

NATIONAL BRIEFS



Calif. Gov. Gray Davis and Arnold Schwarzenegger face off today.

Californians to vote in governor recall race today

After a long sequence of events that has attracted entertainers and political minds alike, the California gubernatorial recall election will commence today.

Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger is leading the pack of contenders with poll numbers placing 37 percent of voters in his favor, according to a Knight Ridder poll Saturday. Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante carries 29 percent of votes, according to the poll, and state Republican Sen. Tom McClintock has 15 percent.

For the full story see www.dailytarheel.com.

Rice to lead U.S. rebuilding efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The White House, facing setbacks and growing casualties in Iraq, is asserting a larger role in overseeing reconstruction efforts and the tens of billions of dollars being spent by the United States.

The move is intended to "cut through some of the bureaucracy and the red tape" in Washington and accelerate the work in Iraq, presidential spokesman Scott McClellan said Monday.

A classified memo distributed last week established the Iraq Stabilization Group within the White House under Condoleezza Rice, the national security adviser to President Bush. Officials said creation of the group would give Rice authority to spur the bureaucracy and put more accountability in the White House.

U.S. officials concerned with Syria-Palestine ties

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As the Israeli-Palestinian situation deteriorates, Israel's weekend airstrike against a purported Palestinian terrorist training camp inside Syria could escalate tensions once again.

U.S. officials used the occasion to highlight their concerns about Syria's ties to Palestinian militants.

Officials also are worried about Syria's possession of unconventional weapons and its support for the Lebanon-based Hezbollah guerrillas.

Another sore point for Washington is Syria's purported role in allowing activists to cross into Iraq to take up arms against U.S. soldiers.

The weekend raid was in retaliation for a suicide bombing that killed 19 people, and President Bush on Monday spoke up for Israel's right to defend itself.

Supreme Court reluctant to act in class-action lawsuits

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Supreme Court is showing no inclination to rejoin the fight over large class-action lawsuits, leaving it to politicians for now.

As the court began a nine-month term Monday, the justices rejected a group of class-action appeals that asked where the lawsuits belong and how they can be challenged.

The issues are important for businesses, which argue that they cannot afford to defend themselves from multiple unpredictable lawsuits in state courts. On the other side, some consumers do not want their legal rights limited.

Many patients think air results in spread of cancer

PHILADELPHIA — Thirty-eight percent of patients who responded to a survey in five urban clinics believed the myth that cancer spreads when exposed to air during surgery.

Doctors administered a voluntary and anonymous questionnaire to 626 patients at clinics in Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Charleston, S.C., specializing in lung diseases and lung tumors. The questionnaire was given at five urban outpatient facilities between 1999 and 2000.

The study appears in Tuesday's *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

CALENDAR Wednesday

7 p.m. — The Wesley Foundation, at 214 Pittsboro St., will host Old Testament scholar Denise Hopkins. Call 942-2152 or e-mail wesleyunc@earthlink.net for more information.

Compiled from staff and wire reports.

Vanke brings merger debate to race

Nelson: issue out of mayor's hands

BY IRIS PADGETT
STAFF WRITER

The potential merger between the Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro school systems emerged Monday as a potentially contentious issue in Carrboro's mayoral race this fall.

In a self-funded forum held outside Carrboro Elementary School, write-in candidate Jeff Vanke pushed for a referendum on the

possible merger. But Carrboro Mayor Mike Nelson says the school system merger is an irrelevant election issue that does not fall within the mayor's jurisdiction. In a small gathering with reporters, Vanke said that promoting the education and well-being of Carrboro's children is a huge priority in his campaign to become mayor.

Vanke acknowledged that placing a binding referendum on the November ballot is not possible. But he said the consideration of a nonbinding referendum by each school system would be beneficial because it would force parents and community leaders to spend more time in clear and reasonable discussion.

If elected mayor, Vanke said he would not only promote this type of referendum, but he also would mention the consequences that would occur after such a merger.

"I think, from commissioners, we need more focus and explicit concentration on the consequences of merging tax and redistricting consequences especially," he said.

Nelson said a governmental body dealing specifically with school issues already exists — the school board.

He added that it is inappropriate for candidates to inject themselves into the school debate because such issues are beyond the grasp of the mayor's position.

"If Vanke is elected mayor, he will never have to deal with a school issue," Nelson said.

While Vanke admitted that the mayor lacks the power to make school system decisions, he said the mayor still could influence local education issues.

Vanke said there should be a three- to five-year delay before the county goes through the process of redistricting, which would occur if the merger was approved.

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Marion Brooks (left to right), Erma Kirkpatrick, Claudia McLean and Ruth Stroud, members of the Carr Court Quilting Circle, demonstrate their quilting technique together Friday. The group of 15 women quilts together most Fridays in Carrboro as they have for six years.

DTH PHOTOS/LAUREN PARKER

PATCHWORK OF SUPPORT

Quilters in Carrboro and beyond sew symbolic works

BY EMILY BATCHELDER
STAFF WRITER

When asked if quilting was a viable pastime for women or men today, Erma Kirkpatrick, quilt historian and long-time member of the Carr Court Quilting Circle, was quick to reply.

"You'd be surprised what a multibillion dollar business quilting is," she said.

But money is certainly not the driving force behind the industry or the quilting circle. "It's an exercise in friendship," Kirkpatrick said.

The Carr Court Quilting Circle began when women in the Carr Court area of Carrboro, traditionally a black community, saw the need to reclaim the neighborhood and bring its members together through community involvement.

Kirkpatrick, a longtime resident of Chapel Hill, was asked to help because of her knowledge and skill in the art of quilting.

Prior to participation in the circle, Kirkpatrick had few opportunities to work with black women. She said she considers the experience and diversity to be very valuable. "It's a way of connecting people of different generations and different races with each other."

The circle of 15 women meets irregularly but usually can be found Friday mornings at the Carr Court Community Center. The quilters advise and encourage each other on individual efforts as well as group projects.

The group often comes up with its own ideas, but sometimes projects unexpectedly present themselves, Kirkpatrick said.

Such is the case with the circle's current project — an "exhibition quilt" for the Charles House, an adult day program in Carrboro.

The idea was presented to the quilters when a friend of



Kirkpatrick's, Chuck Wrye, came across fabric blocks printed with images of North American birds.

He gave them to Kirkpatrick, who was looking for a project that would benefit the community. Incorporating the blocks into a quilt will be the circle's second project to be donated to the Charles House.

On Carrboro Day 2002, the circle presented Charles House participants with a small lap quilt, which has added aesthetically to the center's atmosphere, Program Director Gloria Lightsey-Lewis said.

Aside from the circle's projects for the Charles House, the women have had quilts on display at the Carrboro and Hillsborough libraries and Carrboro Town Hall.

The group also created a quilt for a museum exhibit on the replica of the ship *Amistad*.

The ship, launched from New Haven, Conn., in 2000, sails to national and international ports, aiming to promote multicultural awareness and serving as a monument to those lost in the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

The goal of the *Amistad* is very close to the hearts of the quilting circle, a group that has exemplified overcoming cultural boundaries through shared experience.

Currently, the quilters do not have any plans for future projects, Kirkpatrick said, but when one does come along,

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Author Conroy to speak tonight

Novels include "Prince of Tides"

BY LAUREN STREIB
STAFF WRITER

Best-selling author Pat Conroy will speak at 7:30 p.m. today in the Hill Hall Auditorium as this year's Thomas Wolfe Lecturer.

Conroy is best known for his novels "The Prince of Tides" and "The Great Santini."

The Thomas Wolfe Prize and annual lecture, which is in its fourth year, was established by the Thomas Wolfe Society in order to bring an important writer of any genre to spend time with UNC students.

Joseph Flora, the coordinator of the lecture series, said Conroy is an appropriate choice.

"Pat Conroy brings a lot of energy and vitality," he said. "He has the common experience of the Southern scene, as well as being a great appreciator of Thomas Wolfe."

Conroy's status also confirms his literary importance, one of the main factors involved in the selection of the winner of the Wolfe prize. "He is a nice link between current and classic literature," said Susan Irons, the director of the Morgan Writer-in-Residence program that supports the lecture series. "His impact (extends) into the community."

Conroy, the eldest of seven children, was raised in the South by an abusive father. His early life serves as the background for much of the content in his work. Conroy's first critically acclaimed novel, "The Water is Wide," exposed racial and conditional difficulties of his first teaching job.

"His first job was being a teacher," said Bland Simpson, the director of the creative writing program at UNC. "He has a great love of students."

His success spans more than 30 years in literature and film with his work achieving international attention and best-selling status.

Many of his works have been made into feature films with actors such as Robert Duvall, Barbra Streisand and Nick Nolte, who

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Author Pat Conroy's success spans 30 years in literature.

Student group picks Council candidates

BY LAURA BOST
STAFF WRITER

With the Nov. 4 election for the Chapel Hill Town Council less than a month away, Students for a Progressive Chapel Hill has thrown its full support behind candidates Sally Greene and Bill Strom.

The organization, one of UNC's newest student groups, now claims more than 20 members. It reviewed the candidates and decided to endorse Greene and Strom based on three main criteria: a long history of public service, a record of "progressivism" and a history of reaching out to UNC students in their public involvement.

First recognized as an official organization last month, Students for a Progressive Chapel Hill is an organization aimed at increasing students' awareness of and participation in community affairs.

"We started thinking about the

(Town Council election) and realized that most students don't know what's going on," said Tom Jensen, a sophomore political science major and founder of the organization. "We decided our voice needed to be heard."

The decision to endorse Greene and Strom was made during the week of Sept. 8.

After endorsing the candidates, members of the organization began lending their energy to each candidate's campaign. Some have gone on the radio, while others are going door-to-door in the community and in residence halls, talking about their choice to endorse the candidates and seeking support.

Strom said he is thrilled to be endorsed by the group and to have their help with his campaign. "This is the epitome of grass-roots democracy."

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Graham drops out of race

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Bob Graham, a political veteran whose low-key style failed to gain traction in the crowded Democratic presidential race, said Monday night he was ending his campaign.

"I'm leaving because I cannot make the judgment that I cannot be elected president of the United States," Graham said in announcing his exit from the race on CNN's "Larry King Live."

He said he was not successful because he started his campaign too late and had trouble raising money. Graham, one of the most popular lawmakers in his home state of Florida, said he has not decided whether he will run for re-election to his Senate seat, which he has held since 1987.

During the campaign, Graham cast himself as the Democrats' most experienced and electable presidential candidate, but he struggled near the bottom of the 10-candidate nomination race.

In seven months of fund raising, he brought in about \$5 million, not enough to compete with six Democratic rivals who raised at least twice as much. Graham's advisers said he was down to less than \$1 million in his account — not enough to run a credible nationwide campaign.

Some of Graham's top presidential operatives announced they were leaving in recent days, and news articles reported that his campaign might be ending. Graham kept his final decision to end his bid to a close circle of trusted advisers who supported him during his time in the Senate.

He didn't tell his top campaign staffers, and they were left to speculate about the future of their jobs until the announcement on CNN.

Graham had considered running a shoestring campaign focused in just a few states with a small staff. He sounded like he was committed to stay in the race as late as Saturday, when he told a



U.S. Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., won't be seeking the Democratic nomination for president.

meeting of the Democratic National Committee: "I will win the presidency by leading America with honor out of the quagmire of Iraq."

Graham based much of his campaign on his vote against the military conflict in Iraq. Yet anti-war activists preferred Howard Dean's fist-pounding indignation to Graham's calm, measured arguments against President Bush's foreign policy.

Graham's composed manner camouflaged his harsh accusations against the White House. He accused Bush of endangering

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