



ASHLEY STEPHENSON SBP Squabbles Not Addressing Real Problems

I didn't think I'd have to touch student elections until January. Apparently, I have miscalculated.

Things started a bit earlier this year. Usually around this time, various chumps in Suite C or other student groups start resigning their posts with much pomp and pageantry to pursue the highest office on campus, student body president. Under normal circumstances, you don't hear much from these characters until next semester — that's when Hamilton 100 gets plastered with fluorescent signs featuring cute slogans and pictures.

I received an early holiday treat when two candidates started in November the SBP squabbling they usually save for mid-January.

Bharath Parthasarathy, the pointman for junior Eric Johnson's SBP campaign, claimed that SBP candidate Annie Peirce violated Title VI, Article VII, Section 171 (A) (4) of the Student Code. I'm not sure what handbook Bharath was checking out, but in my handy Student Code, a Title VI, Article VII, Section 171 (A) (4) involves two bungee cords, some Country Crock butter and a Rainbow Brite doll.

At first glance, all those Roman numerals and parentheses make Peirce out to be a pretty nefarious character, like Gargamel from the Smurfs. Turns out she was harping with some student groups to let them know about a December meeting she's having where students can voice their concerns. (I give kudos to the Elections Board for not taking the bait and for clearing Peirce of the whole thing.)

There are two crimes here:
1.) Roman numerals are only acceptable when found in the title of the Rocky movies.

2.) Such nit-picking on the part of Johnson and his pointman is fruitless and earns them a "G" for ghetto.

During student elections, you learn all these rules you didn't know existed. There are certain times that candidates can call students at home, certain times when they can knock on residence hall rooms, certain ways they can send out mass e-mails.

There are also lots of special rules about where campaign signs can be placed, when they can be put up, when they must be taken down, and so on and so on. I think there are also rules about coming from the same fraternity as all other SBPs and having a catchy sign that looks like a beer ad.

It's dizzying. And retarded. Elections Board people would tell me that these rules exist for a reason, except I don't really care what that reason is.

Come January when things really heat up, or December if things continue the way they started, the political mud-slinging between candidate think tanks will revolve around the rules I discussed above.

You won't know candidate Chatty Cathy's platform, but you will know that the bitch put her posters up too damn early.

This is how it goes every year. I think our candidates need to remember that this is the same student body that came damn close to putting Brian Bersticker in Suite C instead of Brad Matthews. And many moons ago, a mystery candidate name Hugh G. Rection almost ousted a real candidate from the race.

Students don't give a damn about these rules. Most of them don't give a damn about the election — and that's what candidates should be targeting when they get all hyped and indignant. They should be fighting apathy.

It's not like Peirce set fire to all of Johnson's campaign materials, or better yet, engaged in some type of espionage that would have stolen Johnson's campaign secrets — like how "Vote for Eric" is much more appealing to the average voter when it's written in blue chalk, not pink.

Here's a reminder to all candidates, one which I hope they will take to heart with the election season almost upon us: It's student election, gang — not mud wrestling (which would be a much better determinant of who should lead our campus.)

Keep it clean, and screw the rules, not each other.

Columnist Ashley Stephenson can be reached at ashley21@email.unc.edu.

UNC's AIDS Week to Feature Films, HIV Tests

From Staff Reports

UNC's World AIDS Day Planning Committee is set to kick off a week of AIDS awareness today in hopes of increasing student knowledge about the deadly disease.

The week will begin with a film screening documenting a fictional AIDS character and will culminate with the World AIDS Day Walk, a chance for the University community to take action in honor of real AIDS victims.

Barbara Jones, a graduate student in the School of Social Work, said the walk

sums up the week's activities. "The walk is the goal of the week's events and we're trying to promote that on our campus."

A screening of the film "Philadelphia" will be held at 6 p.m. today at the Wesley Foundation, located at 214 Pittsboro St. Attendees are invited to participate in a discussion to take place after the screening.

Students, faculty and staff also are encouraged to attend a discussion Tuesday night titled, "For Men Only/For Women Only — Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About HIV and AIDS

But Were Afraid to Ask." It will be held 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in 111 Murphey Hall.

A screening will be held Wednesday night for the film "And the Band Played On." The event, which will take place at 7:45 p.m. in 103 Bingham Hall, is sponsored by Queer Network for Change.

Free, confidential walk-in HIV tests will be offered to students from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday night in the Student Recreation Center.

Also beginning Wednesday, informational materials will be available from representatives from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Friday in the Pit.

Organizers of the week will be combing Franklin Street on Thursday night as the "Safer Sex Squad," handing out HIV and AIDS information and educational materials to the community.

The Great Hall will house a display of the Names Project AIDS Quilt beginning Monday and continuing through Friday. The Residence Hall Association is sponsoring the display.

The week's events will conclude Friday with the third annual World AIDS Day Walk at 2:30 p.m. The walk's course will begin on South Road and loop around campus to Memorial Hall.

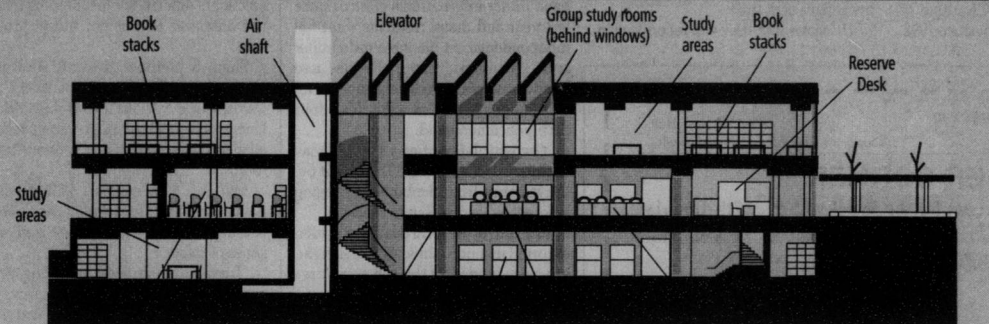
A reception with speakers and refreshments will follow at Polk Place. Students, faculty and staff who wish to participate in the walk are asked to register at 2 p.m. Friday at the Bell Tower.

Krista Park, an employee for the Center for Healthy Student Behaviors, said her involvement in the committee stems from her background in sex and HIV counseling.

"We're trying to bring awareness to campus and remind people that HIV and AIDS is still out there," she said. "Participating in active outreach is a means of helping people learn."

Packin' Up and Movin' Out

The Undergraduate Library is scheduled to close for extensive repairs and renovations Dec. 19, forcing students to relocate to Davis Library. All books and resources will be temporarily relocated to Davis and the Wilson Library annex. The Undergrad will be completely gutted and given an all new floor plan to maximize space.



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| <p>Plans Before and During Construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Construction will start during Winter Break and is being funded by money from the \$3.1 billion higher education bond package. ■ During construction, nonprint materials and books will be moved to Wilson Library. The circulation desk and reserves will be moved to Davis. ■ Davis will become nearly a 24-hour library after construction begins. | <p>Highlights of the New Floor Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The new floor plan will feature more windows and more quiet space with new study rooms. ■ The book stacks will be much smaller, allowing for more chairs and tables. ■ There will be an addition of new computers, including an electronic classroom and laptops available for check-out. |
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Makeover to Close Undergrad

By JOANNA HOUSIADAS
Staff Writer

Although studying might not be UNC students' favorite pastime, the Undergraduate Library provides many with a cozy setting to deal with this necessary evil.

But the Undergrad won't be a homework haven for much longer.

Starting Dec. 19 at 5 p.m., the Undergrad will be closing its doors for a round of extensive renovations that will not be completed until nearly the end of 2002.

"We've been planning for these renovations since 1995," said Diane Strauss, associate University librarian for public services. "The process has had its fits and starts, but it is finally happening."

Renovations will include a new hands-on classroom for instruction on using the Internet to do research as well as group study rooms.

Academic Technology & Networks will also relocate its services from the basement of

Wilson Library to a lower level of the Undergrad.

A new reserves reading area will allow students to access reserves materials, with a variety of texts available online. A new study lounge for students also will be included in the facility's floorplan.

Officials are welcoming the construction because renovation proposals for the library have been in the works since 1998. Originally submitted to the N.C. legislature as a capital improvement proposal, plans were not approved until the following year.

Plans were stalled by the statewide funding needs after Hurricane Floyd devastated eastern North Carolina in September 1999. All capital improvement projects not already under way were put on hold until further funds became available.

But the improvements can now go forward after the recent passing of the \$3.1 billion higher education bond referendum, which will provide \$9.8 million for the Undergrad

renovations. "The Undergrad is in dire need of renovation. If this bond hadn't passed, we would have been in dire straits," Strauss said.

She said the library also will ask for \$5 million in private funds. "If we are successful (in raising the private funds), some of the money will go into an endowment, and the rest will be invested in new furniture for the building," Strauss said.

Due to the current condition of the Undergrad, plans call for a complete overhaul of the existing structure — all that will remain standing are its walls.

Once the building is gutted, it is estimated that construction will take about 18 months to complete.

Between Dec. 20 and Jan. 9, all Undergrad services will come to a halt and will not resume until after Jan. 9, when most will continue in temporary locations such as Davis Library and the Wilson Library annex.

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Davis Will Increase Hours, Security

By JOANNA HOUSIADAS
Staff Writer

When the Undergraduate Library's extensive repair and renovation process begins Dec. 19, the system of operations at Davis Library will experience a few modifications of its own.

Most noticeable of these changes include an increase in the library's hours of operation beginning Jan. 9, according to

associate University librarian for public services Diane Strauss.

Davis will offer 24-hour service with the exception of Friday nights from 10 p.m. to 10 a.m. and Saturday nights from 10 p.m. to 11 a.m.

Davis will also see other changes over the Winter Break.

Strauss said the process of moving much of the Undergrad's resources to alternate locations on campus will occur before Jan.

9. Most services will be relocated to Davis, although some will be housed in the Wilson Library annex.

"We've explored lots of possibilities concerning the (Undergraduate) library's distribution of services (during the renovation period)," Strauss said. "We feel the way we finally decided to distribute the services and collections is best."

The Undergrad's entire non-print and book collection will be relocated to the annex behind Wilson, where they will only be accessible via paper and electronic retrieval requests.

Remaining library sources, including reading reserves, electronic reserves, the browsing collection and current Undergraduate Library subscrip-

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Bad Weather Slows Holiday Travel

The Associated Press

Busy airports, congested roads, crowded trains, and wet, foggy weather in some parts of the country Sunday made the trip home that much longer for Thanksgiving travelers.

With the Air Transport Association predicting a record 2.24 million passengers, airport officials across the nation had prepared for the worst.

"They're all coming back at the same time," said Nancy Castles, spokeswoman for Los Angeles International Airport.

She said 205,000 passengers were expected Sunday, up from the estimated 195,000 to 200,000 on the day a year ago.

In the morning, fog at San Francisco International Airport forced cancellation of 20 flights and delayed others up to two hours.

Most delays at Logan International Airport in Boston were about 90 minutes, with longer holdups on some flights between the city and the West Coast, New York and Chicago.

"Considering the weather, we've been very lucky," said Jose Juves, spokesman for the Massachusetts Ports Authority.

It was easy sailing for other travelers despite the threat of cancellations due to labor strife. Mechanics for both United and Northwest Airlines, which also had some delays and cancellations, are seeking new labor contracts.

United Airlines said there had been 66 cancellations — 49 of them related to maintenance — out of 2,300 flights systemwide.

No major delays were reported at airports in Miami, Atlanta and Seattle. And travelers were pleasantly surprised by the lack of long lines at Boston's Logan.

At Albany International Airport, volunteer "ambassadors" and a group of local gospel singers were enlisted to calm travelers' nerves. By afternoon, the flight boards were filling with delays as rainstorms covered much of the Northeast.

Sleet and freezing rain affected trav-

elers in New England.

More than 60 accidents — some with serious injuries — were reported on the Maine Turnpike, Interstate 295 and other major highways.

In New Hampshire, state police said more than 30 accidents had been reported by early afternoon on black-ice-coated highways.

Freezing rain also wreaked havoc on Rhode Island roads, where dozens of wrecks resulted in about 15 injuries.

In Pennsylvania, at least 19 people were injured in a 50-car pileup on Interstate 81.

Amtrak spokeswoman Cecilia Cummings said there were no major delays or problems on its rail lines.

"We've taken precautions," she said. "In the Northeast alone, we added 40 extra trains to our service."

A record 38.9 million Americans — 4 percent more than last year — were expected to travel at least 100 miles from home for the holiday, according to the American Automobile Association.

SIBLING RIVALRY



Senior Carl Hubbard returns a volley to his brother Joe at Fetzter Gym on Sunday evening. The two participate in the Tar Heel Squash club that plays matches against the Duke and N.C. State squash clubs.

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