

FRANCISCO
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The third part of the surgery was the most difficult because Wang had to hand-fashion the shape of the ring to perfectly fit around Francisco's cornea. The riskiest part of the surgery

occurred when the cornea was lifted to move the pupil. "At any point in the surgical process, a mistake could have occurred to render the entire process in vain," Wang said. Wang, who is a pioneer in cornea graft research, has a patent for the technique used on Francisco. However, as technology and tech-

niques improve, Wang would like to see the procedure used all over the world. "The procedure brings a ray of hope to a group of patients for whom, otherwise, present technology has nothing to offer." *The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.*

OVERSIGHT
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The recent turn of events caught the nation by surprise and raised a simple but poignant question: Can the American voting system be trusted? Pre-existing problems within the system are being examined more closely. UNC political science Professor Thad Beyle said contested elections, as well as errors and manipulations of the vote count, are fairly common. "I think (the Florida situation) is abnormal in the sense that there is such a great focus on it," he said. "I think that if you look at lots of states, there will be similar problems, but they aren't as momentous." Beyle said election reform legislation is an inevitable result of the presidential election controversy. He added that studies are in progress to determine the effects of the current situation. And Beyle thinks the controversy will have a negative effect on voters. "I think that the longer this plays out, the more cynical people will become," he said. Controversial elections often result from a lack of uniformity in ballot systems. Election experts said races decided below the national level often encounter problems because of varied voting procedures within the states. Don Wright, N.C. Board of Elections general counsel, said electorate size con-

tributes to the frequency of contested elections. "The smaller the election base, the smaller the office is, the more agitated people get," Wright said. "For example, the election for mayor is more likely to be contested than that for governor." Wright said close elections can be contested through a recount or in court. Marie Garber, author of "Contested Elections and Recounts: A Summary of State Procedures for Resolving Disputed Federal Elections," said minor problems in state and municipal elections are often ignored except in close situations. She said county tax dollars fund elections, making individual counties responsible for elections. Garber added that ballots in most states vary by county, except in sparsely populated states such as Alaska and Delaware, which use a uniform ballot. The most widely used voting system in the country is Votomatic, similar to the system used in Palm Beach County. To use Votomatic, voters insert a punch card into a machine that allows to pick a candidate by marking a circle. Other types of ballots used include paper ballots and outdated lever machines. North Carolina uses a variety of systems - including computer touch screens, paper ballots and punch cards. But elections experts say there is no perfect voting method because each method, coupled with underfunding, creates a unique set of problems.

"Things can go wrong in any voting system," Garber said. "They all have their weaknesses and their strengths." Wright said money can often become a factor. He said counties frequently make election administration decisions based property tax revenues. "In Palm Beach, somebody decided that throwing out 15,000 ballots in the last election wasn't much of a concern," he said. "It was a local political decision. They didn't want to spend the money." Wright said county officials are forced to balance spending priorities. "Should (counties) spend millions of dollars on voting or schools?" But experts say there are policies in place to ensure fair elections. Wright said a system of checks and balances between the two major political parties helps alleviate potential problems. "Republican and Democratic officials work together to safeguard the polls," he said. "They keep an eye on each other, and it works beautifully." Hunter, who spent 18 years in the N.C. House, said he sponsored a bill making recounts in close elections mandatory. The same bill later allowed Hunter to receive a recount. "There are procedures built in to check the results on Election Day," Hunter said. But despite the recent election woes, Beyle said he thinks democracy and the election process is successful as a whole. He cited the relatively calm mood of the country after the election. "There are no riots, the Army hasn't taken over, we just had Thanksgiving dinner and students are back to worrying about late papers." *The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.*

ELECTORAL
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But Yale Law School Professor Akhil Amar, who testified for a 1997 House committee examining the Electoral College, said there was a need to change the 213-year-old institution. "The Electoral College is an 18th-century device that solved 18th-century problems," Amar said. "But the 21st century presents an entirely new situation." He said the founding fathers designed the college partly to counteract voter ignorance, in a time when gossip was a frequent source of news. Amar said the development of a strong media and the Internet, which rapidly disseminates information to widespread audiences, vastly increases the political knowledge of the average voter - making it possible for voters to directly elect the president. Amar said the outcome of the 2000 presidential election could provide the catalyst needed for building enough support to abolish the Electoral College. "If Bush should become president, it will encourage more people to push for a change and increase their chances for success," Amar said. "Most people see the Electoral College as a group that reflects their will, instead of an independent body. Electing a president who loses the popular vote, even by a small margin, will eliminate that image." If Bush wins, it will be the first time in more than a century that a president was elected without winning the popular race. Republican Benjamin Harrison had about 100,000 votes less than Democratic candidate Grover Cleveland in the 1888 election but won the race with 233 electoral votes to Cleveland's 168. But UNC School of Law Professor Eric Muller, who specializes in constitutional issues, said it was unlikely the Electoral College would ever be eliminated or changed. "Any proposal (to change the college) would be dead in the water," Muller said. He said the amendment needed to change the Electoral College on a nationwide basis would likely fail because smaller states, which wield a disproportionate amount of power in the Electoral College, would not approve it. "The state of Wyoming has about 450,000 (citizens) but gets three electoral votes," Muller said. "It doesn't deserve three - per capita it deserves less than one - but that's the way the college was designed." Under the Constitution, states receive one electoral vote for each congress member. Wyoming, with two senators and one representative, has three electoral votes - one for about 150,000 people. California, the most populous state in the nation, has 54 electoral votes - one vote per 600,000 people. Muller said this system gave voters in smaller states a disproportionate voice in the Electoral College, despite the focus a candidate might place on a larger state like California or Florida. Muller also said he opposed tampering with the Constitution. He said the Electoral College has only experienced two problems in about 200 years that would significantly impact the nation - the 1876 and 2000 elections. The 1876 election also involved problems with Florida voting practices, such as missing ballot boxes and alleged voter fraud. Florida eventually submitted two separate sets of electors - one Democrat and one Republican. A House committee, which was majority Republican, voted along party lines to accept the Republican slate of electors, giving the race to Republican candidate Rutherford B. Hayes even though the Democratic candidate Samuel Tilden won more popular votes. Stanford Law Professor Emeritus William Cohen, who teaches constitutional law, said the 2000 election helped show the importance of the college. "One of the nice things about the college is that we're only concerned with the Florida vote," said Cohen, who supports reforming the Electoral College by adopting a proportional system. "Imagine the chaos if every precinct in the country was recounting just like those in Florida." *The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.*

Campus Calendar

Today
4 p.m. - The Department of Germanic Languages and the Study Abroad Office will sponsor an information session for students interested in studying in Germany. A representative from Study Abroad, students from Germany and several UNC students who have been on the exchange will be available to answer questions. Refreshments will be served.
5 p.m. - Join the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People** in a celebration of the semester in Union 213. This week's topic: "How would the U.S. be different if the president were a minority?"
7 p.m. - All interested students are invited to come hear **Byron Peters**, college minister at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Durham speak in Union 224.
7 p.m. - **Students for the Advancement of Race Relations** will hold a general interest meeting in the Campus Y lobby. The meeting is open to all students interested in tackling racial issues on campus and in the community.
7 p.m. - The **Carolina Animal Rights Effort** will sponsor a video screening and discussion about "The Witness." It's a documentary recounting one man's personal journey on becoming an animal rights activist. The event will be held in 106 Gardner Hall.
8 p.m. - **Carolina Production Guild** will hold a meeting and script pitches in Swain Hall Studio 2. The meeting is open to anyone interested in film production. For more information, go to: cpgfilms@hotmail.com.

Interested in Working with Young Children and Families?
Here's the major for you...
CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES (CDFs)
BIRTH THROUGH KINDERGARTEN LICENSURE PROGRAM
What? Informal Interest Reception
When? Nov. 30 from 3:30-5pm (drop in)
Where? Student Union, UNC-CH, Room 224
Refreshments will be served

With these Student Job Opportunities, We're Giving you... "Lots" to Think About!
You can have flexible hours and earn great money working during special event operations at UNC! The Department of Public Safety's Special Event Division is seeking part-time student employees. Minimum shifts are just 3 hours, but you can work for 4 - 10 hours during many events. Work around your class or job schedule - up to 5 days a week or just work once a month - it's up to you!
As a parking and traffic monitor at campus parking lots used during special event operations, you'll work flexible hours - mostly on evenings and weekends - while earning \$10.00 an hour!
It's a great way to earn extra money on campus. For more information on this super job opportunity, call Kristy Bradley in the Special Event Division of the UNC-CH Department of Public Safety, at 962-4424. Call today while positions are still available!

3RD ANNUAL TIMOTHY B. BURSETT SEMINAR FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
"Promoting Best Practice for High School and College Students with LD and ADHD"
with keynote speaker
Dr. Loring C. Brinckerhoff
A higher education consultant and an adjunct professor at Tufts University, Dr. Brinckerhoff specializes in transition planning for high school students, programming for college students with LD, legal rights of adults with LD, and program evaluation.
December 5, 2000
The William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education, UNC-CH
MORNING, PROFESSIONALS ONLY - \$45 (INCLUDES LUNCH)
8:00 Arrive and sign-in
9:00 Welcome and housekeeping remarks
9:15 - 10:30 "Appropriate LD Documentation for College" by Dr. Loring Brinckerhoff
10:30 - 10:45 Break
10:45 - 12:00 Breakout sessions
▶ "Understanding Learning Through Audio Book Use", Manju Banerjee
▶ "Lessons Learned From the Experts", Student Panel
12:00 - 1:30 Lunch
AFTERNOON, GENERAL PUBLIC & PROFESSIONALS - FREE OF CHARGE
12:30 - 1:30 Arrive and sign-in
1:30 - 2:45 Keynote address by Dr. Loring Brinckerhoff "Making the Transition to Higher Education"
2:45 - 3:30 "Beam Me Up", Resource Fair
3:30 - 4:45 Break-out sessions
▶ "Tools for Success", Student Panel, for students only
▶ "The Importance of Self Awareness/Understanding LD" by Dr. Ann Schulte, for all participants
4:45 Day ends
WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
HS & College students • Parents • Educators, Counselors • College Faculty & Administrators • Disability Service Providers • Psychiatrists & Psychologists • Pediatricians • Therapists
Sponsored by Learning Disabilities Services (UNC-CH)
For Program Details: 962-7227. To Register: 1-800-845-8640. or visit www.unc.edu/depts/lds

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DRINKING QUIZ #10
The phone bill arrives with pages of late night drunken dialies your roommate's made. You should:

A Install a payphone.
B Conjure up your best alien abduction story in preparation for a bill dispute.
C Start selling blood plasma to pay it off.
D NONE OF ABOVE.*

* The cost of binge drinking is far greater than what you owe the phone company. Tired of footing the bill? Advocate for change. Visit www.HadEnough.org

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