

The Big V's
'Vagina' marks
V-day. See Page 3



Dear Dot-Com ...
Former student's Web site provides
advice on love and relationships.
See Page 3



Soggy
Today: Showers, 70
Friday: Showers, 61
Saturday: Cloudy, 62

The Daily Tar Heel

www.dailytarheel.com

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Thursday, February 15, 2001

Ease, Speed of Online Voting Boost Turnout

By STACEY GEYER
Staff Writer

With four races heading into runoffs next week, one of the few concrete results from election day is this year's increased voter participation.

The 2001 **student 2001 elections** election attracted 5,837 total voters, 2,074 votes more than last year's election. Election turnout for 1999 was even lower at 3,663 votes, while 1998 elections totaled 4,210 votes.

Jeremy Tuchmayer, chairman of the Board of Elections, said the debut of online voting definitely helped increase voter turnout.

"The ease with which the voting process occurred - there were no lines and (students) could do it before class, after class, even in class if they have a laptop," he said.

Students who headed to computers to participate in the election process agreed with Tuchmayer's assessment.

"It was so easy," said junior Neil Foto. "How could you not vote? It took absolutely, what, 45 seconds of my time."

Other students said that while the convenience of online voting was a vast improvement from long lines and paper ballots, it wasn't their main motivation for voting.

"I guess the biggest reason was that I was on Annie Peirce's campaign team," said junior Eddie Falco. "But I probably would have voted anyway."

The number of candidates running for student body president was another key reason cited from students for why they voted.

Tuchmayer said the number of candidates "who got their names out" helped increase voter turnout and might be one reason for the four runoff races.

It was this level of commitment from the candidates to advertising their platforms that was attractive to some students.

"Most of the candidates addressed issues important to me, like the South Campus construction," said freshman Emily Davidson.

Despite the increased turnout, the majority of the student body did not participate.

Some students said busy schedules or a lack of knowledge about the candidates and issues prevented them from voting.

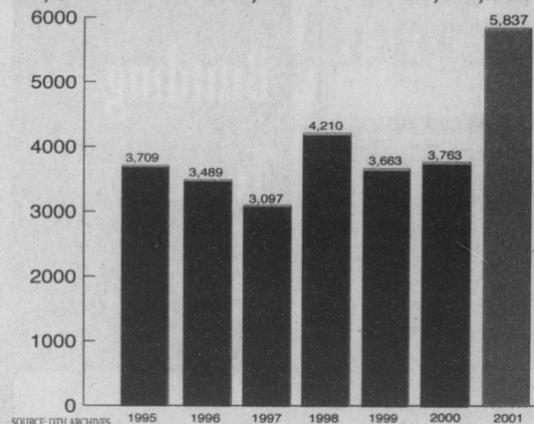
"I didn't vote mostly because I didn't know any of the platforms of the candidates," said sophomore Mary Cort.

Tuchmayer said although he would like to see online voting help increase turnout exponentially, other factors make it unlikely.

See TURNOUT, Page 4

Rackin' Up the Votes

Nearly 1,500 more students voted in this year's student elections than any other year since 1995.



SOURCE: DTH ARCHIVES

ECHHS: Class Rank Should Go

East Chapel Hill High School is trying to overturn state law requiring schools to list class rank on transcripts.

By CAROLYN PEARCE
Staff Writer

East Chapel Hill High School administrators are awaiting a decision from the state that would allow the school to drop class rank from students' transcripts.

ECHHS principal David Thaden said class rank is not a good indicator of the students' abilities because many ECHHS pupils are being disqualified from competitive colleges because the quality of the school system is so high.

"We have a strong suspicion that the kids from the bottom half of the top third of the class are dropped from the initial stages of the college admission process," Thaden said. "We think that the kids are grouped into a percentage and are not evaluated as individuals."

The state of North Carolina requires that all public high schools use the same Student Information Management System. The system automatically places class rank on all transcripts.

Last winter, ECHHS submitted a request for a waiver that would drop class rank from transcripts. The request was approved by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education and then submitted to the Department of Public Instruction. The waiver was then sent to UNC-system officials for review.

Thaden said the school expects an official decision to be rendered this spring, but an exact date was not given. But he also said school officials have been told by several sources that there was no chance it could be approved. "We were informally told that there is no way to grant this," Thaden said. "We don't have the authority to do it unilaterally."

Charles Coble, UNC-system vice president of university and school programs, said the state board would have to review the rationale and the impact of the request before reaching a decision. "I doubt the board will simply give its approval. It will be precedent setting, and they'll want to make sure they have all the information," he said.

Thaden said that students who take advanced classes wouldn't suffer from the new system. "The students who take Advanced Placement classes would still get extra points on their (grade point average)," Thaden said. "We aren't doing away with the GPA system."

The waiver originally was proposed
See CLASS RANK, Page 4

Interest Low for Congress

Minimal voting returns and low member return rate point to Student Congress' student-interest problems.

By GREG STEFFENSEN
Staff Writer

Junior William Southern won 100 percent of the votes for the 25th district's Student Congress representative. All two of them.

It was one of the many results in Tuesday's **student 2001 elections** Student Congress elections that reflected the low student interest in the congressional races.

Despite this year's record election turnout, serious participation in congressional elections was still so low that jokers were able to vote UNC sports star Julius Peppers into office five times.

"It was kind of disappointing," said Board of Elections Chairman Jeremy Tuchmayer of this year's slate of congressional candidates. "We were hoping for more interest. But it isn't always a fun job."

Eleven districts were won unanimously.

Tied races, such as the one that
See CONGRESS, Page 4

MADAME, YOUR CHARIOT AWAITS



Senior Charles Gouch helps his girlfriend, sophomore Katherine Kinard, into a horse-drawn buggy that picked the couple up at Alderman Residence Hall for their Valentine's Day date. They planned to ride the buggy to Cafe La Rez. Charles has been dating Katherine for eight months and loves to surprise her with creative ways to take her out on a date. For his last year at UNC, he wanted to find an alternative to the standard "dinner and a movie."

Napster Decision Gets Some Students Riled

By NOELLE HUTCHINS
Staff Writer

A recent legal decision that will force Napster Inc. to stop allowing its users to share copyrighted materials has elicited emotional responses from many student users.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Monday that Napster must stop permitting users to share most mp3 files using the company's software.

Napster software, which can be downloaded off the Web, enables users to locate and trade mp3s - compressed music files - with other Napster users.

The site has become popular among college students nationwide, and many UNC students fear the ruling will deny them access to music.

"I think (the ruling is) stupid because Napster makes a lot of songs and small

groups easily accessible that usually don't get national attention," said sophomore Joy Blackmon, who said she was frustrated by the ruling.

But Marian Moore, vice chancellor for information technology, said students should not be affected by the federal ruling because the UNC Honor Code already makes it illegal for students to share copyrighted information, including mp3s. She said students are permitted to download songs that are not copyrighted, but much of the music accessible on Napster is copyrighted.

And Moore said students do not realize the severity of the charges they might face. Copyright owners can file charges against students and students might also face punitive fines within the Honor Court system, she said.

See NAPSTER, Page 4

Copyright Issues

UNC officials say the recent Napster ruling has no effect on UNC's policy toward copyright laws and materials.

■ Napster Ruling

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco found that Napster was involved in "contributory and vicarious infringement" and had full knowledge that it was allowing its users to infringe on copyright laws.

The court also said that Napster must lock out those users who exchange copyrighted songs without permission.

Napster is allowed to stay in business until a lower court redrafts the injunction.

■ University Policy

It is a violation of the Student Honor Code to make illegal copies of copyrighted materials or other intellectual property.

UNC students can download songs that are not copyrighted ... but many of Napster's songs do not fall in this category.

SOURCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS, UNC HONOR CODE

Tantalizing E-mail Sends Virus

By LUCAS FENSKE
Assistant State & National Editor

Computer users receiving an e-mail claiming to have a picture of sex symbol and tennis star Anna Kournikova might be in for an unwelcome surprise when they find a computer virus instead.

But UNC officials say the virus, which preys on Kournikova's widespread sex appeal, has caused few problems on campus.

The virus arrives as an e-mail attachment with a subject line "Here you have, :o)" and contains an attachment named "AnnaKournikova.jpg.vbs."

But when users click on the file, they download a virus instead of a picture of the young Russian tennis player.

Symantec, which specializes in virus-protection software, released a protec-

tion program for the virus Monday on its Web site, <http://www.sarc.com>.

According to the Symantec Web site, the virus is rated a four on a scale from one to five, with five being the most dangerous, because the "AnnaKournikova" virus is difficult to contain and spreads easily.

But Sherry Graham, Academic Technology & Networks director of response services, said the virus was not a large problem on campus, causing less damage than similar viruses like the "I Love You" virus, which hit thousands of computers worldwide last year.

Both viruses spread through e-mail, using the address book in infected computers to send itself to other users.

Graham said it was hard to know how many students had caught the virus. "I've got three infected messages myself," she said. "I just hit the delete key."

Graham said ATN officials have set up a filter on the UNC servers to keep

students from getting the infected message - blocking about 10,000 e-mails.

Graham said ATN also put up an announcement on its Web page soon after the "AnnaKournikova" bug was discovered, directing users to information about the virus.

She said some of the worst problems occurred when infected users attempted to e-mail the person they received the virus from - clogging the network and slowing e-mail delivery to a crawl.

She said the virus problem is not as severe as in years past due to computer users' experience dealing with viruses and an increased usage in programs that identify and destroy the infected programs.

"People have put up more blocks on their computers," she said. "They're just smarter now (when dealing with viruses)."

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Men always want to be a woman's first love — women like to be a man's last romance.

Oscar Wilde