HISTORY

These allegations against Hildebolt delayed a runoff election four weeks and resulted in Hildebolt facing an Undergraduate Hearings Board, the first appellate

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2004

court of the UNC honor system.

The night before the Feb. 21, 1990, general election, Hildebolt washed a chalked campaign sign off a campus sidewalk. Members of his campaign also committed similar actions without his knowledge.

The actions, to which Hildebolt admitted, became public knowledge a few days before he and can-didate Mark Bibbs were scheduled to face off in a runoff; questions were raised about whether the actions broke election rules.

Although the Board of Elections voted to hold a general re-election with all the original candidates, the Student Supreme Court overruled the decision and said that the results were valid despite the alle-

Hildebolt won the March 27, 1990, runoff election, held almost a month after the original runoff was scheduled.

Allegations also were made several years later in 1993, when alleged violations were brought to attention late in the campaign sea-son. Former candidates Carl Clark and David Cox contended that Jim

Copland, one of the two candidates slated to appear in a runoff, violated the election code by distributing campaign literature within 50 feet of a poll site during the general

Clark and Cox made the allegations before the runoff election was held, although a Student Supreme Court ruling allowed the election to proceed. Copland won the runoff, and the charge against him was dismissed because it could not be proven that the person who was passing out the campaign material was a Copland campaign worker nor that he knew of her actions.

"At least in my instance, I had won such a substantial plurality,' Copland said Wednesday. "If 100 percent of the results of that polling place had gone to my opponents, I still would have led the election.

But Copland admitted that if the 1993 general election was as close as this year's run-off, the election's validity validity would have been put in jeopardy by the allegation.

The margin of victory is less than the margin of error," Copland said of this year's race.

Hildebolt said the ordeal in 1990 put a strain on his presiden-

cy.
"It put a lot of pressure on student government," he said. "It, quite honestly, strained all facets of the student government."

In early April 1990, Hildebolt faced the Undergraduate Hearings Board for violations to the Code of Student Conduct. At the time of the trial, a source who wished to remain unnamed because of proximity to student government said the board found Hildebolt guilty

and censured him.

Hildebolt was able to take office and serve his term, although he admits that "chalkgate" affected his credibility.

Hildebolt said that during his term the executive branch was forced to make concerted efforts to improve relations with the student dy. "I think over time we rebuilt that credibility, and we did it by following through on campaign promises and being very aggressive," he said. "We lost warm bodies in the executive branch. We went from an army to a division, and that was a real shame."

Hildebolt said it is important that student government officials remain aware of student interests during the investigation .

The one thing I would caution people today as you go through this process is to try to keep this in perspective, to keep this in interest of students," he said. "Whatever hap-pens, the only damage done is the damage done to themselves."

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on the proceedings

INVESTIGATION

"Our first priority is ensuring a our hist priority is ensuring a fair election," board member Megan Mitchell said. "It's not the public's knowledge of what's going on. Basically I'm saying to back off."

Calabria and West both said they were kept in the dark Wednesday about the timetable for the investigation and about many aspects of the allegations with which their respective campaigns are being charged.

The board refused Wednesday to release both candidates' financial statements, even though Anderson and other members acknowledged that they are public documents

A candidate is disqualified automatically if his or her campaign spending exceeds by 5 percent the \$400 cap for the general election or the \$100 cap for the runoff election. The campaign expenditures include any fines levied as a result of campaign violations.

Anderson said she was too busy to make copies of the statements and refused to let a reporter make the copies.

Several former student body president candidates said the board's inconsistent rulings and vague sections of the Student have made it difficult for candidates to interpret and abide by election

laws throughout the campaign.
"I felt like there were a lot of times where situations weren't made clear to us," said former candidate Matt Compton."It's easy to get confused, and I don't think they did very well reaching out to us."

But Compton and other former candidates noted that the sizable campaign field and last minute developments have presented unprecedented challenges for the

Calabria and West Both expressed a strong desire for the

ing is very dangerous," he said. "If

you saw 1.000 students turnout.

But West said she hopes a re-election is not needed and

expressed a desire to have all alle-

gations resolved in as timely a

manner as possible. West said that she was disappointed and dis-

heartened by rumors surrounding

the allegations but that she was not

entirely surprised that the final

result was so heated. "I knew going

RESULTS

I'd be surprised."

election to end with a sound ruling

and an accurate and open accounting of all the allegations.

"I hope this is cleared up publicly," West said. "This mess has reinforced some of the negative perceptions people have about stu-dent government."

Calabria's statements echoed

West's comments. "There's a danger that in the absence of substantive information, the rumor mill is ruling public opinion," he said. "If a special election is in the cards, a vacuum of information could be very dangerous.

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in that I was dealing with people

who have have been on campaigns before," she said. "I knew a victory would not go down easily and would be contested."

Both candidates chalked up the extremely slim elections margin to strong efforts from their staffs.

"It was a testament to both sides hat we both ran very hard and very efficient campaigns," Calabria said. "It's been a very close race and very evenly matched."

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Jarrell said he was pleased with

the results of the audit report and

did not find any disturbing items.

SUGUIYAMA

smile Suguiyama's face when he remembers the race. Though it was only four years ago, he said it feels like

"That was fun. It was my fresh-man year," Suguiyama said. "I was just excited. It was great. It was in a big dual meet, we got a big win and the guys were all excited. It was fun to come in and make that statement my freshman year.'

Since then, Suguiyama has be making statements throughout his collegiate career.

During the past four years, he's emerged as one of North Carolina's strongest swimmers and this year was chosen to be a team co-cap-tain. Not only does he hold the school record in the 1,000 free but also holds the mark in 1.650 free. And Suguiyama has finished with consistently impressive times in the ACCs and the NCAAs.

But Suguiyama does confess that thinking about the end of his swimming career elicits conflicting

Monday, Feb. 23

Frank Porter Graham

7:00 pm

Great Hall

He said that swimming his last competitive swimming race at the Olympic trials will be a sad expe rience, but added that he's glad he'll be swimming his last race in such a unique atmosphere.

"If you have done something as long as a lot of us have, of course it's going to be sad because it has become a part of who you are and what you do on a daily basis," Suguiyama said. "Losing that in a sense is going to be sad, but at the same time. I'm excited about the other opportunities I'll have after swimming

Because there is nothing beyond college swimming for him besides the Olympics, he wants to try to pursue his other goals of graduate school, law school or traveling.

Suguiyama excels not only in the ool, but also in the classroom. He has been on the Dean's List every year, making him the poster child of a student-athlete.

Just getting invited to the Olympic trials was no easy process and going to Athens requires plac-ing in the top two of a race at the

trials. In the 2000 trials, he finished 34th in the 1,500 free and 48th in the 400 free.

With the amount of talent that will be present in Long Beach, Calif., during the Olympic trials, it's possible Suguiyama might not make the cut to represent the United States in Athens.

If so, he said he doesn't anticipate trying again for the 2008

Not only might the Olympic trials be the last competitive swimming race of Suguiyama's career — they also might end a chapter in his life that has lasted for 15 years.

"I just look at it as my last go ound the block," Suguiyama said. "I've been swimming for so long, and it's something I love to do. I'm not necessarily ready to give it up but I do know that my career is over here at Carolina.

"I'm just looking at it as a lastchance opportunity for me to swim my best times and to swim as fast as I think I can be."

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AUDIT

system's budget. He said the department now completes internal studies and has hired Kroll Inc., a risk consulting company, to assess crisis and emer-

gency plans.
"As time passes we can identify funds if we think it becomes so important," Jarrell said. "But I think we have more critical funding issues at the moment than that."

Jarrell said most of the problems identified with the accessing plan, to be sufficient.

of the system and the documenta tion of software have been solved.

"There were just individual items that have been somehow overlooked," he said. "In a place that is big and complicated, that would happen somewhere."
Patterson said each of the find-

ings auditors made pinpoint con-cerns with the security of the system. "If it wasn't significant, we sure wouldn't put it in there," he said.

The report considered the five other conditions, such as the physical security and disaster recovery

He said security standards are being raised constantly in the tion systems field, and it is a challenge to keep up.
"Anytime we find a defect, we

don't just look at the defect, we look at how it came to be," he said. We try to put into action a process that will prevent that happening in the future.

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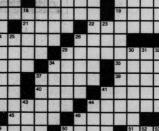
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