

Sen. Lieberman bows out of race

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sen. Joe Lieberman, unable to inspire Democratic voters who embraced his 2000 vice presidential campaign, ended his presidential bid Tuesday night after a string of disappointing defeats. The Associated Press has learned.

Lieberman skipped Iowa, finished fifth in New Hampshire and had no chance of winning any of the seven contests Tuesday night. A senior Democratic official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Lieberman planned to announce his departure Tuesday night.

Lieberman never was able to overcome a campaign crippled by a slow start, tepid fund-raising and a moderate message aimed at a mostly left-of-center electorate.

Using his vice presidential bid in 2000 as a springboard, Lieberman's high name recognition pushed him to the front of early national polls last year. But while former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean's candidacy caught fire last year and Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., surged this year, Lieberman's bid languished near the bottom of the field.

Lieberman had hoped for a strong, third-place finish in New Hampshire to propel him into Tuesday's primaries, but he ended up a distant fifth. The poor finish fueled speculation, even among his closest supporters, that he was about to pull out of the race.

Instead, he forged ahead, hoping to pull out a win in Delaware

with strong showings in Arizona and Oklahoma.

He fashioned his campaign after Arizona Sen. John McCain, who captured a large independent vote in the early 2000 primaries. But that support never solidified for Lieberman, and as uncommitted voters began making up their minds, his support barely inched up.

Plagued with problems from the start, Lieberman's first problem was a pledge to not run for president if former running mate Al Gore sought the nomination. The pledge, inspired by his gratitude to Gore for choosing him as running mate in 2000, put Lieberman months behind other candidates who were raising money and hiring top staff.

Supporters said Lieberman's support for the war in Iraq also cost him votes, as did a low-key style that never captured the attention of Democrats hungry for a fighter to take on Bush.

A three-term senator, Lieberman, 62, rocketed to national fame on Aug. 7, 2000, when Gore made history and selected him as his vice presidential running mate.

The dramatic choice made Lieberman the first Orthodox Jew to run on a major ticket, and faith played a key role in many of his speeches throughout the campaign. It also put a national spotlight on his religious practices and his longtime commitment to not campaign on the Jewish Sabbath.

The Democrats' strong showing in Florida was credited to his presence on the ticket, but it wasn't enough to deliver the presidency. Although Gore and Lieberman won the popular vote by about half a million ballots, they conceded the election after a 36-day recount in Florida and a Supreme Court ruling that handed Bush the presidency.

UNC students stump for Edwards

BY CHRIS COLETTA

ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

COLUMBIA, S.C. — As he stood by the shrubbery in front of Greenview Park's old recreation center, there was nothing particularly striking about Whit Walker.

The sophomore journalism major at UNC sported a worn, Carolina blue baseball cap and a faded red jacket, blending in with the campaign signs behind him, the white steeple of the brick church across the street and other devotees who had shown up to support Sen. John Edwards in his quest to take up residence at the White House.

Then he started talking. "Vote for Edwards!" Walker screamed to the driver of a car navigating the swarm of reporters and constituents who had shown up to await an appearance by the North Carolina Democrat. "He's the people's candidate."

Others cheered or waved at passing vehicles, but nobody was as loud as Walker, who skipped class for the day to lend Edwards a hand at Greenview Park's polling center, one of the many sites where South Carolina citizens propelled Edwards to victory Tuesday in the state's Democratic primary.

"It's time for a change — John Edwards' change," he barked enthusiastically. A red Ford Explorer blaring a recorded message from the senator drove by

and honked in acknowledgment, which prompted the crowd of about 15 to pump their fists and break into a chant: "Edwards! Edwards!"

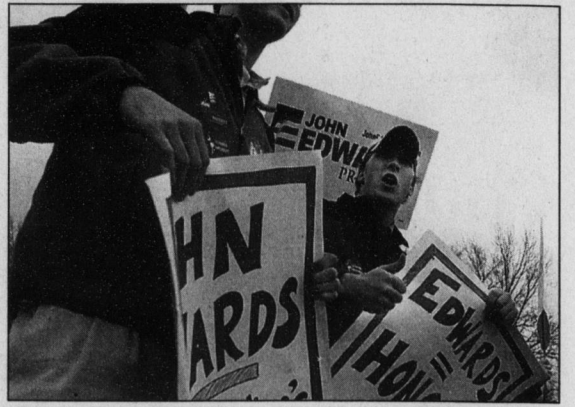
Scott Tiernan, a sophomore business major at UNC who accompanied Walker to Columbia, said the group's enthusiasm stemmed from a belief that Edwards would win South Carolina and will go on to win the nomination.

"It's going to be a snowball after this," he said. "It's going to start rolling, and it's going to keep rolling."

When Edwards' bus finally peeked out in front of the lofty trees that obscured a distant intersection, his backers broke out into raucous cheers and swamped the spot where campaign staffers told them it would glide to a stop.

Still, the South Carolina faithful were outnumbered at least 3-to-1 by members of the media, who swarmed Edwards as he stepped off the bus and fielded questions, hands waving and fists raised. The Seneca, S.C., native won the most boisterous cheers of the afternoon by answering a question about Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., his biggest competitor in the state.

"He's not going to win. I'm going to win," Edwards said decisively, and Walker cupped his hands



DTH/KATE BLACKMAN

UNC sophomores Whit Walker (left) and Scott Tiernan yell at passing cars Tuesday at the Greenview Park polling station in Columbia, S.C.

around his mouth and screamed.

Meanwhile, on the other side of town, supporters went about their work in quieter ways.

At Pinehurst Park, a small, lush enclave tucked in the middle of countless one-story homes, Broadax Darnell stood in front of a stained, brick building doubling as a polling center — and he was all alone.

As a wind that has been blowing here all weekend blew over Darnell's hair and prompted him to pull his arms into his gray Rocafella sweat shirt, he held up

his Edwards poster for passers-by, waiting for a vehicle to pull into the empty parking lot.

"People are dying (in Iraq)," he said, explaining what inspired him to stand in front of an empty polling center by himself in the cold, a pair of cars driving past.

"I guess Bush is not doing certain things that people in my community wanted to be done."

"They just basically want change."

Contact the State & National Editor at statedesk@unc.edu.

CORRECTIONS

*In a page 7 article about the restoration of old houses in The Daily Tar Heel's Housing Guide, Adam Jones was identified incorrectly. He is the owner of Mill House Properties.

Also, a page 11 article about lease benefits should have stated that Jones manages the majority of units in both Mill Creek and Chancellor's Square apartment complexes.

To report an error, contact Managing Editor Daniel Thigpen at dthigpen@email.unc.edu.

Smith pushes for all freshmen to redshirt

BY DANIEL BLANK

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The UNC-Chapel Hill men's basketball team saw how difficult it was last year to play without injured center Sean May.

It would have been almost unimaginable to see how UNC-CH would have survived if it also had been without Raymond Felton, Rashad McCants and David Noel.

While that situation would have been a nightmare for the Tar Heels, a scenario in which those four freshmen — or any freshman — had never taken the court would have been a dream come true for former coach Dean Smith.

Smith renewed his push for freshmen to be forced to wait a year before competing at the varsity

level when he testified before the Knight Foundation Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics on Monday.

"What we want to do is say, 'You're a student first and foremost.' Then it's a privilege to play varsity basketball," Smith said Tuesday.

Smith has been one of the most avid supporters of requiring that student-athletes spend their first year in residence.

Freshmen were made eligible for varsity play in 1972. Smith said the NCAA needs to revert to its former rules to offset the trend of rapidly plummeting graduation rates.

The graduation rate for all Division I men's basketball teams has hovered in the 40 percent

range the last few years.

In his 36 years as coach at UNC-CH, Smith had a 96 percent graduation rate. Of the nine players who left school early for the NBA, six returned to get a degree.

He said academic departments don't let bright students take upper-level courses, so the Department of Athletics shouldn't be any more lenient with star athletes.

"We are an institution of higher learning," Smith said. "What if a guy is a 4.0 student coming in with a 1500 SAT, and he wants to take senior organic chemistry?"

"He can't. He has to take the lower one first. So we just tell (athletes) the same thing, nobody plays until they have a year in residence."

Smith said he's not concerned with a potential increase of high school students jumping straight to the NBA if freshmen are not allowed to play on the varsity team.

"You have a high school player who might go pro, but he goes to school for a year to get Dick Vitale to say, 'He's a diaper dandy,'" Smith said. "(One prospect) said he's just going to come to school one year. I said, 'Well, don't come here,' because we want our players to go through and graduate."

William Friday, president emeritus of the UNC system and Knight Commission chairman, said the change would make it easier for a coach to attract a player who would follow the school's academic mission.

"If they want to go to the NBA,

go ahead," Friday said. "If you want to try to be at the University of North Carolina, the best thing we can do for you is get your feet on the ground academically. As far as we're concerned, you're a student."

Friday said Smith's proposal will be one of the recommendations on the agenda he will take to the NCAA's board of directors in April.

Friday said he will also suggest that television revenue be shared based on academic success, not winning percentage.

He said the NCAA could be receptive to Smith's idea because it was effective in the past.

"There are allegations that it costs more money and things like that, but we had freshman ineligibility for many years, and it worked very well," Friday said. "The cost is not the issue. The issue is getting these young people off to the right start."

Smith coached for a decade before the old rule was changed and has been battling for its reinstatement ever since. He said everyone he knows who was affected by the rule thought it served the athletes' best interests.

"It worked for so many years so well, and the players themselves look back and say it was a great way to adjust," Smith said. "I'm still waiting for the first player to tell me, 'Gee, I wished I had played as a freshman.'"

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

All students can participate in SouthPoint discounts

BY NORA WARREN

STAFF WRITER

The Streets at SouthPoint is inviting all college students to "College Day" on Friday — contrary to an e-mail written by senior class officers George Leamon and Doug Melton advertising the event as "Senior Day at SouthPoint Mall."

Any college student with valid college identification will receive discounts from more than 25 stores and restaurants participating in the event.

Leamon said that because senior class officers organized the event, they focused advertisement solely on the senior class. He said he wanted seniors to have a good time and enjoy the discounts.

"It's an opportunity for seniors to do something different," he said. Senior class officials credit Kedrick Perry, a member of the senior class special events committee, for coming up with the idea last September.

The event was finalized with SouthPoint last Wednesday, Perry said.

Although the senior class Web site claims the event is only for seniors, Jeff Johnson, marketing manager for SouthPoint, said all college students can take advantage of the discounts.

"This place is a hub for a lot of college students," Johnson said. "It's a way for us to send a 'thank you' back to college students."

Johnson said he was surprised UNC officers are marketing the event only to seniors. He emphasized any college student from any school could benefit from the dis-

counts.

Stores offering discounts include J. Crew, Lucky Brand Dungarees, Aveda Lifestyle Store, Specs and Reed's Jewelers. Restaurants such as Panera Bread, Marble Slab Creamery and Bear Rock Cafe are advertising cheaper prices as well.

Students also will get \$1.50 off all SouthPoint Cinema tickets bought after 6 p.m. Friday.

This is the first time SouthPoint stores have participated in a day of discounts for college students, but Johnson said that if the event is successful, the mall might consider expanding the discounts to include more stores next year.

"(We wanted) to make the merchants here recognize that college students are a big part of their business," Johnson said.

Leamon said he was not planning to inform the rest of the student body about the event but later said all students are welcome to take part in the discounts.

"My interest is to the senior class," Leamon said. "Whether other people choose to partake in (College Day) is their business."

Perry said senior officials were planning on using today's Senior Hump Day to inform the rest of the student body that "Senior Day at SouthPoint Mall" is not, in fact, just for seniors.

But Perry said he had conceived of the idea as an opportunity just for seniors. "For SouthPoint, it's their college day," he said. "For us, it's our senior day."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.



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