

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Error Spurs 2nd Election for Congress Seats

By KAREY WUTKOWSKI  
Staff Writer

In yet another of the errors that have plagued this year's campus elections, the Elections Board has called for a Tuesday re-election in several Congressional districts.

Catherine Yates, elections board chairwoman, said outdated districting lines were used in the Student Union and the Hanes Art Center poll sites from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Congress redrew the districts in the fall, but the new boundaries were not used in some cases during elections earlier this week.

"One person noticed he was given the wrong district," she said. After the problem was discovered,



Yates said she fixed it by telling the poll sites to use the current map district lines instead of the outdated information used in the Registrar's Office database.

The database contains each student's name, per-



Congress Speaker Mark Kleinschmidt

sonal identification number and voting district according to residence.

But District 11 candidate Bharath Parthasarathy, who lost 50-43 according to last Tuesday's vote, said he was given the wrong district when he went to the Union poll site at 2 p.m.

"I went and saw (Yates) immediately after leaving the poll site," Parthasarathy said. "She said the (districts) had been changed."

"I don't know if it was gross ineptitude or lack of communication."

Congress approved the Rules and Judiciary Committee's recommendations for new district lines in December.

"By law, (Congress) has to redistrict every two years," said Congress Speaker Mark Kleinschmidt. He said this year's committee did a thorough study of where students lived on and off campus and even created a new district.

"The Rules and Judiciary Committee created a new district scheme by draw-

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## State DOT Joins Fight For Safety

Some of the campus plans to boost pedestrian safety include new stoplights, signs and traffic islands.

By KATE MACEK  
Staff Writer

In the biggest push yet to improve campus pedestrian safety, the N.C. Department of Transportation has joined forces with UNC and local officials to address what has become a pressing issue.

There have been 27 accidents involving pedestrians in the past 20 months, including a fatality, according to recent reports.

Officials will implement physical improvements such as traffic and flashing lights, signs and concrete islands.

Renovations are focused on Manning Drive, Columbia Drive and South Road. The improvements will not necessarily remain in place because they are only pilot projects, said Vance Barham, a traffic engineer for the DOT.

Most projects are slated to be completed by this spring. Some smaller improvements, such as the replacement of current pedestrian signs with brighter fluorescent yellow-green signs, will be completed within a month.

The estimated cost for the installation of traffic and pedestrian lights at the intersection of Manning Drive and Morrison Drive at Craige Deck is \$60,000. The concrete islands on South Road are expected to cost roughly \$25,000, Barham said. The DOT has already approved both projects.

These plans are being realized through the chancellor-appointed pedestrian safety committee. Created in January by Public Safety Director Derek Poarch, the 14-member group consists of DOT officials, Chapel Hill representatives and University students.

The committee met Wednesday to discuss ways of improving safety on UNC's campus and in Chapel Hill.

There is also a smaller subcommittee including experts from the state transportation department, the city, the UNC Center for Highway Safety Research and the University's transportation planner. This subgroup meets separately to consider the feasibility of proposals made by the main committee.

A proposal to add bike lanes to Columbia Drive was sent to the subcommittee Wednesday and long-term plans were discussed, including nar-

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## Minors Decision Pending

Student government members say the referendum should spur University officials to permit 2 minors.

By KIM MINUGH  
Assistant University Editor

Students who hit the polls Tuesday showed overwhelming support for a referendum calling for double minors to be acknowledged on transcripts in a whopping 2,907 to 249 victory.

Here's the catch: UNC does not officially offer double minors, leaving any real weight behind the referendum in the hands of administrators.

The referendum was only a means to express student opinion, said Finance Committee Chairwoman Lindsay Whitfield. "The referendum indicates to (the administration) that this is what the students want," she said. "It facilitates and accelerates the process that might bring it about."

Student Body Treasurer Ryan Schlitt said that as a precedent, administrative change often followed student-passed referendums. "If students overwhelmingly pass a referendum, most likely an action will be taken," he said.

The idea behind the referendum originated last fall with T.J. Maloney and Shannon Ghadiri, chairmen of the Academic Affairs Committee of the executive branch of student government.

Ghadiri said double minoring was a concern brought to her by many students. Maloney and Ghadiri discussed the issue with Boone Turchi, chairman of the Educational Policy Committee.

Maloney said Turchi expressed several concerns about double minors leading to overspecialization in a liberal arts institution such as UNC.

He said Turchi told them a proposal would have to be given to his committee and then passed by the full Faculty Council. Discouraged, Maloney said he and Ghadiri decided to poll student opinion through a referendum.

"It's the best way to send a really strong message (to the council)," he said.

After the referendum passed in Tuesday's elections, Maloney said he and Ghadiri would draft a letter to Turchi asking for a revision of the educational policy. The policy allows students to declare one major, one minor with one minor or a double major.

Maloney said the letter would also be sent to Faculty Council Chairman Pete Wilson, School of Arts and Sciences Dean Risa Palm and University Registrar David Lanier.

"We wanted the vote behind us that would send a strong message," Maloney said.

Speaker Mark Kleinschmidt said Congress passed the referendum thinking of students' best interest.

"Students are already double minoring because they meet the requirements, but it's not being recognized on their transcripts."

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

## The Powers That Be

By LANI HARAC  
Staff Writer

The upcoming millennial election promises to be a pivotal one for North Carolina, in part because of the anticipated changing of the political guard.

And the state's complex political landscape makes the results of this year's election difficult to predict, analysts say.

North Carolina, historically a conservative state, has shown steady movement toward a more moderate position. The state's executive branch has been dominated by moderate Democrats, although Republican presidential candidates have won the state in every election since 1976, regardless of whether they won the general election.

Democratic Gov. Jim Hunt's strength as a political figure during the last decade has counteracted the GOP influence, said Ferrel Guillory, director of UNC's Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life.

"The significance of this election for North Carolina is this: Governor Hunt is completing 16 years as governor. He has been the dominant Democratic figure in the state. His dominance has kept the Democrats competitive in North Carolina and has prevented the Republicans from surging even more than they might have," Guillory said.

In Washington, Republican Sen. Jesse Helms' reign also might be nearing its end.

Helms, who entered the U.S. Senate in 1973, has been the dominant Republican figure for the past three decades, Guillory said. He has two more years to his term, but political figures are still uncertain as to whether he will run again, or who will fill his shoes if he does not.

"The year 2000 election is the first election in which the state will look



Despite the state's politically conservative history, more Republican candidates, like 1998 Senate hopeful Lauch Faircloth, are having less success securing office against their moderate Democratic counterparts.

beyond Hunt and Helms," Guillory said. "What's at stake is who will get the first chance to start something at the end of the Hunt era."

But local experts have said that just which side will have that first chance is still unclear.

### Looking Back

Abraham Holtzman, professor emeritus of political science at N.C. State University, said the state has fluctuated between Republican and Democratic control.

"North Carolina is a conservative-to-moderate state. Sometimes the moderates win; sometimes the conservatives win," Holtzman said.

North Carolina had been a strongly Southern Democratic state since the

Civil War, Holtzman said. Southern Democrats favored segregation, looked down on unionization and disagreed with federal government regulation of state matters, although they pushed for more taxes for education and industry.

But the party began to show internal division in the 1950s over the race issue, he said.

The state's Democratic Party at the time was a coalition between moderates, liberals and some conservatives, he said. The push for desegregation and civil rights and the influx of Republicans coming in from the North swayed many Southern Democrats to the Republican Party.

Until then, the Republicans had been in the minority, Holtzman said.

N.C. conservatives - Republicans and former Southern Democrats - took the position that political issues, including civil rights and education, were best solved on a state and local level. But the liberal-moderate position was willing to accept federal government intervention, he said.

The division has persisted through the last two decades. "Conservatives see (government intervention) as an infringement on the rights of the business community," Holtzman said.

### Persistent Issues

Though the contenders in current N.C. politics might be new, the issues being discussed are not.

See TRENDS, Page 5

Focus on  
  
State Politics  
The DTH looks at an issue in-depth.  
See Page 5

## Police Charge Suspect In Chapel Hill Murder

By JENNY ROSSER  
Staff Writer

Police made an arrest late Thursday evening in connection with the Feb. 10 murder of a 22-year-old Chapel Hill woman.

Dwayne Rayshon Degraffenreid, 21, of 510-A Craig St., was arrested and charged with one felony count of first-degree murder and one felony count of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said police were not releasing any details surrounding Degraffenreid's arrest or the murder of Nehesia Kentae Taylor.

Taylor was found shot to death Feb. 10 after officers responded to a 911 report of gunshots in the Sykes and

Gomains streets area at about 10:05 p.m., according to a police press release.

As officers searched the area, located in the Northside neighborhood, they were approached by resident Reginald Eugene Farrington, who had been shot in the finger. He led officers to the 600 block of Sykes Street, where Taylor's body was found.

Police are not releasing the addresses of either Farrington or Taylor but did confirm that both were Chapel Hill residents. The case marks the second homicide this year in Chapel Hill. Michael Gregory Crosby of Raleigh was found shot to death New Year's Day at the Orange County Water and Sewer Authority, off of Mason Farm Road.

Michael Jordan Cruz, of Raleigh, was

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## LEA BRINGS THE 'D'



North Carolina's Cherie Lea defends Wake Forest's Alisha Mosley during UNC's 75-69 victory Thursday at Carmichael Auditorium. Lea finished with one point, three assists and two boards. See Story Page 7.

## INSIDE Friday

### A Mother's Love

Thelma Clark, the mother of convict and activist Eddie Hatcher, spoke on campus Thursday night to raise awareness of her son's plight. See Page 3.

### Timely Trifecta

Forward Jackie Higgins hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 40 seconds remaining to help the North Carolina women's basketball team defeat Wake Forest 75-69. See Page 7.

### Looking for Revenge

The North Carolina men's basketball team takes on Virginia at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Smith Center. UNC, which has won three consecutive games and five out of its last six, lost 87-85 to the Cavaliers on Jan. 18 at University Hall.

### Today's Weather

Rainy;  
Mid 50s.  
Saturday: More rain;  
High 60s.

Every cubic inch of space is a miracle.

Walt Whitman