

Bradley, McCain Set to Leave Race

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bill Bradley readied an endorsement of old foe Al Gore on Wednesday as he scripted his exit from the Democratic presidential campaign.

John McCain canceled further campaign events amid signs his presidential challenge was near an end.

Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush, nominees-in-waiting, reached out to their defeated rivals and jabbed at one another as they pivoted toward the general election.

Bush labeled the vice president "an agent of Washington," and Gore returned the insult, saying Bush was too cozy with the "extreme right" as personified by the National Rifle

Association and religious broadcaster Pat Robertson.

McCain huddled with senior strategists and major financial backers at his mountain cabin near Sedona, Ariz., to assess the situation, and decided to halt his candidacy for now, a senior aide said Monday night. Campaign events in Colorado and Illinois were canceled.

McCain scheduled a news conference at noon Thursday. It was unclear whether the Arizona senator would end his campaign entirely or simply suspend his candidacy to preserve his options.

Most of McCain's senior aides have been urging him to withdraw, saying Bush has built an almost impossible lead in the delegate count.

Aides said there was no campaign schedule after Thursday's announcement, except for an off-the-record barbecue with journalists at McCain's rustic cabin near Sedona. Reporters were told they would be dispatched to Phoenix at the end of the day — without McCain.



WICKER

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ogy major, said he thought Wicker had many good ideas, but he expressed concern over the high costs of his proposals.

"He sounded pretty good," Campbell said. "I just don't see how we're going to be able to afford some of the things he

was talking about."

Wicker supporters said they were satisfied with his performance.

"He did a good job," said Drew Nelson, a UNC student and campaign organizer. "This event was good for both the students and the community."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

WOMEN

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Among the petition-signers were several students, including Alison Zink, a freshman from Huntersville.

"Like a lot of people, I wasn't aware that today was International Women's Day, but I think it's great that (the league) has called attention to it," she said. "I'm also really interested in South and Central America, and we've actually studied problems (with human rights) in my Spanish class."

Tony Davis, a sophomore from Weaverville, said he learned about the special day of recognition from the Internet. "I found out online (Tuesday) that today was International Women's Day," he said. "The Grannies are great, and I signed the petition because I think

it is important to fight violence everywhere in the world."

In addition to supporting the women of Chiapas, the league is concerned with other important issues, said Ruth Zalph, a lifetime member and vigil participant.

"We also fight against domestic violence, women's safety in prison, the de-alerting of nuclear weapons and many other problems," she said. "Every month (the league) lobbies for different causes that need public attention."

The women's league has several male members, said Chapel Hill resident Yonni Chapman, who joined last month. "There are a good number of men involved," he said. "I joined (the league) because the issues they deal with are important to me."

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

RANKINGS

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said. "Maybe the (school) district should set aside even more money to fund AP tests, but right now there are too many competing needs."

Some school districts in the country require students to take AP tests, but the area schools do not.

Wilkerson said a small number of students chose not to take the AP test

because of its cost, but she said the vast majority of students were interested in taking the test.

School board member Elizabeth Carter said the success of ECHHS and CHHS exhibited education's role in the area. "(This report) shows how we value education," she said. "From (kindergarten) through 12, there is a commitment all the way through."

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

Neon Signs, More Officers Part of Safety Push

By JESSICA JOYE
Staff Writer

Campus safety officials are determined to increase pedestrian safety by adding more police officers and permanent pedestrian walking signs across campus.

Pedestrian Safety Committee members reached these decisions and discussed other traffic flow issues at their monthly meeting Wednesday.

The committee was formed by University Police Chief Derek Poarch at the request of interim Chancellor Bill McCoy after the Nov. 4 hit-and-run death of Fusayoshi Matsukawa, a UNC dental fellow.

The State Department of Transportation joined forces with UNC

officials during the last month to step up campus pedestrian safety measures.

Poarch said he planned to add a third off-duty officer by March 15 in hopes of increasing pedestrian safety.

One of the main goals of the committee was to increase the number of traffic citations to make drivers more cautious, Poarch said. Since Jan. 15, University Police have issued 325 citations.

"We have issued 165 for speeding, 160 for failure to stop and an additional 26 warnings for parking on sidewalks," he said.

Poarch said the third officer would allow for one officer to monitor each problem, which should increase citations, he said. The committee also addressed plans for replacing the temporary pedestrian signs with permanent

neon yellow and green signs.

Poarch said he hoped the neon signs would increase drivers' visibility on the road. He said he had already begun to replace the temporary signs, but the installation process would take a considerable amount of time.

"This has to be done sooner rather than later. We must have something permanent," he said.

One of the committee's biggest concerns was the need for increased awareness of the pedestrian safety problem.

Many committee members said they believed that a large percentage of the public was unaware of basic pedestrian laws.

Vehicles are required to yield for pedestrians at intersections and at crosswalks. However, members said most dri-

vers did not know or abide by this law.

Graduate students Nathan Macek and Andrew Gold submitted a report to the committee on UNC graduate students' pedestrian and bicycle safety priorities.

Macek and Gold conducted an e-mail survey through graduate student listservs. Main areas of concern for graduate students included South Columbia Street, Manning Drive and South Road.

Gold said he hoped this report would be a step in increasing awareness.

"Education is key. We must know enough to take responsibility for our own actions or we will never reach our long-term goals."

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

N.C. Asks Court to Delay Redistricting

By KIMBERLY GRABNER
Staff Writer

N.C. Attorney General Mike Easley will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to stay a ruling that could delay the state's congressional primary.

Allegations of gerrymandering resulted Tuesday in a three-judge panel ruling the 12th N.C. congressional district unconstitutional for the third time.

N.C. officials will ask the court to delay implementing the decision until after the May 2 primary.

The stay can only be granted if evidence proves it will cause irreparable harm to N.C. voters.

If the court refuses, the N.C. General Assembly could be forced to call a special session to redraw the district.

The district snakes along Interstate 40, covering 90 miles from Charlotte to Greensboro, creating a voting bloc that consists of a large percentage of black voters.

The panel ruled 2-1 that race was an unconstitutionally predominant factor in deciding the district's boundaries.

The districting plan in question was drawn in 1997, but lawmakers redrew the districts again for 1998 after a three-judge panel first ruled the plan was improper. When that decision was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court and a new trial ordered, the districts reverted back to the 1997 plan.

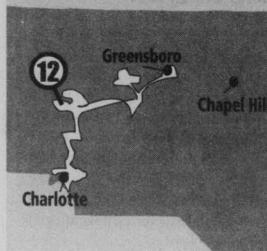
The recent panel decision ruled that the 1st District, which is also represented by a black congresswoman, was constitutional but not the 12th.

Republican officials said the ruling was expected due to the nature of the district, while Rep. Mel Watt, D-N.C., a black congressman representing the 12th District, said the decision created an inconvenience.

"I'm disappointed that it appears that the regular process will need to be revised," Watt said. "I certainly wish they would get to some resolution."

Districting Dilemma

An N.C. panel has ruled that congressional District 12 was drawn on the basis of race.



ters, said every time the state Attorney General's Office represented the state concerning district lines, it lost.

"I think it's rather embarrassing to the state of North Carolina," he said.

"You can't draw weird-shaped districts for the sole purpose of electing a particular person of a (certain) race."

N.C. Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Dare, said in a statement that he was relieved the 1st District was ruled constitutional but was disappointed with the decision regarding the 12th District.

Gurley said the redistricting problems would affect voters most of all.

"Probably the biggest thing is that it causes confusion in the minds of voters because they don't know what district they're in and who represents them."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

CENSORSHIP

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White. She said students at the paper tried to be professional and not offend anyone.

The Maroon and White provides some of its own revenue but gets 70 percent or more of its funding from student activities fees, Graham said.

Other HBCU editors said censorship had not been a problem.

At Howard University in Washington, D.C., more than 50 percent of the newspaper's budget was generated from independent ad sales, said Managing Editor Jason Smith. Morgan State University in Baltimore and N.C. Central University also generated 50 percent or more of their revenues independently, their editors in chief said.

TSU's Kemp said his newspaper was running a story discussing students' opinions of Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush before his visit to the school.

Because of the impending visit, Kemp said, "I was told that I needed to take (a negative comment) out."

But Eva Pickens, director of communications at TSU and The Herald's adviser from 1998-1999, said the stu-

dents decided what the content should be.

"Final content is the students' decision," Pickens said. "All we do is edit for grammatical errors and sometimes (give) story ideas."

Current Herald adviser Darcia Williams, who is also a research associate at TSU, said she discussed several recurring problems with students at the paper, including clarifying quotes and writing accurate headlines.

Pickens said students often reacted negatively to editorial criticism.

Kemp said advisers also edited the paper's "poetry corner," correcting grammar in poems submitted by students.

But for Kemp, an adviser editing to avoid disillusioning benefactors is not necessarily the problem.

Kemp criticized advisers' editing of content, which he attributed to concerns for the university's public image but said he felt the newspaper played "second fiddle" when it came to concern for the role of the newspaper itself.

"It's a student paper," Kemp said. "The student wants to voice his opinions the way he sees fit."

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Firemen, Deputy Shot By Fellow Firefighter

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Firefighters responding to a house fire Wednesday were ambushed by an off-duty Memphis firefighter who stepped out of the garage and began shooting, authorities said. Two firefighters and a sheriff's deputy were killed, and a woman was found dead in the garage.

The suspected gunman, Fred Williams, was wounded and was undergoing surgery, Police Director Walter E. Crews said. A bystander also was wounded, but not seriously.

Williams had just returned to work as a firefighter this week after an extended leave on disability, Crews said. The suspect did not work at the same station as the men who were killed, but J.C. Fleming, deputy director of the Fire Department, said they probably knew each other from working the same shift.

"We don't expect this. We're here to

fight fires," Fire Chief H.J. Pickett said. "You want to say it's part of the job, but it's not."

Williams did not live in the house, and his relationship to the woman found dead in the garage was unclear, Crews said. Authorities also were uncertain how the woman was killed and whether the fire was set to cover up her death.

Firefighters were called to the home just before 1 p.m. When they arrived, witnesses said, a man came out of the garage firing a shotgun and shouting, "Get away! Get away!"

Firefighters Lt. Javier Lerma and Pvt. William Blakemore were killed. Sheriff's Deputy Rupert Peete was shot in his patrol car as he responded to the report of the shooting, authorities said. His car crashed through a fence and ended up next to the house.

Memphis police officers then arrived and tried to get the gunman to put down his weapon.

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