

# Hip-hop poet to tout message of democracy

BY AYOFEMI KIRBY  
STAFF WRITER

Republicans have Bush. Democrats have Kerry. Hip-hop theater has Aya de Leon, and you won't hear a campaign speech like hers.

Aya de Leon, a hip-hop activist and poet, will present her one-woman show "Aya de Leon is Running for President: A Campaign Speech Remix in Stand-Up Poetry and Hip Hop Theatre" at 7 p.m. Friday at the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History.

Known for her humorous political commentary, de Leon said the goal of her work is not to endorse candidates, but to send a message of encouragement to her audiences.

"I want folks to feel hopeful that we can take back real democracy in this country," she said. "I want folks to understand the importance of this election, electoral politics in general and the importance of political action beyond this election."

De Leon is the current artist-in-residence and the University's first Pamela Nicole Cummings Visiting Artist of the Stone Center. She is also the second artist of the center's fall performance and lecture series.

De Leon addressed more than 100 students Wednesday at the Black Student Movement's weekly meeting, where she performed her poems "Cellulite" and "Icon" and shared her political message on the importance of voting.

"Things aren't going to get better until we make them better," she said. "We in the older generation are counting on you all, the younger generation, to continue on."

Paul Baker, program coordinator for the Stone Center, said de Leon was selected as the first Cummings visiting artist because of her diverse talents, political interests and background.

"We like to think of (the Stone Center) as a diverse organization," Baker said. "Aya falls under that same bill."

"She pulls together a lot of different genres and brings a whole lot of different things in," he said. "I want all students here to get exposed to things that are new and different and a variety of people. That's what the Stone Center is about."

De Leon was born in Los Angeles to an African-American father and Puerto Rican mother. She later

**IF YOU GO**  
Date: Friday, Sept. 10  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History.  
Info: <http://liblio.org/shscbch>

attended Harvard University, where she majored in American history and minored in African history.

Since then, de Leon has been involved with numerous nonprofit organizations and studied under actors such as Whoopi Goldberg.

Most recently, she has been on the hip-hop theater and spoken word circuit with her award-winning show "Thieves in the Temple: The Reclaiming of Hip-Hop."

De Leon has won numerous awards and fellowships for her work and is working on her first novel. She continues to motivate audiences nationwide with her political message, which she echoed at the meeting Wednesday.

"Our strongest weapon is our hope and higher expectations."

Contact the A&E Editor at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

# For-profit schools offer alternative

Accreditation worries hold some back

BY ALEX GRANADOS  
STAFF WRITER

In addition to public and private universities, aspiring students have the option of attending a growing number of for-profit colleges.

But accreditation problems might sway some eager learners away from corporate education.

Schools such as ECPI College of Technology, ITT Technical Institute and the DeVry Academy say they offer alternatives to traditional academia and a path into the nation's work force.

"We are primarily training workers for entry-level jobs," said David Treier, corporate relations spokesman at ITT headquarters in Indianapolis.

For their money, Treier said, students get classes with practical goals. "They are more tied to work-force objectives."

Despite their practical approach, for-profit schools also have problems with transfer and accreditation credentials that are out of sync with those of traditional colleges and universities.

Corinthian Colleges Inc., which owns the private Florida Metropolitan University, could be facing court action because of accreditation issues, according to a Securities and Exchange Commission report dated March 2.

The report states that Adrienne Travis, an student at FMU, alleges that because the school is not accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, her credits are not transferable to other institutions.

Corinthian Colleges has not yet received an official complaint from Travis.

But the company states in the SEC report that a different group, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, validates FMU's programs up to the master's level — a fact made aware to incoming students at Corinthian schools.

Corinthian also states in the report that students are informed that transfer credit depends on the policy of individual schools.

Despite the hurdles facing for-

profit schools, some employers say a degree from a corporate-run institution is enough to get an applicant an interview.

"It gets them in the door," said Sid Mitchener, Raleigh branch manager for Robert Half Technology, which recruits and places workers on various rungs of the IT ladder.

"We know what the training is and what the classes are, and they are a little more hands-on."

Still, the spectrum of for-profit colleges is a large one not easily pigeonholed. But as businesses, the schools experience closer scrutiny than traditional colleges.

Herschel Elkins, special assistant attorney general for consumer policy coordination and development in California, is investigating the veracity of some for-profit schools' self-promoting statements.

"We discovered a number of problems with statements made to consumers — statements as to the success that students were likely to have," he said.

Elkins said that the investigation continues and that he does not know when charges will be brought.

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

ANALYSIS

# Intelligence proposal elicits mixed reaction

New position, agency may be created

BY KAVITA PILLAI  
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

After the 9-11 Commission report shook the U.S. intelligence community to the core, members of the U.S. House and Senate introduced legislation to address the problems that led up to the terror attacks.

But the plans have raised concerns that partisan politics could interfere with the nation's safety.

The most notable aspect of the Senate bill, introduced Tuesday, is the creation of a national intelligence director who would have full budgetary control over the foreign intelligence community, including the CIA and 14 other agencies.

"The point of the intelligence director is to have someone overseeing what everyone else is doing so we don't make the mistakes that we made before September 11 in failing to connect the dots," said Leslie Phillips, press secretary for Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., on the Governmental Affairs Committee.

Lieberman, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and two others proposed the legislation.

President Bush threw his weight behind the bill Wednesday, specifi-

cally supporting the director's ability to control the intelligence budget.

The bills seek to improve information sharing between agencies, widely viewed as a major factor in the failure to foresee the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The Senate bill also calls for increased foreign aid to Afghanistan, funding for U.S. broadcasts in the Muslim world and increased border security.

The legislation would create a National Intelligence Authority, a free-standing agency, as well as a National Counterterrorism Center.

But some worry that the new agency and its director would only add more obstacles in an already cluttered system.

"Often, when you add another layer of bureaucracy, the result is slowness, lack of precision and a generic product," said Lee Strickland, director of the Center for Information Policy at the University of Maryland-College Park and former CIA senior intelligence officer.

"Intelligence is not that certain. It works as a process of providing estimates and judgments of what's going to be. There's something to

be said for having a diversity of opinion."

Strickland added that the director will be effective only if he remains truly independent from the White House, as the current legislation requires. The original recommendation from the 9-11 Commission asked that the director be located in the executive office of the president.

"(Having the director in the executive office) could politicize the intelligence process, making it too close to the White House," Strickland said. "So that rigorous, untarnished intelligence may not be provided."

Michael Smith, professor of intelligence and space studies at American Military University and a retired CIA analyst, also said the position should not become another arm of the president.

"(The director) should be the adviser to the president on intelligence issues, and that's it," he said. Smith added that while the bills are receiving support, they likely will be heavily debated.

"There are too many entrenched interests for it to be simply adopted without modification."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

# Bill seeks to revamp runoffs

Luebke to propose instant voting law

BY ALEXANDRA DODSON  
STAFF WRITER

A bill designed by a state legislator might simplify the process and cut the cost of state primary elections and their subsequent runoffs.

Rep. Paul Luebke, D-Durham, plans to introduce legislation next year that would give voters the option of ranking their choices when they vote in primaries with more than two candidates.

Voters would cast a vote for their preferred candidate but also would cast a conditional vote by ranking the remaining candidates in order of preference.

If no candidate finishes with 40 percent of the vote, vote counters will look at the second choices on all ballots and add them to the original tallies.

This process will continue as

needed with third and fourth choice selections until a candidate is selected with 40 percent of the vote.

The system would eliminate the need for separate runoff elections.

Luebke said he plans to introduce the bill when the N.C. General Assembly reconvenes in January.

"It's called instant runoff," Luebke said. "You do all your voting the same day."

The plan will apply in any primary in which there are more than two candidates, he said.

But voters will have the option of voting for only one candidate. In this case, the voter would not cast a second-choice vote in a runoff.

Luebke said benefits of his plan include cutting costs to the state, which average \$3 million per election. The plan also would ensure that the same people vote in both

the primary and the runoff. Because runoffs typically are held weeks after the initial primary, Luebke said, turnout tends to be lower.

He cited last month's Democratic runoff for state superintendent, where only one-seventh of the number of voters in the July primary returned in August to nominate June Atkinson.

Gary Bartlett, executive director of the N.C. State Board of Elections, said low turnout for runoffs is common.

"I would say that for the first primary, (turnout) was exactly what we thought it would be," he said, pointing out that 15.5 percent of registered voters came out in July.

Bartlett said turnout during the runoff election was low for the Democrats, although turnout among Republicans voting for congressional candidates was better.

Instant runoff plans like Luebke's have been instituted in about 30 jurisdictions in the United States, he said, most notably in San Francisco.

When instituting a voting process like instant runoff voting, Bartlett said, there are three main things that should be considered.

First, he said, parties and their candidates must be comfortable and educated about the system.

"Any time you have any type of change, they have to have a comfort level," he said.

Next, voters must be familiar with the way the process works so they cast their ballots correctly.

Finally, Bartlett said, voting officials must work with the new system to ensure that precincts have the right equipment and that ballots will be counted correctly.

But no matter what the process is, Luebke said, he thinks it is important that the winning candidate always receives at least 40 percent of the vote in the primaries.

"(This percentage) demonstrates that the person has substantial support in his or her party."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

R U F ?  
ruf@unc-chapel-hill.edu  
www.unc.edu/ruf

**Smile with Dr. T**  
by Peter A. Tzendzalian, DDS

**Q: Is nail-biting bad for your teeth?**

**A:** Unfortunately, yes. Nail-biting and finger-biting are habits for thousands of adults and children, but that doesn't mean they are good habits. Any activity that involves holding teeth in an unnatural position for extended periods increases the possibility of injury to the jaw joints, also called the temporo-mandibular joints (TMJs). Over time, nail-biting and finger-biting will aggravate jaw muscles, which can cause pain and an imbalance in the TMJs. If the habit begins in a young child, it can contribute to development of a gap between the front teeth. A person who bites nails or fingers, may also be prone to picking at their gums. Some dentists and physicians recommend putting a non-toxic but unpleasant tasting lotion of pepper on fingers. Others recommend putting a bandage on the finger to serve as a reminder. It's a good idea to come up with some strategy to help stop the habit. Otherwise, treatment may be necessary to straighten teeth, and alleviate pain from a TMJ problem.

Presented as a service to the UNC Chapel Hill Community by Dr. Peter A. Tzendzalian, DDS. More questions? Call me.

[www.drpetert.com](http://www.drpetert.com) • 402-9200

Is that a zipcard in your pocket?

UNC membership only \$20/year!

Join Zipcar and get access to VW Beetles on campus — 24/7. Rent by the hour or day. Even includes gas, insurance and parking. Reserve online, let yourself in with your Zipcard and drive away. Students, faculty & staff 21+ can drive for only \$5.00/hr & \$55/day.

Visit [zipcar.com/unc](http://zipcar.com/unc) or call 866.4.zipcar

**zipcar**  
wheels when you want them

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

The Daily Tar Heel  
P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
Michelle Jarboe, Editor, 962-4086  
Advertising & Business, 962-1163  
News, Features, Sports, 962-0245  
One copy per person; additional copies may be purchased at The Daily Tar Heel for \$.25 each.  
© 2004 DTH Publishing Corp.  
All rights reserved.

**SO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR ORGANIZATION IS NO LONGER OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AT CAROLINA?**

**YOU LOSE** your room and equipment reservations made through the Union. **YOU LOSE** your homepage on the University's web space. **YOU LOSE** your list serve and group email accounts. **YOU LOSE** your Union office space. **YOU LOSE** your SAFO account. **YOU LOSE. PERIOD.**

Don't delay! Application forms for '04-'05 Official University recognition of student co-curricular organizations are available from Room 2501 A of the Union. For continuous recognition, you must submit your Agreement at a meeting with Jon by Friday, September 24, 2004.

Questions? Concerns? Contact Jon at [jon@email.unc.edu](mailto:jon@email.unc.edu)