

3 Former SBP Candidates Endorse Smiley

Several student groups plan to stand by their original endorsements in the race for student body president.

By JOHN MABERRY
Staff Writer

Only two names are left on today's student body president ballot, and endorsements are once again a coveted commodity for Brad Matthews and Erica Smiley.

With the exception of Josh Ray, all former student body president candidates plan to endorse Smiley.

Matt Martin, who finished fourth in the election with 439 votes, is endorsing Smiley but does not plan to participate in her campaign. "After looking over the platforms and ideas, I felt like Erica was who we needed in office," Martin said.

"Although I will be supporting her, I will not be working for her. My campaign has taken so much of my time that I'm almost two months behind academically."

Preston Smith, who finished fifth in the election with 173 votes, gave an emphatic endorsement of Smiley as well.

"To anyone who is voting on Tuesday, please go vote for Smiley," Smith said. "She has a vision. She's not an ingratious politician - she's quality."

Michael Harris, who finished sixth in the student body president race, is offering more than just his endorsement. He plans to aid Smiley directly in her campaigning if she asks him to do so.

"My campaign was actually split. My

personal endorsement and not my campaign (staff's) is Erica Smiley," Harris said. "I don't know what capacity I'll help her in, but if she asks for my assistance and it's something I can fit into my schedule, I would say yes."

Josh Ray, who placed seventh in last Tuesday's election, chose not to endorse either of the candidates in the runoff.

"If there were any student body candidates, I would endorse them, but since they are all politicians I choose to endorse no one," he said.

Many organizations plan to stand by their original endorsements, including the Black Student Movement, which continues to support Smiley.

Blue & White, Sangam - the South Asian awareness organization - and Young Democrats maintain their endorsements of Brad Matthews.

The Carolina Hispanic Association, which originally endorsed candidate Michael Harris, is not planning an endorsement for the runoff.

Smiley expressed appreciation for the endorsements of her former opponents. "I'm thrilled that they share our vision to make student government inclusive. I'm ecstatic," she said.

Matthews said he did not feel that Smiley's newfound support will harm his campaign.

"It won't hurt my campaign at all," he said. "We're in the runoff, which signifies that 32 percent of the people supported my campaign, and we're hoping for better numbers on Tuesday."

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

USSA to Maintain UNC Connections

USSA members intend to keep close contact with UNC students in spite of the school's decision not to join.

By JASON ARTHURS
Staff Writer

Although hopes of UNC obtaining full membership to the United States Student Association this year might have died with last week's referendum vote, national and local supporters still plan to involve UNC in future lobbying efforts.

USSA President Kendra Fox-Davis said that while the referendum did not pass, the student lobbying group would continue to work on UNC's campus and develop relationships with students.

"Of course, we were very disappointed," she said. "When we lose a referendum, it tells us that there is more work to do. We just refocus."

In an uncommon defeat Feb. 15, the USSA referendum was voted down by a count of 1,883 to 1,255. Sandi Chapman, a proponent of USSA, said it usually passed on campus by 70 percent to 80 percent.

Alana Glaser, a UNC sophomore who worked on the campaign for the USSA referendum, said it was uncertain as to whether the referendum would be on the ballot again next year.

The USSA has tackled issues such as increasing financial aid grants, addressing affirmative action and implementing on-campus training programs called GROW.

Fox-Davis said the USSA represented 300 of the most politically active schools in the country. The USSA Board of Directors had included UNC as a school with which it hoped to improve relations this year, she said.

The referendum was allowed on the Feb. 15 ballot only after a petition drive collected about 2,800 signatures.

After Student Congress Speaker Mark Kleinschmidt removed the USSA from the ballot because it did not meet the required two-thirds vote, the petition circulated to put the referendum back.

Chapman, a plaintiff in a suit challenging Kleinschmidt's action, said the USSA had not had representation from Southern states since the Civil Rights Movement.

She credited the referendum's failure to the circumstances which surrounded the vote. "The voters here had a lot more misinterpretation and controversy than really exists," she said. "I'm disappointed that it didn't pass, but it's certainly not a disaster."

Fox-Davis said USSA wanted to keep in close contact with UNC students and have campus representatives attend USSA conferences.

"We didn't receive much negative feedback from the student (USSA representatives) that were at UNC," she said. "The students they talked to agreed very much with the issues we are working on."

Glaser said obstacles faced by the referendum prevented its widespread student approval. "Most students didn't see the direct correlation to how these issues (the USSA supports) affect us all. The USSA is the only way students can have a national voice in Congress."

Glaser said joining the USSA was a complex issue and proponents had their hands tied by time constraints after struggling to get the item on the ballot.

Glaser said, "I was disappointed because it could have been a good step in the right direction."

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USSA supporter Sandi Chapman said controversy and misunderstanding led to the referendum's failure.

Bars Pour Namesake Drinks for SBP Candidates

"Vote for Brad Matthews" and "The Smiley" are the newest additions to two Franklin Street bars' menus.

By JASON OWENS
Assistant City Editor

Bottoms up. Local bars are offering a unique way to support student body president candidates Brad Matthews and Erica Smiley with drinks named after today's runoff finalists.

Matthews said a bartender at The Blue Marlin, located at 201 E. Franklin St., concocted "Vote for Brad Matthews," a mix of coconut rum, cranberry juice and Crown Royal.

"We wanted to have fun and give the campaign a lighter side," Matthews said. Michal Osterweil, a campaign man-

ager for Smiley, said "The Smiley," offered at W.B. Yeats at 306-G W. Franklin St., was not an official campaign strategy, but the idea of a Smiley supporter who wanted to reach out to the bar scene in Chapel Hill.

"We know about it," she said. "A supporter decided it would be something cute."

Osterweil was quick to point out that nondrinkers could also take part in supporting Smiley at W.B. Yeats. "There's a nonalcoholic 'Smiley' as well," she said.

Larry Wetterer, general manager of W.B. Yeats, would not disclose the ingredients of "The Smiley," claiming it was his own recipe, only for use at the bar. "It's the house secret," he said. Normally I would pour the drink at the bar, but ... I'm hiding it."

The drink is a single shot of mixed spirits and has a sweet, creamy taste.

Wetterer confessed that Irish Cream was one of the ingredients, but would

not give any more of the secret away to the public.

Wetterer said the drink did not represent any type of political support for Smiley, but was more for fun.

"(Smiley's friends) asked us to make up a shot for her," he said. "We have no political affiliations to UNC."

He said he had never even seen Smiley at the bar and did not know what she looked like.

Michael Shepard, owner of Goodfellows, located at 149-1/2 E. Franklin St., said the bar had considered creating a drink for the student body president race, but decided against it to avoid getting involved in the election.

"We're not participating in anything political at the University," he said.

Matthews said his campaign came up with the idea to have a special drink and that "The Smiley" was not original.

"I heard they copied the drink," he said. "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery."

Matthews said he would be on Franklin Street tonight, no matter what happened at the polls.

"I will be up town regardless of the outcome," he said.

Smiley could not be reached for comment.

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Top Stories From the State, Nation and World

IN THE NEWS

'Peanuts' Fans Mourn Death of Cartoonist

SANTA ROSA, Calif. - Tennis great Billie Jean King, cartoonist Cathy

Guisewite and other fans of Charles Schulz remembered the "Peanuts" creator Monday as a humble genius who never realized until his dying days how much the world loved him.

The timing of Schulz's death from colon cancer nine days ago, just as his final strip was being published, was no coincidence, said Amy Johnson, one of his five children.

"He was taken from this world to the next at the most sacred of moments for him because he died it," she told the audience of more than 2,000, which filled an arts center in the town where Schulz lived for more than half of his 77 years.

Schulz's widow, Jeanne, said the world's most widely syndicated cartoonist was a humble artist who never realized how beloved his creations were until after he decided in November that

he was too ill to continue the strip.

Puerto Ricans Protest Reopened U.S. Base

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - Summoned by Puerto Rico's top religious leaders, more than 80,000 people staged one of the biggest demonstrations in years here Monday to protest the planned resumption of U.S. Navy training on the island of Vieques.

Carrying banners bearing an image of Jesus with the words and "We Want Peace," along with red, white and blue Puerto Rican flags, the protesters staged a silent march along a one-mile stretch of San Juan's Las Americas Expressway, cordoned off by hundreds of police officers.

Instigated by top religious leaders, including the heads of Puerto Rico's

Catholic and Methodist churches, the "Peace for Vieques" march repudiated an agreement between Gov. Pedro Rossello and President Clinton to resume limited training on Vieques, the Navy's prize Atlantic fleet bombing range. Police Chief Pedro Toledo estimated the crowd at 85,000.

Series of Avalanches Kills 6 Skiers in Alps

BOLZANO, Italy - Avalanches swept down Alpine slopes at the height of the ski season Monday, killing three skiers in Italy and three in Switzerland.

In Italy, back-to-back avalanches in the northern Venosta Valley trapped a group of seven Germans and one Italian skiing on an unauthorized route, alpine rescue official Luigi Weger said.

Searchers recovered the bodies of

two women and one man and accounted for the remaining five skiers, Weger said. At least one was hospitalized with severe hypothermia. The valley is about 90 miles from the northern Italian city of Bolzano.

In Switzerland, police blamed an avalanche near the popular Davos ski resort on a German man and his son who skied into an area of deep snow despite avalanche warnings.

The two set off a snowslide that covered the father and two Swiss men skiing farther down the mountain on a prepared course, police said.

Game Show Contestant Denies Domestic Abuse

ENCINITAS, Calif. - The groom from "Who Wants to Marry a Multimillionaire?" returned to his house

alone after his Caribbean honeymoon and angrily denied Monday that he had abused an ex-girlfriend.

Fox TV canceled a rebroadcast of the show after learning that a restraining order was issued in 1991 against Rick Rockwell because an ex-girlfriend accused him of hitting and threatening to kill her.

"At no time have I ever struck any of my girlfriends, ever, for any reason," Rockwell, 42, told KGTV outside his home in Encinitas, a coastal city 25 miles north of San Diego.

"I don't condone it under any circumstances. It goes against my core beliefs and I was not raised that way," he said. "You know, relationships have ups and downs, but getting physical for me is not an option."

Associated Press

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