

NATIONAL BRIEFS
Former frontrunner Dean withdraws from race

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Howard Dean's quest for the presidency ended Wednesday as the Democrat, winless in 17 contests, bowed to political reality and abandoned his bid.

Once the little-known former governor of a small Northeast state, Dean took a summer ride to presidential campaign heights, attracting scores of followers and a Democratic record \$41 million in campaign dollars largely through the Internet.

Exactly one month ago, Dean was the candidate to beat — front-runner in national polls and poised to begin his primary romp with a win in the Iowa caucuses. It all crashed when the real votes were counted.

Dean finished a poor third in Iowa, second in New Hampshire and managed just single digits in several states through early February. One of his biggest union backers, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, bailed out on the day of the Washington and Michigan caucuses.

Man charged with trying to give facts to al-Qaida

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — A National Guardsman accused of attempting to pass military intelligence to the al-Qaida terrorist network has been formally charged, an Army spokesman said Wednesday.

Spc. Ryan G. Anderson was charged Feb. 12, but the Army did not immediately release that information, Lt. Col. Stephen Barger said. A military defense lawyer has been appointed for Anderson, but Barger refused to identify the lawyer.

Anderson was charged with at least two counts of attempting to supply intelligence to the enemy, the Army said.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, defense officials have said Anderson signed on to extremist Internet chat rooms and tried to get in touch with al-Qaida operatives. It is unclear how the U.S. government got wind of his alleged offer to supply military information to the terrorists. It does not appear he transmitted any information to al-Qaida, authorities said.

Barger said the soldier's alleged attempts to pass information occurred between Jan. 22 and Feb. 11. Anderson, a Muslim convert, was arrested Feb. 12 and is being held at Fort Lewis.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Students sought to serve on editor selection committee

The Daily Tar Heel is now accepting applications for its editor selection committee. All students are eligible.

Applications are available in the DTH office, located in the Student Union. Participants are required to attend meetings March 18 from 5 to 6 p.m. and March 20 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Those selected will be notified by March 4. Contact DTH Editor Elyse Ashburn with questions at eashburn@email.unc.edu or call 962-0750.

STATE BRIEFS

Private information may be on computers sold to public

RALEIGH — Used state government computers may have been sold to the public with Social Security numbers and other sensitive information still on their hard drives, according to a state audit released Wednesday.

Bank account numbers and agency passwords that could be used to hack into the state computer network also were left on hard drives, officials said.

The state's Surplus Property Agency receives about 8,000 computers a year, said agency spokeswoman Mary Jo Cashion. Around 1,300 of the best computers are sent to schools; the remainder are sold to the public, she said.

The findings raise worries about identity theft, State Auditor Ralph Campbell said.

The study looked at a random sample of computers sent to the Surplus Property Agency in October and November last year. Auditors read information on 62 of 96 computers and gleaned "sensitive" information from 35 of them, including lists of National Guard members and their Social Security numbers, loan applications, and wage garnishment records.

Computers that hadn't been properly erased came from the General Assembly, the courts and various executive branch agencies. Auditors informed the offending agencies about what was found on the computers and urged them to be more diligent in erasing records.

From staff and wire reports.

Council to discuss legislative plans

Will meet with county's delegation

BY SARAH HANCOX
STAFF WRITER

The Chapel Hill Town Council will meet Friday morning with the legislative delegation from Orange County to discuss the town's proposals for development and funding legislation.

This will be the first discussion between the two groups as they

prepare for May's short session of the N.C. General Assembly.

Town governments do not always have the legal authority to implement policies, so the General Assembly passes bills targeting specific municipalities. Council members work with local representatives to make requests for necessary legislation.

Although several proposals were made at the Feb. 9 council meeting, the main focus will be on legislation dealing with regional transportation services and town fire protection services.

"These two (bills) are very important," said council member Jim Ward. "They have a large impact on community and significant financial implications."

The council is seeking to improve the regional transporta-

tion organization and seek new revenue sources to pay for the creation of new routes.

Some of the proposed sources are vehicle registration fees, a gasoline tax, a real estate transfer tax or a local option sales tax. "There is a lot of interest in the Triangle to get a handle on transportation needs," said N.C. Rep. Verla Insko, D-Orange.

The council also is requesting an increase in state funding for the

coverage of UNC properties by the Chapel Hill Fire Department, which does not have enough money to protect the campus sufficiently.

"The fire department proposal is a very good one. The state should be able to provide funding," Insko said.

But N.C. Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange, said she is skeptical about the likelihood of Chapel Hill getting its requested funds. "About

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Dr. Carol Ford (left) and her husband, UNC alumnus Joe Rudek, visit Dance Marathon last February with their daughters, Kate and Shanon. Both children were born premature and spent time at N.C. Children's Hospital, located on the UNC Hospitals complex.

DANCERS KEEP TRADITION ALIVE

Former volunteers look back fondly on 6 years of Dance Marathon

BY KATIE DIMMERY
STAFF WRITER

Michael Bucy was "looking for something fun to do" during his senior year in high school. Some students might answer this need with an interlude at Myrtle Beach, a house party or perhaps a few prank calls.

But Bucy decided to organize a school-wide dance marathon, raising about \$10,000 for patients at the Duke University Medical Center. But Bucy found his marathon was missing something: the presence of families, the people actually being helped by the money the dance raised.

In 1998, before his sophomore year at UNC-Chapel Hill, Bucy set out to create another dance marathon on a grander scale. This one would be bigger and would include patients' families. Not to mention be a lot more fun.

His project was a success. Its first year, 1999, the UNC-CH Dance Marathon raised more than \$40,000 for the N.C. Children's Hospital; it more than doubled that figure the following year. Although the initial student organizers have graduated, the marathon, in its sixth year, continues to grow.

By now, many of the families aided have been involved with the marathon longer than current student-organizers.

Mandy Helton, Dance Marathon publicity chairwoman, recalls visiting UNC Hospitals to see a patient she had never met before. "When we came in the first day, (the patient) was wearing a Dance Marathon T-shirt," Helton said.

The relationships the marathon forms with patients and their families are ongoing, even if chairmen and committee members change, Helton said.

Ashley Hux served as volunteer coordinator during the marathon's first year and occupied various other leadership positions for the next three years. She now lives in Washington, D.C., working with marketing and sales for Rubbermaid.

Hux said her involvement with Dance Marathon helped her garner her job. As the marathon's business management chairwoman during her senior year, she learned to work with large amounts of money. She turned the experience into an interesting anecdote for job interviews.

"(Rubbermaid) told me, 'You're so passionate about that. If you have half that much passion for our company, then you'll

do great,'" Hux said.

She's still in touch with many former marathon organizers and socializes regularly with one of them who also works for Rubbermaid. In years to come, Hux hopes to recruit her old Dance Marathon friends to help her with a new charity project.

"My ideal career goal is to start my own not-for-profit organization," Hux said. "I would definitely do it to help sick children." Bucy also remains close to Dance Marathon. Despite working a full-time job in Atlanta, he returns to UNC-CH each year to catch up with patients and their families and, of course, to dance in the marathon.

Upon graduating in 2001, Bucy, a UNC-CH soccer star, won a prestigious Weaver-James-Corrigan Postgraduate Scholarship from the Atlantic Coast Conference for his excellence in sports and community service. A consultant for Song, a Delta Air Lines subsidiary, Bucy plans to use his scholarship money to attend law school next year.

Much of his current work involves business start-ups, in which he employs experience with organizational work from Dance Marathon. He said he hopes to use these same lessons to start his own business.

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Plan urges fix to school precincts

Aims to increase student turnout

BY JAMIE MCGEE
STAFF WRITER

UNC-Chapel Hill's student government issued a report Wednesday that recommends combining voter precincts at each of the 16 UNC-system institutions into single districts to increase voter turnout.

Combining these precincts, including the six at UNC-CH, will make voting easier for students living on campus, the report states.

The report alternatively suggests placing a satellite voting site at each of the schools in the UNC system for students to vote at on Election Day, regardless of their precinct.

"When Election Day arrives, students are confused about where to vote because their neighboring dorm votes at one precinct, while they travel several miles away to vote in their precinct," the report states.

During November's election,

UNC-CH student government officials made a concerted effort to register student voters.

Student government registered 2,300 students to vote in Orange County, but only 329 people 18 to 22 years old voted in the 2003 municipal election.

The report states that college students are among the least likely to vote because of apathy and other factors such as unclear precincts.

UNC-CH Student Body President Matt Tepper said the confusion hurts student participation in the democratic process.

"It is a major problem in hurting students' ability to participate in the electoral process," he said. "The report does a good job in discussing why and how (to amend this problem)."

Tepper said he thinks combining voter precincts will be the most simple resolution to the problem.

The report will be released officially at a national teleconference at 2 p.m. today in Carroll Hall's Freedom Forum Conference

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Edwards gets second wind

Gains steam with Dean withdrawal

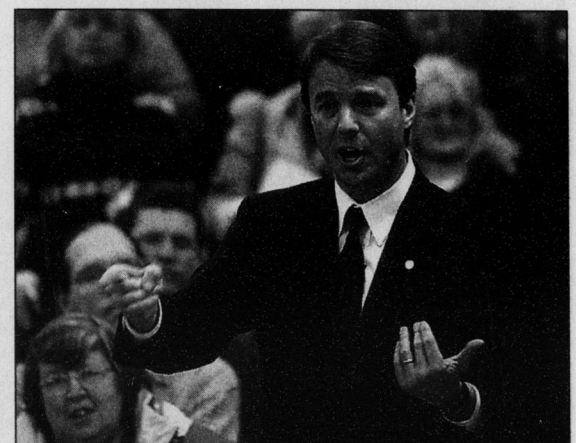
BY CHRIS COLETTA
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

As the race for the Democratic presidential nomination rolls into its second month, John Edwards is trying not to run out of gas.

The North Carolina senator snagged 34 percent of the vote in Tuesday's Wisconsin primary, finishing 6 percentage points behind Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry in a showing that vaulted him into the second-place position he has been seeking since the campaign's start.

That spot was solidified Wednesday when former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, the one-time national front-runner, announced that he would end his campaign after a dismal third-place showing in the make-or-break Badger State.

"It's clearly now a two-person race," said Irwin Morris, professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland-College Park. With Dean's dropout, Edwards becomes the last major competitor to Kerry, who looked to cruise in Wisconsin until the Tar Heel lawmaker closed what polls had said was a gap of almost 30



Presidential candidate Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., finished a surprising second in the Wisconsin primary to front-runner Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass.

percentage points between the two.

Edwards and Kerry now advance to Super Tuesday, March 2, when 10 states and one-half of the delegates needed to win the nomination enter the field of play.

"Edwards will have to change the dynamics of this campaign quickly, and he'll have to score some major victories on March the

second," said Ferrel Guillory, director of UNC's Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life.

In order to do that, however, the senator must plow through difficult roadblocks, the foremost of which is Kerry's dominance in the race.

Kerry's Wisconsin triumph gave

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