



ANNE FAWCETT

Mayberry Girl Knows About 'Wide World'

Welcome back to campus for the new school year! While you're standing in line to buy books or flipping through to find the crossword, I'd like to introduce myself and this State & National column.

I'm a senior American studies major from Mt. Airy, home of the world's largest open-faced granite quarry and the town upon which Andy Griffith's fictional "Mayberry" was based. I generally regard having Mayberry as my hometown as positive (except when a tour busload of senior citizens parks in front of my house and the old folks proceed to picnic in our yard).

But my background does beg the question: What does a girl from Mayberry know about the wide world, or even state and national issues? My answer: Plenty.

As an American studies major, I've taken advantage of formal opportunities to learn about the UNC system, public transportation, labor issues and our uniquenesses as Southerners and as Americans. I've taken other courses to learn economic principles and some policy analysis. But those are qualifications any reader might have.

Two summers ago, I worked as an intern at The Wall Street Journal's Washington, D.C., bureau. I mainly covered the approval of new drugs by the Food and Drug Administration, but I also reported and wrote about health policy, the environment, lawsuits against the government, lotteries and affordable housing. In D.C., I learned how to look at issues from a broad perspective and how to focus on the interesting details that can tell a whole story.

My most important experience has been the five semesters I've spent as a State & National staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel. In this newsroom, I've learned the nuts and bolts of the issues I'll be covering this year - elections, the UNC system, the General Assembly and the world that awaits us after college. I'm hoping to bring all of these experiences to my column this year, plus a healthy dose of curiosity about how several critical issues are going to play out in the coming months.

This fall will keep the State & National desk busy with activity at every level of government, from the university system to the U.S. presidency. Beyond the government will be regular North Carolinians trying to make their state a better place to live.

The most high profile area of interest will be the Nov. 7 elections. These elections will touch us on almost every level. At State & National we'll concern ourselves with the campaigns for president, governor, General Assembly and most important to the future of this university, a bond referendum.

The vote on the \$3.1 billion bond, almost two years in the making, will determine whether UNC-Chapel Hill and the UNC system will be able to build and maintain physical structures in coming years to accommodate enrollment increases and match their national-caliber academic reputations. The referendum's success will depend on the results of a statewide effort this summer and fall to convince voters around the state that higher education benefits everyone, not just college graduates.

This fall also marks the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Floyd's destruction in eastern North Carolina. Although it was one of the most costly natural disasters in the state's history, Floyd created a positive aftermath as it united North Carolinians working to help devastated communities rebuild. With this year's hurricane season predicted to be at least as active as last year's, we may have another Floyd on our hands before the semester is out.

In all that I examine, I'll do my best to present fair, well-researched analysis. I will base my columns on reporting as I dig into issues to explain their significance, rather than simply spouting my opinions.

I hope this column will provoke greater discussion of issues beyond this campus or town. And while I don't care what you call me when you don't agree with me, I do have one request if you like what I have to say. Since I'm no relation to Farrah Fawcett or the thing that drips in your sink, please don't call me "fawcett." I go by faw-SETT.

Columnist Anne Fawcett can be reached at afawcett@email.unc.edu.

Students Aim to Find Elections Chairman

Student Congress rejected Brad Matthew's choice of Marissa Downs for the post after the April elections.

By ELIZABETH BREYER
Assistant University Editor

Members of student government are working together to find a candidate as soon as possible for the open position of Elections Board chairman.

"I would say we'll have a new chairperson in the next couple of weeks," said Student Congress Speaker Alexandra Bell.

The role was vacated this spring

when former Chairwoman Catherine Yates graduated.

Yates' term as chairwoman was marked by criticism, after Elections Board computer problems delayed February's student body elections results.

Student Congress would not approve Student Body President Brad Matthews' replacement of former Vice Chairwoman Marissa Downs, leaving the position unfilled.

Downs was deemed unacceptable by Congress because she was in a relationship with Matthews, creating a possible conflict of interest. They also doubted her abilities due to the elections mishaps.

Matthews must select a candidate, who Congress will then vote to approve. Congress Speaker Pro Tem Sandi

Chapman said that Matthews' choice will likely be a person outside the Elections Board.

If that happens, she said, it would take a two-thirds vote in Congress instead of a simple majority to approve the appointment.

"For various reasons, I think we may end up finding someone outside the (Elections) Board, but all of the candidates we have



Speaker Pro Tem Sandi Chapman said the new choice probably will not come from the Elections Board.

been considering have experience in the Student Code, especially the elections section," she said.

Bell also said that the appointment might possibly come from outside the Elections Board.

"It's ideal to have someone within the board, but not necessary," she said.

Bell said it might be a good idea to appoint someone outside the branch, citing the low publicity for April's special elections as an example of how the Elections Board could improve. "I'd like to see the Elections Board take a more proactive role so we don't have to keep having special elections."

No matter where the appointment comes from, both executive and legislative branch members said they want to

make streamlining the search a priority.

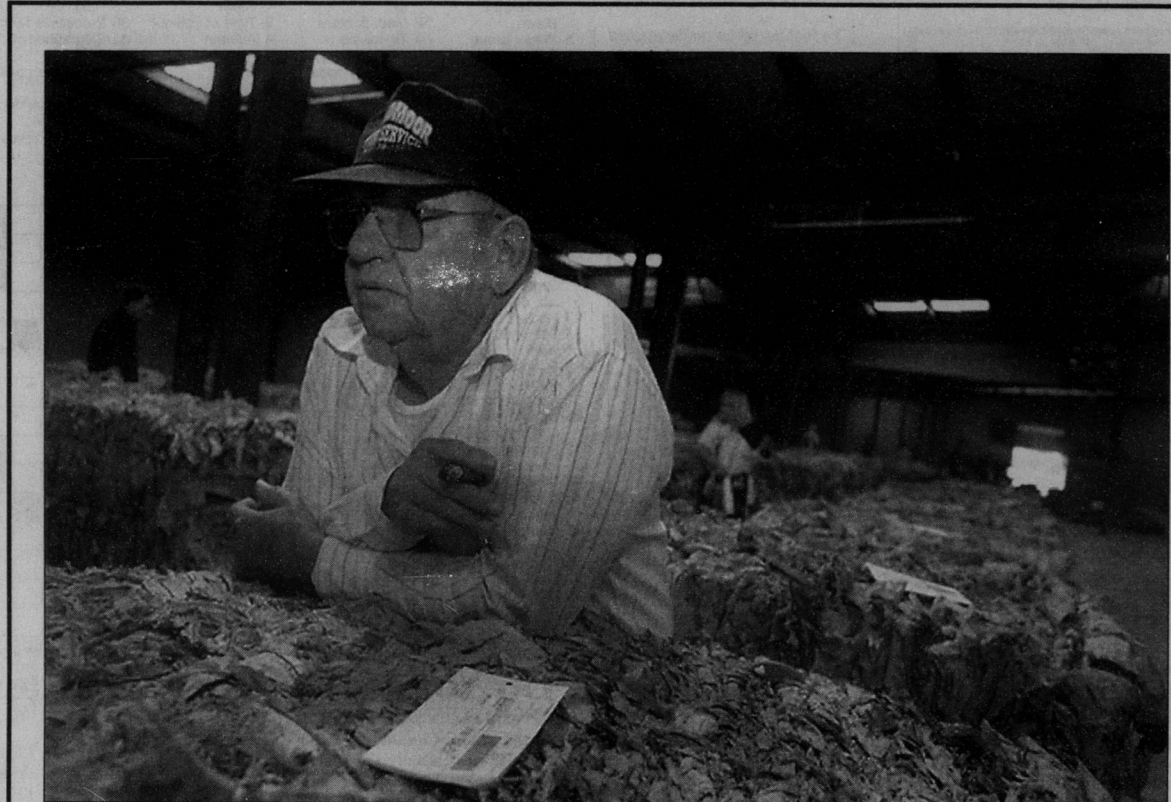
Student Congress still has five vacancies, but elections to fill those holes cannot be held until a chairman is named.

"As soon as we get an Elections Board chair, we'll have (the special election)," Matthews said.

Student government members say that goal should be reached soon with the appointment of a qualified candidate.

"There are definitely students who are fully qualified that we've encouraged to apply and who have the necessary experience," Chapman said. "The legislative and executive branch are working together hard in this process."

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PHOTOS BY JEFF POULAND

Despite the recent economic setbacks to the tobacco industry, W.C. Smith (above), a tobacco farmer from Durham, believes tobacco still has a future. Margarito Leon (below), an employee at Ford's Warehouse in Louisburg, sweeps the floor after a tobacco auction. Though the state's tobacco industry has taken recent hits, the Louisburg warehouse is still the second largest in the world in terms of volume.

Tradition Falls Prey to Change

Lawsuits and Quota Cutbacks Threaten N.C. Tobacco Farmers

By LUCAS FENSKE
Assistant State & National Editor

LOUISBURG - Waiting for their crop to be auctioned, farmers with time-worn faces pace between orderly rows of tobacco bales, occasionally leaning over and inhaling the leaf's distinctive sweet smell.

Once the auctioneer begins his sing-song chant, buyers from cigarette companies cluster around him, calling out their bids for each tobacco bale, as they walk slowly down the rows to the rhythm of the auctioneer's voice.

The scene Monday at Ford Warehouse, one of the state's largest tobacco storehouses, will be repeated many times until the season closes later this fall. Prices this year, averaging \$1.70 per pound of tobacco, were slightly higher than last year, triggering

hope of better times among farmers. Tobacco auctions have been a fixture of rural N.C. life for decades, changing little throughout the years.

But the tobacco industry, long a bulwark of the state's economy, has fallen under repeated attack recently - dampening farmers' joy over slightly higher prices.

A Florida jury awarded \$145 billion in punitive damages to state smokers this summer after finding cigarette companies knowingly manufactured a deadly product. The verdict is being appealed.

Cigarette manufacturers, in accordance with a multibillion-dollar deal in 1998, have begun reimbursing states' Medicaid costs for treating smoking-related illnesses.

Farmer's quotas, which determine how

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New Options Speed Up Meals

By KAREY WUTKOWSKI
Assistant University Editor

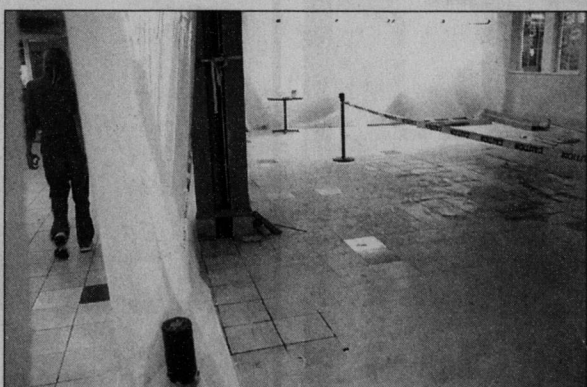
Customers with a hunger for Mainstreet Lenoir will be getting their food a little faster in the coming weeks, as the vendors start installing grab-and-go stations.

But patrons will have to endure the temporary hassle of construction work for the faster service.

Mike Freeman of Auxiliary Services said most stations will undergo some changes designed to cut down on lines by offering packaged food as Chick-Fil-A already serves.

"You have to wait 10 minutes in line to get a hamburger, then you have to wait another 10 minutes in line to check out," Freeman said. "Students don't have that kind of time in between classes."

He said most of the stations will have their grab-and-go features ready by Friday. "The quality of the food is excellent," Freeman said. "We just weren't making the stuff fast enough."



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The area in Mainstreet Lenoir where Ram Treats stood is being renovated to serve students faster.

Senior Beth Therrell from Wake Forest said she usually eats at Mainstreet Lenoir about five times a week but tries to go when it is not crowded.

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Local Demonstrators Join National Protests

By LUCAS FENSKE
Assistant State & National Editor

Several UNC students protesting during the Republican National Convention joined what some have deemed a new trend in political activism - groups uniting to fight globalization.

Seven UNC students and Chapel Hill residents were arrested at the Republican National Convention, which was held in Philadelphia from Aug. 7 through Aug. 10.

Hundreds of protesters also crashed last week's Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles.

The convention protests were a new version of earlier movements such as the civil rights struggle and anti-Vietnam protests, said Eric Shockman, a University of Southern California political science professor specializing in political protests.

"My gut feeling is, it's more of the same," Shockman said. "But there does seem to be a new rubric."

After the Vietnam War, he said, protesters lost their general goals and concentrated on specifics such as fighting for an equal rights amendment, the poor or the environment.

"There were a myriad of single issues that didn't go together," he said. "It's an interesting new development that they're latching onto globalization and corporations."

UNC senior Wendy Dale of Delco said she protested corporate political involvement at the Republican National Convention along with nearly ten other UNC students.

Dale said she and the others were protesting the two-party system in the United States. "We feel there's not a

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