

Vote Today

... in these locations:

■ Student Union: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
■ Chase Hall: 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

■ Granville Towers: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
■ Hanes Art Center: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
■ Law School: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

■ Business School: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
■ Berryhill Hall: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
■ Hamilton Hall: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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As Race Draws to Final Vote, Candidates Go Face to Face

By **KIM MINUGH**
Assistant University Editor

Two candidates stripped of campaign materials and armed only with quick wit and passion for the presidency met face to face Monday night in a last effort to sway student votes.

At a debate hosted by The Daily Tar Heel, candidates Brad Matthews and Erica Smiley participated in one last showdown before students cast their final votes that will determine a large part of UNC's future in the upcoming year.

During the 90-minute forum, candidates touched upon several issues such as tuition, public service and UNC's hotly debated involvement with the United States Students Association, a higher-education lobbying group.

Smiley, clad in her familiar retro attire, began the debate with confidence, aggressively leaving the protection of the podium and prodding the line between candidates and audience with a subtle smile that has been the trademark of her campaign.

"I think it is ridiculous that students should feel

intimidated by student government," she said with concerned emphasis. "I want to break down the barriers that keep students and government separate."

Matthews lingered behind the shield of the platform, seemingly hesitant to invade the personal realm of the audience. "The job of the student government is to make sure you have tools to pursue your passions, recognize your dreams and pursue your goals," he said, timidly inviting students to share his vision.

But it wasn't long before Matthews made an energetic comeback, like a toy that needed to be wound up before taking center stage on his own. He packed the punch behind his words, talking about his door-to-door campaign approach he so proudly boasts.

"It's about making sure every person working with student government is out there to help you. I am committed to serving your needs - I'll be out there banging on your doors," he said.

Smiley continued to stress her pledge to keep student government available to students while avoiding the condescending role that could be traced in past student body presidencies. "Accessibility exists up here," she said, pointing to her head. "It's an attitude. I don't want to talk down to students. (I don't want to be like presidents) who forgot the idea of where they came from and who elected them."

Smiley called to mind the widespread image of her

activist past shrouded in liberal radicalism, dismissing it with a laugh. "I could come into the office to save the day and be a freedom fighter for the students, but if we don't re-evaluate the structure (of the executive branch) future SBPs can come in and set it up so it isn't accessible again."

Matthews said his experience as senior adviser to Student Body President Nic Heinke made him more qualified. "I have the ability to look at things and see where we can make improvements," he said. "I've seen the way things work, and I can see where we can improve."

Smiley said her terms in Congress had familiarized her with the system and allowed her to recognize potential for growth. "Not only am I the outside candidate looking in, but I've been on the inside," she said. "Business as usual on the inside and activism on the outside is possible. It can happen together."

Matthews and Smiley said they were pleased with the outcome of the night and were glad that the differences between the two could be better defined.

"It was a good opportunity to make some distinction between candidates to see where we're both coming from," Matthews said. "It was good for the campaigns and for the elections process in general."

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

"Business as usual on the inside and activism on the outside is possible. It can happen together."

ERICA SMILEY

"It's about making sure every person working in student government is out there to help you. I am committed to serving your needs."

BRAD MATTHEWS

SBP Campaigns Make Last Calls for Support

By **ALLISON FORD**
Staff Writer

As the elections frenzy came down to its final night, student body president candidates Brad Matthews and Erica Smiley scurried to push their campaigns on and grab precious votes before today's runoff.

With only one day left to campaign, both Matthews and Smiley said they would be reaching out to voters, stressing their platforms and emphasizing the need to vote.

Smiley made herself visible to the public in the Pit Monday afternoon, answering questions and helping her campaign workers paint smiley faces on the cheeks of supporters.

She said her appearance was a chance for people who did not have time to attend forums or who

lived off campus to learn about the issues. "It's an opportunity to hear and see our platform and what I stand for."

Margie Wakelin, one of Smiley's campaign managers, said activities such as freestyle rapping would also attract students to the Pit. "We don't want to pester people with fliers and handbills today - today, we want people to feel comfortable talking about the issues," she said.

Matthews said his team would be talking to as many people as possible to get the word out on elections. He planned to speak to sororities and go door to door during the evening. "We're gonna be all over the place. We've got a pretty full plate."

Matthews spent much of the afternoon campaigning at the graduate school as his staffers manned the Pit.

"The last-minute crunch is a last-minute push,"

See **CAMPAIGNING**, Page 2

SBP Campaign Coverage Comes To a Close
See Page 5



GO SPEEDRACER



DTH CHRISTINE NGUYEN

Despite the threat of rain, Ole Holsti (left) joins fellow racewalkers in the first Racewalking Marathon sponsored by the Carolina Godiva Track Club on Saturday. Although he has been running for 20 years, Holsti has only been racewalking competitively for four years.

Carolina, Speak Out!

A weekly DTH online poll

Should the S.C. Legislature get rid of the Confederate flag?



Go to www.unc.edu/dth to cast your vote.

INSIDE Tuesday

A Cultural Education

The theme of this year's Masala Week focuses on promoting cultural diversity through activities such as "American History X" tonight and a multicultural date auction Thursday. See Page 4.

Movin' On Up

The UNC baseball team jumped nine spots in the rankings to No. 4 after sweeping a three-game set from second-ranked UCLA last weekend. Freshman Sean Farrell (right) went 5-for-11 with two homers and nine RBI in the series. See Page 9.



It's Almost Over

The Elections Board will announce results of the student body president race beginning at 9 p.m. in OB Peabody Hall. For up-to-date election results, check out the DTH online at www.unc.edu/dth.

Speak Up, Speak Out

The Daily Tar Heel is now accepting applications for its Resident Council, a board which aims to facilitate dialogue between the DTH and our surrounding communities. The board will meet a few times a semester. For more information, contact Ginny Sciabbarrasi at 962-4086 or at sciabba@email.unc.edu.

Today's Weather

Sunny;
Mid 50s.
Wednesday: Sunny;
Lower 60s.

ASG Aims to Boost USSA Ties

By **EUGENE WHEELER**
Staff Writer

Student leaders from across the UNC system have begun to examine ways of strengthening the UNC Association of Student Governments' relationship with the United States Students Association.

ASG has been a dues-paying member of USSA since 1997.

But the ASG has not benefited much from its membership due to a lack of communication between the two organizations, student leaders say.

ASG President Jeff Nieman said the relationship between the two organizations could be improved.

"Communication between ASG and USSA has been weak the past couple of

years," he said. "I felt it should be more of them coming to us, and they felt it should be more of me coming to them."

Nieman said he planned to begin improving relations with the USSA when he attended its legislative conference in March. He said he would work to strengthen future relations by taking ASG presidential hopefuls with him.

"We're going to go, and it's more of a learning process at this point," he said. "I look forward to reconnecting."

Several ASG members voiced concern at a Feb. 11 meeting over the lack of a formulated procedure through which ASG's five USSA delegates were assigned.

Graduate and Professional Student Federation President Lee Conner said Monday that he planned to work with Nieman to propose an amendment to ASG's constitution that would codify the way in which delegates were picked.

The amendment would mandate that

the president appoint ASG's five voting delegates to USSA, subject to the general body's approval. In recent years, most of ASG's USSA delegates have been UNC-Chapel Hill students.

Conner said the amendment, which he plans on proposing at the next ASG meeting on March 25, would help ensure that candidates from a broader range of UNC-system schools participated in the association.

"We haven't had any ASG representation - all we have had is Chapel Hill representation," he said. "I don't think the general body is going to approve a set of candidates that are all from one school."

"It basically comes down to an accountability issue - that the delegates that vote are accountable to the full ASG and not just one school."

A referendum to make UNC-CH a

See **ASG**, Page 2

ECHHS Principal Says Friday Fight 'Unusual'

By **ROBERT ALBRIGHT**
Staff Writer

As East Chapel Hill High School students and staff dealt with the aftermath of a Friday fight that left one student critically injured, the three teenagers arrested in connection with the assault made their first appearance in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on Monday.

Following the off-campus lunchtime brawl, staff and students went back to school facing discussions of safety and speculation on the fight's motivation.

The fight, which took place at Cedar Falls Park parking lot across the street from the school, left 17-year-old ECHHS junior Rodney Carrier unconscious. He was taken to UNC Hospitals and placed in intensive care.

ECHHS Principal David Thaden said Carrier had been upgraded to good condition as of Monday afternoon.

Over the weekend, police arrested and charged Arthur Partlow, Michael Cooper and Torrey Lassiter each with one felony count of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious injury.

Thaden, who sent a letter to parents Monday explaining the situation, said a fight of this magnitude was rare for his school. "This incident is something that is very out of the ordinary for (ECHHS)," he said. "I don't look at (this fight) as a normal occurrence."

Thaden said Cooper, 16, and Partlow, 16, were ECHHS students but were on suspension at the time of the

See **FIGHT**, Page 2

In politics, a week is a very long time.

Harold Wilson