

# The Daily Tar Heel

## Edwards launches into campaign

Senator brushes aside speculation he's eyeing VP position, not presidency

BY ELLIOTT DUBE

ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

ROBBINS — John Edwards, North Carolina's Democratic senator, officially announced his presidential candidacy Tuesday in front of the textile mill where his father once worked.

At his side was a bevy of famous Democrats. Gov. Mike Easley, former Gov. Jim Hunt, former Charlotte mayor and Senate candidate Harvey Gant and Ashley Bell, president of the College Democrats of America, all voiced their support for Edwards.

Former Senate candidates

Erskine Bowles and Dan Blue, whom Bowles defeated in the 2002 Democratic primaries, also were in attendance. Each now is expected to announce his candidacy for Edwards' Senate seat.

Elaine Marshall, former N.C. secretary of state, has withdrawn her name from the race.

Cheering spectators, many of whom were bused from different parts of the state by Edwards' campaign, grew particularly loud as the senator made his way through the crowd and toward the stage.

Early in his speech, Edwards introduced the message that would

dominate his address: U.S. citizens would be rewarded for hard work under his administration.

He added that if elected, he would take power out of the hands of Washington, D.C., insiders. "That's the promise of America — a fair shake for all and a free ride for none."

Edwards said his policies as president would not "explode the deficit" and would keep jobs in the United States, a clear jab at the Bush administration.

He would push for legislation to provide every U.S. child with health care, Edwards said, and he

would work with the international community to rebuild Iraq and fight terror.

He said the president is guided by a "twisted reflection of the American bargain."

In an abbreviated press conference after his speech, Edwards deflected a suggestion that he is eyeing the vice presidency in lieu of the Democratic nomination. He said his campaign will not change now that retired Gen. Wesley Clark likely will enter the Democratic fray.

SEE EDWARDS, PAGE 2



Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., greets the crowd Tuesday as he arrives on the stage in Robbins to announce officially his bid for the presidency.

DTH/GILLIAN BOLSOVER

### HURRICANE ISABEL

## UNC's Isabel plans murky

BY TIM PRICE

STAFF WRITER

With Hurricane Isabel rushing toward the North Carolina coast, University officials are bracing for a possible impact and are preparing strategies to maintain campus safety.

There's no guarantee that the hurricane will have any major effect on campus, said Derek Poarch, director of the University's Department of Public Safety.

He emphasized that the University's three-tiered adverse weather system should work to alert students and staff about the University's operation level.

Under the different conditions, the campus will either remain in full operation, classes will be canceled and offices will remain open or the entire University will be closed down.

An announcement will be made by early afternoon today whether the storm will affect campus operations, according to the UNC Web site.

During inclement weather, Chancellor James Moeser has the final decision on whether UNC will remain in full operation.

In the event that Isabel has a large impact and the University is closed, students are encouraged to stay in their residence halls as much as possible, Poarch said.

Both Lenoir Dining Hall and Chase Hall have made preparations for the hurricane and will remain in operation even if the power goes out.

"Students will be notified of what to do ahead of time," Poarch said.

While strong winds might present a threat to campus, construction sites aren't expected to sustain much damage.

Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for planning and construction, said he will be in contact with the state.

SEE EMERGENCY, PAGE 2



DTH/BRIAN CASSELLA

By Tuesday night, the shelves for bottled water at the Harris Teeter grocery store were nearly empty as local residents stocked up on supplies in preparation for the hit from Hurricane Isabel on Thursday. "We've been ringing it up like crazy all day," cashier Tamara Glenn said.

## COAST ISN'T CLEAR

BY LAWRENCE J. SHAHEEN JR.

STAFF WRITER

With less than a day left before Hurricane Isabel is expected to arrive in North Carolina, anxious residents and emergency officials along the Eastern seaboard are preparing to face the worst.

Gov. Mike Easley on Tuesday declared North Carolina in a state of emergency, and residents of Dare and Currituck counties were ordered to evacuate at noon. Ocracoke Island was evacuated Monday.

In addition, Virginia Gov. Mark Warner also has declared a state of emergency.

Mimi Cunningham, assistant to the chancellor for university relations at UNC-Wilmington, said she does not yet know whether the university will evacuate its student body.

Students there will not find out if they have to leave until noon today.

These announcements punctuated an increasing sense of fear that people once again will have to abandon their homes for unknown places to

avoid the path of another deadly storm.

The hurricane is expected to make landfall 146 miles north of Morehead City sometime around noon Thursday.

The coasts of North Carolina and Virginia are expected to bear the brunt of the storm, although the effects will be felt well inland.

By Tuesday night, Isabel's winds were reaching speeds of 105 mph.

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services has encouraged thousands of residents to heed the warnings of the National Weather Service and the governor and to stay calm as they leave the most dangerous areas.

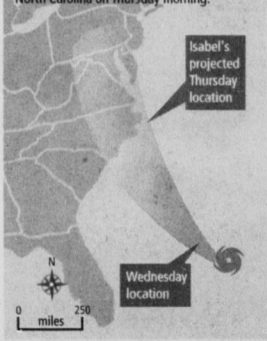
National, state and local emergency officials are taking steps across the state to protect residents, especially vulnerable populations such as the elderly.

Tuesday, Isabel was downgraded to a Category 2 hurricane, but heavy winds and potential down-

SEE ISABEL, PAGE 2

### THE UPDATE ON ISABEL

Isabel, now classified as a Category 2 hurricane, is expected to hit the coast of North Carolina on Thursday morning.



SOURCE: HTTP://WWW.NHC.NOAA.GOV

DTH/STAFF

## County prepares for worst

Officials expect worse than Fran

BY CHRIS MCLAUGHLIN

STAFF WRITER

Seven years after Hurricane Fran blasted Orange County, local disaster-relief officials said Tuesday that they are preparing for the worst-case scenario with the potential arrival of Hurricane Isabel.

County officials estimate that the hurricane will affect local residents as soon as Thursday afternoon.

While Orange County Red Cross staff prepare to provide civilian disaster relief services, local emergency officials say residents should make their own arrangements for self-sufficiency in case the hurricane disrupts everyday life.

The local Red Cross plans to provide food and sleeping accommodations for displaced residents at several shelter locations across the county. Officials are expected to announce the locations closer to the time of the storm's landing.

Red Cross director Diane Ellis said water, food and various other supplies are expected to be delivered to the organization shortly.

"The Red Cross is responsible for serving two meals a day," she said. "We will do our best to serve three meals plus snacks."

But Ellis warned residents that special meals can't be provided for those with special dietary needs, including diabetics and infants.

She added that several members of El Centro Latino and other Hispanic community organizations are recruiting Spanish translators to assist the shelters.

Nick Waters, director of the Orange County Department of Emergency Management Services, said he is confident that the county is better prepared for Isabel than it was for Fran.

Waters emphasized that better preparation from the county and its residents will reduce any potential aftershocks from Isabel.

In this vein, Waters praised

SEE PREPAREDNESS, PAGE 2

## Students from coastal families wait, worry

Distance from home raises agitation

BY MICHELLE JARBOE

FEATURES EDITOR

Instead of covering windows and amassing supplies, students from the Outer Banks are watching and worrying as the hurricane approaches.

As their families ready for the onslaught of Hurricane Isabel, some UNC students' only glimpse of the storm might be on the nightly news.

But they know the rituals by

heart.

Hurricane preparation takes twice the effort for Meg Connelly's family.

The family's Emerald Isle house needs its furniture secured and its windows shielded with plywood, while the panes at its Jacksonville home require only tape for reinforcement.

"(My mother) was calling me last week, asking me what she should do when it was a Category

5," said Connelly, a UNC senior. Though hurricanes are old hat to her, Connelly said, her family still takes precautions.

Bottled water and flashlights are considered necessities, and all the trees were removed from the Connelly yard years ago.

When storms hit, Connelly's mother and brother typically make their way to their Jacksonville home.

But Isabel's potential to sweep the northeastern N.C. coast has pushed the family caravan inland toward Cary.

"My mom works for the school system, so as soon as they cancel school she and my brother will go to Cary," Connelly said.

Her two sisters who live in Cary have made space in their homes for the family to wait out the tumult of wind and rain.

Meanwhile, Connelly has set up her apartment as a potential family haven in case of an emergency.

But her fears have taken the back seat to feelings of nostalgia and "fun."

"This is my first hurricane away

from home," she said.

"Part of me kind of wished I was down in Emerald Isle to help prepare for everything, but part of me is glad to be inland."

Though one of her friends lost his house to flooding during Hurricane Floyd in September 1999, Connelly described her experiences with the storms as more "fun" than serious.

"We've just always been so lucky," she said.

The Burgess sisters have seen

SEE FAMILIES, PAGE 2

### ONLINE

- Downtown moving on without commissioner
- Volunteer fair aims to show rewards in service
- Check for more stories on [dailytarheel.com](http://dailytarheel.com)

### INSIDE

- PATRIOT GAMES
- Experts debate the merits of the USA PATRIOT Act **PAGE 2**



### SPORTS

- BUILDING ENERGY
- North Carolina volleyball team comes away with dramatic five-game victory **PAGE 7**

### WEATHER

- TODAY Mostly sunny, H 79, L 58
- THURSDAY Showers/wind, H 72, L 62
- FRIDAY Partly cloudy, H 82, L 59

