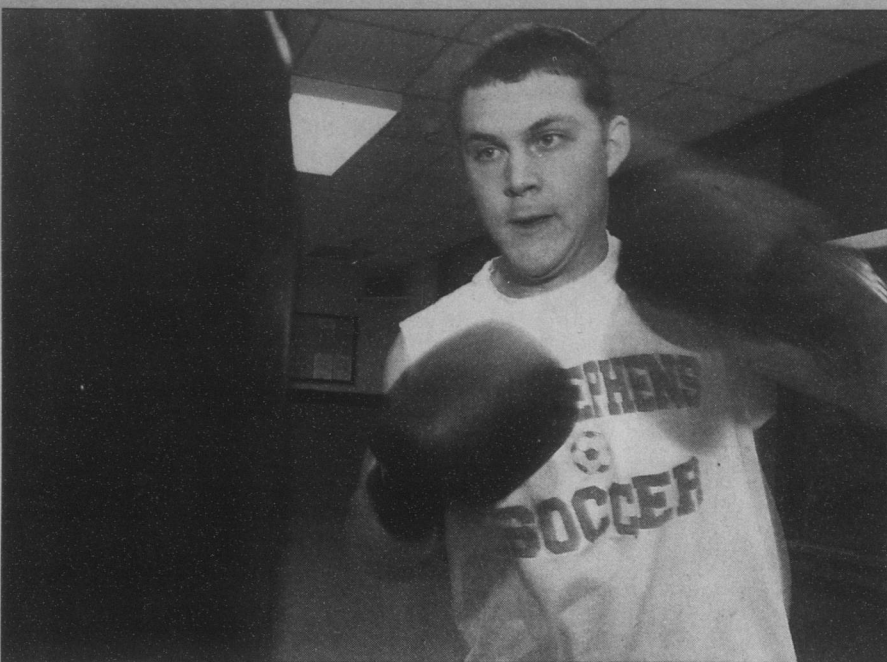


EYE OF THE TIGER



DTH/SEFTON IPOCK

Junior Jim Hawhee takes a warm-up round against the punching bag at Fetzer Gym on Monday night. Hawhee is a member of an unofficial boxing club on campus that meets three times a week to learn the basic technique from British amateur boxer Carl Roache.

Locals React to Sharon Victory

Residents hope the election of Ariel Sharon as Israeli leader will not hamper the Middle East peace process.

By WALTON WALKER Staff Writer

Amid the uncertainty created by the election of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, members of local Jewish and Muslim communities look for signs of peace in the Middle East. Sharon's opposition to Israel's concessions for peace with Palestine has spurred controversy among local Arabs and Israelis. Mixed reactions prevail among both communities as few know what direction the new Israeli government will take toward a peaceful resolution of the deep-seated conflict. "We're afraid about the breakdown of the peace process, but we're hopeful that we're wrong," said John Friedman, Rabbi of the local Judea Reform Congregation. Although some Jews in the Chapel Hill area expressed concern about Sharon's advocacy of the use of force in the past, they said it is necessary to give the new prime minister a chance before casting him as the man destined

to wreck hopes of peace in the Middle East. "I don't think the world should write off Ariel Sharon as a person who will make things worse, until he does," Friedman said. Lew Borman, spokesman for the Durham-Chapel Hill Jewish Federation, likewise cautioned against any rush to judgment. "It would be premature to draw any conclusions (about Sharon's agenda)," Borman said. During Sharon's campaign, he openly declared he will not compromise Israeli control of Jerusalem, calling the city "the capital of the Jewish people for eternity." Abdullah Al-ariam, a junior at Duke University and former vice president of the Duke Muslim Student Association, called the election of Sharon a disappointment. But he doesn't expect any drastic changes in Arab-Israeli relations. "I can't really say I'm angered," he admitted. "There doesn't seem to be any difference (between Barak and Sharon's policies)." While Sharon's right-wing stance earned him the title of "Arik, king of Israel" among some of his followers, opponents derisively refer to him as the "Butcher of Beirut" for his role in the

massacre of hundreds of Palestinian refugees by Christian Phalangists in 1982. As recently as September 2000, a visit to Aska Mosque in Jerusalem by Sharon, a holy contentious site revered by both Jews and Muslims, sparked the wave of violence that has claimed 400 lives. Palestinians felt Sharon's visit was an affront to the Islamic faith. Despite reservations from Israelis, the election was hardly divided, as Sharon captured 62.5 percent of the vote, compared to Barak's 37.4 percent. Friedman said the margin of victory reflected Israeli insecurity over the breakdown in peace talks, rather than overwhelming support for Sharon. "Fear is the most powerful motivator in this election," he said. Al-ariam said he held little optimism for an end to violence under Sharon. "Things will stay the same," he insisted. But Borman said Jews continue to keep faith that peace is possible. "We have to be a hopeful people." The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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votes will have to be manually tabulated, and results are not expected until a few hours after the online polls close at 10 p.m. The Internet option makes voting feasible for students studying abroad. "They would be able to vote, but the voting system is on Eastern Standard Time," Tuchmayer said. "But the poll is open for nearly 17 hours, so that would probably be convenient at some time for those students also." And in a year when words such as "butterfly ballot" and "dangling chads" bombarded the national vocabulary, fears of problems with a technologically advanced voting system became legitimate issues. The new voting system underwent a three-day test run last week. The Board of Elections found vot-

ers through sending out the test URL to listservs and through word of mouth. The site was visited by 101 test voters. Tuchmayer said the test vote was free of complications and helped serve its original purpose. "We just set it up so the candidates could see how it would work and show their constituents." Hill said that the system, which was first tested in October's Homecoming elections, is ready for large voter turnout. "We feel pretty confident and we used this system for Homecoming," Hill said. "There was a 15-minute problem due to traffic, but we've worked out that glitch." Hill said that if students experience problems with online voting, they can e-mail the Board of Elections at elections-board@unc.edu any time during the election or call 962-8683 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

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that students come out to vote," he said. "My second biggest hope is to win." As elections loomed nearer, Annie Peirce maintained a cool disposition, despite the hectic atmosphere created by last-minute campaign efforts. Weather conditions hindered efforts to campaign in the Pit, but Peirce utilized the time to hang large banners on campus. The remainder of the afternoon was spent answering individuals' platform questions via e-mail and making signs. Peirce concluded the day with a campaign team of about 15 people to go door-to-door in several residence halls. The group passed out fliers along with two-ply toilet paper, a humorous symbol of Peirce's platform issue to put two-ply toilet paper into bathrooms on campus. "The reason I'm doing the two-ply toilet paper is because it makes people laugh. I think people take these elections too seriously sometimes, and I think it's good to lighten things up," Peirce said. "I've learned so much through this

entire ordeal ... No matter what happens tomorrow, I don't regret doing this at all - it's been fun." Caleb Ritter had an easygoing outlook on the last day of campaigning before student elections day. "I've taken a very relaxed approach to this election," Ritter said. "I have a simple, realistic platform that is geared toward everyone." Ritter spent most of his day chatting with students around campus, enjoying the fine dining of Lenoir and visiting groups to share with them exactly what he plans to do if elected. Ritter said he feels the most important part about campaigning is developing personal relationships. "I am not about the impersonal stuff," Ritter said. "I do not just go to speak and leave. I want the people I am sharing my ideas with to also know who I am when I am not promoting my campaign. I like to talk about things other than the election." Ritter said he has enjoyed spending time with the dedicated members of his campaign team, the majority of which are his friends. He also said the experience has helped him gain a lot of public speaking experience, a skill that he

had not yet encountered so intensely. Warren Watts chose to make the day before the election relaxing after the rough schedule of campaigning. "Last week took a lot out of me," Watts said, referring not only to the multiple forums but also to the illness that he had to contend with. He spent Monday evening electioneering door-to-door at Morrison Residence Hall, having visited all of the other South Campus high rises earlier this week. Watts gave each resident he met a heel-shaped flier with his information on it. His message as he went to each room emphasized accessibility, voter awareness and voter turnout to students heading into election day. He asked that students take the time not only to look at his Web site, but to glance at other candidates' sites as well. "I want them to make an informed decision when they vote," he said. "If they have any questions, they should e-mail me." Candidate Justin Young spent his final night of the campaign in an intimate dinner with the members of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, giving everyone high-fives, hugs and reminiscing about the time he spent working as a waiter in

the house's cafeteria. "It's going to be all right," Young said to one of the members prior to the dinner. "Tomorrow's the big day - keeping my fingers crossed." During his address, Young highlighted several of his plans, including "bringing back a fun new approach to student government." Dinner was followed with members of Young's campaign team joining him for last-minute door-to-door canvassing in Morrison, and the unveiling of the team's new Superman flier. Young took time out to show fourth-floor residents his Web site while chatting with them about South Campus construction and stressing the importance of getting online to vote today. "This has been unreal," Young said about his campaign experience. "I'm being myself, and I see that people are actually liking me." Paige Ammons, Brook Corwin, Jennifer Coughlan, Jenny Fowler, Joanna Housiadas, Blake Rosser and Joe Sullivan contributed to this report. The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

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Jarvis said suspects would be brought in for questioning and prosecution as early as Wednesday. "Right now, we are continuing to watch the tapes and use technology to try to improve the quality of the still pictures," he said. The police will seek the help of the town and the University community in identifying those who are responsible. "We will release the photographs to the public in the form of fliers, through CrimeStoppers, campus police and several media outlets," Jarvis said. "We have already had people who are disgusted with what happened come forward so that those responsible for the crime will be held responsible." Although several of those identified are students, the suspects are not limited to the University community. "We are

releasing the information over a broad part of North Carolina," Jarvis said. "We cannot assume that all who were involved were UNC students." UNC Student Attorney General Taylor Lea said that Honor Court charges would be most likely brought up against the students who were involved. "Students could face sanctions such as suspension, probation or community service," Lea said. "The Honor Court will address anything that affects the University." Jarvis said the videotape also has shown bystanders who were trying to pull people away from the car and turn the car back on its wheels. He also said that although the police would like to identify those people and commend them, it is the officials' primary goal to find the people who damaged the car. The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

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Matthews said Newcomb is the best positioned to protect the interests and rights of the student body - even when it comes to questions about the Honor Court. "(Newcomb) has a healthy respect for the tradition of student self-governance and has an eye toward making it better," Matthews said. In light of recent debate about the future of UNC's student judicial system, Matthews said he and Newcomb have held several discussions about a possible overhaul of the system. "This is going to be a reform year,

and I think Brad recognizes that," Matthews said. "He is very intent on making sure every counsel is above and beyond providing adequate defense to any student." Matthews said Newcomb has discussed the need to examine the system for problems and ways to solve them. "I think it is in the students' best interest to maintain a self-governing process, and I know Brad will defend that," Matthews said. "He will work with all constituencies to arrive at a compromise

that maintains the integrity of the system." Matthews held interviews with the three applicants for the post last weekend, and he said it was a very difficult decision for him to make. "The quality of Student Attorney General Taylor Lea said Newcomb is a good choice for the position. "It's fabulous," she said. "He will do a fabulous job." The student attorney general presides over a staff of managing associate stu-

dent attorney generals, business associate student attorney generals, special investigations associate student attorney generals, an outreach associate student attorney general, counselors and a graduate student attorney general staff. Lea said Newcomb has contributed a great deal to her staff as a special investigations associate student attorney general, a post he has held since Nov. 1. "(Newcomb) will be a great asset to this University," she said. "He is extremely well spoken, very intelligent, he has a huge amount of experience and he's a great leader." "He has a lot of interesting ideas." The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

"This is going to be a reform year, and I think Brad (Newcomb) recognizes that."

BRAD MATTHEWS Student Body President

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