

Happy Trails
Tracing history's
paths. See Page 3



Today's the Day
Daily Tar Heel applications for
this semester are due at 5 p.m.
Decisions will be posted Thursday.



Cloud City
Today: Cloudy, 54
Thursday: Rainy, 48
Friday: Partly Cloudy, 50

The Daily Tar Heel

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Candidates Get Ready To Launch Campaigns

The Board of Elections hopes the candidates will comply with revised laws to ensure a smooth campaign process.

By TYLER MALAND
Staff Writer

The gates have officially opened for the annual flood of UNC student elections. Candidates were released to rove the campus and plan their attack after Board of Elections members unloaded pages of current election laws and petition forms at the election kick-off meeting Tuesday.

At the meeting, students officially declared their candidacy for the offices of student body president, Carolina Athletic Association president, Graduate and Professional Student Federation

president, Residence Hall Association president, rising senior class officers and Student Congress members.

Board of Elections Chairman Jeremy Tuchmayer kicked off the meeting by introducing the members of the board and explaining the organization's role in the elections process. "Our philosophy for the election is this: Our aim is to be a behind-the-scenes player in (the election)," Tuchmayer said.

He stressed the importance of following the election laws and adhering to the different residence hall canvassing policies.

Tuchmayer said it is in the candidates' best interests not to engage in any activity that would require the Board of Elections to take action against their campaign.

"I prefer not to see my picture in the paper," Tuchmayer said. "If my picture's in the paper, it usually means (the Board of Elections) had to do something."

Addressing door-to-door campaigning, Tuchmayer said that senior class candidates are prohibited from canvassing residence halls, but that all other candidates can campaign in residence halls from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.

Along the same guidelines, Tuchmayer said the Board of Elections prohibited candidates from sliding campaign materials under students' residence hall doors. "You can talk to them, have them fill out your petition, hand them a flier, but you cannot slide it under their doors," Tuchmayer told the

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JEREMY TUCHMAYER
Board of Elections Chairman

43 candidates.

Along with the election laws, potential candidates received petition forms to get their names on the ballot.

He said that the upcoming election will be conducted entirely online through Student Central and that all students with a valid Personal Identification Number can access it from any comput-



Board of Elections Chairman Jeremy Tuchmayer addresses the crowded meeting Tuesday where students declared candidacy for student body president and other offices.

DTH/MIKE MESSIER

er. Tuchmayer said he hopes voter turnout will double from past years due to the new online access.

"It will be a lot easier for uninformed voters to use and hopefully attract more people," Tuchmayer said.

Because of this change in the election process, candidates are prohibited from

placing political materials within 50 feet of all campus computer facilities that contain four or more computers.

The revised election law also prohibits any use of sound equipment used in the campaigning process within earshot of any University computer labs.

Tuchmayer said the penalty for

breaking any election law will be serious and immediate. "Be careful with what you do," Tuchmayer said. "There are probably some loopholes, but we are not going to help you find them."

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Ticker Stops Thanking, Starts Informing

After the ticker project was under way, responsibility for updating it moved to CAA's marketing committee.

By RACHEL CLARKE
Staff Writer

While the news ticker in the front of Student Stores is meant to keep students informed about current athletic events, all it has been doing lately is thanking Ed.

A message that flashed "Thanks Ed" followed by "Foundation" had been running since Winter Break due to organizational delays within the Carolina Athletic Association.

The message was meant to recognize the Educational Foundation, which funded the news ticker.

On Tuesday night, the ticker began running times for upcoming basketball games and the results of recent basketball games and swim meets.

But the change came too late to inform students of one basketball distribution and several sports events that have been held since the beginning of

the semester.

CAA President Tee Pruitt said the project was under the jurisdiction of Special Projects Co-coordinators Michael Songer and Adam Walters while it was getting off the ground last semester.

But now that the ticker is in place and secured, Pruitt said it is the responsibility of the CAA Sports Marketing Committee.

"It is their responsibility to handle all our sports marketing endeavors," he said.

"This is an exceptional opportunity for them to carry out these types of informative projects."

Trisha McWilliams, vice chairwoman of the marketing committee, said it is completely understandable that the ticker had not been changed recently.

"After break, we were just slow in getting it running," she said.

Pruitt attributed the delay to problems in getting the committee members organized.

"The beginning of the semester always presents some logistical hurdles with everyone's schedules," he said.

McWilliams said the committee did not meet the first week after break. The



DTH-CHRISTINE NGUYEN

Although it should be informing students of sporting events, the sports ticker at Student Stores has flashed "Thanks Ed Foundation" for weeks.

meeting last week had to be rescheduled because it was interrupted by Wednesday's basketball game against Clemson University.

But Songer said he was upset because the ticker was updated frequently during the fall semester.

He said he found the present delays frustrating.

"(The ticker) gives us a lot of potential to really raise awareness of UNC athletics," he said. "It's not being utilized that way."

Beginning this week, McWilliams said the committee plans to update the ticker every Monday and Thursday for the remainder of the semester.

McWilliams said the ticker will contain all the latest UNC sports news and that the updates will not stop for the rest of the semester.

"We apologize to everyone for being slow."

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Congress Takes Steps Toward Free Busing

The plan, which would raise fees, will go to a student vote but must be worked out with town officials.

By SCOTT BRITAIN
Staff Writer

In its first meeting of the year, Student Congress unanimously passed a resolution that potentially could provide Chapel Hill with a fare-free transit system.

The resolution calls for a referendum to be placed on the Feb. 13 Student Elections ballot that would give students a say on whether to accept an increase in student fees in return for the free service.

If passed by students, there will be an \$8.49 increase in student fees per semester for the fall and spring terms and an increase of \$1.49 per credit hour for the summer sessions.

The plan is the brainchild of Student Body President Brad Matthews, who included the project on his platform during his campaign last year. "We wanted to

create a way for students to use the bus system without paying the high prices that exist with the current system," Matthews said.

Under the proposed plan, all current Chapel Hill Transit buses would be converted to buses that operate similar to the U bus in that no fare would be charged for anyone wanting to use the service.

Several members of Congress expressed concern about UNC students paying for the entire transit system, but Student Body Vice President Lerissa Rentas said it would not be the case.

"We are going to be paying for the amount of service that we use - no more, no less," Rentas said.

The University will pay for about 40 percent of the transit system. The remainder of the money will come from the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, Matthews said.

He cautioned that nothing has been set in stone with the resolution because it all depends on the Town Council's actions after the student vote. "It's a conditional offer, which means the towns have to go along with us," Matthews said. "Just because our students approve this

deal doesn't mean that it will happen." Matthews said Chapel Hill leaders are more willing than those in Carrboro to go along with such a plan.

"I think that it's a very exciting proposition," said Congress Speaker Alexandra Bell. "It could be very beneficial to the students who go here."

Some students said they would vote for the referendum because they would save money in the end. "Although I am normally against any kind of increase in student fees, I do support this particular one because I know that there are a lot of people who live off campus and have to take the bus to get here," said Andrew Dennis, a freshman from Pinopolis, S.C.

A year-round bus pass costs students \$250 for unlimited rides on city buses. The proposed charge would greatly reduce the amount that students must pay. "It would cost students a lot less money for the exact same service," Rentas said.

The remainder of the Congress meeting was filled with allocation of funds, confirmation of appointees and consideration of bills.

Groups such as the Hellenic Student Association, THINK Transit and Black Graduate Student Association received money to promote their organizations.

Congress also approved the appointment of former student attorney

"We wanted to create a way for students to use the bus system without paying the high prices that exist with the current system."

BRAD MATTHEWS
Student Body President

Geniene Loucas to the Honor Court. "I would like to establish effective communication between (the attorney general's) staff and the Honor Court," Loucas said. "I know what training the council goes through, and I can see through any antics that they may pull."

One of the more heated bills of the evening dealt with a resolution to abolish exam days on Saturday due to it being the Sabbath. Debate sprang up with others feeling that University policy should treat all religious convictions in the same manner.

Another Congress member then proposed an amendment to the resolution that would allow exams on Sundays. Both versions of the resolution failed with many members feeling that the topic was too controversial for one meeting.

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State Grants UNC Building Policy Exemption

By FAITH RAY
Assistant State & National Editor

RALEIGH - The state Building Commission granted permission Tuesday for 30 UNC-system construction projects to be overseen by construction managers, exempting them from a state law and freeing system officials of their usual oversight role.

The current law states that any state building project must have separate bids from individual contractors. The law was designed to assure fair bidding practices among small and large construction companies and empower subcontractors.

UNC-system officials might eventually have to petition the commission for all 300 construction projects to be exempt.

They argued that the "multi-prime

contractor" law will slow down the construction process and cause unnecessary complications with the numerous projects that will take place on state campuses following the passage of the \$3.1 billion bond package.

Campus officials hope to complete the 300 construction and renovation projects on the 16 UNC-system campuses by 2006.

"The current method of construction procurement presents an undue managerial burden on in-house campus project managers and jeopardizes its successful completion," Jeff Davies, UNC vice president of finance, told the commission.

Commission member Norman Whitaker asked how the state will keep control of the project if a construction manager works directly with contractors

instead of the state and universities.

UNC-system officials said contractors must put up a bond to serve as an insurance that the work will be completed to their satisfaction and on time.

Another commission member, John Feezor, expressed concern that UNC officials might be taking the wrong course of action by petitioning the commission. "Have you asked the General Assembly to give special legislation instead of coming here and going over 300 projects?"

But Davies argued that officials have looked at alternative means, even approaching the General Assembly, but maintained that going before the commission was the best method.

J.B. Milliken, vice president for public affairs and university advancement, said the exemption will allow a construction

manager, hired for individual projects, to represent the university by working directly with contractors and subcontractors.

Milliken added that the multi-prime system still will exist with the electrical, plumbing and mechanical aspects of construction. "The key here is the difference of having a construction manager-at-risk as opposed to traditional contracting."

Davies said the request was made "based on the extraordinary circumstances associated with the unprecedented scale of this entire construction program."

"The proposed construction manager-at-risk method of delivery will provide a higher level of managerial oversight that will be necessary to ensure a predictable and timely project delivery."

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I must say, acting was good training for the political life which lay ahead of us.

Nancy Reagan