

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Endorsement Ignored Official's Request

By **KIMBERLY GRABNER**  
AND **LUCAS FENSKE**  
Staff Writers

"It's a thrill to help you become the next president."

With those words, Gov. Jim Hunt officially endorsed Democratic front-runner Al Gore for the U.S. presidency at a Raleigh school last week, apparently ignoring a request by school officials.

The Feb. 16 endorsement by Hunt and Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., at Broughton High School violated the wishes of Wake County School Superintendent Jim Surratt.

Stella Shelton, Wake County Schools spokeswoman, said Surratt spoke with Hunt

over the phone before Gore's visit. Both Hunt and Edwards asked to attend the event.

Surratt agreed, but requested that they both refrain from endorsing Gore's presidential campaign, Shelton said.

"The scandal is that Hunt and Edwards endorsed Gore while he was on our campus," she said. "They've been asked from the get-go not to endorse on campus."

She said she did not know if Surratt contacted Edwards with a similar request.

Gore's appearance and the controversy surrounding his endorsers caused uneasiness among local officials.

Tad Boggs, spokesman for Hunt, said Surratt did have a conversation with Hunt and Gore's campaign officials, but that he

was unaware of what they discussed.

Mike Briggs, press secretary for Edwards, also said he was unaware of Surratt's request.

"I never heard that, and the senator never heard that," he said.

Briggs said Hunt and Edwards discussed possibly endorsing Gore prior to the visit but attended the forum to talk about education.

After complaints from Broughton students that their concerns were overlooked because Gore only answered four questions, Hunt and Edwards returned to the school Monday to further discuss education. "An interest in continuing the education forum from (Gore's visit) prompted their return," Boggs said.

But state Republican Party officials perceived a different motivation for their return.

N.C. Republican Party Political Director Dan Gurley said guilt prompted their visit.

"They took a roundtable on education and turned it into a political event," he said. "It was a manipulation (of the students)."

Boggs said time restraints imposed by Gore's campaign forced the early endorsement. "We had to do it within the timelines," he said. "That's just the way it worked."

But Boggs admitted the educational forum was a campaign stop paid for by Gore's campaign committee. "(Gore) is a full-time candidate," he said. "Everything he does now is paid for by his campaign."

Bill Cobey, N.C. Republican Party chair-

See WAKE, Page 11



Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., and Gov. Jim Hunt both endorsed Al Gore at Broughton High School last week.

DTH/ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES PHARR

## STIRRING THE MELTING POT

For the next nine weeks, The Daily Tar Heel will examine the most pressing issues facing our generation. The 21st century torch will be passed to us, and these are the forces that will keep it burning.

**By RUDY KLEUSTEUBER**  
Staff Writer

For college students today, diversity is an intrinsic part of their reality, from the end of apartheid in South Africa to Ellen coming out of the closet.

Most students have spent the majority of their adolescence during a time when "multiculturalism" has become a movement as well as a buzz word.

Pluralism and diversity have been a part of local life as well. In the 1990s, Chapel Hill elected its first female mayor, and Carrboro elected North Carolina's first openly gay mayor. Two years ago, UNC elected its first black female student body president, and The Daily Tar Heel was run by its first black editor.

Assistant to the Chancellor and Director for the UNC Office of Minority Affairs

Archie Ervin said diversity — both nationwide and next door — changed students' perceptions of each other.

"Students today are much more aware of the differences (between them) in a positive sense," Ervin said. "That is due in large measure to the somewhat ubiquitous efforts of getting more people to be aware of the differences ... that contribute to our collective development as a society."

But some say the nation's younger generation has an even deeper relationship with diversity. Chuck Stone, the Walter Spearman Professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, said the key was the college generation's open attitude.

"I think the question really is how your generation has affected diversity," Stone said. "I think your generation has taken the lead in it. Nobody's prodding your generation to do this. Your generation has practiced diversity without any body ordering it or facilitating it."

**Turmoil and Tension**

By the year 2050, some census projections estimate that populations of both Asians and Pacific Islanders and people of Hispanic origin will more than double in the U.S., while non-Hispanic white populations will shrink by more than one fourth.

But the nation's changing racial makeup and shift toward diversity has not come without a backlash. Conflict across ethnic, religious and economic lines has also marked the experiences of college students.

In 1992, the world watched riots raging in Los Angeles after a jury chose not to convict four white policemen of beating Rodney King. Three years later, the O.J. Simpson verdict again highlighted the country's racial polarization.

Richard Cramer, a sociology professor who has done research in race and ethnic relations, said that even today, North Carolina had its share of racial tensions. Cramer pointed out antagonism surrounding the increasing population of Hispanic residents in the state, which manifested themselves in the Saturday visit of former Klansman David Duke to Siler City, where he spoke out against immigration.

"Not very many people are willing to show that they have any support for that kind of idea," Cramer said.

The tensions of diversity have also been evident in the increasing prominence of hate crimes.

"You would think that with all this talk of diversity ... you would definitely not have a resurgence of hate crimes," said Shay Stevens, president of UNC's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"It definitely speaks to us, telling us that we have a long way to go."

See DIVERSITY, Page 11

## Students Cite Errors In Election

Students from two former campaigns compiled a list of nine possible code violations during elections.

By **KATIE ABEL**  
University Editor

Several former campaign members have called for a fairer election process, alleging that a series of violations by the Elections Board jeopardized the legitimacy of student votes.

But campaigners said Tuesday that although they had cited several serious violations in conflict with the Student Code, they would not seek court action to invalidate elections results.

Students from the campaigns of former student body president candidate Erica Smiley and former Carolina Athletic Association co-president candidates Adam Walters and Michael Songer introduced more than nine violations committed by the Elections

See ELECTIONS BOARD, Page 11

## THE ROAD AHEAD



In 1955, Alabama seamstress Rosa Parks sparked a U.S. civil rights movement. See story Page 10.

### How the Movement Has Evolved

By **ELIZABETH BREYER**  
Staff Writer

The presence of one gentle woman sent ripples through the future since the fateful day when she refused to tender her seat on an Alabama bus, sparking a civil rights movement which continues to be reshaped even today.

Despite high-profile racial incidents such as the Los Angeles riots, the O.J. Simpson verdict and several highly publicized hate-crime cases, officials say racial tension continues to become less political and more focused upon economic disparities.

Many credit Rosa Parks as the catalyst to this new stage of race relations, one marked by a consciousness of civil rights and a struggle for equality even as the focus has moved into an entirely new realm of concern.

"(The movement) hasn't lost steam exactly, but people have changed, and the focus is a little different," said Judith Black, marketing manager at the National Civil Rights Museum

in Memphis, Tenn. "The same ideals are still in place — just because time has passed doesn't mean we stop wanting fair treatment."

History Professor J. Wayne Flynt of Auburn University in Alabama said statistics regarding voter turnout and legislative representation suggested that blacks had made enormous strides in the political arena.

Alabama, traditionally considered a conservative southern state, now has a 26 percent black population and a 25 percent black legislature, he said.

A number of prominent black leaders such as Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, D-Ill. and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas have also brought blacks to the forefront in America.

Emory Folmar, the former mayor of Montgomery, Ala., credited Parks with giving ordinary people the courage to take a political stance and to become involved. "(Rosa Parks) was a pioneer. She had incredible quiet

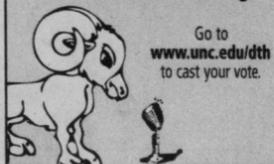
See ROSA PARKS, Page 10



A five-part series examining turning points in black history and their effects on society today.

### 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](http://www.unc.edu/dth) to cast your vote.

### INSIDE Wednesday

#### UNC Jazzes It Up

The UNC Jazz Festival is back in full swing this year. Performances started Wednesday and will live up Hill Hall Auditorium again tonight with UNC bands and guest artists. See Page 11.

#### Bridging the Gap

The DTH is now accepting applications for its Resident Council, a board which aims to facilitate dialogue between the paper and our community. The board will meet a few times a semester. For information, contact Ginny Sciabarrasi at 962-4086.

#### Today's Weather

Sunny;  
High 60s.  
Friday/Sunny;  
Low 70s.

*Gossip is news running ahead of itself in a red satin dress.*

Liz Smith