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UNC aims to solidify voter drive

OFFICIALS' E-MAILS REFLECT DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN EFFORTS

BY EMILY STEEL
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

A chain of e-mails calling for the University to make a stronger push to get students registered to vote circulated through the inboxes of campus officials this weekend.

In light of a recent study that found that colleges nationwide are failing to make good-faith efforts to get students to the polls, student voter registration will take center stage as remaining time to register voters ticks away and efforts to dorm-storm for voters still are banned.

"If we don't get straight to the bottom of this before the heart of

the election even starts up, I can't imagine what could happen," said Judith Wegner, chairwoman of the faculty.

Gerry Cohen, a graduate student of political science, initiated debate about on-campus registration at the end of last week after learning that the Department of Housing and Residential Education restricted door-to-door voter registration drives in residence halls.

Cohen, a Raleigh-based lawyer, was active in voter registration drives when he attended UNC in the 1970s, sat on the Chapel Hill Town Council and ran for mayor of Chapel Hill. He said his experience could

help student groups reach voters.

Cohen proposed a six-point policy that would allow student organizations to sponsor voter registration in residence halls.

"People who live in a community ought to have a right to talk to other people in a community about important political issues," he said. "It seems to be that the First Amendment protects this right."

Officials will review the University's current procedures and the proposed policy, General Counsel Leslie Strohm stated in an e-mail to campus administrators and officials Saturday morning.

"I think we have an important

role to play, not to intrude on people of course, but as part of the whole educational process to make students aware that this is an important power to exercise," Provost Robert Shelton said.

The current regulations, which were put into effect during the spring of 2003, reflect student feedback as well as stipulations of the UNC's facility-use policies, said Christopher Payne, director of housing and residential education.

Payne and Cohen are meeting early this week to further discuss policies related to registering voters in residence halls.

Jeremy Spivey, a VoteCarolina

executive board member, said he hopes officials will reconsider their policies. "Especially for VoteCarolina, a nonpartisan group, the purpose warrants an exclusion," he said.

Student Body President Matt Calabria said it will take a broad base of support to encourage the entire student body to vote.

"The most important thing that anyone can do on a college campus is to really create a culture of civic engagement. UNC is good at that," Calabria said. "But I think if we were more proactive about voting, and really put that as a higher priority then it would really do a lot of good."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

School desires diverse group

Admissions picks made carefully

BY STEPHANIE JORDAN
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

In the basement of Jackson Hall, large gray shelves stand empty. But during the next month, roughly 19,000 undergraduate admissions applications will pack those shelves and soon be under the microscopic lens of the admissions office.

Each application will be read at least twice by two members of the admissions staff, who spend at least 20 to 30 hours per week during the winter months reviewing pages upon pages of applications.

After sorting through the applications, the staff will decide who deserves a spot at the nation's first public university.

"Chapel Hill tries to enroll a class of kids who are varied enough in their backgrounds and experiences to push each other," said Steve Farmer, director of admissions. "It doesn't matter where those students come from, what color they are, what religion they are. Every student at Chapel Hill earns their spot here."

New readers on the admissions staff spend about 20 minutes on each application, and experienced readers take about 10 to 15 minutes.

If the two readers agree on whether to admit an in-state student, the applicant automatically is admitted to the University.

When two readers agree on admitting an out-of-state student, that application goes to a member of the senior staff in the office.

Borderline applications for both in-state and out-of-state applicants go before a special committee of about a dozen staff members who vote on whether to admit the student.

"We like to say the process

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Elizabeth Edwards hits N.C.

Senator's wife stumps for ticket

BY MARK PUENTE
STAFF WRITER

GREENVILLE — The country's aspiring second lady arrived in eastern North Carolina on Friday, clad in campaign gear, to visit military families and hear concerns from Tar Heel voters.

Elizabeth Edwards, wife of Democratic vice presidential nominee John Edwards, held a round-table discussion Friday in the Greenville home of Ray and Eve Rogers.

About 15 other people with military connections gathered at one of Edwards' statewide stops to hear her speak about the policies of Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry.

"The idea is to have a conversation about issues that are important to you," she told the group.

Edwards, the daughter of a career Navy officer, denounced the policies of President Bush and his handling of the Iraqi conflict.

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GRADES OF STEEL



DTH/JUSTIN SMITH

Junior Curtis Fraser studies in Kenan Stadium on Sunday evening. The balmy weather drew Fraser to the empty stadium instead of a library to study for his class on the history of the Holocaust. Twenty-four hours earlier, the stadium was filled with more than 46,000 fans who watched the North Carolina football team defeat

the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, 34-13. The win was a surprising one for the Tar Heels, who shut down the Yellow Jackets' offense one week after giving up 56 points to the Virginia Cavaliers. With the win, UNC moved to the middle of the pack in the revamped ACC. To read the full story, flip to the back page of today's Daily Tar Heel.

Republicans take on tobacco buyout issue

Burr, Dole stump in Wilson County

BY ALEXANDRA DODSON
STAFF WRITER

WILSON — There was no non-smoking section Saturday in the Bill Ellis Convention Center.

Tobacco growers and quota holders filled ashtrays on the red, white and blue tables as they ate fried chicken and hush puppies and waited to hear North Carolina's Republican Sen. Elizabeth Dole and Rep. Richard Burr discuss the need for a tobacco buyout.

"I do legislation because I understand the human faces behind the issues that I deal with," said Burr, who is running for the Senate this year. "At the end of the day, the tobacco decision is going to be one of policy and not politics."

The luncheon was organized by the Universal Leaf Tobacco Company as a way to inform the tobacco-growing community of developments in the pending buyout, said Todd Haymore, assistant vice president of external affairs.

A tobacco buyout would compensate farmers who choose to stop growing tobacco. Farmers now operate under a quota system, dating to the 1930s, that limits the amount of tobacco they can sell annually.

In recent years, the quotas have been drastically reduced, hurting much of the agricultural community. Both Democrats and Republicans widely support a buyout, which would give farmers the opportunity to diversify their crops

or retire without massive debts.

The lunch was a stop on the campaign trail for Burr, who is running against Democrat Erskine Bowles for the Senate seat now held by Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards.

Bowles made a stop at the same convention center earlier in the day. He and Burr have disagreed on technical aspects of the buyout bill, but in general, both support it. Each candidate has touted his ability to engineer the bill's passage.

In a press release dated Nov. 14, 2003, Bowles states, "It is time for leaders in Congress to get behind a deal which would be an economic boon to North Carolina and is simply needed and deserved by our tobacco farm families and communities."

Buck Newton, a Wilson attorney who is the county chairman for Burr's campaign, said the representative's stop in the town shows his knowledge of the issue's importance.

"I think it shows how much Richard understands how important the tobacco buyout is to Wilson and to North Carolina," Newton said. "It's a very sensitive issue," he said. "A lot of people are kind of trapped in the system right now."

When Dole arrived, she also said how important the buyout is to her and to North Carolina. "The tobacco buyout is my number one

SEE TOBACCO, PAGE 6

Pulitzer-winning alum returns to town

Yoder makes stop to talk up memoir

BY DAN SCHWIND
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Fifty years, five books and a Pulitzer Prize after graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill, Edwin Yoder returned this weekend to the town that jump-started his career.

Yoder stopped at Branches Chapel Hill Bookshop, located at 243 S. Elliott Road, Sunday afternoon as part of a tour advertising his new memoir, "Telling Others What to Think: Recollections of a Pundit."

The visit was mainly to stump for the book, but Yoder said it was also an opportunity to visit his past.

"It's a twofold visit," he said. "I'm here to talk about the book, but I'm also here to see friends, both old and new."

Yoder spent most of his time at the store discussing the book and reflecting on some of the stories from his 39-year career as an editorial journalist, such as winning a Pulitzer Prize in editorial writing in 1979 and his days as a student at UNC-CH.

"The memories that I chiefly bring away from Chapel Hill are of the wonderful teaching," he said in an interview after the book signing. "I feel that I had an exceptional education here."

But, Yoder said, while he has many wonderful memories from his times at UNC-CH, the town and school both have changed a



DTH/LAURA MORTON

Edwin Yoder, a Pulitzer Prize winner and UNC graduate, speaks at Branches Chapel Hill Bookshop on Sunday. He was visiting as part of a tour promoting his new book, "Telling Others What To Think: Recollections of a Pundit."

great deal in the 50 years since he attended the University.

"Chapel Hill is a very different place," he said. "It was more intimate ... much more intimate than it could be today."

Yoder, a graduate of the class of 1956, spent four years at the University, where he majored in English and served as the editor of The Daily Tar Heel his senior year. At the time, the enrollment

of the University — including undergraduate, graduate and law students — was 5,300 students.

"The primary emphasis then was on undergraduate education," he said. "It seems like now they're looking at a broader scope."

After graduating from UNC-CH, he spent two years at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar before returning to North Carolina in 1958 to work at the

Charlotte News.

Yoder continued to work in the state — at UNC-Greensboro and the Greensboro Daily News — until 1975, when he moved to Washington, D.C., to work at the Washington Star.

It was there that Yoder won his Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing. He remained at the paper until it

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INSIDE

STOMPING ON THE TRAIL

About 60 people gather at Bolin Creek Trail to demonstrate unhappiness with president PAGE 6

SPORTS

BUZZ-KILLER

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