

V O T E T O D A Y

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N.C. Residents Head to Voting Booths Today

By ALICIA GADDY
Staff Writer

With North Carolina's highest office up for grabs this fall, political science experts and election officials are urging voters to come out and support their candidates in today's primaries.

Catherine Thomas, Orange County Board of Elections spokeswoman, asked students and community members to

use their political power by voting.

"This is a way they can voice their opinions on who they would like to represent them," she said.

Thomas said all polling sites would be open from 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. The elections results will become available at 7:30 p.m., after the ballot boxes close.

A complete list of Orange County voting sites, as well as primary election results, is published on the Orange

County Board of Elections Web site, www.co.orange.nc.us/elect.

Thomas said one polling site would be set up on campus at Fetzer Gym, making voting easy for in-state students.

She said out-of-state students could vote by absentee ballot if they registered last week as an absentee voter with their local board of elections.

UNC political science Professor Thad Beyle said primaries were important

because they narrowed down candidate pools.

"The primaries are critical in some races because the party chooses who the candidate will be," he said.

Beyle said the most important votes in today's primaries would determine party candidates for North Carolina's governor and lieutenant governor.

"Once you determine (who wins the primaries), you're basically determining

who the next office holder could be," he said.

This year's governor's race will determine who will succeed Gov. Jim Hunt, a political staple in the state since 1972 when he became lieutenant governor. He has had four terms as governor and ran for Senate against Jesse Helms in 1984.

Current Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker and

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Congress Tension Heightens

An e-mail message sent by former student body presidential candidate Erica Smiley urged a "no" vote.

By BETH O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

A weeklong debate will culminate in a Congressional showdown tonight when members decide the fate of Student Body President Brad Mathews' controversial Elections Board appointment.

Junior Marissa Downs came under intensified scrutiny Monday after former student body presidential candidate Erica Smiley publicly opposed Downs' selection to the board.

Congress members exchanged tense e-mail messages regarding the nature of Smiley's message and the controversy surrounding Downs' appointment due to her romantic relationship with Mathews and the mistakes of this year's Elections Board.

The weeklong dispute has escalated into an intergovernmental rift that could fester into a strained relationship between the legislative and executive branches in the early days of Mathews' administration.

Smiley, former chairwoman of the Rules and Judiciary Committee, e-mailed the Congress listserv Sunday night urging members to uphold last week's committee ruling that would prevent junior Marissa Downs from becoming chairwoman.

Downs served as the board's vice chairwoman this year. "The reason for my sending it out was not to bash Marissa," Smiley said. "The position should be made much more accessible.

"Some of the best people for the job could come from outside Congress."

Smiley vowed that she would solicit students for the post by campaigning in the Pit and on the Internet and by going door-to-door.

The Rules and Judiciary Committee voted last Tuesday against Downs' appointment after she disclosed her involvement with Mathews.

A two-thirds majority is required to remove Downs from the 'unfavorable' appointees list. Mark Townsend, District 12, said Smiley's stand would be best for the Elections Board in the long run. "I personally don't care if (Downs) is involved with (Mathews)," he said. "It looks shady, but what matters is that the Elections Board functioned horribly last year, and that's another strike against her."

Downs lobbied for support by individually e-mailing Congress members a response to Smiley's message. She

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Crossing the Finish Line

By LEIGH DAVIS
Features Editor

Thousands of UNC seniors donning Carolina-blue will flood into Kenan Stadium on Graduation Day, perhaps marking the last time they follow a defined course.

With one simple turning of a mortarboard's tassel, the seniors will become adults with real-world responsibilities not far ahead.

And these new graduates will ultimately go in different directions to shape their lives.

Soon-to-be UNC graduates Zubin Eapen, Leslie Meadows and Bryan Wagner are no different.

Eapen plans to work in health care policy for a year in Washington, D.C., before attending medical school. Meadows will head up the mountain to attend graduate school at Appalachian State University in Boone. And Wagner will move to New York City to begin a career in investment banking.

And perched in the stands will sit Heather Biggs, who like some seniors can't get enough of UNC, will stick around another year to finish a nursing degree.

While they might end up in different places around the United States, the UNC experience will serve as a tie that will bind them together.

Eapen, a senior from Concord, said the people he had met at UNC made college an exciting experience.

He said the passing years had allowed him to make friends he will keep after graduation.

"This is a big University, but it's never had a feeling of being overwhelming," said Eapen, a senior from Concord. "People are open to others. It's really a friendly atmosphere."

Eapen is not sure of where he'll work next year, but he is waiting to hear from health care policy think-tanks. He'll spend the summer in Chapel Hill studying for his medical school entrance exam, which he'll take in August.

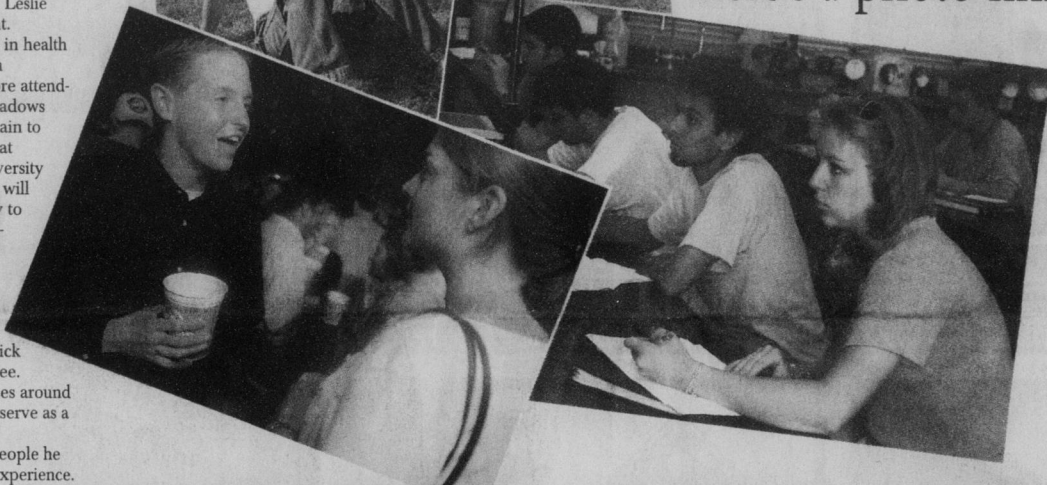
Meadows, on the other hand, will spend her summer preparing for a new university. Working toward a master's degree in geography at ASU, the senior from Hiddenite said she was looking forward to the school change.

Meadows said she was happy with her time at UNC. "I never pictured myself anywhere else," she said. "I always wanted to go here. But sometimes I wonder if I used the University to its fullest because it offers so much. I don't know if I've done that."

She said she had been so busy with the end-of-semester work load that the reality of Graduation Day hadn't set in. "I hope to get

See SENIORS, Page 4

With graduation just days away, seniors are kicking back and trying to relish their time left at UNC. Here's a photo finish.



Seeing Light at the End of the Tunnel

Since August, the futures of these seniors have been taking shape, and their plans for after their senior year have continued to evolve. Take a look and see how their plans have changed over the year and how their goals have been met since the beginning of fall semester.



Heather Biggs

In August: Biggs said she would stay an extra year to finish at UNC School of Nursing.

In November: Biggs immersed herself in the nursing school curriculum.

In March: Fighting a case of senioritis, Biggs began planning for another year at UNC.



Zubin Eapen

In August: Eapen had the choice of either going to medical school or taking a year off.

In November: Eapen decided to wait a year before attending medical school.

In March: He sent resumé to health policy think-tanks in Washington.



Leslie Meadows

In August: Meadows wanted to find a job after graduation but wasn't sure how to do so.

In November: Graduate school became an option, but Meadows hadn't made definite plans.

In March: Meadows applied to graduate school but was still looking at other options.



Bryan Wagner

In August: Wagner wanted to find a banking job for next year.

In November: Wagner interviewed frequently, and his goal was to find a job by Christmas.

In March: After taking a job in New York City, Wagner was taking a relaxed approach to his last semester.

(Clockwise from top) Seniors Leslie Meadows and Heather Biggs enjoy their last days together under the Carolina-blue sky; senior Zubin Eapen (center) takes notes during his cell biology recitation during the last week of classes before graduation; with his blue cup in hand, Bryan Wagner chats with Emily Waldon during the Senior Party at He's Not Here on Thursday. Both Wagner and Waldon will begin working in New York City after graduation.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE NGUYEN, KATHERINE EAKER, GREG WOLF

Marchers' Missile Hits Franklin

By AMY DOBSON
Staff Writer

Nearly 100 adamant protesters marched and chanted in front of a 50-foot inflatable ballistic missile by the Franklin Street post office as part of a worldwide May Day event.

Chanting activists, equipped with flags, banners, drums and paper-mâché puppets marched or cycled down Franklin Street and through campus Monday while protesting for human rights. The activists protested issues ranging from sweatshop labor to overseas

trade restrictions.

"When the USA is killing kids in Iraq," said a protester, "it's time to rise up, it's time to fight back," the crowd replied.

Activists hit the streets in commemoration of May Day, an 1886 protest for workers' rights in Chicago that paved the way for a shorter, eight-hour work day.

Monday's parade began at Internationalist Books, located at 405 W. Franklin St., and ended at the Community Church of Chapel Hill, at 106 Purefoy Road, with a brief stop to rally at the post office.

The protesters were relegated to the sidewalk, as organizers failed to alert the authorities in enough time to obtain permission for a street march.

"They need to get a permit from the Town Council to block off the street," said Capt. Everett Johnson. "Otherwise they have to stay off of it."

But the police couldn't keep bicyclers from rallying on Franklin Street. Fifteen bicyclers, from women to young children, slowed down traffic, asserting their freedom to assemble.

Kea Parker, a junior biology major, wore nothing but her undergarments under a sign that read: "I'd rather go naked than wear clothes from sweatshops."

She was accompanied by other scantily-clad activists chanting to shut down corporations with sweatshops, such as

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Monday's May Day parade heads east on Franklin Street toward the post office where a 50-foot-long nuclear missile balloon awaits.

DTH/KATE MELLNIK

Hell, I never vote for anybody, I always vote against.

W.C. Fields

INSIDE
Tuesday

An Adoption Option

Carolina Crossroads participants engage in one-on-one relationships with local rest home residents. They aim to give attention and companionship to the elderly. See Page 5.

Helping Hands

The N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services is offering 175 paid internships this summer to college students who want to assist flood relief efforts in eastern North Carolina. See Page 7.

Today's Weather

Thunderstorms;
High 78, Low 54.
Wednesday: Partly sunny;
High 78, Low 56.