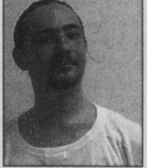


Elections Important For Students

On Wednesday, Student Congress will hold special elections to fill 11 empty congressional seats. Behind those seats are a total of 10 entire districts that are completely unrepresented in Congress.



Geoff Wessel
UNIVERSITY COLUMNIST

This is not the first time such elections have been called. In fact, they happen regularly. Speaker Mark Townsend said that in all his time at UNC, the closest we've come to full representation is 31

out of 37 seats.

We don't have to look far for the cause of this problem. Fellow students, it is you.

Townsend and Student Body President Justin Young identified student apathy as the driving force behind the lack of representation. The level of this apathy is appalling – not only do most students not vote in campus elections, many districts do not even have a single candidate running, which is why there always are empty seats.

Students apparently do not realize the importance of Student Congress. True, much of their business is routine and at times even tedious. True, taking an interest requires a bit of effort.

But student representation is a privilege, and a hard-won privilege at that, not a God-given right that we can take for granted, demanding it when we want it and ignoring it the rest of the time. Because when we need that representation it will be very hard on us if our apathy has allowed it to slip through our fingers.

How many of you even know which district of Student Congress represents (or, in 10 cases, is supposed to represent) you? Can we get a show of hands? Yes, that's what I thought.

Student government is the process through which the student body represents itself to University administrators. It is important that we students make use of that process, lest it be taken away from us.

It is especially important to do so now, when there is even less reason for administrators to take seriously UNC's student representation. Some members of student government themselves seem to be having problems with the system lately.

Two senior class officers, former senior class Vice President Ursula Dimmeling and former Chief Marshal Annie Peirce, have resigned their posts in the past two weeks. Dimmeling's resignation came in a flurry of allegations. She accused Senior Class President Ben Singer of wanting to make all decisions for the class without her input, while Singer said it was Dimmeling who refused to include other officers in meetings with administrators.

This sort of bitterness and infighting will not be much help convincing administrators that student government is a serious and important source that should be involved in any future important decisions that will affect students.

Student leaders are elected to do a job. Even if it means working through difficult interpersonal tensions, they should make doing that job their priority.

It's bad enough when the average student is apathetic and unconcerned about the goings-on of student government. When students who actually hold office forget the importance of what they're there to do, it indicates a serious lack of participation running through the student body.

Columnist Geoff Wessel can be reached at vroom@email.unc.edu.

Tufts Receives Labor Association Position

By Brook Corwin
Staff Writer

UNC now has representation on another national board working with manufacturers to ensure fair labor standards.

But members of a student group focused on workers' rights said they are worried about the level of UNC's involvement with this labor watchdog group.

The Fair Labor Association, a sweatshop-monitoring group made up of rep-

resentatives from human rights organizations and apparel manufacturers, voted unanimously last week to add three new university representatives – including Rut Tufts, UNC director of auxiliary services.

Vice presidents of Notre Dame University and Princeton University are the other new FLA board members.

Tufts said the decision is a significant step forward for UNC, which is making efforts to ensure fair labor conditions in the production of products bearing the UNC logo. "You have clout by joining

with other universities and having more of a voice," Tufts said. "Then when you bring in huge companies like Nike and Reebok to the table, suddenly you can make more and more of an impact."

Implementing external labor monitoring programs and negotiating fair labor standards also is the goal of the Worker Rights Consortium, another national workers' rights group which includes Tufts as a board member.

Tufts said his work with the WRC, which does not include representatives

from apparel companies, is different from his work with the FLA.

But some members of Students for Economic Justice, a campus group which has protested UNC's contracts with Nike, said they are concerned Tufts has a position on both the FLA and WRC boards. One of SEJ's main objectives is to continue pushing for the University to withdraw from the FLA and focus its attention on the WRC, which uses a different monitoring procedure.

"It definitely seems like a conflict of

interest to me," said junior Courtney Sproule, a member of SEJ.

But Sproule stresses SEJ is more concerned with the FLA's association with UNC than with Tufts' appointment. "The fact that he is on the board is disturbing, but we are more disturbed by UNC's involvement with the FLA," Sproule said.

But Tufts said UNC's involvement with the FLA is important for fighting poor labor conditions. "People should

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THE DEVIL WENT DOWN TO THE UNION



Jamming out bluegrass style, Joseph Hoyle (center) plays the fiddle in Lighter Shade of Blue's performance of "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" on Sunday night in the Great Hall. The high-energy musical group presented its colorful fall concert titled "Livin' on the Edge."

DTH/KIMBERLY CRAVEN

UNC, Duke Host Two-Day Women, Religion Teach-In

The teach-in focused on aspects of women's roles regarding religious fundamentalism, specifically after the events of Sept. 11.

By Philissa Cramer and Joelle Ruben
Staff Writers

DURHAM – UNC and Duke faculty and students collaborated last week to present a teach-in examining women's resistance to religious fundamentalism.

The teach-in, titled "Women Fight Fundamentalism: Before and After September 11," was held in two parts Thursday and Friday, with each campus hosting one session.

Thursday's session, held in UNC's Hanes Art Center, explored the ideas that war is a gendered institution and that longstanding stereotypes of fundamentalism affect current events.

"I would hope this forum would produce solidarity for women fighting for justice in the world," said Ranjana Khanna, an English professor at Duke University, in her opening remarks.

But Khanna said a unified front among women will be hard to achieve. "I don't think international solidarity is anything easy," she said.

Khanna said she does not understand how American women can rightfully criticize fundamentalism in other cultures when they impose forms of oppression on themselves, like breast implants and high heels. "There is too much navel-gazing and not enough looking outside of one's own context," Khanna said. "Women in the United States are the biggest

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General Assembly on Longest Run CAA Works to Pique Interest in Tickets

Some say the N.C. General Assembly, a part-time body, should consider becoming a full-time legislature.

By Elyse Ashburn
Staff Writer

The 144th N.C. General Assembly will convene today for the 161st time – making the current legislative session the longest in state history.

The General Assembly has been in session longer than some full-time legislatures and is the only part-time legislative body in the country that has yet to adjourn.

Brenda Erickson, spokeswoman for the National Conference of State Legislatures, said a full-time state legislature is defined as one that is in session for the better part of 10 or more months per year.

The N.C. General Assembly convened almost 10 months ago on Jan. 24.

Erickson added that most full-time legislative bodies are composed of individuals whose primary job is serving as a lawmaker whereas members of a part-time legislature might have other primary careers. She said there are 10 states that have legislatures classified as full-time.

According to results of the 2000 U.S. Census, seven of those states have a population that are among the 10 largest in the nation. North Carolina has the 11th largest population in the United States.

Ferrel Guillory, director of UNC's Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life, said population is often a major factor in determining the neces-

sity of a full-time legislature.

Guillory said that he thinks the N.C. General Assembly should address the issue of creating a more productive legislature, as well as considering the possibility of adopting full-time classification.

Guillory said North Carolina needs a legislature that serves the needs of constituents while providing manageable, effective schedules for legislators.

He said that "full-time politician" has a negative connotation but that part-time service does not necessarily guarantee that the citizens' needs are the primary focus.

"Part-time doesn't necessarily mean a people's legislature," Guillory said.

He said this year's long session is not an anomaly, and the need to address session scheduling will not go away anytime soon.

Although sessions have been shorter the last two years, both the 1997 and 1998 sessions set records for length – adjourning on Aug. 28 and Oct. 29, respectively.

Legislators have more issues to address now than in years past because the trend in U.S. government has been to shift major domestic issues from federal to state government, Guillory said.

"The trend since the Reagan administration in the '80s has been to devolve the power from national to state level," he said. "State legislators now have to work with state funding for health care, clean air issues, utility and food industry regulation, and many more complex domestic issues."

Guillory added that he thinks a significant change in the structure of legislative sessions will be extremely hard to achieve.

He said a major shock would be nec-

Full-Time Job

North Carolina is the fourth largest state in the United States without a full-time legislature. States with full-time legislatures are listed in bold.

State	Population
California	33,871,648
Texas	20,851,820
New York	18,976,457
Florida	15,982,378
Illinois	12,419,293
Pennsylvania	12,281,054
Ohio	11,353,140
Michigan	9,938,444
New Jersey	8,414,350
Georgia	8,186,453
North Carolina	8,049,313
Virginia	7,078,815
Massachusetts	6,349,097
Indiana	6,080,485
Washington	5,894,121

SOURCE: CENSUS BUREAU

essary to initiate change, but he does not think this year's lengthy session will be that necessary shock.

"It's extremely hard to change an institution as old as our legislature," he said.

Legislators also say they do not anticipate major changes in legislative operations in the near future.

Rep. Edward Redwine, D-Brunswick, said he does not anticipate that debates in the General Assembly will become less lengthy anytime soon because of the legislature's partisan divide.

"I don't believe that one party will dominate any time soon," Redwine

See GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Page 4

By Jeff Silver
Staff Writer

Carolina Athletic Association officials are working to boost participation in future ticket distributions after the second weekend in a row of unusually low demand for tickets.

Although he could not cite specific numbers from last year, CAA President Reid Chaney said the number of bracelets given out this year at the first two distributions is lower than in previous years. About 3,800 bracelets were given out for this year's first distribution on Oct. 27. About 2,800 were given out for Saturday's distribution.

Chaney said more than 1,000 tickets remain after Saturday's distribution.

After the distributions, students can pick up tickets until the next Wednesday. Tickets remaining from the most recent distribution can be picked up from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today through Wednesday.

Chaney said some tickets for the Indiana game – part of the Oct. 27 distribution – were left over after Wednesday and were given back to the Department of Athletics to be sold to the public. But Chaney said students picked up all the tickets for the games against Davidson and Hampton, the other two games in the first distribution.

Chaney attributed the downturn to several factors. He said new rules, like scanning UNC ONE Cards when giving

out bracelets, that were put into place this year to curb cheating naturally lower the number of bracelets distributed. "Students got six or seven last year, and now they're only getting one," he said.

He also said the team's first several opponents were not ACC teams and were not nationally known. The first several games of last year's season also were nonconference games.

Chaney said many students expressed concern about missing class registration, which began at 10 a.m. Oct. 27 for juniors and at 10 a.m. Saturday for sophomores. But he said all students had their tickets by 9:30 a.m. both days.

Another reason Chaney cited for the second lackluster distribution was that three of the four games for which tickets were distributed will be played over Winter Break. In addition, Chaney said, the football team's success has diminished student interest in the basketball season.

CAA officials already have plans to bring more students out for the next distribution Dec. 1 for the games against Wake Forest, Virginia and N.C. State.

Chaney said that although conference games always inspire more interest, he is afraid people will forget about the Dec. 1 distribution while they are away on Thanksgiving Break. He said, "We encourage all students to come out."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

ARTCARVED COLLEGE JEWELRY official

Carolina Ring Event

DATE..... TODAY, Monday, Nov. 5 - Friday, Nov. 9
 TIME..... 10:30am - 3:30pm
 PLACE.... UNC Student Stores

1-800-952-7002
 Local Arctcarved Office: 919-968-7894 • Special Payment Plans Available.

STUDENT STORES
 THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
 "Officially Licensed Carolina Ring Dealer"