

Sen. Helms, Please Pass The Panache

James Knox Polk is awfully tall. A bit thin too. Ferocious brow.

He was standing valiantly on top of an embossed carving of the United States. Hurrah for Manifest Destiny!

The brief rendezvous with our 11th president was courtesy of a visit to the "No Excuse" voter station at the Morehead Building. It was Wednesday, and the Sept. 10 primaries were just too far away.



NATHAN PEREZ
STATE & NATIONAL COLUMNIST

It was one small feat. Go in for two minutes, get an "I voted" sticker. There's no excuse not to.

But staring at the ballot, it has to strike any voter that this election season hasn't offered much substance, if any.

Many had forecasted an election season full of Level 4 "Erskines" and "Liddys" on the rampage. But alas, there is barely a gale-force wind. North Carolinians usually welcome a windstorm over the alternative, a hurricane, but not during the balmy politicking months.

The U.S. Senate race was purported to hit the Tar Heel state with all the fervor of fortune hunters hitting the gold mines of California during Polk's presidency. OK, maybe more like college students flocking to Bojangles.

Five-term U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms was retiring; surely we'd have an enthralling struggle for his seat, right? There was a vision of Elizabeth Dole versus Erskine Bowles, a la a Ben-Hur chariot race, with Dan Blue scraping at some knees.

After all, Dole has just come off a brief 2000 presidential run, even though she wasn't on anyone's national radar. Bowles was Bill Clinton's chief of staff, and his daddy Hargrove "Skipper" Bowles meant something to this University. And Blue was N.C. House Speaker from 1991-95 and has served Wake County for more than 20 years.

Now welcome to the short end of the stick.

Liddy Dole appeared on the cover of the Wal-Mart's Sam's Club magazine, which was mailed to 195,000 N.C. homes.

Dole's leading opponent in the Republican primary, Lexington lawyer Jim Snyder, pounced.

"We've had the political titans invade North Carolina attempting to influence the electorate," he said. "Apparently there is an economic titan which is descending with its talons on the North Carolina electorate."

That is the best he could come up with? Puh-lease.

A more noteworthy issue: Is the state interested in electing Dole, who is not even half the N.C. resident that UNC-Chapel Hill's out-of-state students are?

Here is a suggestion for Liddy Dole: learn the state motto, "Esse Quam Videri" - be a North Carolinian rather than to seem like one.

But wait, the stick gets even shorter. Erskine Bowles' ad campaign is as geeky as his glasses. One spot shows him at a bowling alley (get it, Erskine bowls!). Far worse are his heinous glasses. Some point to the Harry Potter chic, I point to the Valley of the Ashes.

Remember the disturbing billboard near George Wilson's garage in F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby." Those eyes, seeing all, judging all, hemmed in by those defunct glasses. Those are Erskine's glasses. Cue the shuddering.

What's more, Erskine has raised about \$4.2 million and has about \$1.73 million in cash on hand. Though it still pales in comparison to Dole's \$9.7 million and \$2.4 million, respectively, one has to wonder if Bowles will really show up in some tiny town on some dreary weeknight to revel, perchance to bowl.

Gutter balls, you say?

Maybe it's not prudent to poke fun at the candidates, but who can resist? By all means, zest resulting from the classic scandals and controversies is unwelcome, but you have to wonder if Jon Stewart of "The Daily Show" has had any fun with this sleeper of a race.

Maybe things will pick up. We could pray, but save the blessings for more agua.

It seems that the Sept. 10 primary will only serve one purpose - to eliminate any remaining panache.

You know who had panache, even though he would hate that characterization? He'd probably even enact some legislation to ban the word panache. No, not James K. Polk.

Take care, Sen. Helms. Happy trails.

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Senior Officers to Pick 3 Options for Gift

By NIKKI WERKING
Staff Writer

Senior class officials said today that they soon will narrow down the field to three suggestions for a class gift after recently collecting ideas from seniors and University officials.

Senior Class President Paymon Rouhanifard said he and his senior marshals visited with University officials from various departments to get ideas and took suggestions from seniors at Fall Fest and in the Pit on Tuesday.

"We had about 60 seniors fill out suggestion forms on Tuesday," he said. "The time they spent to fill it out really paid off because their ideas will be heard."

Senior marshals will discuss all the suggestions at their retreat this weekend and will pick three for an upcoming senior class vote, Rouhanifard said.

Class officials expect to release an official announcement of the gift by mid-October or early November.

Rouhanifard said the most popular suggestions made by students include a Sept. 11 memorial, benches, a mural and a room sponsored by the class, although they received a few more ideas that stood out from the rest.

"Some students suggested a Jumbotron or a fish tank for the new Student Union, but that just wouldn't work out," he said. "We also had someone suggest a statue of a famous alumnus that did something to advance the University's commitment to prestige in academics."

Class officials also collected ideas from University leaders during the summer, Rouhanifard said. Most of their suggestions involved grants and endowments, but they also suggested a plaque commemorating the events of Sept. 11, he said.

"Over the summer we mostly talked about a plaque because it's really hard to find space on campus (for a larger memorial)," Rouhanifard said. "They still can't find a spot for last year's senior class gift, so that's why we thought about

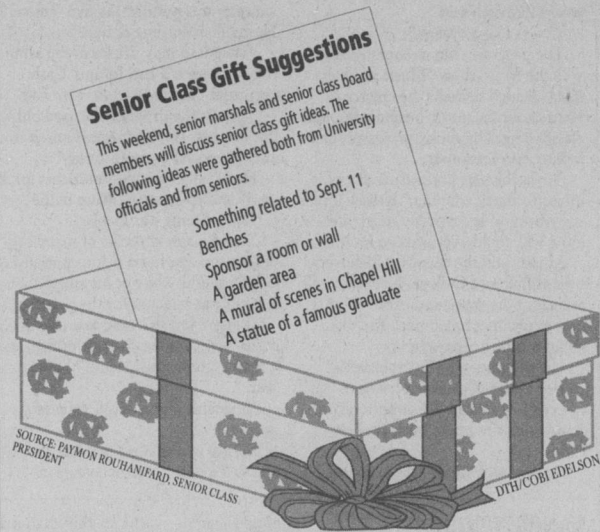
doing something with a wall." A site for the class of 2002's gift, the Unsung Founders Memorial, still has not been selected, said Emily Stevens, director of the young alumni program in the Office of Development.

The memorial will commemorate the efforts of people of color who helped build the University in the late 18th century.

Stevens said a final site has not been chosen because the Building and Grounds Committee wants to make sure the memorial will not disrupt any grassy areas or tree root structures. "The memorial will have a prime location on campus," she said.

Stevens said that memorial artist Do-Ho Suh has sketched the design but that other details have not been worked out yet. She said University officials plan to have the design and location released by the end of the month and hope the memorial will be finished by next summer.

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Fiesta Celebrates Culture, Heritage

Organizers expect to best last year's 46,000 turnout

By MICHAEL DAVIS
AND JAMIE DOUGHER
Assistant City Editors

Thousands from all over the state will gather in Chapel Hill to experience Latino culture and celebrate the heritage of North Carolina's fastest-growing minority population.

The event, La Fiesta del Pueblo, will be held from noon to 8 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday at Chapel Hill High School.

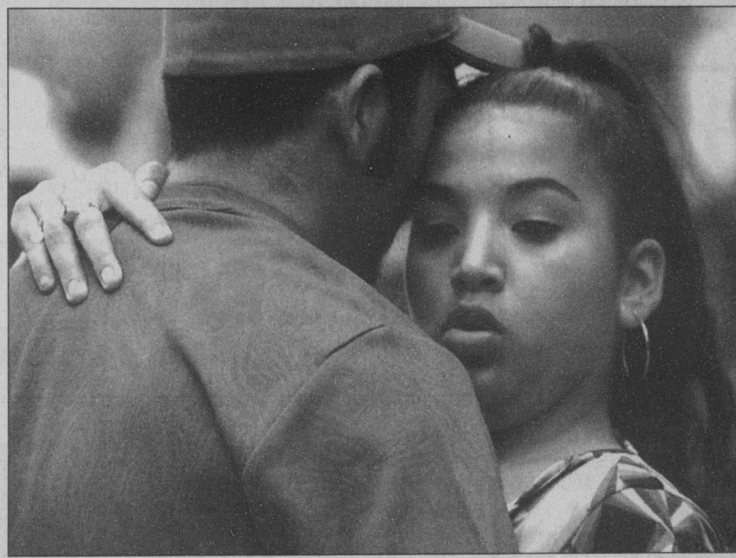
The festival, now in its ninth year, is sponsored by El Pueblo, a Raleigh-based nonprofit organization committed to the state's Latino community.

The largest effort in a campaign to encourage Latinos to vote in upcoming elections will take place at La Fiesta del Pueblo, with some candidates attending to elicit support.

Admission is \$1 for adults and is free for children. Artisans and a wide variety of Latino food vendors will be on hand.

Andrea Bazan-Manson, executive director of El Pueblo, said the event will be an opportunity to share Latino culture with the masses. "Our purpose or mission is to promote multiculturalism and understanding," she said.

Dancing and musical performances by local groups will take place at La Fiesta del Pueblo, reflecting the party sentiment. "There's a strong festival aspect," Bazan-Manson said.



Juliana Ortega dances with her brother Marcos at the eighth annual La Fiesta del Pueblo at Chapel Hill High School on Sept. 8, 2001. The ninth annual fiesta will be this weekend.

The festival drew a crowd of 46,000 in 2001, and she expects to exceed those numbers this year.

Bazan-Manson stressed that the event is not only for Latinos but also for anyone interested in learning about the Latino community. "One of the big things we like to do is include everyone," she said. "We have 600 volunteers, and many of them are not Latino."

"We want them to learn more about the Latin American community in North Carolina," she said. "It's the fastest-growing Latino population in the country."

She said there are about 500,000 Latinos in the state, an increase of almost 400 percent in the last 10 years.

La Fiesta del Pueblo also will include ways to help Latinos in the community.

A number of different groups and agencies attend a health fair to give shots and check the blood pressure of the festival attendees, among other services.

Bazan-Manson said booths at La Fiesta will address public safety concerns, like drinking and driving, using child car seats and wearing seat belts. She said the event brings together the entire community to recognize and learn about Latino heritage. "It's a celebration of Latin American culture."

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UNC Plans For Science Institute

Facility to combine multiple sciences

By JOHN FRANK
Assistant University Editor

For most students, studying chemistry and physics means bubbling beakers and challenging gravity experiments.

But students who participate in research at a newly proposed science institute could be working to cure cancer and build molecules.

Made public for the first time Wednesday by Chancellor James Moeser during his State of the University Address, the Institute for Advanced Materials, Nanoscience and Technology will incorporate science undergraduate and graduate students in state-of-the-art research.

The purpose is to "bring together strengths we already have here," said Tony Waldrop, vice chancellor for research.

University officials hope to combine the strengths of the science departments to boost the prominence of UNC in the science research community, said Provost Robert Shelton.

Similar to the new genomics program, the institute was identified by a science steering committee nearly a year ago as a source of growth at the University, Shelton added.

Moeser's proposal Wednesday is the commitment from the University that

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Daum Picks Date For Special Election

Student Congress must fill 3 vacant seats

By WILL AREY
Staff Writer

Student Body President Jen Daum filed an executive order Thursday calling for a special election to fill three vacant seats in Student Congress.

The special election will be held from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. Sept. 24. Students can vote in the special election using the online voting system accessed through Student Central.

Speaker of Congress Tony Larson said all three seats are in graduate student districts.

Larson said two vacancies are in District 5, which is composed of the graduate programs for the School of Information and Library Science and the College of Arts and Sciences.

The other empty seat is located in District 2, which includes the graduate programs for the schools of Education, Social Work and Journalism and Mass Communication.

Board of Elections Chairman Brian Fauver said an interest meeting for prospective candidates will be held at 7 p.m. Sept. 10 in the student government offices of the new Student Union.

Fauver said the interest meeting will help introduce potential candidates to the world of Student Congress.

"The interest meeting will help me get to know who's running and help make sure that each candidate has a clear understanding of the student government general election laws," he said.

To get their names on the ballot, prospective candidates must attend the interest meeting and gather 10 signatures

from their constituents to be turned in by Sept. 17 to the elections board.

Daum said the special election is essential to Student Congress, and she stressed the importance of filling the remaining seats.

"Getting the graduate student seats filled is extremely important so that the Student Congress genuinely represents the makeup and interests of the student body," she said.

Student Code guidelines require that the student body president call a special election in order to address the vacant positions in Congress.

A special election held April 23 failed to fill all of the empty congressional seats. That special election also drew attention because of a failed referendum that proposed increasing undergraduate and graduate student activity fees to \$16.50 a semester.

Despite a majority "yes" vote, the referendum failed because of low voter turnout for the special election. The Student Code mandates that a minimum of 10 percent of the student body participate in an election if student fees are to be raised. Only 417 students voted in the April special election.

Despite this low turnout, Daum said she is optimistic that the upcoming special election will fill the remaining seats.

"I'm confident that this election will provide us with a full Student Congress," Daum said. "I'm very excited to work with a full Congress in the upcoming year."

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Interning in Nashville: Priceless

Student gives credit to music industry

By ADDIE SLUDER
Features Editor

Rarely are people's summer plans inspired by a television commercial.

But UNC sophomore David Krusch has a MasterCard advertisement to thank for what he describes as the experience of a lifetime.

After seeing a commercial advertising a summer music program sponsored by MasterCard, Krusch decided on a whim to submit an application essay online.

"I wrote a 250-word essay about the music industry at 4 a.m. one morning last year," he said.

"I was really surprised when I got picked."

The essay challenged applicants to submit a business idea for the music industry.

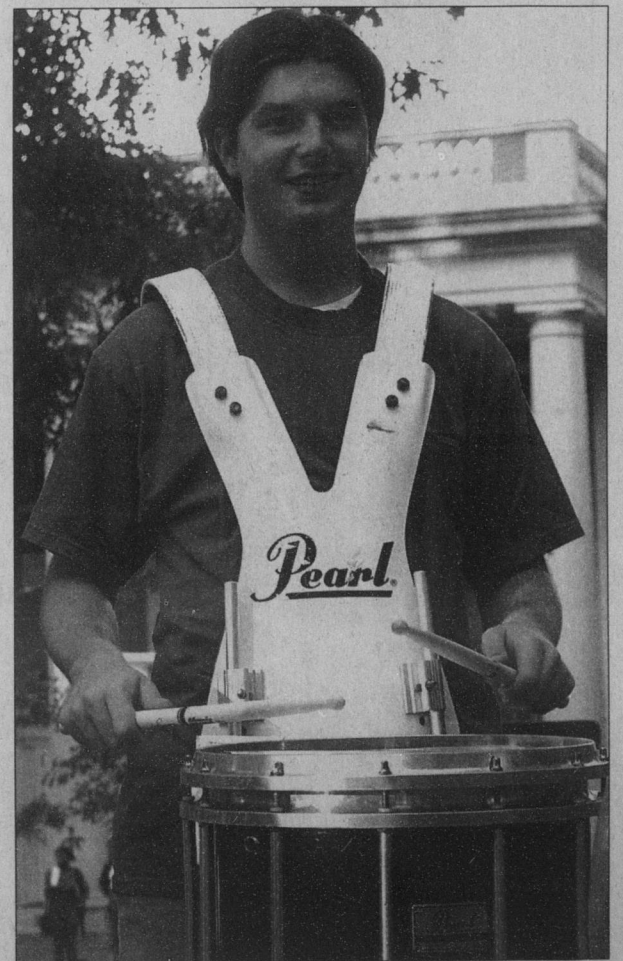
In his essay, Krusch proposed an online radio station that would buy national airtime to play music by new artists.

"I think the Web site would be a good idea," he said. "It's a way to get music heard."

Krusch was chosen from about 17,000 applicants to be one of 50 participants in the MasterCard Priceless Edge Program - an all-expense-paid five-week summer music experience in Nashville, Tenn.

The program and airfare were included, and participants received \$1,000 in spending money.

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Sophomore David Krusch participated in the MasterCard Priceless Edge program in Nashville, Tenn., last summer.