

# Students mobilize for candidates

BY KELLI BORBET AND JENNY RUBY  
STAFF WRITERS

Student organizations are cropping up on campus in an effort to encourage students to take an active role in the presidential campaign process.

Organizations have been formed at UNC in support of Democratic presidential candidates retired Gen. Wesley Clark, former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean and U.S. Sens. John Edwards, D-N.C. and John Kerry, D-Mass.

These groups are urging students to get involved.

"Participation should go beyond voting," said Ferrel Guillory, adviser for Carolina Students for Edwards and director of UNC's Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life.

Carolina Students for Clark, officially became a UNC organization last week.

Founder Brooks Rollins spoke at

a Young Democrats meeting to promote Clark's campaign to other students. "General Clark has the best chance to beat President Bush because he is the most diverse candidate," he said.

Rollins, a senior, said he thinks students with free time should take an active role in the democratic process.

Students for Dean is an organization that was formed in late April. This group hopes to promote awareness of Dean's campaign on campus.

Roger Mills-Koonce, founder and co-coordinator of the group, said that Dean appeals to young voters because he says what is on his mind.

"He doesn't rely on popular consensus," said Koonce, a graduate student in psychology.

For information about getting involved in Dean's campaign, visit <http://www.carolina4dean.com>.

Another candidate support

group is Carolina Students for Edwards. Junior Justin Guillory, vice president of Young Democrats, founded the group in January.

He said he started the organization because he believes in Edwards' presidential platform. He said this was the first student organization in the nation to be formed in support of Edwards.

"People need to get involved in the machine of democracy by choosing sides and getting involved," he said.

Members of Carolina Students for Edwards already are participating in several activities including attending speeches and traveling to South Carolina to volunteer.

"Someone has to knock on doors and call people," said Justin Guillory. "Lots of work goes into a campaign."

Representatives will be located in the Pit every Wednesday for anyone who has questions about Edwards' campaign. More infor-

mation can be found at the group's Web site at <http://www.ncstudentsforewards.com>.

An organization for Kerry was formed this August. P.J. Lusk, a junior political science major and one of the organization's founders, said, "Kerry has the best mix of electability and issues."

The organization hopes to get students involved and aware so that they vote next November.

Students who would like to get involved in Kerry's campaign should contact the listserv at [CarolinaforKerry@listserv.unc.edu](mailto:CarolinaforKerry@listserv.unc.edu).

Ferrel Guillory said involvement in election campaigns provides an outlet for students to voice their opinions.

"It is important for young people to seek opportunities to develop an appreciation for the democratic process."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

## HALLS

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Housing officials said problems can be fixed faster if they can provide more details to the contractor. "It's helpful to hear students' comments and problems so they can be resolved as quickly as possible," Payne said.

Long said that his roommate had experienced a problem in Connor when he went to take a shower and the handle fell off. His roommate called maintenance, and the shower handle was fixed promptly. "They're making a big effort to fix and repair problems," Long said.

Connor Community Director Amy Gamble said workers in the

community office encourage residents to report any problems to Room Repair on the University's housing Web site at <http://housing.unc.edu> or to call the Division of Facilities Services help line.

"We value the feedback of students' experiences," Payne said. "We want their experience to be desirable so that they want to return to campus housing."

But Strong said housing officials should have worked out all the buildings' kinks before students returned. "They've had a whole year," she said. "That's enough time."

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## LIBRARY

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as a push to gain resident support for the bond referendum.

Library officials and consultants say the library desperately needs the money.

Bob Schreiner, chairman of the library's Board of Trustees, said the building size is too small for the amount of people who use it. "It's just too crowded, and there aren't enough books," he said.

Chapel Hill Town Council members say they recognize that library expansion has been a community need for a long time.

"The library was too small when it was built," said council member Pat Evans, who serves as a liaison to the Chapel Hill Library Board. "When you have a well-documented need, the best way to finance is through the bonds."

The library bond specifies that the money should be used to expand the library's facilities and resources. Schreiner said the additional space allowed by the bond primarily would be used to house more computers, develop a larger children's area and expand space for more books.

The expanded library also would increase the number of public meeting rooms for nonprofit groups and double the number of seats in the library.

Robert Rohlf, a professional library consultant, recommended that the library be expanded to 75,531 square feet by 2025. It now occupies 27,300 square feet of space.

Rohlf also recommended that the library increase its book collection to 372,000 items, or 4 items per person. The library now has 2.5 books per person.

The original town library opened its doors in 1968 on Franklin Street, where the Chapel Hill Museum now is located. In 1994, the library moved to its Estes Drive location.

According to the Friends of the Chapel Hill Public Library, Chapel Hill residents each check out 14 books per year, almost three times

the state average.

Each book circulates an average of almost 5 times per year, more than double the state average of 2.25.

The library is the only one in Chapel Hill, and while some residents have questioned the town's refusal to open other branches, Schreiner said more libraries would not solve the problem.

Creating additional branches would split not only the collection of books but the library staff as well, which is not cost-effective, Schreiner said.

Several staff members have been involved with the library since the move from the original building and are excited for the potential improvements.

Library Director Kathleen Thompson said the staff endorsed the recommendations made by the library consultants.

She said she is hopeful that the library will receive the bond money, especially since the facilities are used so much.

"It's wonderful to provide services to a community that really wants it," Thompson said. "I think that a good library reflects the values of the community."

Library officials say the potential expansion from the bond would meet the growing needs of young students with a larger children's section.

Chapel Hill has opened five new schools since the current library opened.

Chapel Hill resident Barbara Loehr said her children use the library on a regular basis.

Although she said she has noticed that the library is a little small, Loehr said she always has found the library to be extremely resourceful and supports the expansion. "It's always important to improve."

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## CAMPAIGNS

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McSwain might face problems in office that older candidates don't.

UNC-CH political science Professor Thad Beyle said middle-aged and older candidates don't always trust decisions made and meetings run by people the same age as their sons and daughters.

Beyle doesn't think a young candidate's relative lack of experience is a large issue on the municipal level. "How do (young candidates) get experience? They get a range of questions about a lot of issues they may not have thought about before."

McSwain said his age might be an advantage. "Young candidates are at a different stage of life, and I think a lot of what is needed is different perspectives and different viewpoints to be represented."

"As a young person, I feel that we have a less solid view of the world and have a less solid view of our own values. It's easier for us to relate to other people."

McSwain isn't the only young

candidate on a ballot in the Triangle area. Zack Medford, a junior business management major at N.C. State University, is running for Raleigh City Council District D and thinks student apathy can be changed by having peers in office.

"You open the (N.C. State) Technician or The Daily Tar Heel, and there's pages of people complaining — and we have an opportunity to change that," Medford said. "Until we can change the trend (of not voting), we'll continue to get neglected."

Though not an elected official, Medford already has made changes in student voting. Workers on his campaign held a voter drive and registered 2,000 new voters.

Medford's campaign generated student interest, which he hopes will prove that students and N.C. State can work with Raleigh residents for community improvement. "People blame the university for the problem, but they don't work with the university to solve the problem," he said.

Medford initially wasn't placed on the ballot because the state con-

stitution dictates that officeholders must be 21. Though he will be 20 on Election Day, Medford would be 21 by the time he would be sworn into office.

Medford filed suit to gain a space on the ballot because he believed the clause wasn't clear on when a candidate must turn 21. He won the battle, but his fight for a spot on the council continues.

He also is working with student rights organizations to change the state's officeholding age from 21 to 18. "I don't understand why we can choose leaders at 18 and why you aren't responsible then to be a leader. Being 21 doesn't make you more responsible."

At 20, Medford said he feels responsible enough to hold office and work for the city where he always has lived. "I'm not here to stir up trouble. I'm here for a reason — to work for a common cause."

Student involvement in campaigns extends beyond the municipal level. Justin Guillory, vice president of UNC-CH's Young Democrats, heads UNC-CH's

Students for Edwards campaign on campus.

"We're the heart of the campaign. We're the troops and also the people he's fighting for, the reason he's running and the force behind the campaign," Guillory said of his support for the presidential bid of Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C.

The College Republicans are involved as well. Tripp Costas, the organization's president, is statewide director for Students for Cobey and travels around the state starting student groups to support Bill Cobey's candidacy for governor.

Despite such efforts and a demonstrated increase in activism over the past few years, few people believe student voting levels are where they should be.

"The people who have the most to gain don't vote," Enista said, citing students' continuing voter apathy despite rising tuition rates.

"Not enough of them are voting to make anyone listen."

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## BUYBACK

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percent to 34 percent — 680 forms of a possible 1,996.

John Jones, director of Student Stores, said he believes that student government has increased its efforts this semester and that the drop in percentage of forms returned is due to the academic year starting one week later.

An example of student government's increased emphasis on the project is the creation of a textbook committee, which originally was formed by Student Congress.

Daneen Furr will serve as chairwoman for the committee, which will deal directly with Tepper's book buyback project.

Graham Long, executive assistant to Tepper, believes the committee will help to promote, expand and increase the success of the project.

Each year, professors submit a list of books they plan to use the next semester to Student Stores. In order to increase the amount of

money students receive when they sell their textbooks back at the end of the semester, faculty must turn their lists in on time.

When professors turn in their lists, Student Stores employees know what books they can sell the next semester and thus are able to buy back those books at a high rate.

The book buyback plan was instituted in collaboration with Jones, Provost Robert Shelton and Faculty Council Chairwoman Judith Wegner.

In the face of increasing tuition and fees, the book buyback project aims to save students money. Long said he encourages all professors to participate and submit their lists to ensure that Student Stores can buy back books at higher rates.

Both student government and Student Stores said they hope to improve and continue the book buyback project. Jones said, "It is a great program that we are definitely continuing and improving upon."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

## PRICE

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enlist the necessary international support."

Price said Bush now is being forced to specify how the \$75 billion already appropriated for rebuilding Iraq is being spent and what the requested \$87 billion will buy.

If passed, the \$87 billion appropriation will add to an already historic federal deficit of \$400 billion.

"The cost of our Iraqi intervention is immense," Price said. "Eighty-seven billion dollars is three times what we spend each year on major disease research at the National Institutes of Health."

"It is more than double our entire post-September 11 homeland security budget and amounts to \$3.5 million each week through 2004 for each of the 435 congressional districts in this country."

Price said the administration also must consider the strength of the troops stationed in Iraq and the necessity of keeping them active for another year. "We in North

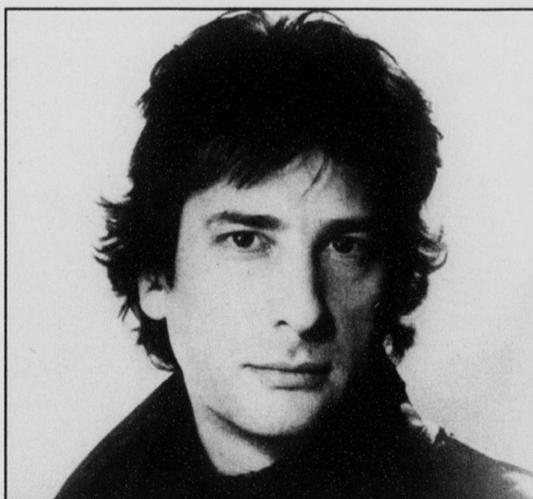
Carolina have particular reason to recognize the spectacular performance of our men and women in uniform during the combat phase and the valor and commitment they continue to display."

Price said North Carolinians have been skeptical toward the number of troops needed to stabilize Iraq and any unnecessary extensions of duty for the military. "We have also been especially attentive to the mismatch between what these troops have been trained for and the security and reconstruction functions they are being called upon to perform," he said.

Price also said he is concerned about Bush's plan for securing international support for rebuilding efforts, since the president's recent entreaties to the United Nations have proven unsuccessful.

"(But) the return of the president to the United Nations is a necessary first step toward the cooperative ties we must forge with allies."

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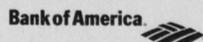


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