

CONGRESS

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purpose — student groups. "Do you really want to tell student groups that you don't have enough money because we spent it on the election?" Shah asked. Anderson opposed Shah's claim. "What is more of a student activity than student body president elections with 7,000 participants?" he responded. McKnight cited a precedent put forth in the Student Code that says student fees should not be spent for individual use. "Spending student fees for personal gain, that's all it is." Student Body Vice President Rebekah Burford disagreed with McKnight, saying that the constituents gain, not the candidates.

"It is not worth it just to do it for yourself," she said. But in the end, the Larson-Daum Act was upheld since no member could get a consensus to alter it. Student Body President Matt Tepper epitomized the majority, as he spoke out in support of maintaining the current system. "I was OK with the way it went last year; it worked out well for me." After the meeting, Shah said he would not give up on reforming campaign regulations, although probably not again for this year's elections. "People in here are afraid of politics," he said. "Money from student fees can be put to better use."

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MARRIAGE

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same sex violates the Massachusetts Constitution," Chief Justice Margaret Marshall wrote. The dissenting justices argued that the court was treading on lawmakers' territory. "Today, the court has transformed its role as protector of rights into the role of creator of rights, and I respectfully dissent," Justice Francis Spina wrote. The decision prompted complex legal questions about the next step and about when the nation's first gay marriage licenses will be issued, if ever. Republican Gov. Mitt Romney denounced the ruling but said there is little the state could do beyond pursuing a constitutional amendment. "I agree with 3,000 years of

recorded history. I disagree with the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts," he said. "Marriage is an institution between a man and a woman ... and our constitution and laws should reflect that." But the soonest a constitutional amendment could be put on the ballot is 2006, opening a window of a few years in which gay marriage licenses could be granted. Vermont's high court issued a similar decision in 1999 but told its Legislature that it could allow gay couples to marry or create a similar institution that confers all the rights and benefits of marriage. Lawmakers chose the second route, leading to the approval of civil unions in that state. The Massachusetts decision makes no mention of such an alternative pointing instead to a decision in Canada that changed the common-law definition of marriage to include same-sex couples and led to marriage licenses being issued there. The state "has failed to identify any constitutionally adequate reason for denying civil marriage to same-sex couples," the court wrote, adding that denying gays the right to marry deprives them "of membership in one of our community's most rewarding and cherished institutions."

TUITION

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one involved in the tuition policy process. At press time, the WSSU chancellor couldn't be reached for comment. Bob Schaffer, Appalachian State University associate vice chancellor for public affairs, said his school's tuition committee met "over a very short time period — about 10 days." "What forced our hand was that we needed a quick turnaround time before the December 5th meeting of the Board of Trustees." But some student body presidents blame university administrators for dragging out the process until the last minute. At N.C. State University, the debate became so heated that the Board of Trustees passed an increase of \$300 for each of the next three years by an 8-6 margin — much to the chagrin of NCSU Student Body President Tony Caravano, who plans to fight the increase. "When the task force came to us with their proposal, we assessed the financial standing of the student body and noticed that there hadn't been enough of a change to warrant an increase," he said. After Saturday's discussion, ASG

President Jonathan Ducote said, he was ready to take action. Earlier this year, he sent a letter to all 16 system chancellors offering a sample plan for creating their tuition task forces, which on the surface appeared to get the ball rolling. But he said that some of his efforts might have been in vain. If chancellors followed through with the guidelines, "it would be a huge step forward beyond this duck-and-run treatment of students in the decision-making process," he said. Gretchen Bataille, the system's senior vice president for academic affairs, said the student voice might have history working against it. "It could be that these campuses have historically not involved students, and that needs to change." Ducote said the BOG needs to take the lead. "The board has largely left the administration of the tuition process up to (UNC-system President Molly) Broad," he said. "If they think it's a really important issue, then the BOG ... should get their hands dirty to ensure that some changes are made."

State & National Editor Cleve R. Wootson Jr. contributed to this report. Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

DECISION

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on gay marriages is unconstitutional because the state constitution prohibits the classification of second-class citizens. The court gave the Massachusetts Legislature six months to rewrite the state's marriage laws for the benefit of homosexual couples. Many homosexual couples and activists saw the decision as a stepping stone toward equal rights. "It absolutely makes a difference," Palmquist said. "For the first time we have a state that appears that it might start issuing marriage licenses for same-sex couples." But some say the decision was a breach of the justice system and expect it to be overturned. "This is not the official thing that will let gay and lesbian marriages happen in Massachusetts," said Joe Glover, president of the Family Policy Network, a conservative Christian group based in Virginia. "What they did today was illegal."

Glover said that the four justices who ruled against the ban forced their will on Massachusetts citizens and that they should be fired. "We have 180 days to find out if the Legislature will have any guts to say to the state supreme court that it's not their job to write laws," said Glover. "What happened today was an example of tyranny." Even if the decision is affirmed by the Legislature, the concern over issuing marriage licenses could remain. Dissenters of same-sex marriages, including President Bush, have stated that they will attempt to install a clause defining marriage as strictly heterosexual in state constitutions. Stephanie Chang, coordinator of the UNC Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Office, said that although the decision was great news for same-sex couples, the fight still has a long way to go. "It is tricky because (Massachusetts) is only one state," she said. Chang said states now will take a stronger stand on the issue of same-sex marriages. "It forces

states to be more vocal. ... I think North Carolina will be more vocal about where it stands." But Glover said North Carolina never will allow same-sex marriages. "Not in a million years," he said. "People in North Carolina have a lot of common sense." In this year's Carolinas Poll, sponsored by The Charlotte Observer and NBC6, residents of North and South Carolina objected to the legal recognition of same-sex unions by an almost 3-to-1 ratio. Of the 908 people surveyed for the poll, 24 percent said they favor legal status for same-sex unions, while 66 percent said they were opposed. North Carolina's Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as "a legal union between one man and one woman," will be an obstacle for North Carolinian gay couples seeking marriage. Staff Writer Mary Beth Bardin contributed to this report. Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

FINANCE

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this scrutiny, but it's a really big pain in the neck," said Thatcher Freund, who ran unsuccessfully for Chapel Hill Town Council. System creates confusion Candidates and county election board officials came away with different opinions about how and when some of the new forms should be used. "If they have something they have ordered and received and not gotten the bill, then they do need to put it on the debts and obligations form," Knight said. Former candidates Rudy Juliano and Doug Schworer, along with re-elected council member Jim Ward, disagreed with Knight on this point. Ward contracted out services to make campaign sign additions and received them in mid-September, said Stephen Manton, Ward's treasurer. But the bill did not arrive until the last week of October, after the pre-election reporting period concluded, he added. Ward and Manton said they were confident that they didn't have to report the expense because they haven't in past campaigns. "My understanding was that we hadn't received the bill yet, so it wasn't on the finances report," Ward said. Similarly, an advertisement for Juliano was posted on the Internet search engine Google before the election, but the expense never was reported. The sponsored link still appears when a user searches for "Chapel Hill Town Council" or "Rudy Juliano."

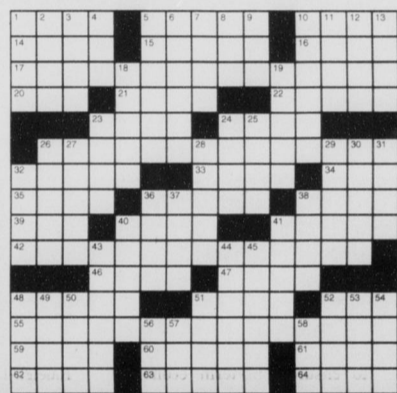
Policing problems remain The paper method likely will change before the next pool of candidates gears up for council races, making at least the filing aspect of campaign finance regulations easier. Next month, the state elections board will distribute to county boards new software that will help expedite the current system, Westbrook-Strach said. The software will allow for quicker and more accurate audits of campaign finance reports for county officials and voters, Westbrook-Strach said. "It will be much easier. The public is going to be able to analyze things themselves from our Web site." But new software will do little to improve county boards' ability to levy punishments for campaign finance violations. When a complaint is filed, the county board only can forward the information to the state Board of Elections. In the six years that Knight has been in charge of campaign filings at the county board, she has passed only one complaint on to the state. Westbrook-Strach said her campaign finance auditors at the local and state levels rely on the truthfulness of the reports. "Checks and balances come in when the public files complaints with us." Contact the Projects Team at jbfrank@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Phillip J. Anderson

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- ACROSS**
 1 Veggie in gumbo
 5 Alegre, Brazil
 10 Attired
 14 Cake layer
 15 In flames
 16 Sitarist Shankar
 17 All the time
 20 Lubricate
 21 AAA advice
 22 Cognizant
 23 Bird with a laughlike cry
 24 Hint
 26 All the time
 32 Daring feat
 33 Excessive anger
 34 Criticize harshly
 35 Reagan's Alexander
 36 Taters
 38 Corn cob, e.g.
 39 Vessel with a spigot
 40 Window ledge
 41 Muscle power
 42 All the time
 46 No sweat
 47 Matures
 48 Otherwise called
 51 Hook's underling
 52 Nat'l. TV network
 55 All the time
 59 Skin orifice
 60 Expansive
 61 Land unit
 62 Move about
- DOWN**
 2 Paindromic name
 3 Fuzzy fruit
 4 Stagger
 5 Prince Valiant's son
 6 Running-back Walter
 7 Outrage
 8 Ocho, Jamaica
 9 Play about Capote
 11 The land of the free
 10 Loosely twisted
 12 worsted yarn
 11 Kilauea flow
 12 Asseverate
 13 Have supper
 18 Brook fish
 19 Gravy
 23 Pine (for)
 24 Libyan neighbor



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