

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 112, ISSUE 53

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2004

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reaching for resolution

Mired in debate and controversy, a community seeks to define and protect freedom

BY EMILY STEEL UNIVERSITY EDITOR

As members of the class of 2006 forged their way into the Pit two years ago with copies of the highly debated "Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations" under their arms, they unknowingly stepped into a circle of fire.

Demonstrators, television crews and reporters from across the nation swarmed into the path of the timid, wide-eyed freshmen as they wove their way to the annual discussions for the Carolina Summer Reading Program.

Last year, it happened again.

The class of 2007 ventured into classrooms to discuss Barbara Ehrenreich's "Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America," once again under public scrutiny.

Conservative groups, enraged with the selection, pointed to the program as the manifestation of what they perceived to be UNC's liberal bias.

Twice in a row, the University refused to back down and change the summer reading selection.

This fight for academic independence and freedom of expression has become a continuous battle at the University.

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DTH/JUSTIN SMITH

Chancellor James Moeser prepares to kick off a new academic year by welcoming the University's freshman class during convocation in the Smith Center on Sunday night.

"If there ever was an election where young people could really make a difference, this is it." MICHAEL DELLI CARPINI, DEAN OF COMMUNICATION SCHOOL, UPA.

Political tumult attracts youth

BY EMMA BURGIN
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Never, experts say, has an election had so much potential to be dependent on young voters as does the still too-close-to-call 2004 presidential race.

As tensions grow over the conflict in Iraq and the struggling economy, young voters seem to have come out of the woodwork to be the most influential campaign volunteers.

A whole new generation will be able to vote this year — one that has undoubtedly been affected by tragic images of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the war with Iraq.

But they've also borne witness to the rise of "The Daily Show" and the Rock the Vote campaign, which associates popular music artists with the democratic process.

And because of all of this, no expert is willing to bet on what the night of Nov. 2 will bring.

But the poll results keep coming in, and as the election nears, the race between Democratic nominee John Kerry and President Bush gets tighter.

An Aug. 18 CBS News poll showed Kerry with 47 percent of voters' support — besting Bush, who only garnered 44 percent.

But other polls, such as the Aug. 15 Harris poll, show the two politicians deadlocked, which experts say more accurately portrays the political climate.

"If there ever was an election where young people could really make a difference, this is it," said Michael Delli Carpini, dean of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania.

"If there ever was an election where you could imagine young people realizing that, this is it."

Tom Jensen, a UNC junior and chairman of Students for (Senate candidate Erskine) Bowles, said he has witnessed an increase in young people's getting involved in the political process this year.

"What I've done both summers since high school is go home and run local campaigns," he said. "In the past, I have been the only person under 50 working on anything. This summer, the bulk of my volunteer corps was high school students."

Ferrel Guillory, director of UNC's Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life, said younger voters' engagement has intensified in this election because of the conflict with Iraq.

He said the struggle's heavy play on the news is the one issue most responsible for any kind of upsurge in young voters' interest in this election.

"Whereas older voters, blue-collar workers in our state ... may be anxious of the economy more than in the past, younger voters tend to be motivated by the national discussion," he said.

Guillory said he thinks most young voters are up for grabs by any political party in this election.

"I suspect that young people are more undecided," he said. "There are people who are still searching for leadership."

But some already have their allegiances.

Guillory said young voters tend to be anti-war, so they sympathize

SEE YOUNG VOTERS, PAGE 7

Grants give students an education

Carolina Covenant brings more than 250 to campus

BY KELLY OCHS
FEATURES EDITOR

Nayeli Lozada didn't speak English when she moved to North Carolina from Mexico City three years ago.

Lozada, who was a foster child when she moved to Siler City, said she didn't have anyone to support her during her move and to tell her that she should go to college.

But last weekend, she joined hundreds of other freshmen moving into Hinton James Residence Hall.

Lozada is one of more than 250 incoming freshman who will graduate from UNC debt-free because of the Carolina Covenant.

This year's freshmen are the first to benefit from the Carolina Covenant, a commitment that the University has made to help historically low-income students graduate from college with no debt. Chancellor James Moeser announced the plan for the scholarship program in the fall of 2003.

Before they are even considered for the grant, students must first be admitted to the University. Carolina Covenant students then are selected based on financial need. To be eligible, their parents' combined income cannot exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

Students who are selected will work 10-12 hours a week at a work-study job. The Carolina Covenant fund then supplements contributions from the families and the work-study job.

The project is supported by federal, state and university funds and private donations.

Recently, Pepsi signed a contract with the University that will give \$1.5 million during five years to the fund.

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Airport plans prompt latest pause in battle

BY DAN SCHWIND
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

The University's development plan for a satellite campus remains in a holding pattern while officials consider what to do with the Horace Williams Airport.

The plan stalled in April when the Chapel Hill Town Council voted that University officials had to determine the fate of the 60-year-old airport before any discussion of Carolina North, a proposed 963-acre research park, continued.

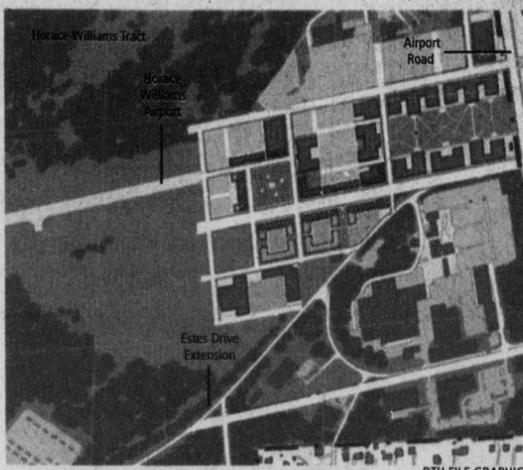
The main point of contention was whether the airport, located on land scheduled to be

developed in the project's first phase, would need to be closed when construction began.

But some believed the closure would disrupt the N.C. Area Health Education Centers program, which uses the airport to transport physicians and university personnel across the state.

The N.C. General Assembly included a line in the recently approved state budget that keeps the airport open until a new home can be found for AHEC, thus delaying progress on Carolina North indefinitely.

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