

The Daily Tar Heel



Voorhees College seniors Marcia Gooding (left) and Leslie Eaddy dance to the music blaring out of John Edwards' campaign bus after the senator made a stop Monday at the historically black institution in Denmark, S.C. Below: Edwards greets a group of supporters chanting "Go, John! Go!" as he arrives at Voorhees.

DTH PHOTOS/KATE BLACKMAN

Lenoir linked to norovirus outbreak

Health Department data indicate tainted salad bar

BY TORRYE JONES
STAFF WRITER

The recent norovirus outbreak that caused gastrointestinal symptoms in about 170 students was most likely transmitted through the salad bar at Top of Lenoir, officials from the Orange County Health Department said Monday.

A final report, which surveyed 154 students, stated that students who ate at Top of Lenoir on Jan. 19 were 5.4 times more likely to have been exposed to and contract the norovirus than those who did not.

The students who ate at Top of Lenoir and became ill were 4.3 times more likely to have eaten items from the salad bar, the report states.

"We were not able to pinpoint how the norovirus got into the salad, but the data points to salad items on that particular day," health department educator Donna King said.

King said the norovirus can be transmitted when food is contaminated before it arrives at an establishment. She also said accidental contamination by a food handler or a person eating at an establishment can cause an outbreak.

Ron Holdway, director of environmental health for OCHD, said he didn't see any procedural flaws when he inspected the University's dining halls and doesn't anticipate anymore investigations.

"I didn't have any changes to recommend. The staff was cooperative, and to my knowledge they weren't hiding anything."

Mike Freeman, director of UNC's auxiliary services, said reports do not indicate that a staff member was ill before the outbreak. He said only two employees experienced norovirus-like symptoms during the time students were ill.

"We emphasize cleanliness in the back of the house, not just the front of it," Freeman said.

To ensure members of the University community practice good hygiene, the auxiliary services staff posted hand-washing fliers and table tents sponsored by the health department. They also installed hand sanitizing stations in all campus dining facilities.

King said the first outbreak seems to be tapering off, but some students now are contracting secondary infections.

Officials from Student Health Service reported that three students displayed similar symptoms Saturday, five on Sunday and one on Monday.

"The mystery is solved," King said. "Now it's very important to break the secondary infection cycle — the person to person contact."

Students who reported to student health between Jan. 26 and 30 are believed to have the secondary infection. The health department and Student Health are continuing to monitor the situation.

Freshman Naite Alexander, who was sick with the virus, said that he thinks the outbreak was an honest mistake, but that he no longer eats at Top of Lenoir unless he has to.

"No one meant for us to get sick; it's something we have to get past and hope that it doesn't happen again," he said.

Other students said they are more conscious of hygiene practices.

"It's made me very conscious about washing my hands," said Whitney Edwards, a sophomore who had the virus.

"It was the most disgusting 24 hours ever."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

EDWARDS READIES FOR SOUTHERN TEST

Stops at historically black colleges mark day in S.C.

Tensions rise as races near

BY CHRIS COLETTA AND LAURA YOUNGS
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITORS

DENMARK, S.C. — The sign in front of Massachusetts Hall at Voorhees College in this rural Southern town said "Parking Reserved for the President," and its message was taken to heart.

When Sen. John Edwards finally pulled into the parking spot across from a tree-laden quad in the center of campus, the supporters that had gathered to greet the North Carolina lawmaker broke into boisterous cheers and shook the placards they had been tapping impatiently against the ground.

The campaigning represented Edwards' last push for South Carolina votes before today's Democratic primary, the first Southern contest in the battle to win the party's presidential nod.

Edwards, who held a lead of 5 percentage points over Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry in a Reuters/MSNBC/Zogby poll released Monday, said he gave a speech at Voorhees to emphasize what he's been talking about since his campaign's beginning.

Edwards' discussion of key issues, particularly the hemorrhaging of jobs from South Carolina's manufacturing center, struck a chord with the crowd.

Such events are common for Edwards, who hopes to attract a large number of voters to the polls in a state he has said he has to win.

To do so, Edwards has stressed his upbringing as the son of a Seneca, S.C., mill worker, and his stump speech seems in many ways geared toward those who might be frustrated with their lot in life. "The South is not George Bush's backyard, it's my

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BY TRISTAN SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

U.S. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., sits comfortably atop the pack of Democratic contenders coming into today's primaries and caucuses, while his rivals are hoping to gain enough momentum in their campaigns to press on.

Kerry holds wide leads in Missouri and Arizona and narrowly trails retired Gen. Wesley Clark in Oklahoma, according to a Zogby poll released Monday. Kerry trails North Carolina's senior senator, John Edwards, in South Carolina.

Five states hold primaries today: Arizona, Delaware, Missouri, Oklahoma and South Carolina. Two states, New Mexico and North Dakota, have political caucuses today.

The self-titled "comeback Kerry" has been the toast of the Democratic Party since his turnarounds in Iowa and New Hampshire. "Winning in Iowa and New Hampshire probably gives him a boost in all seven states," said James Campbell, a political science professor at the State University of New York-Buffalo.

Kerry picked up key endorsements in both South Carolina and Missouri. U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., a six-term congressman



and a leading black politician in the state, announced his support for Kerry on Thursday, a move that might go far in courting the state's all-important black voters.

The Massachusetts senator has reached a pinnacle in the early primary season, but the challenge for Kerry will be to show that he is not simply a niche candidate. "What he needs to do is to demonstrate that he is not just a northeastern candidate," said Jack Fleer, a professor emeritus of political science at Wake Forest University.

"He has to overcome this liberal, Massachusetts, Kennedy-ite mantle that has been placed on him."

The latest Zogby poll shows Kerry with a commanding lead in Missouri, bringing in 50 percent of the vote, 35 percent more than his nearest competitor, Edwards.

Missouri sends 74 delegates to the Democratic National Convention in July, more than any other state holding a primary today.

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean might be the most enigmatic of the Democratic candidates. Fond epithets of grass-roots change have been replaced with words like "angry" and, perhaps far more damaging, "not electable."

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Young Dems lend a hand to Calabria

BY MEGAN SEROW
STAFF WRITER

Student Body President candidate Matt Calabria gained his first endorsement at the Young Democrats' forum Monday night.

"I'm really happy," said Calabria, a former member of the Young Democrats Executive Board. "I think they trusted my experience in and outside of student government."

Six of the eight candidates, along with write-in Jon Lepofsky, participated in Monday's forum. Candidates Laura Thomas and Faudlin Pierre did not attend the event.

Candidate John Walker left the

forum after making an opening statement, saying he would use the time to talk with South Campus students. He said he didn't think he had a chance of getting the endorsement because of his conservative views.

But Young Democrats Vice President Justin Guillory said that his organization didn't enter the forum with a set candidate to endorse.

"It was experience and platform, not whether they're a Republican or Democrat," he said.

He also said that Calabria's platform as a whole — especially his ideas to increase student voting — garnered the group's support.

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DTH/NANCY DONALDSON

Candidate Matt Calabria speaks during the Young Democrats' forum Monday before receiving the group's endorsement.

Sangam gives West 3rd endorsement

BY IRIS PADGETT
STAFF WRITER

Sangam endorsed Lily West for student body president at its Monday forum, giving West her third endorsement in four forums.

Members of Sangam, UNC's South Asian awareness organization, said they were looking to endorse a candidate who was confident and conscious of minority organizations.

"West has a better understanding of (Sangam's) needs," said Sumeet Banker, forum mediator and editor of Diaspora, Sangam's monthly publication. "She has real goals and real solutions, not just vague promises about fostering

more diversity."

Candidates focused on integrating UNC's many minority student groups. They also stressed the importance of communication between student government and minority groups.

During the forum, West said she wanted to prepare presentations to deans on how to obtain and retain more minority faculty. She also said student government committees should contain more representatives from minority organizations, as well as other groups on campus.

"Diversity can be measured in numbers to a certain extent, but integration is what makes this University diverse," West said.

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DTH/NANCY DONALDSON

Sangam, UNC's South Asian awareness organization, pledged their support for Lily West after the group met Monday night.

TONIGHT

SBP FORUM
The DTH will host a forum for student body president. For details, see PAGE 3



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WEATHER

TODAY AM rain, H 55, L 30
WEDNESDAY Sunny, H 52, L 30
THURSDAY Some showers, H 50, L 44

