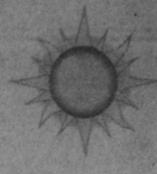


Tar Heelnomics
Profs break it
down. See Page 3



Tale of the Turf
The UNC football team heads
north to take on the University
of Pittsburgh. See Page 7



Solarlicious
Today: Sunny, 77
Saturday: Cloudy, 74
Sunday: Sunny, 62

The Daily Tar Heel

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Friday, November 3, 2000



DTH/JEFF POULAND

Officials have yet to determine the cause of the fire that took the life of Roger Vanden Dorpel at Brookstone Apartments on Halloween night.

Body in Fire Named as UNC Worker

By THEO HELM
Staff Writer

Officials have identified the body of a man found in the rubble of Tuesday night's fire at the Brookstone Apartments complex.

The victim, Roger Vanden Dorpel, 51, was employed by UNC Hospitals in the diagnostic radiology department as an X-ray technician. He lived at 1116 Brookstone Apartments.

"His co-workers liked him very much, and they are devastated," said Lynn Wooten, spokesman for UNC Hospitals. "It's a great shock."

Officials are now working to identify the cause of the blaze, which also injured

two women and destroyed eight units at the complex, located off Homestead Road. Chapel Hill Fire Chief Dan Jones said the fire marshal's office and the State Bureau of Investigation are handling the investigation. "They're out there as we speak," Jones said. "It's a pretty involved process."

Jones said there is no way to predict when the investigation will be completed.

"It could take anywhere from three or four days to a month," Jones said. "Only the simplest fires can be solved quickly."

Melanie Thomas, SBI special agent in charge of the capital district, also said she does not know how long the investigation will take. "We don't have a timetable," Thomas said. "We could feasibly be there

all day and back tomorrow."

Thomas said the site must be deemed safe before investigators can begin work.

"The first thing we consider is the safety issue," Thomas said. "We have to make it safe before the arson investigators arrive. The length of the investigation depends on how quickly they can get the debris moved out."

Brenda Measamer, regional vice president of Pinnacle Realty Management Company in Raleigh, which oversees Brookstone, estimated damage to be about \$500,000.

"If it's just those eight units, it's about half a million (dollars)," Measamer said. "We'll definitely bulldoze what's left and start from scratch."

The damaged units did not have sprinklers because the buildings were erected before sprinklers were required by law, Jones said. "There's nothing under the law we can do," he said. "When they rebuild, they'll have to have sprinklers. Anything bigger than 5,000 square feet must have sprinklers."

Measamer said she does not know if sprinklers will be installed in other buildings at Brookstone.

"I wouldn't make that decision," Measamer said. "It would come from our main office."

Jones said renters must ask their apartment managers for sprinklers to

See FIRE, Page 2

Possibility Of Bomb Closes Hall

The Sitterson Hall bomb threat was speculated to be a tactic to cancel an exam in a Computers 4 class.

By KIM MINUGH
University Editor

Students and faculty members evacuated Sitterson Hall on Thursday afternoon after a bomb threat was called in to the University switchboard.

Officials said the call was made to switchboard operators, who then called the UNC Department of Public Safety at about 1:05 p.m. to alert police.

Maj. Jeff McCracken, deputy director of DPS, said the unidentified caller gave no specific information. "It was a very brief, nondescript-type threat," he said.

McCracken said officers responded immediately and completed a walk-through search accompanied by investigators and building management personnel at Sitterson Hall.

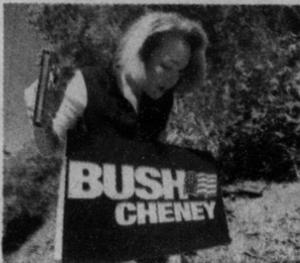
Students and faculty members who were forced to evacuate after the fire alarm sounded waited outside the building until about 3 p.m., when police declared the building safe.

Although nothing has been confirmed, some officials at the site questioned whether the threat might have been an attempt to delay a Computers 4 exam scheduled for 2 p.m.

McCracken said he had not yet heard such an explanation, but the possibility has not been ruled out. "There have been cases before on college campuses where bomb threats have been used (to interrupt tests)," he said. "Whether or not that is the case here, I have no way of knowing. That's always a possibility."

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Passion For Politics



DTH/MIKE MESSIER



DTH/ARIEL SHUMAKER



DTH/BRENT CLARK

Rheta Burton (from left) posts Bush-Cheney campaign signs off campus in preparation for Tuesday's elections, Graduate student Russ Helms requests signatures in the Pit on Thursday morning for a petition to place the Libertarian Party on the ballot in 2002. Jeff Nieman moderates a political debate on Student Television's "Feedback Live."

UNC Students Buck Youth Apathy Trend

By NICOLE GALLAGHER
AND SARA PARSONS
Staff Writer

The apathy of students toward the political process had been debated, defended and denounced.

But regardless of statistics and opinions, taking a look behind the scenes of this year's elections reveals young individuals dedicated to politics.

Rheta Burton

When Rheta Burton walked into the office of Sen. Hugh Webster, R-Alamance, three years ago, she only wanted a college recommendation.

But after handling a call while waiting for the senator in the understaffed and unorganized office, she walked out with a job.

For the rest of her senior year of high school, Burton worked after school in the financial department of Webster's office.

Now a junior political science major, Burton's involvement spans beyond balancing books and figuring taxes. She serves as

the senator's campaign treasurer in his race for re-election.

"I loved my civic classes in high school, and I always read the paper to keep up with current events, but working in the office put a reality with something I loved," she said.

In 1998, she worked on Lauch Faircloth's U.S. Senate campaign. And the next year she helped with Leo Daughtry's campaign for governor before he lost in the primaries.

Burton works for Webster 20 to 25 hours a week at UNC, writing board of elections reports on her laptop and planning receptions from her residence hall.

And adding the 15 hours a week Burton devotes to the College Republicans as first vice chairwoman, her political involvement is almost a full-time job. "My family thinks I am weird; they aren't that political," she said. "But I think being so knowledgeable and involved in the political process makes me a better person. Since I know more, I can do more to help out and let other people see the light on who is making decisions for them."

Burton considers her work as important to the candidates as it is to her.

"I feel good putting a young person's opinion into government and politics," she said. "Some candidates only get views from one side or age. It is good to get an opinion from the other side of the spectrum."

And although Burton said she knows not all students are going to devote the majority of their week to campaigning for a cause, she said it is important for them to be active in the system. "You don't have to be a political junkie like I am, just as long as you believe in something and you get out and vote," she said.

Some ask Burton if she will ever have her own office, like the one she walked into three years ago with only a love for civics and current events. "I say 'no way,' I am more of a behind-the-scenes person."

Russ Helms

From an appearance on Student Television to rallying support in the Pit,

See POLITICS, Page 2

Despite Glitches, No Excuse Voting Deemed a Success

Today is the last day that voters registered in Orange County can use the No Excuse Voting site at the Morehead Planetarium.

By JENNIFER SAMUELS
Staff Writer

Many N.C. residents have found that there is no excuse for not voting in the 2000 general election.

Despite some legal problems, state officials are calling No Excuse absentee voting a success. The new program, aimed at increasing voter turnout, ends today.

No Excuse Voting allows people to vote any time during the three weeks preceding the Nov. 7 election. Polling places, including one located at the Morehead Planetarium, will be open from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. today. Any voter registered in Orange County can vote at the Morehead Planetarium.

Gary Bartlett, N.C. Board of Elections director, said the program was successful, despite a shortage of voting equipment and a lack of people to run poll sites.

Bartlett said that more money — between \$20,000 to \$30,000 per site — was needed to properly fund the program. But not everyone supports No Excuse Voting.

A lawsuit recently was brought against No Excuse Voting, claiming the program was unconstitutional based on a provision stipulating that the president be elected only on the first Tuesday of November. The lawsuit was dropped, though, because documents in the case were handled incorrectly.

Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange, said it was ironic that Republicans initiated the lawsuit because more Republicans than Democrats have taken advantage of No Excuse Voting.

Kinnaird proposed the program in the N.C. General Assembly in 1998. "Republicans tried to stop the bill the legislature, but I understand that more Republicans have voted," she said. "It just shows that everyone wants the opportunity to vote. It's not a partisan issue."

Bartlett said he was pleased with voter turnout. "We knew it would be busy, but we had no idea that it would be impacted so greatly," Bartlett said.

Although no official figures are available, he said more than 200,000 voters participated at 158 No Excuse poll sites, one of which was located near the campus of each UNC-system school and at several community colleges.

Carolyn Thomas, director of the Orange County Board of Elections, said the Morehead Planetarium was chosen due to

See NO EXCUSE, Page 2

Gov. Hunt, N.C. Officials Push for Bond

By MICHAEL MCKNIGHT
Staff Writer

Who let the dogs out?

The state's top dogs in higher education were unleashed on campus Thursday afternoon as part of a final push for the \$3.1 billion higher education bond referendum.

The referendum, which is on Tuesday's ballot, would provide money for capital improvements at the state's public universities and community colleges.

Speakers at the rally, which was held in front of Lenoir Dining Hall, included Gov. Jim Hunt, UNC-system President Jolly Broad, Board of Governors chairman Ben Ruffin, N.C. Community College System President Martin

Lancaster and State Community College Board Chairman Herman Porter.

The group spent Thursday traveling the state in an ongoing effort to rally votes for the bond referendum. Recent polls suggest the majority of likely voters support the bond. The Daily Tar Heel also conducted exit polls last week at Morehead Planetarium's satellite poll site. Of those polled at Morehead, 454 people said they voted for the bond, while only 30 said they voted against it.

But Hunt said the event was aimed at more than just persuading students to vote for the bond. He said UNC-Chapel Hill was an appropriate place to rally support for the higher education bonds because it is the nation's oldest public university. Broad said the delegation attended

bond rallies at both N.C. Agricultural & Technical University and Piedmont Central Community College on Thursday morning before making a final stop in the Pit.

Hunt, a well-known education advocate, said he hoped the rally would raise awareness about the bond's impact on the state's future. "It may be the most important vote we've ever cast," he said. "We have a tradition of higher education, and we have a responsibility to make sure it is accessible to all who qualify."

Hunt said the state's future economic security is also at stake. "Hundreds and hundreds of students who wanted to take courses (at community colleges) to get better jobs could not get in because we did not have room for them," he said.

"Folks, this year you will have a chance to do something about that."

Hunt told students the bond would benefit them even after graduation. "This vote isn't only about your future, it is about the future of your brothers and sisters who are coming behind you."

Hunt reminded students of the great influence they could have on the referendum's outcome. He told how UNC-CH students helped John F. Kennedy carry the state in the 1960 presidential election and challenged students to do the same for the bond referendum.

"I'm not asking you to go out and just vote, I'm asking you to go out and work," he said. "You talk to everybody

See RALLY, Page 2



DTH/BESS LOEWENBAUM

Gov. Jim Hunt speaks to students in the Pit on Thursday. Hunt has been traveling around the state promoting the higher education bond.

Hail to the chief ... We all say 'hail' 'cause he keeps himself so clean.

Keven Kline