

# BOE officials hold voting forum

Discuss polling process and locations

BY ARLEY WOLBER  
STAFF WRITER

Officials from the Orange County Board of Elections fielded questions and presented information about voter registration to a sparse crowd Monday evening in the Student Union.

The meeting was held to inform students about the voting process and places where they can vote locally.

"We want students to understand how they can vote early and how they can keep their registration information updated," said Carolyn Thomas, director of the Board of Elections.

Thomas headed the meeting, which was attended mostly by affiliates of UNC's Civic Education Consortium. The consortium also sponsored the event.

"A lot of people are really excited, but they don't know what to do," said Meghan Hall, vice president of the group. "We want people to leave the session with a sense of relief or a sense of knowing."

Philip Blackett, president of the group, said he thought the forum was successful in that aspect.

"I could sense people were more confident," he said. "They came out of the meeting knowing a lot more."

Hall said a poster with precinct information to inform registered voters where to vote will be posted in either Lenoir Dining Hall or the Student Union.

"It's basically so students don't have an excuse not to vote," she said.

Hall said students can vote early at the Morehead Planetarium through one-stop voting, which

runs Oct. 18 through Oct. 30 and is available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Some other questions Thomas fielded involved the process for submitting absentee ballots, how a typical voting process would go and which balloting system would be used in the election.

Thomas said Orange County uses optical scan voting machines. Voters fill in their choices with a felt-tip pen, and scanning machines read their choices.

Many students have expressed concerns with voting registration cards, Thomas said.

"The biggest concern from students who call is that they call and want to know where their registration card is," Thomas said.

She said that in particular, the board has ended up with a number of duplicate registrations because of voter impatience.

"We have a problem with peo-

ple registering twice when they don't get their registration card quickly enough or can't access their registration information on the (State Board of Elections) Web site."

Thomas said voters can check their registration information at the state board's Web site, <http://www.sboe.state.nc.us>.

Potential voters also can check other information about voting and see a list of one-stop voting sites, she said.

Blackett said the consortium plans on holding a similar forum for next year's elections.

Officials said anyone interested in voting in Orange County can obtain registration information or locations of polling places from the county's Board of Elections Web site at <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/elect>.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## GLBT-SA

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she said. Carucci added that the program was "absolutely everything I could have imagined."

Tara Kachgal, a doctoral student in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, said she came to the program because of Bornstein's national acclaim.

"She throws up a lot of questions about gender identity that we need to answer," Kachgal said.

Carucci said the goal of GLBT-SA's events for Coming Out Week is to "make the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community more visible on campus."

Bornstein will lead the interactive Gender Exploration and Performance Workshop at 2 p.m.

*"Living our dreams and owning them — that's what I think coming out is about."*

KATE BORNSTEIN, ACTIVIST

today in room 3413 of the Student Union.

Also today, GLBT-SA and the Black Student Movement will co-sponsor a forum to discuss coming out issues within the black community at 8 p.m. in the recreation room of Morrison Residence Hall.

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## DIPHI

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resulted in the amassing of more than 20,000 volumes by 1895, which were eventually turned over to libraries at the University.

Although DiPhi is no longer the student government or the sole outlet for student activities, it offers a quality not many other organizations have — a lack of an agenda.

"Rather than endorsing particular views, we want to support discussion in a way that encourages people to share their points of views," Shoun said.

The groups' debates follow a parliamentary model in which the members, called senators, deliver prepared speeches that offer the proposed resolutions.

Although formal, the debates resemble friendly bantering, and afterward the floor is opened for students to speak on other topics.

Some recent topics that have been discussed include "God is dead," monarchy as a valuable form of government, the acceptability of land mines in warfare and the awareness of sexuality and sexual practices in America.

"If we were just a debating club that had certain social events, we

*"We know that the things we do are heirs of... balanced debate and discussion."*

ABBY SHOUN, DIPHI SENATE LEADER

would seem random and hodge-podge," Shoun said. "But we know that the things we do are heirs of the tradition of balanced debate and discussion."

DiPhi usually hosts the first student body president debate during elections. The organization also collaborated with the Campus Y to host a forum Sunday as part of Race Relations Week.

Max Spitzer, an alumnus and graduate student at Duke University's School of Law, noted little change in the organization's character since he was a member from 1996 to 2000.

"It's the same personalities coming back in different forms. What is essential has remained the same: being able to say what you want without being overly politicized."

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## BSM

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sion for BSM members through the Student Recreation Center.

To help members of the BSM relax, Houston has scheduled for students from a massage school in Siler City to provide back and neck massage training.

Houston said her campaign was strong because of her initiative proposals and its broad scope.

"The most important thing I'm proud of about our campaign style is we didn't just campaign to members of BSM," she said. "The last thing I want to do is to not affect the UNC community, even though this is at the BSM level."

The BSM will endorse both candidates for Homecoming Court automatically.

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## PINE KNOLLS

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ask specific questions about the criminal records of those of who would be using the shelter and about how many people the shelter wants to house, they wondered why they had not been consulted earlier.

Natalie Ammarell, IFC president, stressed several times that the council wants to involve the

community in all decisions and that they have not looked at the Merritt Mill location for very long.

"We are now just talking about a vision — a vision of what we want to do," she said.

The IFC announced earlier this year its intention to move from its current location at the corner of Columbia and Rosemary streets.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## MINORITY VOTE

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tion. Both candidates support the No Child Left Behind Act, though Kerry has called the act underfunded and has criticized its focus on testing standards.

While poor education and low income are general problems for minorities, different minority groups will be voting on specific issues on Nov. 2.

Courtney Richardson, a mem-

ber of Carolina Indian Circle, said research has shown that Kerry plans to improve ties between the U.S. government and the sovereign nations of Native Americans, while Bush hardly acknowledges them.

And for Latinos, immigration is a key platform plank.

Sean Marimpietri, a member of Carolina Hispanic Association's executive board, supports the loose immigration policy outlined in Bush's platform, but he said he suspects it's driven more by busi-

ness interests than altruism.

More Latino immigrants mean more low-wage workers for big corporations, Marimpietri said. "I think the more immigrants the merrier, but it's unethical to open borders like that and not provide any support for them once they get here."

Jensen talked more generally about Bush's history, criticizing his appointment of a number of federal judges who publicly opposed civil rights during the 1960s, disapproval of affirmative action and tolerance

of racial profiling. "The toll of segregation and slavery isn't going to be erased in 40 years," he said.

In August, Marc Morial, CEO and president of the National Urban League, publicly challenged the two candidates to participate in a live, televised debate on minority issues.

To date, the league has received no substantial response, said Ricky Clemons of the NUL.

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

# Carolina Courses Online

## Spring 2005 Registration Begins October 6

*"People should know that these classes fill up fast!"*

—Carolina Courses Online student who waited too long

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**For details, go to [fridaycenter.unc.edu/cco/](http://fridaycenter.unc.edu/cco/) or call us at 919-962-1134.**

Enroll early to ensure that you get space in the course you want, receive Web site information, and work out the details of technical access prior to the first day of class!



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