

Votes for Nader Void on N.C. Ballot

BY TIM SULLIVAN
Staff Writer

When N.C. voters head to the polls on Tuesday, one prominent name will be missing from the election ballot.

Not only will Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader not be on the ballot, but write-in votes for the candidate also will not be counted.

Political parties that receive at least 10 percent of the vote in the most recent gubernatorial race are automatically placed on the presidential ballot.

A Green Party candidate did not run for governor in the 1996 election. The Green Party therefore had to submit a petition with slightly more than 50,000 signatures if they wanted to be on the

ballot Nov. 7.

But Don Wright, chief counsel of the N.C. Board of Elections, said the Green Party only submitted 2,000 signatures to the state by the June 1 deadline.

The party filed a lawsuit against the N.C. Board of Elections, asking for a two-month extension to obtain the necessary signatures.

The lawsuit failed, and Nader was kept off the ballot.

Mark Marcoplos, a member of the Orange County Green Party, said the electoral system in North Carolina is set up to maintain a party "duopoly" — a word often used by Nader to describe the two-party nature of American politics.

Wright added that even if voters do write in Nader, the votes will be rejected by the tallying machine, so the percent-

age of Nader supporters in the state will not be known.

But Marcoplos said that votes for Nader should constitute the vast majority of the rejected votes, so this number should provide a rough indication of Nader's support in the state.

Two other third-party candidates are on the N.C. election ballot — Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan and Libertarian Party candidate Harry Browne.

Judge Earl Britt, who denied Nader the extension, would not comment on the lawsuit because the case is currently under appeal.

Nader could have at least qualified as a write-in candidate by submitting a petition of 500 signatures by early August.

The deadline passed with no action

from the Nader camp.

Wright did not know why the Green Party neglected to submit the write-in petition.

He added that Nader did submit the same petition before the 1996 presidential elections and was a possible write-in candidate in North Carolina.

Wright said David McRae of the Natural Law Party is the only approved write-in candidate for president in North Carolina in this election year.

But Heather Yandow, member of UNC's Student Environmental Action Coalition and a Nader supporter, said voters who favor Nader should still vote for him, regardless of the fact that their votes won't be counted.

"People should really vote for who they would like to see in power."

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



Top Stories From the State, Nation and World

IN THE NEWS

Ex-'Tonight Show' Host Dies of Heart Attack

LOS ANGELES — Steve Allen, the bespectacled, droll comedian who pioneered late-night television with the original "Tonight Show" and wrote more than 4,000 songs and 40 books, has died at 78.

He died Monday night of an apparent heart attack at the Encino home of his son, Bill Allen, relatives said Tuesday.

Accusing Republicans of renegeing on a budget compromise, Clinton said it was vital for Democrats to regain control of Congress. "The leadership in Congress is way to the right of the Republicans in the country," he said.

A week before Election Day, Clinton avoided the limelight of the White House race at the urging of Vice President Al Gore's advisers. While the president remains high in the polls, Gore's staff fears that Clinton's presence in battleground states could alienate swing voters, particularly women whose support is vital for the vice president.

Gore's explanation is that he is campaigning on his own, without Clinton at his side, to prove he is his own man with his own plans.

Clinton said he is leaving his campaign travels up to others who are involved in day-to-day operations and do not have access to polls.

Clinton came to Louisville to boost the candidacy of Eleanor Jordan, who hopes to become Kentucky's only black woman member of Congress.

New Terrorist Threats Put Troops on Alert

WASHINGTON — U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are on the highest state of alert following new indications of terrorist threats in those Persian Gulf countries, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon cited "credible threat information" but declined to be more specific.

U.S. officials also revealed that since the bombing of the USS Cole on Oct. 12 in Yemen, no American warships have used the Suez Canal — the fastest, and normal, route from the eastern United States to the Gulf.

The crippled Cole, with most of its crew still aboard in the Gulf of Aden, will take the long way home to the United States — around the Cape of Good Hope on Africa's southern tip — to avoid the Suez Canal, said defense officials who discussed the matter Tuesday on condition of anonymity.

The defense officials said the Navy has been avoiding the Suez because of security concerns in light of escalating terrorist threats in the region.

Campus Calendar

Today

11:40 a.m. — WALK THIS WAY!

Join the National Pan Hellenic Council members in their walk to the polls. NPHC welcomes all students to join in their walk. Meet in the Pit — the walk will start at 11:50 a.m. and go through campus, ending at Morehead Planetarium.

Join the walk and show the strength of the student community through voting. Every vote counts!

noon — Don't know who to vote for?

Come to the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center for an Around the Circle discussion about the 2000 elections.

Representatives from both political parties will be present at the discussion, sponsored by the UNC chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

5:30 p.m. — The Black Student Movement's general body meeting will be held in Upendo Lounge. All students are encouraged to come meet and interact with the Ebony Readers and Onyx Theatre.

6 p.m. — The Wesley Foundation will meet for dinner and a program on "Frayer."

7 p.m. — The UNC men's basketball team will hold JV tryouts in the Smith Center.

For the Record

As part of the Oct. 31 article called "How Will N.C. Cope if They Don't Pass the Bond?" The Daily Tar Heel incorrectly identified one of the people the paper interviewed exiting Morehead Planetarium.

The picture that ran with Carol Whitehill's quote was not a picture of Whitehill. The woman who appears in the picture is Marilyn McNamara.

The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

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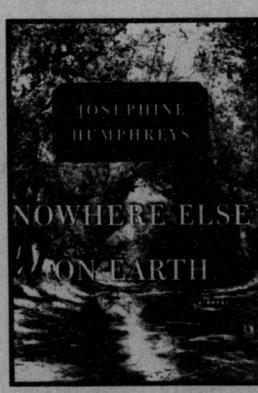
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