

**CANDIDATES**  
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run by the new financial legislation. "I think this makes the race more fair," he said. "There might have been better candidates in the past that weren't as visible because they didn't have as much money."

The Campaign Reform Act now requires student body president candidates to get 800 signatures on their petitions instead of the 500 required last year.

This means candidates must make themselves visible to students early in the campaign. But because of new restrictions, they cannot campaign openly until after Jan. 21, and candidates don't receive funding for campaign materials until Jan. 28. This also is a change from last year, making campaigns two weeks shorter than they were before.

While this change could make obtaining the required signatures difficult, officials and candidates said it is one way to ensure that candidates are serious about seeking the position.

"With the shortened campaign schedule, there's no more messing around and wasting the students' time with tons of fliers," said student body president candidate Matt Tepper. "The last two weeks are going to be hectic, but there's going to be some strong campaigning going on."

Some candidates said these changes have created a new election atmosphere that might have implications in the future.

"I think all the reforms have really legitimized the process," said student body president candidate Ben Pickett. "Anyone that has a desire to run now can come out and have a voice. Hopefully, though, the financial legislation will have a bigger impact on the diversity of the

**Candidates**

Race	Campaign Allocations	Number Running
Student Body President	\$400.00	4
Carolina Athletic Association President	\$400.00	1
Residence Hall Association President	\$250.00	2
Graduate & Professional Student Federation President	\$250.00	1
Senior Class President and Vice President	\$150.00	6
Student Congress	\$20.00	41

SOURCE: UNC STUDENT CODE DTH/STAFF

candidate field in the future."

The new reforms also affect candidates for Student Congress seats.

Forty-one candidates have announced their plans to run for Congress. The number of congressional candidates has doubled since last year, and student government officials partially attribute this increase to Congress' redistricting efforts.

"A large portion of the Congress candidates are from District 11," said Brian Fauver, chairman of the Board of Elections. District 11 is the newly created "superdistrict" composed of all undergraduate off-campus students. "I think consolidating the off-campus districts has reduced the confusion and made it easier for candidates to know where to run."

But most congressional candidates said the redistricting had less effect on their decision to run than the fact that campaign expenses won't come out of pocket.

"Basically, the money creates a sense of equality," said Tripp Costas, candidate for congressional District 11. "Nothing can guarantee equal success, but this will guarantee equal opportunity."

The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

**VISAS**

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it continues to be a problem," said Bob Lowman, associate vice chancellor for research and graduate studies.

Many of the students having trouble acquiring visas come from countries that are under particular scrutiny by the U.S. government, such as China and countries in the Middle East.

"I expect that we will continue to face problems based on area of study and (the student's) country of origin," Pooch said.

Some students and researchers also face a more difficult time based on their area of study. Those focusing on chemistry, biology and materials sciences have faced long delays.

At UNC, 98 percent of graduate students in materials sciences are international students, and two research assistants from China are waiting for clearance to be allowed back into the United

States, said Elizabeth Craig, coordinator for the Curriculum in Applied Sciences.

"It's terrible," she said. "These students went home for Christmas just like every other student, and they're being detained. If they went through the procedure before and were cleared, I don't see why the U.S. government is being so stringent about this."

One of the main complaints of those lobbying for colleagues and students' clearance is that the value of their contributions is being denied to the academic community and delaying the research that the country is engaged in. "These (graduate students) are the very top students," Craig said.

Peterson said the stringency of the background check could be causing delays that could be doing more harm than good — research on hold potentially could be applied for national defense. "We could be affecting our own security."

The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

**WEATHER**

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itoring the weather closely and will begin to make preparations this morning.

Bill Stockard, assistant to the Chapel Hill town manager, said Chapel Hill's public works crews were checking equipment Wednesday. The town has 10 snowplows and four salt-and-sand spreaders that will be put to use on the 714 town-maintained roads. If the unfavorable weather reports don't change, then the plows and spreaders will be attached to the trucks this morning, he said.

"We are standing by and prepared to respond," said Stockard, adding that crews will be working late tonight and early Friday to monitor conditions.

Nick Waters, emergency management director for Orange County, said he is waiting until noon today to decide whether to implement the winter weather procedures.

Progress Energy, which still has crews in the area cleaning up ice storm damage, said it is on high alert for this approaching storm.

The power company is monitoring closely what type of precipitation might fall, as well as the strong winds expected Friday that could cause power outages.

Area residents aren't taking any chances of being caught off-guard by another winter storm, as the first wave

crowded local hardware and grocery stores Wednesday evening.

The general manager at the Carr Mill Mall Harris Teeter in Carrboro said he stocked extra jugs of milk and loaves of bread in preparation for larger-than-normal crowds that could precede the storm.

Carrboro resident Ken Sams, who was shopping at the store, said his stockpile is ready for any kind of wintry weather. "I hate snow," said Sams, who grew up in the Midwest. "But it is better than ice."

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

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# School Policy Targets Childhood Obesity

By JACK KIMBALL  
Assistant City Editor

With obesity becoming an increasingly apparent problem in schools, the N.C. State Board of Education approved last week recommendations for weekly exercise for K-12 students.

The state already mandates time for health education and physical activity in the school week, but at a time when test scores are determining school funding, enforcement of this policy is difficult.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools have been trying to integrate health issues into the curriculum despite limitations in time during the school day.

"I support and understand the motivation behind the proposal, but there are logistical issues surrounding that proposal," said Neil Pedersen, superintendent of Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools.

The state board did not mandate its

recommended amount of weekly exercise — 150 minutes for elementary school children and 225 minutes for high school students — but it did pass some requirements as parts of the approved policy.

The requirements will go into effect in the 2006-07 school year. They include the formation of a school health council and coordinated school health programs.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools already have a school health council and a coordinated school health program in place.

Susan Spalt, the school system's health coordinator, said the council and the health program have been in place for more than 25 years.

The correlation between physical and health education and learning ability has grown in prominence as a major issue in education.

"Our school district really does support (the board's recommendations)

because exercise during the day and exercise during the week really helps kids learn," Spalt said.

In a 3,000-person study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control, 14 percent of students were at risk of being obese with another 12.9 percent being classified as obese.

Exercise is not the only factor in creating a healthy student but must be combined with a well-balanced diet, officials said.

To prevent obesity in the district, the school system implemented a nutrition-based menu for elementary, middle and high school students.

Mark Rusin, food service director for the school system, said that workers set the weighted average of calories in the menu for the week so that no more than 30 percent of the calories are from fat.

The weighted average is computed by taking the amount of calories in the menu each day and averaging them for

the week. Workers then take the average and the volume of food they sell and compute the weighted average.

Nationwide, many officials cited vending machines as a cause for students not eating healthy.

But local schools usually contain a wide variety of vending machines, some of which provide juice and healthy foods and some of which provide fattening snacks.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools have vending machines, but only those machines approved by food services are turned on during the eating period, Rusin said. There are no vending machines in elementary schools.

The use of vending machines coupled with not exercising regularly does not bode well for the health of students. "It's a real recipe for disaster," Spalt said.

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

# MFA Students Seize Gallery in Hanes Art Center

By ALLISON ROST  
Staff Writer

A group of first-year master's of fine arts students has taken over the foyer of the Hanes Art Center. But the result is more awe-inspiring than scary.

Facial expressions flit across a wall as they leap out from a slide projector. A white dress hanging from the ceiling catches the eye, and a collection of suits looks as though their owners had a roll in the mud.

Through Jan. 24, these works are on display in the Allcott Gallery of the Hanes Art Center as part of "Engaged."

Nate Quinn, who painted the colorful, surreal "Moon Patrol," credited the MFA program with helping his art open up. He has exhibited in San Francisco and Los Angeles but returned to his hometown for graduate school.

"I feel that I'm growing a lot," he said.

"I'm clarifying my vision and honing in on what I want to express."

"We have a good balance between time in the studio and getting experience in teaching."

The master's in fine arts is a 60-credit-hour, two-year program. The students graduate from this first-year showing to a program-concluding exhibit in the Ackland Art Museum. Professor Jim Hirschfield, director of graduate studies for the art department, said the program emphasizes independent study.

"They earn their hours for spending time in the studio," he said. "We prepare them through a teaching practicum and have them take intellectual (credit) hours in a topic near their area of study, but students have the time to really delve into their medium."

Both Hirschfield and Quinn cited the program's flexibility as its main draw, but Quinn also said an unexpected ben-

efit is the bond that formed among the program's nine first-year students.

Corey Drieth, who coated three men's suits with bonash, clay and charcoal for "Puritans," is using this bond to nab an exhibition spot in the University of Virginia's rotating art exhibit in April, a feat that a group of first-year students has never attempted away from UNC.

"(The exhibit) is something we've decided to take on as a group," Drieth said. "I think the chemistry and the relationships that have developed are the most valuable things to happen so far."

The talents of these nine students also should prove an asset. "Engaged" showcases a great variety of media and subject matter, all completed with obvious skill.

But as the artists of two more memorable entries, Drieth and Quinn themselves show the diverse interests that have forged this group's bond. Drieth's mixed-media creation and Quinn's acrylic paint-

ing seek different audience responses.

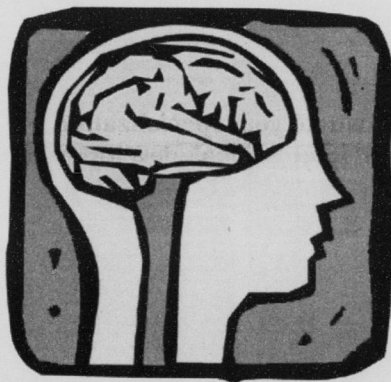
"I base my work on how I'm feeling, and this is in response to the current cultural and political climate," Drieth said. "My hope is that it's big enough to cause haunting, visceral experiences."

Quinn takes a more passive approach. "Moon Patrol" incorporates visual elements from cartoons and video games, but Quinn said he does not elicit reactions with specific ingredients.

"I'll just start painting, and what I start with is not the end result," he said. "It becomes a kaleidoscope of information, pathways for swirling elements."

Hirschfield said this is why the department has graduate students stage exhibits. "When you put work in an exhibit, it looks very different than in the studio," he said. "It gives them something to work for."

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).



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