

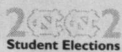
First Write-In Candidate Begins Campaign

Staff Reports

The first write-in candidate of this year's election season entered the race for student body president Thursday.

Junior Nathan Katzin announced Thursday that he plans to run for student body president.

Katzin said he had hoped to be included as a candidate on the ballot. But after he missed the mandatory



meeting Tuesday night, he said Board of Elections Chairwoman Emily Margolis told him he had to run as a write-in candidate.

Any new candidate entering the race has to follow this path - students who missed the mandatory



Nathan Katzin, a junior from Raleigh, joined the race.

meeting are not eligible to be included on the ballot.

In the past, write-in candidates have occasionally made an impact on the race - in 2000, a campaign to elect basketball player Brian Bersticker as a write-in candidate for student body president resulted in a third-place finish for Bersticker.

The last two Graduate and Professional Student Federation presidents, Thad Woody and Mikisha Brown, were elected as write-in candidates.

The other seven candidates who have officially declared their intentions to run

for student body president are Correy Campbell, a junior from Waxhaw; Jen Daum, a junior from Pewaukee, Wis.; Fred Hashagen, a junior from Long Island, N.Y.; Bennett Mason, a junior from Meadville, Pa.; Will McKinney, a junior from Greenville, S.C.; Brad Overcash, a junior from Thomasville; and Charlie Trakas, a sophomore from Brevard.

Trakas was a write-in candidate in last year's student body elections.

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

Developments in the War on Terrorism

American Taliban Appears in Court

John Walker Lindh quietly faced his government's charges Thursday that he conspired to kill fellow Americans in Afghanistan. His lawyers strongly criticized the FBI's questioning of the 20-year-old shortly after his capture in Afghanistan.



U.S. Special Forces Attack Taliban Headquarters

U.S. Army Special Forces attacked a Taliban headquarters north of Kandahar, killing a number of fighters and taking 27 prisoners, U.S. officials said Thursday. One American soldier was wounded in the attack.

Rumsfeld: Afghanistan Needs US Troops

American ground troops will remain in Afghanistan at least into the summer to press their manhunt, attack any Taliban and al-Qaida resistance and help the country's transition to a more permanent government, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Thursday.

State Superintendent Proposes Increase in School Dropout Age

By Mike Gorman
Staff Writer

State Superintendent for Public Schools Mike Ward said he wants to reduce the state's dropout rates by raising the minimum dropout age from 16 to 18.

According to N.C. law, students can legally drop out when they turn 16. In the 2000-01 school year, 21,368 students statewide dropped out of high school, down 6 percent from the previous year.

"We're concerned about the number of dropouts in our public schools," said Kay Williams, director of communications for the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. "It's a continuing problem."

Despite the decline in the dropout rate, Williams said those numbers are "still too high."

The idea to raise the minimum

dropout age came from a meeting Ward had with a committee of N.C. high school principals early last week, Williams said.

Ward will propose the idea to the N.C. Board of Education in early March, Williams said. If the board approves the proposal in a final vote in April, the proposal will be put before the N.C. General Assembly when it reconvenes in late May.

Bill McNeal, superintendent of the Wake County Public School System, said he supports the idea.

"Obviously I firmly believe that we should keep our kids in school," he said.

McNeal said Wake County school officials have not yet looked into the added expense of formulating new programs to keep students in school. "We'll find sufficient funds for programs that will not only challenge (students) but excite them, too."

But state representatives are divided

on the idea.

Rep. Alex Warner, D-Cumberland, and co-chairman of the House Education Committee, said education board members will have a hard time convincing the legislature to raise the dropout age.

"Certain numbers of high school students look toward a vocational end," he said. "Requiring students - particularly those that don't want to be there - to stay until 18 is like beating a dead horse."

Warner said educators will have a hard time forcing students who are - at least physically - adults to stay in the classroom against their will.

"If a kid doesn't want to complete school, parents and educators aren't going to be able to keep him or her there," he said.

Warner said that because dropout rates have seen a continual decrease in the last three years, there is not any need for "improvements of this sort."

But Rep. Donald Bonner, D-Robeson and Warner's co-chairman, said he would support the plan wholeheartedly. "Here in Robeson we have the highest dropout rate in the state," he said. "We need to stiffen the requirement."

Bonner said raising the dropout age would help students realize that a high school education is vital for success.

"I think there will be some skepticism," he said. "But most of us will realize that we have to be more firm to get students to realize their full potential."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Campus Calendar

Today

7 p.m. - The Black Student Movement presents "I, Too, Sing America," in the Great Hall of the Student Union.

Diverse campus organizations, special interest groups and individual talents will present their interpretations of Dr. King's dream as it relates to this theme.

Participants hope to educate as well as entertain audiences by exploring the dream's effect on both the individual and society through dance, song, poetry, prose and dramatic readings. For more information, contact Ndi Okeke at 403-3872.

10 p.m. - Kappa Psi pharmaceutical fraternity is having its Blizzard Party. For more information or rides call

Maria at 968-3038.

Saturday

5:30 p.m. - If you liked Sangam Nite, come on out for a spectacular South Asian Dance Competition sponsored by Sangam.

The event will take place in Memorial Hall with acts from UNC, Duke University, N.C. State University, Emory University and the University of South Carolina.

For the Record

The Jan. 24 graphic "Salary Spread" with the article "Tuition Funds to Target Salary Disparities" incorrectly stated that the average annual salary for faculty at UNC is \$109,000.

The average annual salary at UNC is \$100,900 for faculty members. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

Senate Candidates Will Use Technology To Even Playing Field, Reach Out to Voters

By Julia Lamm
Staff Writer

Underdogs in the upcoming U.S. Senate race might find it easier to compete with experienced politicians with the help of the Internet.

Most of the 13 candidates for the U.S. Senate seat soon to be vacated by Jesse Helms, R-N.C., have developed Web sites to help them reach out to voters.

Although the Web sites vary greatly in their degree of sophistication, most outline campaign goals, provide candidate biographies, tell Web surfers how to contribute to a campaign and provide

contact information.

While candidates with more financial backing usually have the advantage, the Internet has given candidates the chance to compete more equally.

Doug Sellers, a Republican Senate candidate, said he plans to do most of his campaign advertising on the Internet.

"I'm getting greater access to the public," Sellers said.

"I'm getting e-mails from people who otherwise wouldn't know I'm in the race."

He praised the Internet and its communication advantages.

All proceeds go to the Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship. Buy tickets in the Pit or the Union box office. Don't miss it!

Items of Interest

Theta Nu Xi multicultural sorority will be sponsoring a book drive for the N.C. Children's Hospital. We encourage everyone to bring new or used children's books to the bins located in residence halls on campus. The drive will end Jan. 28. For more information, contact Jessica Lambert at jessica_nona@hotmail.com.

The Daily Tar Heel


P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515
Katie Hunter, Editor, 962-4086
Advertising & Business, 962-1163
News, Features, Sports, 962-0245
© 2002 DTH Publishing Corp.
All rights reserved



Blue Heaven Classic
Men's & Women's Track & Field
Eddie Smith Field House

Friday 5pm
Saturday 10am

Hardee's SPORTS SHORTS
Students & Faculty Admitted FREE w/ID!



SATURDAY @ CAROLINA

Wrestling vs. Campbell
12pm at Carmichael Auditorium

Women's Tennis vs. Richmond
11am at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center

Hardee's SPORTS SHORTS
Students & Faculty Admitted FREE w/ID!

Wanna Be an Orientation Counselor??

Work with WOW!
(New Student Week of Welcome)

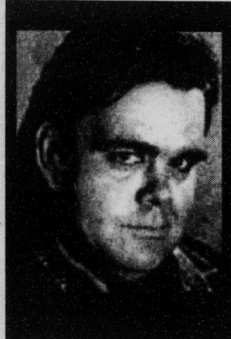
This is a great opportunity to meet people, work with new students, and move into your room early!

You can pick up an application:
• at the Union Desk
• download it online at <http://orientation.unc.edu>
• visit our table in the Pit this week

Applications are due Wednesday, February 13, by 5pm.
Questions? Call the Orientation Office at 962-8521 or stop by 311 Carr Building.


Comedy Night
every tuesday at 9:30pm

Come see the same comedians you've seen on The Tonight Show, David Letterman, Comedy Central, HBO, Showtime, VH1 & more!



January 29
Pat Miller

This comedy veteran has been seen at clubs all across America and on TV. He appeared with Arnold Schwarzenegger in the movie "Raw Deal" and was in Stephen King's "Christine" to name just a few.




Receive one **FREE ADMISSION** with this coupon.

East End Oyster & Martini Bar
Good only for Jan 29th show

East End Oyster & Martini Bar
201 E. Franklin Street • Chapel Hill, NC 27514 • 929.0024

Yogurt is our menu!



the YOGURT pump

Downtown Chapel Hill • 942-PUMP
106 W. Franklin St. (Next to Hes Not Here)

North Durham • 286-7868
Northgate Mall (Next to Carousal)
Mon-Sat 11:30am-11:30pm, Sun 12pm-11:30pm