hourly coverage of 2000 student elections, including updated poll returns from each campus voting precinct and pictures of your favorite candidates.

Today's Weather

Sunny;
High 50s.
Wednesday: Sunny;
High 60s.

Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.

George Jean Nathan