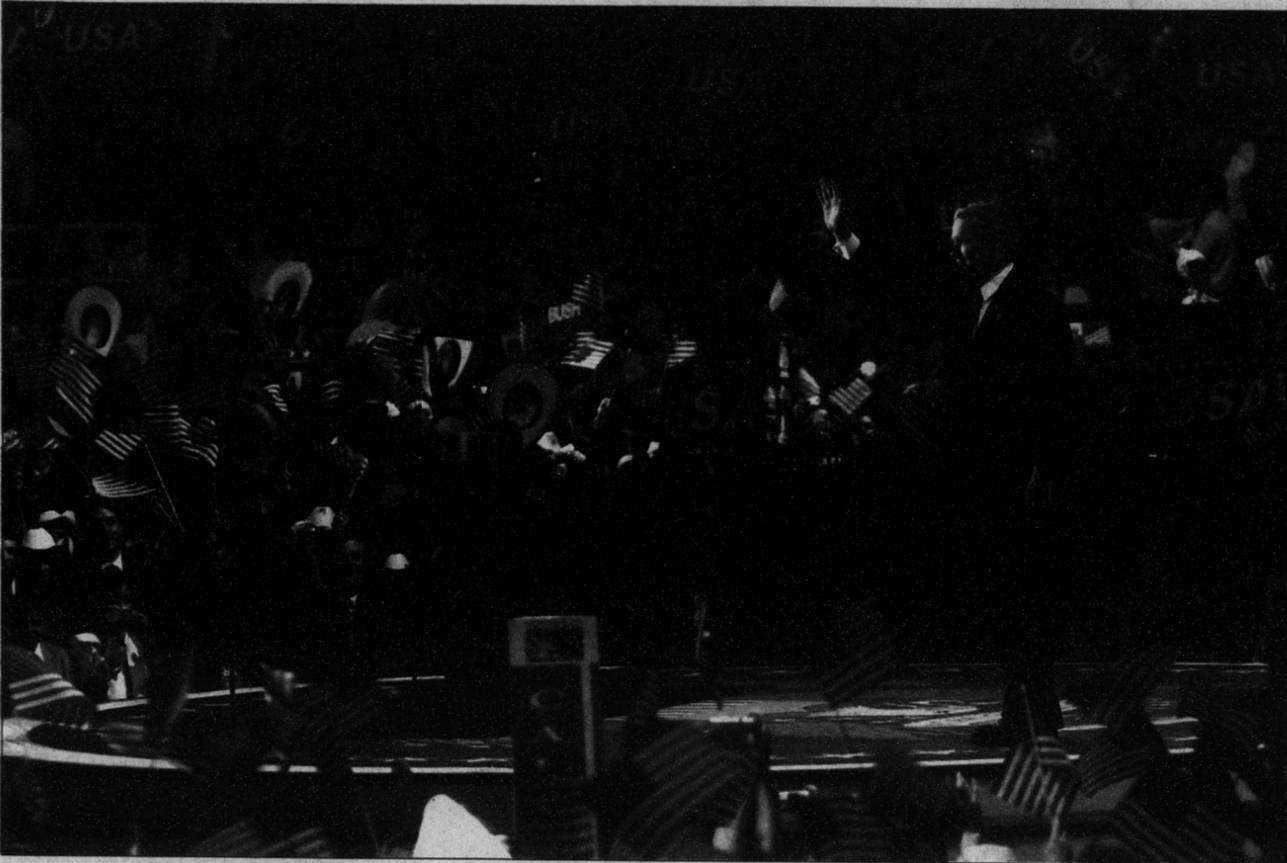


The Daily Tar Heel

BUSH LAUNCHES BID FOR RE-ELECTION



DTH PHOTOS/JUSTIN SMITH

President Bush acknowledges a packed, frenzied Madison Square Garden crowd Thursday night, when he accepted his party's renomination for president. During his speech, regarded as one of the most important of the campaign, Bush outlined a plan for his second term and touted his response to the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

BY EMMA BURGIN NEW YORK
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Standing atop the seal of his office and surrounded by his most enthusiastic supporters, President Bush on Thursday staked his claim to his party's nomination and four more years in the Oval Office.

During the closing session of the 2004 Republican National Convention, Bush spoke in the electrified convention hall and proclaimed that the next four years would be full of hope and rebuilding.

"Since 2001, Americans have been given hills to climb and found the strength to climb them," he said. "Now because we have made the hard journey, we can see the valley below. We will build a safer world and a more hopeful America, and nothing will hold us back."

Much of Bush's speech was dedicated to the war in Iraq and the fight on terror. He insisted

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Picks for speaker remain a mystery

Commencement choices to be announced 'soon'

BY STEPHANIE JORDAN
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

This year's commencement speakers have accepted their invitations to address the senior class, but officials are keeping quiet about the names.

Invitations were issued during the summer, and speakers confirmed their appearances before school began.

The announcement should come "fairly soon," said Steve Allred, executive associate provost and chairman of the commencement speaker committee.

After last year's commencement speaker selection process came under fire, the 2004-05 senior class officers began working to solicit input immediately following their induction.

"A lot of seniors felt they had no input," Senior Class President Jovian Irvin said of last year's speaker choice. "I think the class was not informed of the process."

She said this year's senior class officials received hundreds of suggestions from their fellow class members through e-mails and AOL Instant Messages.

"Seniors are really happy with what's going on," Irvin said.

"I really think people are excited about this year."

Irvin said she and Becca Frucht, senior class vice president, brought the seniors' suggestions into the first meeting of the commencement speaker committee. Two potential speakers recommended by members of the senior class were Jon Stewart and Maya Angelou.

Selection of the commencement speaker begins in April after elected student officials are inducted.

The student body president, the senior class president and vice president and the Graduate and Professional Student Federation president are the four students who serve on the committee, Allred said.

"Student input is critical on the selection of the commencement speaker, but it is not the case that they choose the speaker," he said.

The rest of the committee consists of the chair and the secretary of the faculty council and three or four other faculty members, Allred said.

Each member of the committee brings names to the meeting, and the pros and cons of each candidate are discussed.

Allred said more than 100 names were debated for this year's speaker.

Names then are eliminated from the pool based on issues including whether the speaker will come for free, is likely to come and is eligible for an honorary degree.

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Students savor New York

BY LAURA YOUNGS
SENIOR WRITER

NEW YORK — It's a chance that only comes every four years.

And for the students participating in the 2004 Republican National Convention, it's an opportunity they know they can't take for granted.

Hosted in glittering New York, the RNC boasts more than 2,000 delegates, many of whom are students. And those from North Carolina are taking full advantage of a week in the Big Apple.

"It's kind of overwhelming with everything that goes on," said Michael Pomarico, a UNC-Wilmington senior, an alternate delegate and chairman of the N.C. College Republicans.

"There's always something going on in New York. It's full of life."

Arriving Sunday night, delegates and alternates were greeted at the Warwick hotel in downtown Manhattan.

Being so close to places including Times Square has meant that students are getting a chance to

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 5



Matt Vail, president of UNC Students for Bush, stands in front of a group of protesters Wednesday at a breakfast for N.C. delegates to the Republican National Convention.

Business school seeks to sate student demand

BY BRIAN HUDSON
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

For the past several years, many of the stellar students applying to the Kenan-Flagler Business School have received rejection letters in their mailboxes.

But business school officials now are investigating the feasibility of accepting 100 more undergraduates to the school annually.

"There are a lot of qualified students that are trying to get into the undergraduate program — more than we've got space for," said Steve Jones, dean of the business school.

The grade point average of the 300 students in this year's incoming class was 3.5. If the next 100 students had been admitted, the average would have dropped a mere 0.3 points, Jones said.

"It's an indicator that there's a lot of high-caliber students that would like to be in the program, and we would like to make room for them," he said.

During the past several years, an increasing number of incoming freshmen have listed business as their intended major, Jones said.

"There's a large, pent-up demand

in terms of the students wanting to enter the business program after their first two years," said Jerry Lucido, vice provost for enrollment management and director of admissions. "So that direct pass to a business career would be met very happily by many students on campus."

Jones said the concept only has been tossed around but that serious consideration will be required before raising enrollment. He expects that all investigations will be completed sometime this year.

"It's just a compelling question when you've got a hundred qualified students that would like to get in but you don't have room for them," he said.

But the increased enrollment cap still is in the long-term future because many details must be considered, Jones said.

The investigation will determine what changes would be required in terms of space, faculty and program requirements, Jones said.

"For starters, we'd need another classroom building," he said. "If you're going to have a hundred

SEE ENROLLMENT, PAGE 5

N.C. protesters rally against Bush

250 gather, sound off at N.C. State

BY ERIN GIBSON
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

RALEIGH — Passionate North Carolinians showed their support for a change in the national administration during a protest against President Bush and his policies Thursday night.

About 250 sign-toting demonstrators gathered around the bell tower at N.C. State University to listen to experts express their views on important issues in this election.

The signs were painted with slogans including "Fire the Liar," "Fight Poverty Not War" and "People Not Profits."

One woman, dressed like the Scarecrow from "The Wizard of Oz," held a sign that read, "If he only had a brain." Another man protested corporate America by wearing an American flag cape with the stars changed to symbols for several big businesses.

Unlike many other protests, this one was not designed to endorse any candidate, but rather to share the common goal of electing a new leader for the country.

There were protesters from many different political affiliations. They said they came to support the issues and get Bush out of office, not to push a particular candidate.

"This is not a (John) Kerry rally, just a 'get him out' rally," said the protest emcee Bryan Proffitt.

Robyn Burge, an N.C. State sophomore and social work major, said she is not happy with any of Bush's policies, but she is especially concerned with foreign policy, health care and education.

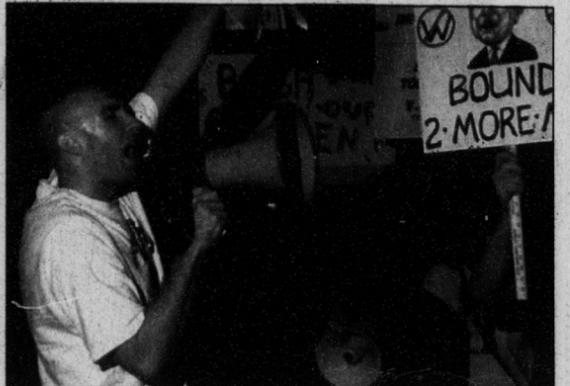
"Nothing the man does is good for us and our country," she said. "It's all for oil."

Speakers came to address issues including education, employment, health care, gay and lesbian rights, women's rights, environmental concerns and the war overseas.

While every topic elicited outbursts from the audience, the conflict abroad was the issue of most importance to the crowd.

People were leading chants such as "Whose war is this? It's George's!"

Lou Plummer, a representative



DTH/ALLISON MONEY

Bryan Proffitt of Hip Hop Against Racism chants against President Bush on Thursday night outside Republican Party Headquarters in Raleigh.

of Military Families Speak Out, said he thinks the war has had a detrimental effect on the country. He stressed the importance of not forgetting about the soldiers.

"We have men all around the world — not that we're imperialistic or anything — but that's where they are," he said.

Adam Searing, a health care advocate, said there are two health

care plans in the country — one for the "ultra-wealthy" and one for "us."

He said he thinks Bush is looking out for the wealthy and forgetting about health care for middle- and lower-class citizens.

The crowd was vocal about women's issues when Page Johnson

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SPORTSATURDAY

COUNTDOWN TO KICKOFF

Look for the first issue of the DTH's special football publication, SportSaturday, at UNC's home opener

INSIDE

POLITICAL PARTY

Members of the UNC College Republicans gather and watch the convention's conclusion PAGE 2

WEATHER

TODAY Partly cloudy, H 82, L 66
SATURDAY Partly cloudy, H 83, L 66
SUNDAY Showers/Wind, H 79, L 65

