

CAMPUS BRIEFS

9 unoccupied seats filled in Student Congress election

Nine open graduate student seats in Student Congress were filled in special elections held Monday.

One seat was open in District 12, and two seats were available in Districts 14, 15, 16 and 18. A total of 408 ballots were cast in the elections.

Parker Wiseman won the seat for District 12 with 19 votes. Erica Gregory and Martin Kuhn were elected to seats in District 14 with 24 and 22 votes, respectively.

In District 15, Steve Russell and Julie Lamberth won the positions with 42 and 40 votes.

In District 16, Caroline Jennette was elected with 10 votes, and Karen Duncan received one vote.

Kelly Corr and Yusuf Ahmad were elected to the open positions in District 18 with 42 and 31 votes, respectively.

As of press time, only Russell and Jennette had confirmed their positions.

3 laptops reported stolen from campus buildings

A police officer responded to a call at Davie Hall at 8:15 a.m. Monday. A laptop and its charger were stolen between 4 a.m. Friday and 8:15 a.m. Monday. The laptop and charger were valued at \$3,000. The report indicated there might be a connection between this incident and another report of breaking and entering at Davie Hall made Saturday.

Officers also responded to a call at 10:25 a.m. Monday at Hinton James Residence Hall that two laptops had been stolen. A resident had left her room at 10:15 a.m. to take a shower and, when she returned at 10:25 a.m., realized both her and her roommate's laptops were missing. The resident said she didn't lock her door after she left the room. The laptops were valued at \$2,000 each.

CITY BRIEFS

Local firefighters receive statewide excellence award

The N.C. Professional Firefighters have named the Chapel Hill Firefighters Association (IAFF Local 2580) as the "Local of the Year" in the state. This is the second year in a row they have received the award from their peers.

They were selected this year primarily for the work of the members to install residential fire sprinklers in the Habitat for Humanity homes built in Chapel Hill and the rest of Orange County.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

U.S. to impose quotas on Chinese clothing imports

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Bush administration increased trade tensions with China on Tuesday by announcing it will limit clothing imports to protect struggling U.S. companies.

Commerce Secretary Don Evans said the administration was granting an industry request to impose quotas on Chinese imports of knit fabric, dressing gowns and robes and bras in an action that Evans said "demonstrates our commitment to our trade rules and America's workers."

The action was the latest response by the administration to shrink the United States' soaring trade deficit with China, which hit a record \$103 billion last year, and which U.S. manufacturers believe is largely to blame for the hemorrhaging of U.S. factory jobs during the past three years.

"Clearly, the enormous surges we have seen in Chinese imports in these categories, and the damage they have caused to our industry, workers and communities warranted such action," said Cass Johnson, head of the American Textile Manufacturers Institute.

Critics warned that the decision would drive up the cost of clothing in U.S. stores. Trade expert Gary Hufbauer of the Institute for International Economics said protections already in place for textile and apparel companies cost the typical U.S. family \$400 in higher clothing costs annually.

CALENDAR

11 a.m. — The Global Education Fair: Welcome to Carolina, Welcome to the World is today in the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence in Graham Memorial.

A part of International Education Week 2003, the fair will offer information on internationally focused student groups, University departments and programs. Refreshments will be provided.

Compiled from staff and wire reports.

County to manage animal shelter

APS must relinquish control July 1

BY SUSIE DICKSON
STAFF WRITER

The Animal Protection Society will continue operating the Orange County Animal Shelter until June 30, 2004, the Orange County Board of Commissioners decided Tuesday.

However, on July 1, 2004, the shelter will become a public operation run by the county.

County Manager John Link recommended Friday that the board allow APS to continue operating the shelter for the interim five-month period starting Feb. 1.

Commissioners accepted proposals from three firms vying for operation of the shelter.

APS, the Humane Society of Orange County and Animal Care

and Equipment Services, a Denver-based company, all submitted bids to operate the shelter. ACES lost the bid because its proposal was incomplete.

Commissioner Stephen Halkiotis said he thinks the county should take over the management of the shelter.

"I see no hope in this," he said. "I'm really dismayed. I'm sick of it and I'm tired of it, and I really don't see any hope in a long-range oppor-

tunity for anybody in this room."

During the past year, APS has come under fire for poor treatment of customers and an inability to care for animals adequately. Former Director Laura Walters resigned Oct. 27 after months of pressure.

Halkiotis said he was particularly frustrated with the organizations fighting to manage the shelter.

"We've got warring factions here in the county, and people can't put their swords down," he said. "We

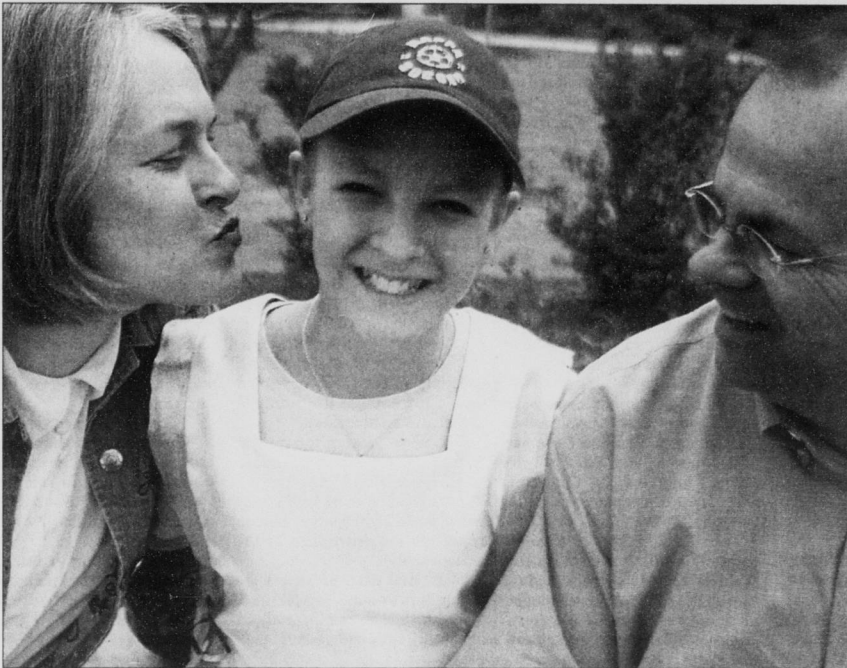
need to disarm people who love animals."

Commissioner Barry Jacobs agreed. "People are so protective of their turf and their prerogatives that there's always a reason that it doesn't work. I think we ought to work on a few alternatives about how we will run the animal shelter."

Jacobs stressed the importance of starting to plan the county's man-

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"My daughter has spent an awful lot of time (at the hospital), so we wanted to help out and give back." JEFF SIMPSON, VOLUNTEER AT RADIOTHON



Emmaline (left) and Jeff Simpson (right) sit with their daughter, Rebecca, outside North Raleigh Christian Academy during a break in Rebecca's play rehearsal. Rebecca, 14, was diagnosed last March with acute myelogenous leukemia.

Children's Hospital hits airwaves to raise funds

Radiothon event begins Thursday

BY KIRSTEN VALLE
STAFF WRITER

A strong belief in giving back prompted the Simpson family to volunteer for the N.C. Children's Promise Radiothon.

The event, which will start at 5 a.m. Thursday and finish at 1 a.m. Friday, is a fund-raiser for the N.C. Children's Hospital.

"My daughter has spent an awful lot of time there, so we wanted to help out and give back," Jeff Simpson said. Fourteen-year-old Rebecca Simpson was diagnosed last March with a potentially life-threatening bone marrow cancer called acute myelogenous leukemia.

Despite the prognosis, Rebecca's family refused to give up hope.

"My family and I believe in God," Jeff said. "We've been given so much.

Out of a sense of gratitude, we want to help with this."

It was perhaps the Simpsons' faith that helped them through Rebecca's ordeal. Jeff said that Rebecca has spent only two months out of the hospital since March.

The time in the hospital was tumultuous, but Rebecca said that doctors and nurses did their best to improve the experience. "They try to make it pleasant. It was probably the best it could be."

Rebecca was released in October because doctors thought her cancer was in remission.

Soon after the Simpsons celebrated the occasion, however, they learned that Rebecca would need to return to the hospital for cancer treatments.

"We thought she was in remission," Jeff said. "But she has some additional challenges."

Despite needing more treatment, Rebecca remains full of hope and eager to help with the radiothon.

Now in its second year, the event is run mostly by about 300 volunteers, said Suzanne Herman, director of public affairs and marketing for UNC Hospitals.

Thirteen radio stations from the Raleigh-based Curtis Media Group will broadcast the radiothon live, and several stations plan to interview Rebecca and her family.

When they are not answering questions, the Simpsons will be answering phones.

Herman said the volunteer pool also will include other former hospital patients. "We have a lot of patients coming to be interviewed, and we will work them in in whatever capacity we can," she said.

Volunteers have advertised the radiothon by posting signs throughout the community and setting up drop-off points at area businesses, such as Bojangles restaurants.

"It was very successful last year,"

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ASG seeks lowering of minimum election age

BY ALESIA DICOSOLA
STAFF WRITER

If the UNC-system Association of Student Governments has its way, the minimum age at which a person can run for most state offices will be lowered from 21 to 18.

The ASG and N.C. State University student Zack Medford are lobbying state legislators to approve a bill that would lower the age requirement mandated by the state's constitution.

If the bill is passed by legislators and then by public referendum, North Carolina will follow the lead of 17 other states — including New York, Ohio and Louisiana — that already allow people who are at least 18 years old to run for state office.

N.C. Sen. Richard Stevens, R-Wake, is drafting a bill that would do just that. The legislation, which will be introduced in May, must pass both legislative chambers with a three-fifths majority vote.

Because the change would require a constitutional amendment, it also would have to pass a public vote.

The issue has come into focus during the last few years as sever-

"I'm not sure if the public would elect (students), but they ought to have the right to seek office."

SEN. RICHARD STEVENS, R-WAKE

al university students have tried to run for their city or town councils, school boards, county commissions and the N.C. House. However, the bill would not alter the age restrictions to run for the state Senate or for governor, Stevens said.

Medford brought the issue to the ASG's attention after he was

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Few protesting tuition hike

Student leaders endorse increases

BY ANDREW SATTEN,
TIM PRICE
AND TORRY JONES
STAFF WRITERS

As campus-initiated tuition increases near approval across the UNC system, few student leaders are opposing the hikes — a marked contrast to student opinion just two years ago.

The University Affairs Committee of the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees will meet today to vote on a proposal to raise tuition by \$300 per year each of the next three years.

If passed, the increase, which was recommended Oct. 16 by UNC-CH's Tuition Task Force, will go before the UNC-system Board of Governors next semester.

In contrast to past years, in which proposed tuition increases have met staunch resistance from the student body and student leaders, UNC-CH Student Body President Matt Tepper has endorsed the tuition hike.

"We are not getting the funds we need to make Carolina the best it can be," Tepper said.



Then-Student Body President Justin Young (left) and dozens of students protest a proposed tuition hike at a 2002 Board of Governors meeting.

Student Body Vice President Rebekah Burford echoed Tepper's opinions, although she presented a more cautious stance. "Because it's another year of ... poor economic conditions, this year we're a little bit less willing to support high tuition increases."

Burford, who served last year as chief of staff for former UNC-CH Student Body President Jen Daum, said the current atmos-

phere regarding increases is different from two years ago, when tuition discussions came late in the year. Students opposed increases primarily because they couldn't be involved enough in the decision-making process, she said.

Western Carolina University students also are supporting a tuition increase proposal this year

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