

Recount Study Results Released

The Associated Press

A vote-by-vote review of untallied ballots in the 2000 Florida presidential election indicates George W. Bush would have narrowly prevailed in the partial recounts sought by Al Gore, but Gore might have reversed the outcome — by the barest of margins — had he pursued and gained a complete statewide recount.

Bush eventually won Florida, and thus the White House, by 537 votes out of more than 6 million cast. But questions about the uncounted votes lingered.

Almost a year after that cliffhanger conclusion, a media-sponsored review of the more than 175,000 disputed ballots underscored that the prize of the U.S. presidency came down to an almost unimaginably small number of votes.

The new data, compiled by The Associated Press and seven other news organizations, also suggested that Gore followed a legal strategy after Election Day that would have led to defeat even if it had not been rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court. Gore sought a recount of a relatively small portion of the state's disputed ballots while the review indicates his only chance lay in a full statewide recount of all Florida's untallied votes.

"We are a nation of laws, and the presidential election of 2000 is over," Gore said Sunday in a prepared statement. "Right now, our country faces a great challenge as we seek to successfully combat terrorism. I fully support President Bush's efforts to achieve that goal."

Said Bush press secretary Ari Fleischer: "The election was settled a year ago. President Bush won, and the voters have long since moved on."

Against the backdrop of the disputed Nov. 7, 2000, election, the news organizations set out earlier this year to examine as many as possible of the ballots set aside as either undervotes or overvotes.

The goal of the news organizations was not to learn who really "won" Florida; the Electoral College already had determined Bush was the winner following a U.S. Supreme Court decision that ended further counting and led to Gore's concession.

The aim was to provide a valuable historical record by thoroughly assessing tens of thousands of ballots.

Much of the legal wrangling focused on how votes were defined, and the ballot review did, too, calculating results under different standards.

Completing two partial recounts that Gore unsuccessfully pursued in court showed Bush maintaining a lead ranging between 225 and 493 votes — meaning Bush still would have won if the U.S. Supreme Court had allowed a partial statewide recount to continue.

Under any standard tabulating all disputed votes statewide, however, Gore erased Bush's advantage and emerged with a lead ranging from 42 to 171 votes.

Strikingly, all these outcomes were closer than even the narrow 537 votes of Bush's official victory. With numbers that tiny, experts said it would be impossible to interpret the survey results as definitive.

New Carrboro Middle School Dedicated

By ERIKA HEYDER
Staff Writer

More than 350 people gathered Sunday to dedicate Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools' newest addition — R.D. and Euzelle Smith Middle School.

The school, partially funded by the 1996 bond referendum, cost Orange County taxpayers \$19.4 million to build.

Walking into the new school, the visitors immediately sensed excitement surrounding the building and people.

Parents were selling Smith Spirit clothing, the seventh-grade band's music drifted through out the hall, and people admired the brightly tiled floors, modern cafeteria and technologically advanced atmosphere.

Located behind Chapel Hill High School, the school opened its doors to students on Aug. 20 but was officially dedicated Sunday afternoon to Euzelle and R.D. Smith.

Between them, the couple worked 75 years in various roles within the community's secondary education program.

In their speeches, both thanked family members and friends who supported them throughout their careers. "We never thought our work in education over the past 70 plus years would culminate in an honor of this magnitude," Euzelle Smith said.

School Principal Valerie Reinhardt addressed the attentive audience made up of students, parents, family and officials. "When someone walks into this school, you immediately get the sense that our school is different," she said.

Reinhardt also said the school has been nationally recognized for conserving resources.



DTH/LAURA LITTLE

R.D. (left) and Euzelle Smith stand beside a portrait that will be hung in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school named for them. The school was dedicated R.D. and Euzelle Smith Middle School on Sunday afternoon.

The Smiths' daughter, Patrice Wall, stressed to the audience that her parents have made a significant mark over their 75 years in Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools. She urged students to "embrace the Smiths' philosophy on education."

Surrounded by family and school board members, the Smiths accepted a plaque and portrait to be permanently

hung on the wall at the end of the ceremony.

Seventh-grader Kyle Slosek, who guided audience members through tours of the school following the ceremony, said he likes the school.

"My favorite part of the school is the technology," he said. "I like how you can turn off the lights and still see where you

are going because of all the outside light."

Eighth-grader Berkely Gadbaw said, "This is a great school, and students as a new group will have to work hard to build their own community, one that will follow the teachings the Smiths have presented."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

IMAX Theater to Open in Raleigh

By GRAHAM PARKER
Staff Writer

The ear-shattering, jaw-dropping power of IMAX is coming to Raleigh.

After three years of planning, Raleigh's Exploris museum, located at 201 E. Hargett St., is opening its new IMAX theater Friday. The Exploris facility is the state's second such theater and adds to the more than 225 in the world.

Of the 180 IMAX films available, Exploris' facility will open with "Mysteries of Egypt" and "The Greatest Places." The former picture is a 45-minute look at the history of Egypt, and the National Geographic Society's first IMAX feature; the latter highlights and explores seven of the world's most exotic regions.

"(These films) are two really great examples of IMAX films that take you there," said IMAX Vice President Rob Brooks.

Exploris President Anne Bryan echoed Brooks' statements. "This gives us a powerful new lens on the world," she said.

Exploris began the process of bringing

IMAX to Raleigh a year before its completion. In 1998, the Massachusetts-based firm White Oak Associates conducted a study to determine whether the Triangle was a viable market for an IMAX theater, Brooks said.

The firm studied factors like local school population, growth and the area's average education level.

The study found that Wake County was one of the best areas for a theater, said White Oak Vice President Jeanie Stahl.

Upon approval, the theater's construction lasted 13 months, Brooks said. The facility features seats placed so that the 271-member audience see the screen equally. The sound system comprises 44 speakers producing 12,000 watts — the equivalent

of 1,500 car stereos at full volume. The screen itself is the size of a seven-story building.

To coincide with the theater's opening, Exploris is hosting three days of festivities and exhibits. Performances will include dancing and music from India, Sierra Leone, Egypt and Ireland, as well as interactive theater performances.

Advance IMAX tickets for the shows are on sale now. Tickets are available at the Exploris box office. Call (919) 834-4040 or visit <http://www.exploris.org> for more information.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

Exploris
11.14.01 - 11.17.01

WHO: Exploris
WHAT: IMAX Theater Opening
WHEN: Opens Friday
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DTH/ASHLEY CAMPBELL

Hill May Have Impacted Race

By COLIN SUTKER
Staff Writer

Despite dropping his bid for Chapel Hill mayor seven days before the election, some say Cam Hill's impact on the race was significant.

Even though Hill garnered only 116 votes in the Nov. 6 election, some say his greatest contribution to the race was his campaign's emphasis on growth.

UNC Department of Public Policy Professor Daniel Gitterman said Hill had more of an impact with the issues that he thought decided the race.

"(Hill) staked out the most far anti-growth claim," he said. "That positioned Foy as the moderate for growth."

Hill held a press conference one week before the election to announce the end of his campaign and to throw his support behind the eventual winner, Kevin Foy.

At the press conference, Hill also launched Chapel Hill First, a lobbying group that will support politicians who limit development in the area.

Growth has become a major concern for area residents, especially after the Chapel Hill Town Council's Oct. 3 approval of UNC's Development Plan, an eight-year plan for campus growth.

Gitterman said managing growth, particularly with regard to environmental concerns, proved to be an important issue in this year's elections.

Along with Foy, the three new members elected to the council were endorsed by the Sierra Club, an organization that advocates environmental preservation and responsible development.

"(The election) sent a strong mandate," Gitterman said. "If (the voters)

did not pick pro-environmentalists, they picked neutral candidates."

Hill said his major impact on the race was bringing focus to responsible growth. "Before I entered, the race was about stuff that didn't matter or mattered only a little bit," Hill said. "Once I started talking about growth, everybody started talking about growth."

Kevin Foy won the race with 57 percent of the vote to opponent Lee Pavao's 39 percent. Hill, whose name appeared on the ballot despite his dropping out, garnered 1 percent of the vote.

Pavao said he was not sure what impact Hill had on the race. "Hill did campaign, and whatever following he had, he tossed to Kevin," Pavao said. "It's hard to say how many he threw to Kevin."

Foy could not be reached for comment.

Sierra Club Chairman Robert Porter said the newly elected council members will have a new stance on the environment. But Porter said those who want to maintain the status quo in Chapel Hill's growth must accept some development.

"There will be growth, but growth will be more carefully considered," he said. "It will be more environmentally friendly."

Gitterman said that although there are not numbers to clearly represent Hill's effect on the mayoral election, the race might have changed direction because of the way the growth issue was addressed.

"It's hard to tell (the effect) since he pulled out," Gitterman said. "He got the issue of growth on the agenda."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

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Durant Not Hurt by Short Week

By CURT KENDALL
Staff Writer

Darian Durant is a quick learner.

Despite having a short week to prepare for Wake Forest because of the death of his stepmother, the redshirt freshman picked apart the Demon Deacon secondary on Saturday.

Durant's 361 passing yards, 24 completions and four touchdown passes each set new single-game school records for a freshman. His 75-yard TD pass to Sam Aiken also was the longest pass ever by a North Carolina freshman.

Ronald Curry held the previous freshman passing yards (304) and completions (19) records, which he set in 1998.

"(Durant) picked up on a lot of the defense even though he was gone from practice this week for the most part," Bosley Allen said. "But he picked up pretty well, probably did some extra study sessions with them and everything."

After beginning the season as the backup quarterback, Durant now finds himself among the conference passing leaders.

Durant has completed 64.2 percent of his passes for 1596 yards and 16 touchdowns this season.

"I would have loved to have given him a game ball," said UNC coach John Bunting. "He certainly deserved one."

Durant did most of his damage in the first half Saturday, throwing for 264 yards and three scores before the break.

Despite the 32-31 loss, Saturday's game might have been just what Durant needed.

Said Durant, "I was just trying to put everything behind me and just go out there and play."

Reed Sets PAT Record

Few things are certain when it comes to North Carolina football these days — the disappearance of 24-point leads and upset wins against Florida State just to mention a few.

But UNC can count on Jeff Reed's leg when it has the ball in the end zone.

The senior place-kicker has connected on all 58 extra-point attempts in his career.

Reed broke Clint Gwaltney's school record of 56 straight PATs in the second quarter Saturday.

Reed nearly had a chance for a game-

winning field goal in the final minute, but Durant's fumble ended UNC's threat.

"I would have had a shot with another five to 10 yards into Wake territory," Reed said. "I got a strong leg, and the coaches know it, and they and the team have confidence in me."

Reed has made 9 of 12 field goals this season.

Penalties Plague Tar Heels Late

Wake Forest took advantage of four North Carolina penalties, which cost UNC 39 yards in the fourth quarter.

A 10-yard defensive holding penalty with 3:50 left helped setup the Deacons' game-winning touchdown.

"I think we lost it between the ears," Bunting said. "I think that's why we didn't stay in the ball game."

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

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