

# Distance no match for UNC candidate support

BY JOSEPH SCHWARTZ  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

While throngs of John Kerry and John Edwards supporters cheered upon hearing the Iowa caucus results from afar, several UNC students were right in the middle of the candidates' miraculous turnarounds.

Katie Gardner, a vice chairwoman of Carolina Students for Edwards, was one of about 10 UNC students who made the 20-hour trip to Iowa to aid the North Carolina senator's campaign.

"Edwards has probably 15 field offices throughout the entire state, so there are offices in smaller towns where there are only two or three staffers," she said. "So they honestly needed as much help as they could get."

She was in charge of the Hardin precinct in Webster County.

Only 10 people came to the caucus, so Gardner said that the delegate would be given to the candidate who received the majority.

However, the decision was split 5 to 5 between Edwards and Kerry, and she said the winner of the delegate came down to a coin toss, which Kerry won.

"That's democracy in Iowa for you," she said.

Still, Gardner said she thought she and the other students made an impact.

"I think just being able to talk to people and relate (is important)," she said. "There's a lot of things about each candidate that people don't know ... so it's really good to have someone there that's an expert."

Gardner said she went door to door informing anyone who would listen about Edwards' campaign.

"They obviously like it when the southern accent comes to the door, and they want to know why in the world we drove 20 hours to talk to them," she said.

While Gardner made the long trip to Iowa, P.J. Lusk, campus

coordinator of Students for Kerry, watched CNN in Chapel Hill and celebrated the candidate's surprising win.

"It's amazing, that's what it is," he said. "(A) six percent (lead) isn't chump change."

Lusk said his organization has discussed traveling with a group of Duke University students to New Hampshire, the site of the first primary scheduled for Tuesday.

He stressed the importance of students taking an active role in politics. "Students can provide a whole lot of energy to the campaigns that they work for," he said.

"They can do all ... the important things that have to be done to make a campaign."

Gardner said she saw an immediate impact from the work that she did.

"(Second place) is a massive success for us — our campaign could not be happier," she said. "Being second here is going to give us massive momentum heading into New Hampshire."

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# Iowa shows race's volatility

Kerry, Edwards surged in final days

BY STEPHANIE JORDAN  
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Monday night's Iowa caucus results proved that a trailing candidate can turn things around at the last minute and stand in the winner's circle, indicating an interesting few weeks ahead that include the New Hampshire and South

**PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES '04**

U.S. Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts finished first, U.S. Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina came in second, in third was Vt. Gov. Howard Dean and former Mo. Rep. Dick Gephardt placed fourth.

Polls leading up to Monday night showed the candidates competing in a tight race. But the fight for the top spot got more interesting as Kerry and Edwards pulled ahead of the original front-runners to win first and second place finishes.

The two senators gained the most steam the week before the Monday night caucus.

"Kerry and Edwards are picking up undecided voters," said Ferrel Guillory, director of UNC's Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life.

He added that Edwards gained his boost due partially to the endorsement of Iowa's largest newspaper, the Des Moines Register, Jan. 11, while Kerry's rise could be attributed to his persistent campaigning.

Their gains also were consistent with negative campaigning, said Ken Warren, political science professor at St. Louis University. "Gephardt is negative toward Dean," he said. "Kerry and Edwards are benefiting from the battle between Gephardt and Dean."

Warren added that Kerry and Edwards have refrained from entering a negative campaign, keeping their styles more positive — a move that he said has helped their numbers in the polls.

Strategic moves also were made by candidates not participating in Iowa's caucuses. "Clark was smart by skipping Iowa and going for New Hampshire," said Matt Corrigan, professor of political science at the University of North Florida. "Clark didn't have the head start (in Iowa)."

Reported poll numbers the week before the Iowa caucus showed Dean and Gephardt in the top two positions, but the days

leading to the caucus revealed Kerry and Edwards in the lead.

But caucus polls are not as accurate as those for primaries, Warren said. He said participants in the caucus will choose their candidate preference and if the candidate does not receive a certain percentage of caucus-goers, their votes go to a different candidate.

"(Caucus) polls aren't that accurate," Warren said. "Polls indicate the strength of candidates."

Experts are careful to include New Hampshire in their analyses, saying the results of its primary will hold a great deal of importance for the candidates.

"The climate will change dramatically after New Hampshire," said Howard Gold, a voting behavior expert. "Gephardt, (Conn. Sen. Joe) Lieberman, Edwards — their fates will be sealed after New Hampshire."

Of course, history has shown otherwise, he said. President Clinton finished second in the New Hampshire primary in 1992, though he was not expected to finish that high. "It's who exceeds expectations," Gold said. "Winners aren't necessarily winners and losers aren't necessarily losers."

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