

Republicans rally for re-election

Hit Franklin St. to praise president

JENN KAWKA
STAFF WRITER

As President Bush accepted the Republican Party's nomination in New York City on Thursday, more than 30 members of UNC's College Republicans gathered in Ham's on Franklin Street to support his quest for the presidency.

"Party for the President" brought together Bush supporters to watch the final night of the Republican National Convention.

"Bush will be important tonight. ... His speech will have a big effect on voters," said freshman Curt White, as he held an American flag in his right hand.

Supporters, some dressed in "W" and "Bush 2004" T-shirts, talked outside the restaurant as they waited for the convention to start.

"I'm hoping (Bush) will start making bold statements on decisive issues," freshman John Foushee said.

Many supporters said they hoped Bush's speech would sway undecided voters.

"I believe the speakers leading up to Bush framed and built up the necessary momentum," said Jordan

Selleck, chairman of UNC College Republicans. "(Bush) is here to excite the base — talk about main issues."

Many of the supporters at Ham's were freshmen and said they joined College Republicans to identify with other conservative students who share their same ideals.

Other supporters said they know the election this year is important.

"I know this is a close election," Foushee said. "I want to be a part of it, too."

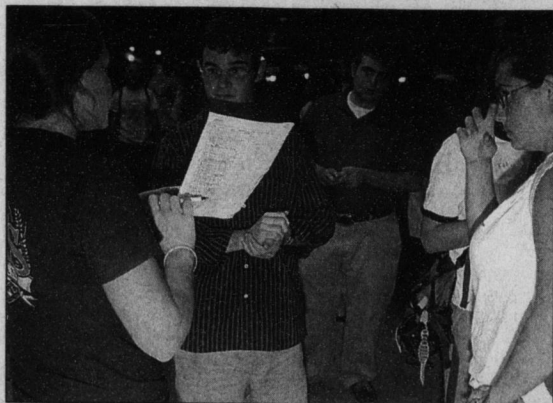
College Republicans has seen increased support this year — more than 300 students attended the group's first interest meeting Monday.

Senior members of College Republicans said the turnout was unprecedented.

"The seniors said they had never seen that many people at a first meeting," Selleck said.

"It was effective in energizing and providing us with the steam we need to go forth in this election."

In the days leading up to the election, the club is planning to conduct a 72-hour task force to campaign for Bush.



Jordan Selleck, chairman of the UNC College Republicans, talks to a hostess at Ham's on Franklin Street, where the organization held a rally.

Group members are planning to call and knock on doors of Bush supporters to encourage voter turnout.

Members also will be campaigning in the coming months through debates and voter registration drives, said Jenny Stevens, the women's outreach coordinator for the organization.

More than 40 members of

College Republicans attended the rally Tuesday when the daughters of candidates John Kerry and John Edwards spoke.

Carolina Students 4 Bush, as well as other supporters, held signs, broadcasting their support for Bush's re-election.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Criminals may use new BAC monitor

Judge backs device for repeat offenders

BY DAN SCHWIND
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Local officials might soon have a tool to help prevent drunk drivers from repeating their mistakes.

Joseph Buckner, district court judge for Orange and Chatham counties, is pushing to introduce an ankle bracelet that monitors a person's blood-alcohol levels 24 hours.

He said he hopes the device, known as a Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor, or SCRAM, can help DWI offenders who have been ordered to abstain from alcohol stay sober.

"This is a tool that I think the community should really take a look at," Buckner said. "This is something that could really help us out."

The device, which is made by Alcohol Monitoring Systems Inc., checks the subject's blood-alcohol level hourly by testing the individual's sweat for ethanol.

The results are then transmitted via radio frequency to a modem, which then can be viewed by law enforcement officials.

Buckner said he thinks that could be a big help for probation officers because each officer can keep track of several offenders without having to leave the office.

In addition to gauging the offender's BAC, it also detects if the subject has tampered with the device.

"There's no cheating this thing," said Lou Sugo, AMS marketing director. "This thing is spot-on accurate."

Some local officials already say they are in favor of bringing the devices to the area.

Geoffrey Hathaway, Orange County chief of probation, said his office would use the device.

It would ease the burden on his staff as they try to keep track of the hundreds of DWI offenders on probation in the county, he said.

"This is a device that could really help us out," he said.

According to the AMS Web site, jurisdictions in 20 states now use SCRAMs, which have been on the market since January of last year.

Georgia Probation Management is one group using the bracelets and has had them operating since July.

Steve Page, president of GPM, said the group has 27 to 30 devices running at any given time.

"It's been a great tool for us to keep track of DUI offenders," he said. "It's something we've needed for a long time."

GPM is only using the devices in three counties, but Page said the group plans to expand gradually through the rest of the state.

There is some opposition to the devices as some say they are an invasion of privacy. According to the Web site for AMS, SCRAMs have been challenged in court 60 times.

But Buckner and Sugo say SCRAMs don't invade a person's private life. "This is not going to be the 'Big Brother' thing," Buckner said. "This is just going to be for people who really need it ... to make sure they're complying."

Buckner also pointed out SCRAMs are preferable to the alternative option for DWI offenders.

"There's a lot less stigma in that than there is in wearing an orange jumpsuit and shackles," he said.

Hathaway said he thought it could be used for more than just DWIs.

"It will help out in everything from drug courts to DWIs," Hathaway said.

Buckner said it could have several applications beyond DWI offenders, such as domestic abuse incidents sparked by alcohol and students arrested for underage drinking.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Citizens set sights on saving farmland

BY SHANNAN BOWEN
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Jean Earnhardt lives on almost 200 acres of land granted to her family in a deed dating back to 1794.

The deed includes area for farming and almost 30 acres of pine forest.

But Earnhardt didn't want her family's historic farmland, known as the Lloyd-Andrews Historic Farmstead in Carrboro, to drift into the hands of developers.

Though the land is not actively farmed, Earnhardt said she and her family decided in 1997 to place a conservation easement on their property.

"We felt we might get swept up by urbanization," she said.

According to the easement, the property, which now hosts its 12th generation of the Earnhardt family, is protected from any development and usage other than farming.

"Nothing on earth is more per-

manent than a conservation easement," she said.

The easement, which is provided by Triangle Land Conservancy, a land trust agency dedicated to protecting open space, was written up as a perpetual contract to ensure the land is preserved.

Earnhardt said her family was interested in the easement as a way to avoid pressure to sell the land. "This is what we believe in and what we want to preserve," she said.

Earnhardt said that since their easement closed in 1997, the county's efforts to help farmers obtain easements has become a great benefit.

The Lands Legacy Program, a division of Orange County's Environment and Resource Conservation Department, was created in 2000 to acquire natural resource lands for preservation.

The program released its action plan for the fiscal period 2004-06 Tuesday, naming farmland preser-

vation as a priority at a Board of County Commissioners meeting.

The program, said director David Stancil, is working with landowners to acquire agricultural conservation easements for their property in conjunction with federal agencies.

The goal, he said, is to preserve farmland that contains buffers that will help meet conservation objectives outlined in the action plan.

Stancil said, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are 657 farms and 70,010 acres of land in the county.

"That's between one-third and one-fourth of the county's land that is used for farming," Stancil said. "Orange County has a long and rich history of agriculture."

But Stancil said the county saw a 25 percent decrease in farmland between 1977 and 1997.

Stancil said he continues to see farms struggle with money and competition for land use as the

county's population growth forces farmers to face development opportunities.

Lands Legacy's goal is to try to make sure prime farmland remains for use, even as farmland passes from owner to owner, he said.

Stancil said the county has allotted about \$3 million for easements. There are 24 farms currently interested in easements and four already in the program, he said.

"We want to make sure 25 years from now we still have land."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Speaker urges U.S.-Arab education

BY ALEXANDRA DODSON
AND ERIN GIBSON
STAFF WRITERS

At a time when the American and Arabic worlds are at the peak of political tension, UNC-Chapel Hill and the University of Jordan are taking steps toward improving international relations.

Dr. Taufiq Yousef, professor of English language and literature at the University of Jordan, spoke at UNC on Thursday. He is part of an exchange program between UNC and UJ, directed through the University Center for International Studies and the Center for the Study of the American South.

The program is funded by a grant from the State Department.

Speaking to a group of about 25 students, faculty members and others from the Chapel Hill community, Yousef spoke about the development of American studies and the international relevance of the field.

"American studies is becoming increasingly comparative, global," he said. "The vitality and significance of the field have never been stronger."

UNC is one of 400 colleges to offer a degree program in American studies, an interdisciplinary field bridging politics, literature, history, art and sociology.

"We are trying to promote better understanding and provide the opportunity to understand each other," Yousef said in an interview

Wednesday.

He said that since Sept. 11, 2001, the attitudes of many Americans toward Arabic people have changed, as people in this country see all Arabs as potential terrorists.

Likewise, he added, many Jordanians have a distorted view of Americans. He said they see Americans as people who can do whatever they want, whenever they want, like characters in Hollywood movies.

One of the goals of the new course will be to recognize these stereotypes, explain why they exist and come to a true understanding of the two cultures.

"The single biggest reason that this is important is because it is getting Arabs and Americans talking to each other," said Edward Curtis, professor of religious studies at UNC and co-director of the partnership.

Curtis said some focuses of the partnership will be faculty exchanges, student-to-student e-mail contacts, joint attendance of faculty at international conferences and video-conferencing. The partnership also will establish a program in American studies at UJ.

He said he is traveling to Jordan later this month to negotiate a study abroad program at the university for UNC students, a prospect he said he is very enthusiastic about.

Enthusiasm for Arab-American

relations also is present in Kuwait, said Layla al Maleh, a visiting scholar from Kuwait University who is at UNC for the academic year.

"We do a lot of promoting (of) American-Arab understanding," she said, adding that her department in Kuwait offers four courses in American literature.

The program of studies at the University of Jordan is beginning on the graduate level, but has potential to expand to undergraduates as well, Yousef said.

Yousef said students in Jordan participate in the program for a variety of reasons — to pursue careers in teaching or government or in hopes of getting a visa to come to the United States themselves.

"American studies is actually connected with the American dream," he said.

Although programs like this one face criticism as being pawns of the U.S. government seeking more influence abroad, Yousef said he does not share this view.

Americans, he said, have an intrinsic nature to reach out to new people and places, a practice he says is ideology, not imperialism.

"I, on behalf of the University of Jordan, appreciate what you have done," he said.

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

CORRECTIONS

■ Due to a reporting error, the Sept. 1 article "Election rules come under fire" stated that the Rules and Judiciary Committee of Student Congress was going to hold a meeting Wednesday for students interested in spring campaigns.

It should have stated that a subcommittee of that committee was going to hold a meeting Wednesday to discuss public hearing legislation.

■ Due to an editing error, a Sept. 1 photo caption incorrectly spelled the name of Andre Heinz, stepson of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

■ Due to an editing error, the Sept. 2 column "Rock's own opulence leads to its downfall" incorrectly spelled the name of pop singer Christina Aguilera.

To report corrections, contact Managing Editor Chris Coletta at cocoletta@email.unc.edu.

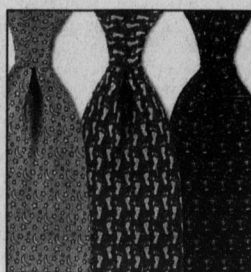
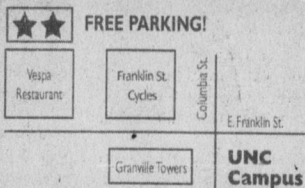
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