

Close Results in 4 Races Spur Wake County Recounts

Those trailing in two state and two Wake County races use county election laws to seek machine recounts.

By FAITH RAY
Staff Writer

RALEIGH — The Wake County Board of Elections started retabulating ballots on Sunday cast in four contested state and county races in downtown Raleigh.

The precinct-by-precinct recount, which coincides with the ongoing presidential recounts in Florida, will help determine winners in the races for State Commissioner of Labor, a seat on the N.C. Court of Appeals, Wake County Commissioner and Wake County District 10 Judge.

The candidates with fewer Wake County votes in each of the four races requested the recount. State law allows county candidates to request a recount if the difference in votes is less than 1 percent of the total vote count.

State candidates can request recounts

if the apparent winner leads by fewer than 10,000 votes.

Connie Mitchell, Wake County Board of Elections chairwoman, said the board set an unofficial Wednesday deadline to complete the recount of the more than 265,000 ballots cast in Wake County.

"We are recounting everything, just like Election Day," Mitchell said.

Prior to the recounts, Democrat Doug Berger led Republican Cherie Berry in the Labor Commissioner race by 3,100 votes, Democrat Jim Fuller led Republican John Tyson in the appeals court race by 4,554 votes, Republican

Kenn Gardner led Democrat Yevonne Brannon in the county commissioner race by 3,662 votes and Republican Kris Bailey led Democrat Fred Morelock in the district judge race by 3,074 votes.

Mitchell said the Wake County Board of Elections requested to start the recount on Sunday in hopes of finishing before Thanksgiving Day. Some officials started the recount with leg-and-arm stretches, preparing for upcoming days of counting.

Precinct official Prenetta Evans of Cary, who worked at a satellite voting station during the Nov. 7 election, said

she was pleased to help when the board asked.

Mitchell said precinct officials volunteered to re-enter the ballots into 18 designated tabulator machines, designed to recount the ballots with a 0.0004 percent margin of error.

Gardner, who is currently leading in the county commissioner race, said he was confident that the results of the recounts would be accurate.

"The (officials) are really professional and on top of things," Gardner said. "I have lots of faith in Wake County, unlike the process in Florida."

Gardner, who was winning by 2,300 votes prior to Sunday, said his Democratic opponent was correct to request the recount.

"She was well within her rights to do so," he said. "People need to feel the results are accurate."

And Gardner echoed the sentiments expressed by some Americans waiting for the Florida election results.

"I will be glad to get beyond this point — no matter what the outcome."

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



DTH/ARIEL SHUMAKER

Members of the UNC Young Democrats and local residents protest the election debacle Saturday.

RALLY

From Page 1

Participant Erin Fornoff, a freshman from Asheville and member of the Young Democrats, said she didn't mind the Bush supporters and that she thought their cause should be the same as those rallying with the Young Democrats.

"(The Republicans) should want the recount, too," she said. "Even if Gore doesn't have more votes after a recount, the Bush presidency will be validated."

But Johnson said democracy will be served in the election without any recounts. "Mistakes will be made in Democratic and Republican counties, and those will cancel each other out."

As the march reached Franklin Street, Brook encouraged pedestrians to join the rally. "Put the latte down and come fight for democracy," he said as the group passed Starbucks Coffee.

Several pedestrians joined the march briefly, and further support was given by honking car horns and a crowd of students cheering for Al Gore out of a second-story window of Peabody Hall.

The event was among hundreds of similar rallies held in 144 cities nationwide. After the march concluded, several participants drove to Raleigh to participate in another rally, albeit one with a lower turnout, at N.C. State University.

Margaret Swezey, a Chapel Hill resident who marched at the UNC rally, said the combined efforts of all the rallies would send a strong message to those governing the counting procedures in Florida.

"It's a huge voicing of public opinion generated spontaneously and without leaders."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

CAA

From Page 1

"There's always a lot of confusion, but I don't know where it comes from."

Pruitt said the arrangement contains 1,300 lower-level spots, including 900 seats and 400 riser spots. Because the riser tickets are distributed starting at a separate randomly drawn number, only the first 450 students in line are assured lower level seats — assuming that they bring two UNC ONE Cards with them.

Lauren Richey, a senior from Gibsonia, Pa., said she also was surprised that she received upper-level seating despite her number. "I was 600 back — my number was 35,760 or so, and I thought it was weird. I didn't think I should have gotten upper level."

Hardison said the new arrangement is disappointing, even though the risers have been added.

"I like the way it used to be. (CAA) is always going to make themselves sound like they're doing the right thing — I don't think that's the case."

Despite the criticism, Pruitt said he still stands by the seating arrangement and the distribution process. "It's what we have to do to keep things fair."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

SNOW

From Page 1

reported mixed precipitation at 8 a.m. Sunday, which gradually changed to snow by 10 a.m., accumulating on grassy surfaces and elevated areas.

When junior Adaam Hukins woke up Sunday morning, he said he thought it was raining but that he was delighted to discover fluffy flakes falling from the sky.

"I was happy, and I called people right away to see if they wanted to play, but no one wanted to play," he said.

Disappointed, Hukins said, he went to the library to work instead. "It's a nice surprise, but we're still going to have class."

By Sunday afternoon, the snow had caused few problems in traffic or safety.

Base 3 operator William Smith of the Chapel Hill Police Department said the only accidents had been minor, and that the roads were just slushy.

"The only bad one for right now would be Weaver Dairy Road because it is such a steep hill," he said.

On the UNC campus, University police also faced few problems.

"We had two incidents with vehicles — just minor fender-benders," Robin Harris, a dispatcher with the Department of Public Safety, said Sunday afternoon.

"Doesn't seem like anything out of the ordinary for a normal shift. I suspect that will come later in the day when it starts to freeze."

Only a handful of students could be found on campus Sunday afternoon reveling in the snowy surprise.

Freshman Emily Davidson said she woke up to find a snowman outside her room at Hinton James Residence Hall but that not too many people had been out playing.

"There have been a few but not as many as I expected," she said.

Davidson said she harbored mixed feelings about the wintry weather.

"I have a (calculus) test tomorrow, and I hope it sticks," she said.

"But I'm kind of worried because I don't have any warm clothes."

Other students also were caught off guard by the sudden snowfall.

Junior Brian Oten from Chicago said he is used to snow but did not expect it here.

"I came here to get away from the cold and the snow, actually," he said.

But officials say the wintry precipitation will quickly clear in the next few days.

"We got a lot more precipitation than we expected as far as quantity," said Shaun Baines of the Raleigh office of the National Weather Service.

"We got a lot more precipitation than we expected as far as quantity."

SHAUN BAINES
National Weather Service, Raleigh Office

"We do expect once it lightens up or even stops later tonight, most of it will melt."

But Baines warned drivers to be cautious because temperatures will remain low for the next few days.

"The typical spots such as bridges and overpasses will likely be slick tomorrow," he said.

By Sunday afternoon, N.C. Department of Transportation vehicles were standing by in case of icy conditions.

Representatives said that although icy conditions had not yet been reported, vehicles were monitoring the roads.

The snowfall ended at about 6 p.m. in the Chapel Hill area.

Accumulation was expected to be no more than an inch on roadways, and temperatures were expected to remain steady in the low 30s.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

\$8.95
(haircut reg. \$10.95)

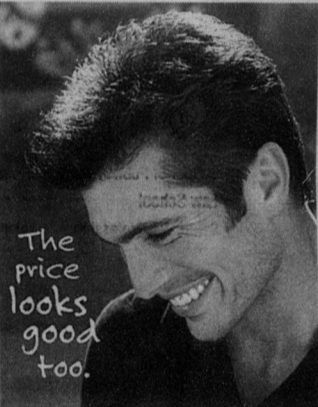
141 Rams Plaza, Chapel Hill
(located off 15-501,
on the bus route)

967-0226

M-F 10AM-8PM • Sat 9AM-6PM
Sun 12PM-5PM

www.supercuts.com
SUPERCUTS
As hip as you want to be.

© 2000 Supercuts Inc.
expires 1/01/01



The price looks good too.

FEDERAL RESERVE NOTE
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

With this coupon or
UNC Student ID, get
\$1 OFF Dinner Buffet!

Come try the largest Chinese Buffet in the Triangle!

35 Chinese Restaurant
Chapel Hill

Dine-in Buffet Only **968-3488**
University Square

ONE DOLLAR

\$5,000 TO A STUDENT LIKE YOU EVERY WEEK

IT'S A NO BRAINER
CLICK. ENTER. WIN.

collegexit.com
VISIT WWW.COLLEGEXIT.COM FOR ELIGIBILITY RULES.

STUDENT TRAVEL

Change YOUR World!

800.777.0112 **STA TRAVEL**

Book your tickets online @
www.statravel.com

MCAT

Enroll by November 30 for a Free Year Upgrade!

Chapel Hill Classes Begin:
Saturday, January 13

Call today to enroll in the #1 MCAT prep course.

KAPLAN
1-800-KAP-TEST
www.kaptest.com

*MCAT is a registered trademark of the Association of American Medical Colleges.