### The Daily Tar Heel

# N.C. Air Ranks Among Worst

#### **By WALTON WALKER Staff Write**

North Carolina's air quality is among the most dangerous in the nation according to a report recently released

by two environmental groups. "Danger in the Air," a joint publica-tion of the N.C. Public Interest Research Group and the Clean Air Network, ranked the state third in the nation for the number of recorded times the air reached

unhealthy smog levels last year, accord-ing to the Environmental Protection Agency's eight-hour health standard. The EPA standard measures exceedances, or the number of unhealthy smog levels, over an eight-hour period of the day under are highter.

the day when smog levels are highest. The report, based on information compiled by state air pollution control agencies across the country, states that smog rose to unhealthy levels 239 times in North Carolina last year

But the report also stated that the number of unhealthy days actually decreased in North Carolina because of uncommonly high levels of rainfall. The smog level was exceeded on 35 days in 2000, compared to 68 days in 1000

Across 43 states and Washington, D.C., 7,672 violations of the EPA's health standard were recorded. California produces the most polluted air of all states, according to the report, with 1,217 exceedances.

N.C. Sierra Club spokeswoman Molly Diggins said state leaders need to address the smog issue.

Smog has been blamed for 250,000 asthma attacks statewide. Prolonged exposure can scar the inside of lungs reducing their filtering capacity and leading to permanent damage.

"It's like getting a sunburn on the inside of your lungs," said Jane Mardoch, spokeswoman for the Clean Air Network.

Smog is produced when nitrogen oxides combine with chemicals in the air and are subjected to sunlight and heat. Automobiles and power plants are the two prime contributors to smog lev-els, the report stated. Each constituted about 40 percent of North Carolina's total attent attent attentions in 2000

According to N.C. PIRG spokes-woman Elizabeth Ouzts, the problem of pollution lies with the power plant indus-try. Ouzts said many plants located in the coutheast of the state were built before outheast of the state were built before 1977 and are subject to the pollution stan-dards in place when the plants were built. "Southeastern North Carolina has

some of the dirtiest power plants in the country," she said. "We're not going to see the dramatic improvements we ne until we take aggressive action against the power plants.".

**LIGHTING WOES** From Page 3

while efforts were being made, nothing has been fixed yet. "If we had requests, we'd put more lighting around the area, but we haven't had any," he said. Granville West resident Molly I'linn

said she would feel safer walking alone at night if there were more street lights. "It is a burden and inconvenience to

not be able to go to the library at night because you are scared to walk alone.

**CONGRESS RACES** From Page 3

But Speaker of Congress Alexandra Bell said the addition of write-in candidates will boost the number of Congress members. "There are typically about eight to 10 write-in candidates every year," she said.

Congress is an issue that she and Tuchmayer hope to change after the election

campus districts is because some students do not know where they will be living on campus until later in the

But Bell said she was not fazed by the low number of undergraduate candi-dates for on-campus districts.

capable of the job. "I am pretty confident that there are 37 students on this campus to do this," she said. "It is a big responsibility, but it is not that hard."

#### CONGRESS From Page 3

passed. Freshman Kelly White was appointed the chairwoman of the

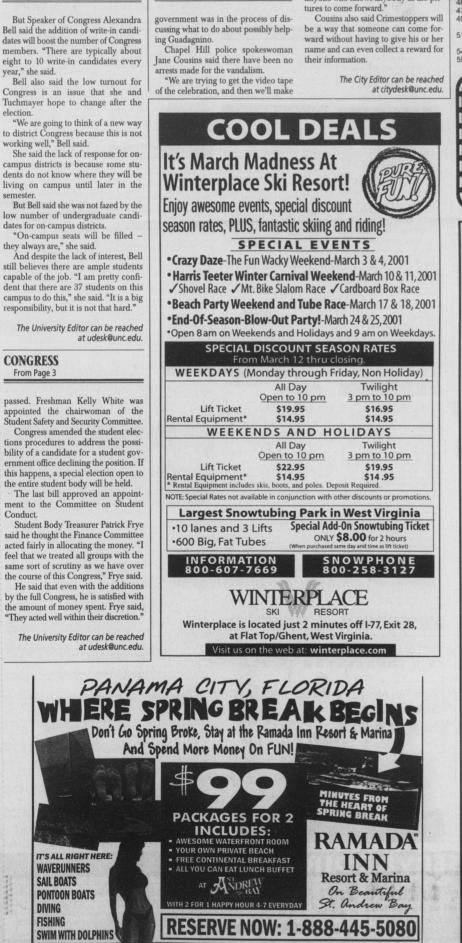
Congress amended the student elections procedures to address the possi bility of a candidate for a student gov ernment office declining the position. If this happens, a special election open to the entire student body will be held.

Conduct.

said he thought the Finance Committee acted fairly in allocating the money. "I feel that we treated all groups with the same sort of scrutiny as we have over

by the full Congress, he is satisfied with the amount of money spent. Frye said, "They acted well within their discretion.

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Look for the DTH Guide to Dating And Valentine Messages on Monday Dilbert© THE FEATURE CREEP THAT OOMP THAT'S WHAT SOUND JUST MAKES ME BEING A FEATURE BOUGHT YOU A CREEP IS LIKE SO SEXY. NEW FEATURE, HAVING A SUPER MISSY POWER DOM いちん **THE Daily Crossword** (C)2001 Tribe All rights rese By Stanley B. Whitte eed 37 Burial place
41 Bovine greeting
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The University of North Carolina and Wachovia would like to congratulate Courtney

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

especially if you have to walk through poorly lit areas," Flinn said.

Granville resident Marcellus Parker said he felt safe but added that he thinks the situation is different for women. "If one person feels unsafe because of the poor lighting situation then that should

be enough to show concern," Parker said. Granville East resident Allison Scarborough said she also feels relative ly safe walking alone at night through the poorly lit areas in Chapel Hill but that the lighting could be improved. "You never know who might be

**CAR HELP** 

From Page 3

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Zalinsky, the Wachovia Woman of the Week

Courtney, an economics major, is a senior tennis player from Greer, South Carolina. She received the Team Player of the Year Award in 2000 and has had three consecutive 20 win seasons on the team. Courtney has competed in many tournaments, winning the "B" flight singles title at the Fripp Invitational last year and advancing to the "C" flight singles finals of the Carolina Classic

Wachovia is committed to supporting achievements by women and is proud to celebrate Courtney Zalinsky's accomplishments.

## LET'S GET STARTED.®



#### WOMAN OF THE WEEK