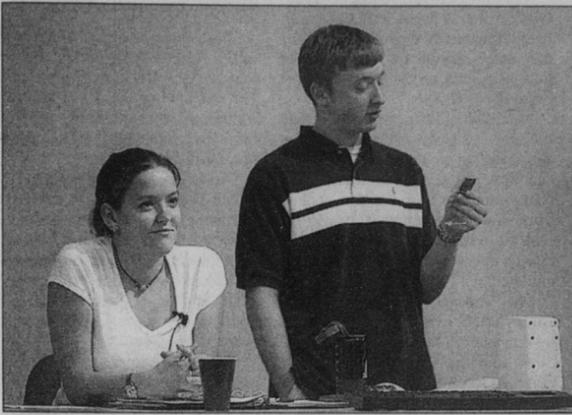


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DTH/VICTORIA ECKENRODE

Mocking a DTH article on the controversy surrounding his appointment, Student Body President Brad Matthews defends his choice to Congress.

Congress to Matthews: Try Again

By JOHN O'HALE
Staff Writer

Despite Student Body President Brad Matthews' resolute defense of his controversial appointment Tuesday, Student Congress virtually nixed junior Marissa Downs' chances of serving as Elections Board chairwoman next year.

Downs remained on a list of unfavorable names after a 10-10 vote fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to overrule an earlier recommendation by the Rules and Judiciary Committee.

That majority would have allowed Downs to defend her appointment before the entire Congress and forced a full-body vote.

"I am disappointed," Downs said. "I still have faith in the organization, but I think they made the wrong decision."

Last week, Matthews and Downs revealed their romantic relationship, one that existed while he was running for the presidency and she was vice chairwoman of the Elections Board. The admission prompted ethical concerns from Congress members.

The debate intensified Sunday after former student body president candidate Erica Smiley urged Congress in an e-mail message not to remove Downs from the unfavorable list.

The e-mail message sparked further congressional discussion leading up to Tuesday's session.

Members also questioned Downs' abilities in light of the many problems that plagued the board during February's elections.

Matthews pointed out that Downs was the sole applicant for the position, even though the executive branch had distributed several hundred e-mail messages and paper applications.

He also testified to her dedication and desire to improve next year's elections process. "She is the first student in three years who believes that simply conducting an election is not enough," he said. "She deserves to be considered in the full Congress."

Despite Congress' rejection, Downs could still assume the position as early as

today if Elections Board Chairwoman Catherine Yates resigns from her post, an option Yates said she was considering late Tuesday night.

Yates must remain in the post until Matthews appoints a new candidate next fall, unless she chooses to vacate the office early.

According to the Student Code, Downs would assume the position by default in such a situation.

Speaker Alexandra Bell, who voted in the committee meeting to put Downs on the unfavorable list, said Yates' resignation would be dishonest.

"I think it is a way of fundamentally

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DEFINING OUR TIME

Today, the DTH concludes its look at the issues that will define our time and society. Generation Y is ambitious, optimistic and has a mighty legacy to uphold. Are we ready?

By CATE DOTY
Managing Editor

There are 72 million of us. We were born after 1977 to mid-to-late baby boomers, and the youngest members of our group are finishing kindergarten right now.

Generation X, our awkwardly named predecessors baby-sat for us.

Our parents left us at home more and left each other more, too. By the time we were in elementary school, the widely quoted statistic that one out of every two marriages would fail turned out to be true.

To us, "family values" is a political stumping point. We came of age in a time of interracial marriages and the growing fight for legal gay and lesbian unions. As the American nuclear family grows less picket-fence and more diverse, "normal" to us is subjective.

We are marketers' darlings - having highly defined tastes and picky sensibilities, we're demanding consumers who know what we want.

Wielding an annual combined buying power of \$141 billion helps, too. Thanks to a bull market riding on tech stocks, we have more disposable income than previous generations. We spend our money with a highly critical eye for trends and quality, and we see through ads that attempt to cater to us.

We're connected 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A 1999 study demonstrated that we watch less television than any other generation, choosing to spend our free time - what little we have - in front of a computer screen.

And "free time" is a nebulous term to us. We're economically ambitious and socially conscious - and keeping those drives alive fills our calendars. We're as booked as our parents, yet we're better at balancing work with pleasure.

Stressed yet spiritual, picky yet accepting, we're Generation

Y. We also answer to "echo boomers," "the Millennium Generation" or simply "Millenniums."

And with nearly twice the size of Generation X and more pop culture punch than the Woodstock Generation, experts predict that the societal wind will blow where we want it.

We're a louder echo of our parents' powerful generational presence, sandwiching Generation X between two highly influential groups.

Purportedly more optimistic than that much-maligned "slacker" generation, Generation Y has a glossier image and ambition to spare.

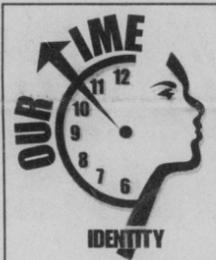
And we know it. Amy Ochagavia, 21, has two Generation Xers for siblings and two aging flower children for parents. A junior at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, Ochagavia is a graduate of a prestigious New England boarding school. She's also the daughter of a Buddhist monk and a contemporary of Allan Ginsberg and an eight-year survivor of a kidney transplant.

When she graduates from college, she will owe more than \$30,000 in college loans - almost the full price of another year at Wesleyan.

But it's the price of making a mark, she says. "I want a career where I feel satisfied, but where I do something that benefits the world," said Ochagavia, an American studies major. "You don't really exist unless there's a sign of you somewhere else."

That's why Ochagavia wants to teach, she says. And her sentiments resound across Generation Y. An active group with an environmental and social conscious, about half of all

See IDENTITY, Page 6



The finale of a 10-part series examining the issues that will face our generation in the coming millennium.

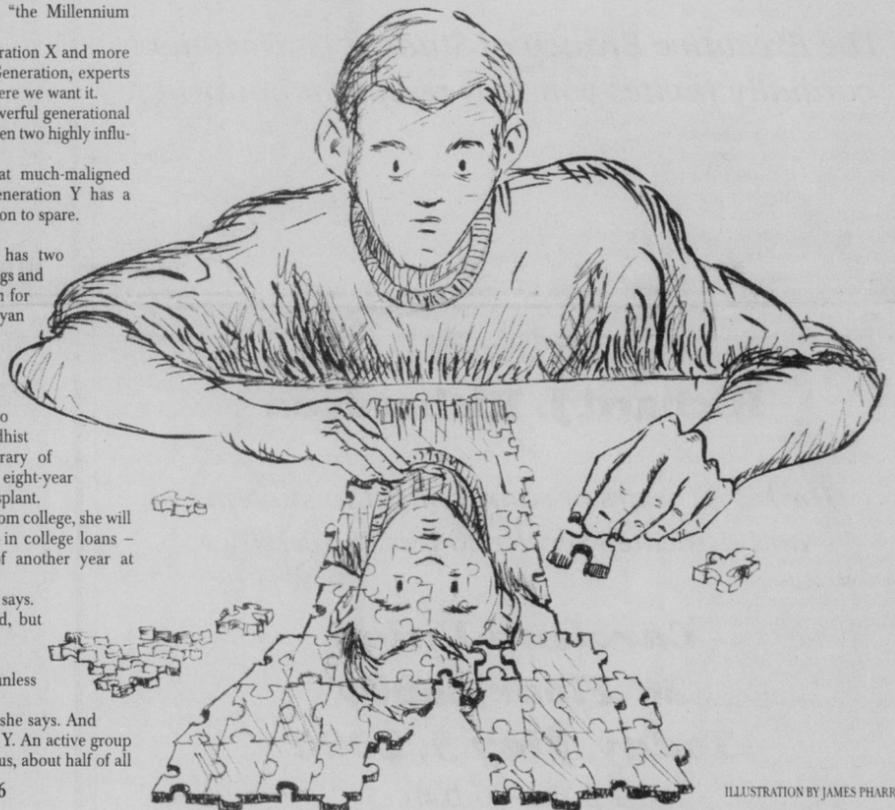


ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES PHARR

Easley, Vinroot Seize Gubernatorial Nominations

Vinroot Boxes Out Conservative Foes

By ANNE FAWCETT, MATTHEW B. DEES, LUCAS FENSKE AND JENNIFER HAGIN
Staff Writers

Richard Vinroot played for a losing UNC basketball team in the 1961-62 season, but Tuesday night he pulled out a win in North Carolina's Republican gubernatorial primary.

"How sweet it is," Vinroot said. "How sweet it will be in November."

With 88 percent of the vote counted, the former Charlotte mayor came back from his 1996 primary loss to capture the GOP nomination with 45.7 percent of the vote.

Leo Daughtry followed with 36.6 percent, while Chuck Neely garnered 15.4 percent of the vote.

Vinroot said his victory would send a message of less government, less spending and more hon-



DTH/KATE MELLNIK

Republican gubernatorial candidate Richard Vinroot greets his supporters.

esty to Raleigh politicians.

Pledging to enact sweeping educational reform, bring character to politics and pass a taxpayer protection act that would limit budget increases, Vinroot said he would triumph in November.

"I'm not going to let you down this time," he told the crowd of nearly 200 supporters, some with

See REPUBLICANS, Page 6

Easley Grooves To Victory Beat

By WORTH CIVILS, CHERI MELFI AND ALEX KAPLUN
Staff Writers

Standing before a festive crowd, Attorney General Mike Easley celebrated his landslide victory over Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker in Tuesday's Democratic gubernatorial primary.

"Words cannot contain my gratitude," Easley said, thanking his supporters.

Easley had received 59.3 percent of the Democratic vote, compared to 36 percent for Wicker, with 88 percent of the vote tallied.

Chants of "We want Mike," rang through the crowd shortly before Easley appeared on stage to deliver his victory speech.

Easley thanked his supporters, his campaign team and the voters of North Carolina, many of whom were in the crowd which packed the Raleigh



DTH/SEPTON IPOCK

Mike Easley thanks the crowd for supporting him in the Democratic primary.

restaurant that served as the nominee's campaign headquarters.

Easley said he entered the race to provide a voice for the state's children, senior citizens and working class. "Special interests can speak for themselves," he said. "I want to speak for the people first."

See DEMOCRATS, Page 6

INSIDE

Wednesday

The Future Is Now



Graduating soon? Worried about the future? The DTH Graphics Staff brings you a playful campus guide to the year 2050. It's nothin' but hoverboards from now on... See Page 5.

Livin' La Vida Loca

Two intrepid Daily Tar Heel reporters looked at the night and day differences while studying abroad in London and Spain this semester. See Page 4.

Today's Weather

Sunny;
High 76, Low 54.
Thursday: Sunny;
High 78, Low 56.

Roads? Where we're going, we don't need roads.

Doc Brown