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81st Congress Reflects, Closes Year

Student Congress members debated final matters of legislation at the session's last meeting Tuesday.

By GEOFF WESSEL
Staff Writer

A festive atmosphere prevailed as students began the transition to next year at the final meeting of the 81st Student Congress on Tuesday.

Although it marked the end of the

year's work, the meeting saw energetic discussion of the items on the agenda.

"I honestly believe this was the most effective Congress I've served with," said Speaker Mark Kleinschmidt. "(The representatives) deserve the respect of every member of this University community."

The reports by Kleinschmidt, Congress committee heads and student body officers started the meeting off with a hint of sentiment as representatives looked back on what Kleinschmidt called an effective and productive year.

Student Body President Nic Heinke

said he also felt good about the 1999-2000 Student Congress.

"I'm proud to say that I worked with the Congress this year," he said. "It makes me proud to know that we haven't forgotten this is about serving the student body."

But in addition to remembering the past year, Congress members were also looking forward to the next.

Several new resolutions were brought before the body in a final spurt of legislative action.

Kleinschmidt, Heinke and Graduate and Professional Student Federation

President Lee Conner all spoke about a resolution on the night's agenda that would begin a process of making UNC's Honor Court more autonomous.

The resolution, which called for a referendum to create a student fee to fund the Honor Court, would end Congress' control of the court's funding. But the debate was not resolved at the meeting after Kleinschmidt ruled that Student Code mandated resolutions lose effect when the next Congress convenes.

"I think we should table it," said Rep. Bharath Parthasarathy, Dist. 16, the resolution's sponsor. "I'm still going to be

here in three weeks, and we'll deal with it then but to keep things moving we should just table it."

Definitive choices were made on some of the meeting's other issues.

Despite objections that it would create three stoplights in a row, a request for one to be installed at the intersection of Stadium Drive and South Road passed and will be sent to the state's Department of Transportation.

Another forward-looking action was the approval of all three of Student Body

See CONGRESS, Page 6

Members Label Year As 'Vanilla'

Congress members say the congeniality of this year's body replaced the bickering that plagued past groups.

By KAREY WUTKOWSKI
Staff Writer

The 81st Student Congress came to a close Tuesday evening, leaving behind what members described as a markedly unique year of mannered debate and strong opinions.

Members said this year's Congress was defined by increased efficiency and a lack of in-house contention.

"We had a low-key Congress this year," said Rep. David Ruddell, Dist. 6. "It was a vanilla-ice-cream Congress."

This year's members indeed got a taste of everything - from legal wrangling over the Student Code to questions concerning the necessary scope of their work.

Congress Speaker Mark Kleinschmidt said the body's members were hard-working this year but did not receive attention due to the unglamorous nature of their work, such as the redrawing of congressional district lines.

He said this year's Congress differed from previous sessions in both the attitude of the members and the nature and breadth of their work.

Issues that arose last year, including ethics charges against member Erica Smiley and a push by then-Speaker Brad Morrison to bolster the body's role in approving presidential appointments, created friction between the branches and mired the group in in-house bickering.

Despite the seemingly more congenial nature of this year's members, Congress was no stranger to controversy.

See RETROSPECTIVE, Page 6

Cops Brace For Rowdy Revelers

Police say the large crowds on Franklin Street could spell disaster if someone was to get hurt celebrating.

By SABINE HIRSCHAUER
Staff Writer

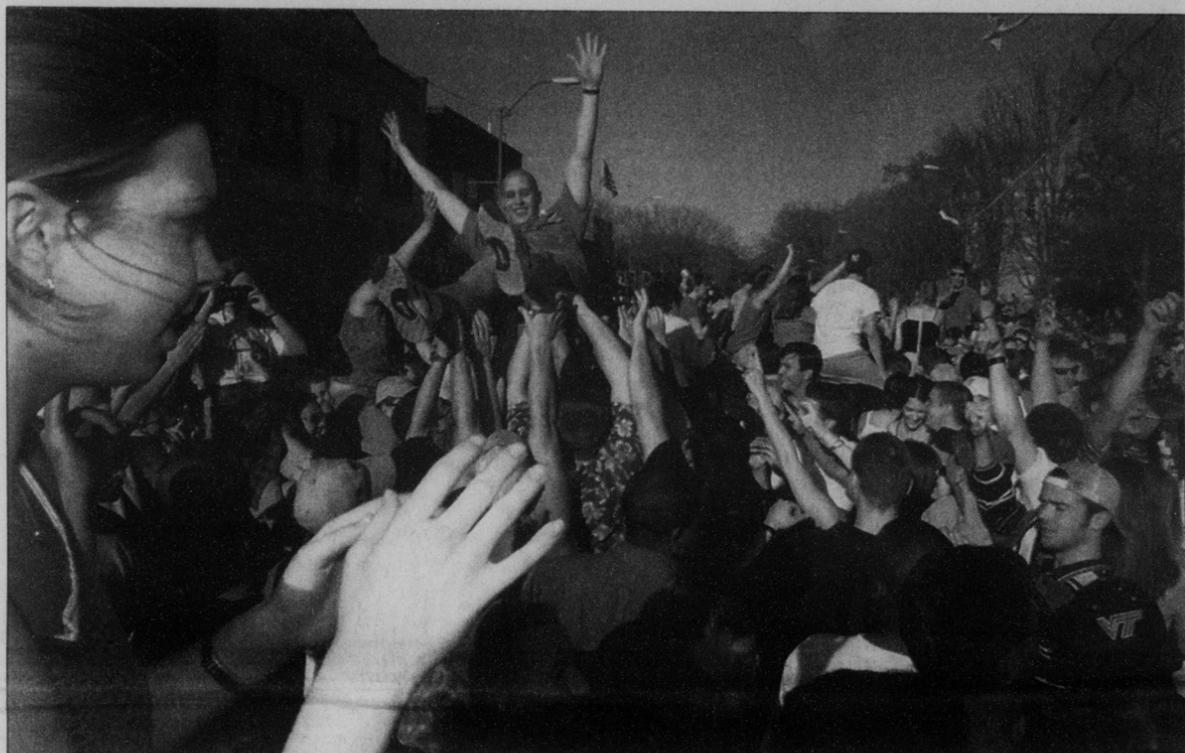
Tar Heel fans are anxiously preparing for Saturday's men's basketball game in Indianapolis, planning parties and loading up on beer and snacks.

Anticipating a raucous and potentially dangerous Franklin Street celebration, local emergency officials are making extra preparations of their own.

Reflecting on last weekend's events, which included bonfires and toilet-paper covered trees, town officials and the local police department raised concerns about safety issues that come with a rowdy Franklin Street crowd.

"We want the students to celebrate and have a good time," said Maj. Gregg

See POLICE, Page 6



A crowd surfer rides a momentum of hysteria on Franklin Street on Sunday after the Tar Heels advanced to the Final Four. But concerned with public safety and in anticipation of more downtown reveling, Chapel Hill police are encouraging fans to stay on the ground.

DTH/JEFF POULAND

Dedication to Feature 1st Amendment Celebration

By JAMILA VERNON
Staff Writer

Students, faculty and alumni attending the dedication of Carroll Hall this weekend will be treated to a variety of speakers, including a Pulitzer Prize winner and a television network news

anchor.

The dedication of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication will coincide with First Amendment Days, a two-day event sponsored by the Freedom Forum and First Amendment Center.

"That's what we're built on," said Richard Cole, journalism school dean.

"We have the First Amendment enshrined on the wall in 4-inch metal letters."

Planning for the dedication began in July 1999 when the building was completed and the school was moved from Howell Hall.

The First Amendment Days festival will be held Thursday and Friday starting

at 11 a.m. both days and will feature speakers, a concert, a documentary film and a banned-books exhibit.

"This is the first time we've operated this type of program," said Gene Policinski, media relations director for the First Amendment Center. "We hope it will be a model for other universities."

Policinski said the building's dedication was a good time to recognize the Constitution's free speech provision.

"I think it's an honor that the school is one of the sites to host the celebration of the First Amendment," said journal-

See AMENDMENT, Page 6

Student Web Voting Slated for 2001

By KATY NELSON
Staff Writer

With hopes of increasing voter participation, a University service plans to have a secure online voting system in place for the February 2001 student elections.

N.C. State, Duke Learn Online Voting Lessons
See Page 4

After Student Body President Nic Heinke emphasized online voting in his platform, talks between Heinke's Information Technology Committee and Administrative Information Services led to plans for the system's implementation.

AIS would allow students to cast their electronic ballots from the convenience of their homes by accessing Student Central, the secure Web site used to register for classes and view grade reports, said Dan O'Neal, associate director for Student Information with AIS.

AIS designs, develops and implements accounting and financial business systems. They also design, develop and operate computer-based administrative systems for the University.

Matt Robinson, co-chairman of the Information Technology Committee, has worked with AIS to set up the online election through Student Central.

"We're looking for an amazing

change in voter turnout," Robinson said. "We're hoping to make student government a truer representation of the entire student body."

Web-based voting was first made available in the 1996 student elections exclusively in computer labs but was not used in recent years due to problems in coordinating online and traditional voting.

Robinson said that since 1996, ideas for more universally accessible student voting had been considered, but it was not until this year that AIS got involved.

Robinson said Internet vendor www.votehere.net was first considered to run the 2000 elections but was rejected due to its \$10,000-per-election price tag, coupled with questions about security issues.

O'Neal said such concerns should not be a problem in the new program because Student Central encrypted data, meaning information could only be decoded by providing a student's Personal Identification Number and



Student Body President Nic Heinke worked with his Cabinet to start online voting.

Personal Access Code.

Initially, AIS considered designing a Web-based program for this year's election but decided to wait until 2001.

"We just want to make sure that whatever we put out is perfect, and that's why we were cautious," Robinson said.

Although computer problems delayed election results this year, O'Neal said he was confident the election traffic would not crash the planned computer program.

"The demand on the computer will be light compared to Web registration," said O'Neal, who noted that backup servers would be running just in case.

Web registration for University housing caused initial problems in March 1998, when the large number of students using the system led to a system crash.

But O'Neal said considerable test runs of the program would be made by AIS before February 2001.

Journalism Professor Deb Aikat, who teaches a course about online information access, said a Web-based election would be very simple, as long as voter identity problems were cleared up by requiring students to use both their PID and PAC.

"It's a no-brainer," Aikat said of online voting. "It will save time and we're trying to be more wired, so why not?"

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SILENT MESSAGE



DTH/MEREDITH LEE

Junior Alex Mehrfar studies the 14 photographs and interviews with sexual abuse victims in the Union Gallery. The exhibit entitled "Breaking the Silence" was set up in recognition of Women's Week.

INSIDE Wednesday

Hear Them Roar

The Rev. Marcia Dyson, wife of former University Professor Michael Dyson, called for women to embrace their identity during Tuesday's Women's Week keynote speech. See Page 5.

Footing the Bill

The Town of Carrboro has been using money from federal block grants to award more than 15 loans to local businesses in an effort to encourage downtown growth. See Page 7.

Inhaling Insulin

Fifty hospitals across the nation, including one in Greenville, will soon begin testing a new insulin inhaler for diabetes patients. Sufferers hail the product as more convenient and less painful than injections. See Page 9.

Surprising Super-Sub

UNC forward Julius Peppers was sacking QBs during the fall. People scoffed when Peppers said he wanted to try out for basketball but he has become a major contributor for the Tar Heels. See Page 11.



Today's Weather

Sunny;
High 60s.
Thursday: Rain;
High 50s.

One's first book, kiss, home run is always the best.

Clifton Fadiman