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Carrboro aldermen consider solid waste management alternatives. Look for more stories online.

Last Chance

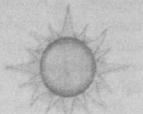
Applications to work on The Daily Tar Heel staff this semester are due at noon Friday. Turn them in to Suite 104 of the Student Union.

Poised

Tar Heels hope unity will propel them to nationals. See Page 11

Weather

Today: Late Flurries; H 41, L 26
Friday: Mostly Cloudy; H 35, L 13
Saturday: Partly Cloudy; H 30, L 15



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Bush Opposes UM Affirmative Action Policy

Close Call

The nine U.S. Supreme Court justices likely will issue a close decision in the University of Michigan affirmative action case with Justice O'Connor as the swing vote.

Justice	Nominated by
William Rehnquist, Chief Justice	President Nixon
John Stevens	President Ford
Sandra Day O'Connor	President Reagan
Antonin Scalia	President Reagan
Anthony Kennedy	President Reagan
David Souter	President G.H.W. Bush
Clarence Thomas	President G.H.W. Bush
Ruth Ginsburg	President Clinton
Stephen Breyer	President Clinton

SOURCE: HTTP://WWW.SUPREMECOURT.US GOV DTH/STAFF

Ruling to impact admissions nationwide

By ELYSE ASHBURN
State & National Editor

President Bush criticized Wednesday an affirmative action program under review by the U.S. Supreme Court, calling the practices in question "divisive, unfair and impossible to square with the Constitution."

The court's ruling in the pending University of Michigan-Ann Arbor case likely will be its most definitive decision on affirmative action and will ripple through college admissions offices nationwide.

The issue arose after the Supreme Court agreed to hear two cases in which several applicants allege that the graduate

and undergraduate admissions policies at the University of Michigan violated their constitutional rights by discriminating against them based on race. This is the first time since 1978 that the court has agreed to hear a case on affirmative action.

While Bush maintains that he supports diversity in higher education, he has instructed the U.S. solicitor general - the administration's chief legal counsel - to submit a brief to the court arguing that university's policies are unconstitutional.

"Our Constitution makes it clear that people of all races must be treated equally under the law," Bush said. "Yet, as we work to address the wrong of racial prejudice, we must not use means that cre-

ate another wrong."

With Bush's announcement, the White House and the Republican Party find themselves in their second race-based controversy in as many months.

Bush's actions Wednesday come on the heels of the controversy over racially charged comments U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., made last month. The statements cost Lott the Senate majority leader post and plunged his party



President George W. Bush called the policy "impossible to square with the Constitution."

into a debate over its record on civil rights.

Bush's critics - including North Carolina's Democratic Sen. John Edwards - lambasted him for Wednesday's announcement, saying he has shirked his responsibility to protect civil rights. "President Bush had a chance to show he supports diversity and civil rights, but he failed," Edwards said.

But no matter how Bush's stance and the solicitor general's brief are received, it is clear they carry with them great import.

"The solicitor general's briefs have always been greatly respected," said Eugene Gressman, law professor emeritus at UNC and a nationally recognized expert on the Supreme Court. "The Department of Justice and the solicitor general's office is very close to the Supreme Court."

Gressman, who has tried cases in front of the court for more than 60 years, said the Bush administration brief adds another element to a case already fraught with complexities.

The case before the court is not only complicated in its own right but carries with it the weight of timing. Gressman said that the court - now closely divided - has grown increasingly conservative and that this may be the last chance to have a balanced debate on affirmative action.

"I think this is the last possible chance to ever get a positive vote on affirmative action," he said. "There aren't many cases that raise this issue, and this is a very definitive case that will stand for a long time."

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

'04 Candidates Score Student Help

Students organize for Edwards, Bush

By JENNIFER SAMUELS
Assistant State & National Editor

Though the presidential primaries are more than a year away, students across the state already are gearing up in support of their favorite candidates.

About 25 students braved the cold on Wednesday night to learn more about a new campus group designed to show support for Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., who announced Jan. 2 that he would seek the Democratic presidential nomination.

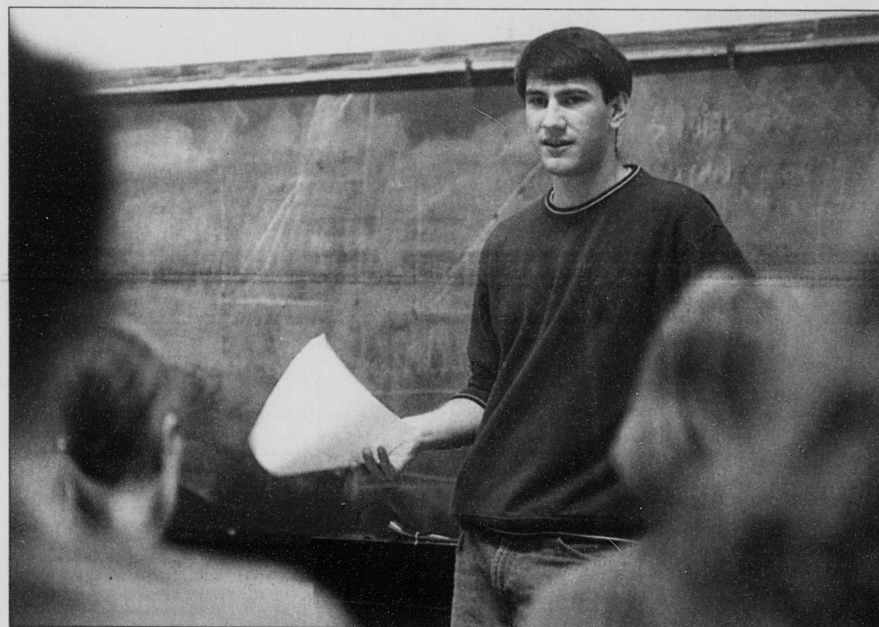
Edwards, like his competitors, will need strong support behind him not only to beat President Bush but also several well-known Democrats - including former vice presidential candidate Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., and Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass. - who are seeking their party's nomination.

That's where the students come in. "I think that a national election in many ways will get more support," said UNC sophomore Justin Guillory, who is chairman of Carolina Students for Edwards. "Hopefully interest will grow."

Guillory said he is pleased by the number of students already showing interest in working with Edwards' campaign.

Though the group's activity will be limited initially to helping Edwards' Raleigh campaign office get set up, Guillory said he hopes eventually to show support for Edwards through active campaigning and a trip to South Carolina for its Democratic primary.

Candidates who are somehow intriguing to students are more likely to get their support, said UNC political science Professor Thad Beyle. They can appeal to students in many ways, including devotion to certain issues, such as education, or their personality and looks. "When there is nobody interesting to the students, they



Sophomore Justin Guillory, chairman of Carolina Students for Edwards, leads the group's first meeting Wednesday evening. The group plans to help set up Edwards' presidential campaign office in Raleigh.

are not going to get involved," Beyle said. Edwards' campaign has attracted area students early on because of the prominence of the presidential election, Beyle said.

But Democrats are not the only party with a vested interest in student support. Despite Bush's advantage as an incumbent, many Republicans still say student support is vital to his success.

"(College Republicans) will be out in full force for Bush, and we'll probably start as early as next year," said Michael McKnight, chairman of the N.C. Federation of College Republicans.

He said the NCFCR already has a major training conference scheduled for this weekend that will show interested students how to get involved. "We're working hard," he said. "A lot of people think, 'Gosh, an off year,' (but) we're actually very busy."

The Nov. 5 election, in which Republican Elizabeth Dole beat Democrat Erskine Bowles to win a seat in the U.S. Senate, is an example of the difference students can make in an election, McKnight said. Students made up about 80 percent of the N.C. Republican Party's "Get Out the Vote" campaign

and were active in their support for Dole. But college students can show their support for a candidate not just by working for their campaign but by voting - an action that too few students engage in, McKnight said.

"I wish people of the college age would get out and vote," he said. "(Students would) be a lot more important to any candidate if (they) voted more. If (they are) not going to vote, then why support issues that affect them?"

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Candidates Praise Campaign Reforms

By LAURA BOST
Staff Writer

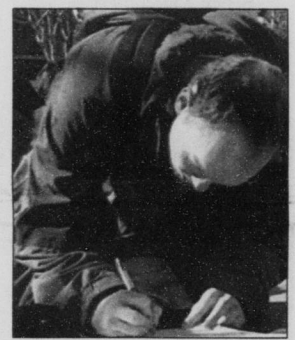
As potential candidates for student government began collecting signatures Wednesday, several said the new rules of this year's election will lead to a more serious and inclusive campaign season.

Student body president campaigns are being affected most heavily by the changes. Under the Larson-Daum Campaign Reform Act of 2002, campaigns now are financed by Student Congress, the number of signatures required on petitions has increased and the length of the campaign period has decreased.

Student Body President Jen Daum said the primary goal when creating the new legislation was to level the playing field for all candidates. "Now, any student can run if qualified, regardless of economic background, and the shortened campaign will encourage candidates to focus more on their platforms," she said.

Within the four-candidate field for student body president, there are mixed feelings on the new legislation.

Student body president candidate Nathan Cherry said that while the



Freshman Andrew Roe signs a candidate's petition Wednesday afternoon in the Pit.

money had no real effect on his decision to run, he did "feel hesitant to use student fees to fund campaigns for something part of the University population doesn't care about."

But others said the funding might allow students to run who otherwise would not have been able to finance campaigns.

Student body president candidate Sang Shin said he was encouraged to

See CANDIDATES, Page 9

U.S. Visa Restrictions Hinder UNC Research

By CAROLINE KORNEGAY
Staff Writer

International graduate students and researchers increasingly are having difficulties obtaining visas to enter the country, and those delays are hampering scientific research at national research institutions, including UNC.

In a statement released by the National Academy of Sciences, many researchers are waiting in their countries of origin for clearance to enter the United States.

Of the roughly 7,000 graduate students at UNC, 13 percent are international students, and six of those students are having trouble entering the country, said Michael Poock, associate dean of the Graduate School.

Most of these researchers are not in the process of immigrating to the United States and are subject to a stringent background check that can involve many federal agencies, including the FBI and the CIA.

According to the NAS statement, these researchers are under increased scrutiny because of the fear that they

might stay in the United States illegally or commit a terrorist act.

With increased national security concerns, as many as six agencies might need to review a visa application. If a visa is not cleared by one agency, an application can be held up in the bureaucratic shuffle.

Applications have been in limbo for as long as six months at a time without any mechanism for applicants to find out where they are in the system as reviewers pass applications from agency to agency.

Meanwhile, applicants remain in their countries of origin and research remains unfinished, or in some cases, not even begun.

"We've had people wait five or six months, but we've also had people get them in under a month," said NAS members Lois Peterson.

With important researchers held overseas in their attempts to return to the University, projects at UNC have been put on hold. "It will certainly hamper research over the long term if

See VISAS, Page 9

Snow Predicted Tonight, Friday; Residents on Alert



An afternoon snowfall on the last day of fall semester classes, Dec. 4, closed the University. An ensuing ice storm crippled much of the state.

By JOHN FRANK
City Editor

The possibility of snow in the forecast put local governments, power companies and residents into motion Wednesday as they braced for the first winter weather since the December ice storm.

The National Weather Service in Raleigh issued a winter storm watch for tonight and Friday morning for the entire Triangle area.

A low-pressure system will move off the East Coast, making room for a high-pressure system bringing cold Arctic air into North Carolina by today, according to National Weather Service reports. Snow is expected to develop in the

area tonight and to continue into Friday morning, possibly accumulating 1 to 2 inches by daybreak.

But any deviation of the track of the storm could alter the snow amounts.

Ruth Aiken, lead forecaster at the weather service in Raleigh, said that along the Interstate 85 corridor, the weather will begin as wet snow and rain before completely changing to snow.

Weather models show that Chapel Hill is right on the rain-snow line, meaning the type of precipitation and actual accumulations might change as the storm makes its way to the area.

But Aiken reports that so far, no ice conditions similar to the Dec. 4 ice storm that crippled the Triangle are expected. Chapel Hill and Carrboro town officials said Wednesday that they are mon-

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The hopes of the world rest on the ... vigor, capacity for new thought, and fresh outlook of the young.

Dwight Eisenhower