



ASHLEY STEPHENSON

Old-School TV More Important Than CAA Bill

I'm losing faith in our student body president.

Brad Matthews is all set to sign legislation that will give Student Congress oversight of the Carolina Athletic Association. I was hoping Matthews would spend his time more usefully, perhaps by cracking a beer and hunkering down for a night of "Diff'rent Strokes" reruns.

Last Tuesday night, in a really surprising landslide vote of 17-1, Congress decided to place the CAA under its control. It also voted to censure the CAA and urge future Congress chumps to investigate the past two administrations. The bill was put to Matthews, ready for a signature to set the measures in stone.

A scary thought, indeed.

But Matthews had a few problems with the bill, and he has met with members of the Rules and Judiciary Committee to make minor changes. Congress is set to vote on the revised bill tonight. Judging by the first vote, it should pass with flying colors. And judging by Matthews' meeting with the committee, the cap is already off his Bic.

Too bad it's all a bunch of baloney. I find it pathetic that students and Congress are fighting for an injustice that doesn't deserve such devotion.

Basketball tickets. CAA firings and trash-talking. It's a pretty weak cause.

Because I couldn't care less if CAA President Tee Pruitt and his cohorts passed out a few free tickets on the sky.

The real crime is that I wasn't one of the lucky friends.

If Matthews signs the bill, and I'm pretty sure he will, students will know where every CAA-allotted ticket goes, and Congress will have to approve all CAA Cabinet appointments.

Since we're being nitpicky about ticket allocations, I'd like to know who the chancellor gives his extra tickets to, or if friends of Director of Athletics Dick Baddour are getting a sweet deal. If CAA has to reveal their ticket-takers, I'd like all the honchos to do the same.

And if CAA appointments must be approved, why not appointments within the Asian Student Association or Sangam, or who gets to sing the lead in the Clef Hangers' version of "Carolina in My Mind." It's a slippery slope.

If Student Congress is going to take charge of student-run organizations, they might as well go all the way and not half-ass it. Take control of the CAA — then you won't have to be friends with Tee to score those choice seats. Take control of the student body president — then you won't have to wait for those pesky signatures. Hell, take control of the Honor Court — even y'all couldn't screw that one up.

Everyone, even the jokers in Congress, agrees that the nonsense in CAA stemmed from an abuse of power.

My contention is that Congress is not immune to said abuse either.

The kids in the CAA, Honor Court and Student Congress are the same as you and me, with more ambition. They're college kids, and they screw up.

And the scenario introduced by Congress amounts to nothing more than students supervising students. Congress is not older and wiser, nor are they more responsible or honorable than any organization on our campus. There are certainly no guarantees that its added presence in the CAA voice will make things all better.

Renegade Rep. Chris McClure was the only dissenting voice amid the nonsense. He told The Daily Tar Heel, "It's like every other organization on campus — it has some problems, but if Student Congress decides to start taking over groups that had problems, it would be taking over every group on campus."

Now, word on the street is that McClure is pals with Pruitt, and this probably plays a part in his sentiments. But McClure makes a good point just the same. Congress should stick to what it knows, which ain't much.

To Matthews, I advise you to listen to me and ignore the voices of congressional demons in your ear.

It's not too late to do the right thing. Because if "Diff'rent Strokes" isn't on, "The Facts of Life" is just as entertaining.

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Congress Ends Year of Debt-Paying

By STEPHANIE HORVATH
Staff Writer

When the 82nd Student Congress closes up shop tonight, its members will end a session that has been all about the money.

Beginning the year with a \$5,100 debt and a determination to pay it off meant a lot of penny-pinching and careful scrutiny of student groups' requests for funds.

"Next year, hopefully, we won't have these problems," said Speaker Alexandra Bell. "We basically bit the bullet and said, 'We're going to clean this up now.'"

The debt was a result of overspending by previous Congresses and last year's small amount of reversions —

unused money student groups are required to return to Congress.

As a result, the 82nd Congress only had \$22,000 in student fees to hand out to student groups, compared to \$39,000 the previous year.

Student Body Treasurer Patrick Frye said reversions will come in May 16 and that Congress will know for sure this summer



Speaker Alexandra Bell said Student Congress rewrote the financial section of the Student Code.

if it has successfully paid off the debt. But Frye said he was pleased with how Congress handled the budget crunch.

"We imposed on ourself a small amount we could spend and then of all things ended up with some money left over," Frye said. Frye estimated that Congress ended the session with \$2,500 to \$3,000 in its coffers.

While carefully considering all requests for money, Bell said Congress made it easier for student groups to get those funds by rewriting the entire financial section of the Student Code.

But Bell said some of Congress' most important endeavors reached much further than finances. She said Congress also worked with the Board of Elections

to revise the elections laws and make way for online voting.

"I think we worked really well with the executive branch this year while maintaining our independence," Bell said.

Congress members also were generally pleased with their recent censure of the Carolina Athletic Association and pending approval of a bill that will make the organization partly accountable to Congress.

A bill was passed by Congress last Tuesday with a 17-1 vote, but Student Body President Brad Matthews has introduced a revised bill that will be voted on tonight in a special session.

"I think it will make a student orga-

See CONGRESS, Page 5

Area Seeks Edwards' NRC Clout

Triangle leaders are seeking Sen. John Edwards' help in battling the expansion of Shearon Harris power plant.

By COKE WHITWORTH
Staff Writer

Local officials said they are hoping for the support of Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., in one more push for a hearing regarding the expansion of a local nuclear waste storage facility.

Eight Triangle officials, including four representing the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area, faxed a letter to Edwards on Thursday requesting a meeting to discuss a plan of action.

Officials also asked that Edwards use his political connections in Washington to convince the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that an evidentiary hearing about the recently approved expansion at Carolina Power & Light Co.'s Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant is necessary.

On March 1, the NRC upheld the ruling of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that allowed the opening of two more existing nuclear waste repository pools at the Wake County plant. Orange County officials are appealing this decision and said they hope Edwards' support will lend credence to their efforts.

Kevin Foy, Joyce Brown and Bill Strom, all members of the Chapel Hill Town Council, signed the letter as did Carrboro Alderman Allen Spalt and state Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange.

Officials said the battle to persuade the NRC to require an evidentiary hearing on the matter would require powerful backing, but given Edwards' history of fighting large corporations as a successful trial lawyer, he would be a strong ally.

"A common sense test really needs to be applied here, especially with an issue as controversial and impacting as this, and with Edwards we can apply that test," Spalt said.

Mike Briggs, press secretary for Edwards, said the senator received the letter, and although he is very busy with other issues, he is planning to meet with the group. "The senator wants to meet with the officials from the (Triangle) area, but (Congress) is in session right now, so it looks like a conference call will be the way to go," Briggs said.

Briggs would not speculate about what action Edwards would decide to take on the matter. "The senator has already petitioned the NRC for a full hearing; we'll just have to wait and see what comes out of the meeting with the Triangle officials and go from there."

Some officials said Edwards could be the area's last chance for a hearing. They also said they are fighting an uphill battle because of the financial strength of CP&L.

"Senator Edwards is our only hope to counterbalance this stonewalling by a Fortune 500 company," Foy said. "This is an enormous company that can spend millions to thwart the efforts of residents with legitimate concerns without even blinking an eye."

CP&L spokesman Keith Poston said

See EDWARDS, Page 5

Bosnian Speaker Discusses War, Economic Woes

The Bosnian ambassador gave a talk this weekend to an audience that included European Union officials and UNC students.

By BEN DAVIDSON
Staff Writer

Bosnian Ambassador to the U.S. Igor Davidovic outlined current problems and the future of Bosnia on Friday as the honorary speaker during the weekend conference titled "The Future of the Balkans."

Developed by the Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies, organizers said the purpose of the conference and the presentation by Davidovic was to foster debate and understanding of the current discontent in the Balkans.

Conference co-organizer Rye Barcott said the lecture brought new international awareness to the University. "The Director of the University Center for International Studies Dr. James Peacock's new vision for the University is to 'take Carolina to the world and bring the world to Carolina,'" he said.

State department officials, European Union bureaucrats, UNC professors and students attended the speech, in which Davidovic stressed the progress made in the Balkans during the past year along with future problems. "I'm concerned that there is talk that no progress has been made in Bosnia," Davidovic said. "However, the government is currently filled with people who are resolved to fighting for multi-ethnicity."

He said Bosnia's main problem is a faltering economy, which fell to 40 percent of its prewar capacity. It recently has been worsened by the return rate of refugees, which has increased 400 percent from last year's numbers, driving unemployment higher.

But he said the return of refugees is spontaneous and is an indication that there are no psychological or political barriers to returning to Bosnia. Such concerns might be eased further by the arrest this weekend of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic for corruption and abuse of power.

Davidovic blamed many Balkan problems on corrupt politicians who only fight for their personal fortunes and future. "In Bosnia, there is a lack of foreign investors due to the uncertain political situation," he said. "We are in need of foreign investors who are not interested in immediate profits."

Davidovic concluded by saying that the cruelty and death that he witnessed during the war in Bosnia cannot be forgotten but that peace and stability can help Bosnia recover.

Many students were intrigued by the political information presented about the Balkan region. "I was very excited about hearing Ambassador Davidovic speak," said Bosnian-born biology major Melina Selimbegovic. "I think that I'm normally out of the political loop and was glad to be educated on the progress being made in Bosnia."

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WHEEL APPEAL



DTH/EMILY SCHNURE

Jeremy Anderegg, 7, and his brother Nathan, 9, play on scooters in Polk Place last week while on spring vacation from school. Their father is a systems administrator in UNC's Department of Computer Science.

Storm Doesn't Stop CROP Walkers

By MATT VISER
Staff Writer

Inclement weather forced officials to cancel Sunday's 15th annual Carrboro-Chapel Hill CROP Walk, an event aimed at raising both money and awareness for hunger throughout the world.

Although the storm dampened some of the excitement of this year's Community Reaching Out to People Walk, about 200 people still met at the Carrboro Town Commons for the Inter-Faith Council-sponsored event.

After the IFC announced the walk was officially canceled, people found other ways to participate in the event. The event will not be rescheduled.

One group from the United Church of Chapel Hill decided to drive the 10-kilometer route, which stretched from the Carrboro Town Commons to Tenney Circle in Chapel Hill. "We're doing this for ourselves and our sponsors," said Elisa Enriquez, CROP Walk recruiter for the United Church of Chapel Hill.

The Raging Grannies, a group of eight women who sing for social causes, were also at the event and sang a few songs they wrote for the walk, such as "Song for Hunger," set to the tune of "On Top of Old Smoky."

After the rain subsided, some people decided to go ahead and do the walk. Dede Richardson, accompanied by her 3-year-old daughter Katie, said they wanted to walk at least part of it.

"It's a good cause," Richardson said. "Hopefully the funds will still be raised."

This is the first time the CROP Walk

has been rained out in its 15-year history.

"This is a rain or shine event," IFC volunteer Leila Dillon said.

But this year, the rain was accompanied by lightning and severe thunderstorms. When IFC officials received word from the National Weather Forecast that severe weather was headed toward the area, Dillon said it was necessary to cancel the walk. "Having people walk down the street with umbrellas in lightning is not a good idea," she said.

Dillon said she is not sure how much money will be raised this year. About \$60,000 was raised last year, she said.

"Hopefully, the people who pledged will follow through," Dillon said.

CROP Walks have been sponsored nationwide by the Church World Service since 1969. There are presently more than 2,000 communities across the United States who sponsor CROP Walks, according to the Church World Service Web site.

The Carrboro-Chapel Hill CROP Walk began in 1987 and has always been sponsored by the IFC.

IFC Director Chris Moran said 25 percent of the money raised will go to support IFC hunger relief programs. The IFC received between \$14,000 and \$15,000 from last year's CROP Walk, Moran said.

The other 75 percent of the proceeds go to the Church World Service, for refugees, disaster relief and self-help projects in more than 80 countries, Moran said. "But the whole idea, more than money, is bringing people together."

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Duke Audience Unmoved by De La Soul Show

The trio attempted to entertain the crowd at Duke University's Page Auditorium on Friday night but gave up after only an hour.

By DAVID POVILL
Staff Writer

Behind twin turntables on an otherwise empty stage stood a portly man, quietly spinning records as the crowd slowly shuffled into Duke University's Page Auditorium on Friday night.

The DJ was almost invisible to the audience members, who were anxiously awaiting the arrival of De La Soul.

But the crowd members failed to realize that this stocky gentleman was in fact Maseo, one-third of the legendary hip-hop trio that attempted, ultimately in vain, to entertain them. As the lights dimmed, he asked, "I want to know how many of y'all have been down with De La since 'Three Feet High and Rising?'"

A few hands stretched skyward, and a muffled cheer stuttered up from the crowd to acknowledge the group's first album, released way back in 1989, but the average response was one of feigned recognition over inner puzzlement. The process continued as Maseo moved onward through the list of De La albums, until he got to *Art Official Intelligence: Mosaic Thump*, the group's latest release, after which a great roar leapt from the audience.

The crowd might have thought its response appropriate, since few identified Maseo. But for the performers, it must have been sad to limit the show to the 16 songs the crowd would recognize.

See DE LA SOUL, Page 5



DTH/SEFTON IPOCK

Dede Richardson and her daughter Katie bring up the rear of the Carrboro-Chapel Hill CROP Walk.