

ELECTION EVE

FROM PAGE 1
 Bush traveled to six states Monday, including Ohio, Wisconsin and Florida. "The future safety and prosperity of this country are on the ballot," the president told a crowd in Ohio. "This election comes down to, who do you trust ... to lead this country to a better tomorrow?"

Head of state

North Carolina has been a reliable base for the Republican Party during presidential elections. But for the past 12 years, the state has chosen a Democrat as governor. If Democratic Gov. Mike Easley wins his bid for re-election against Republican candidate Patrick Ballantine, he will prove himself a true vote-getter. "Easley's had a more difficult budgetary period," Guillory said. "Winning" will be a real accomplishment. It won't be a fluke. The governor was shown to be up

in the polls this weekend by as many as 18 percentage points. But Ballantine has made a hearty last-minute effort to tighten the gap, traveling Monday to Asheville, Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, Fayetteville and Wilmington. "I believe this is our year," Ballantine said Monday during his appearance in Asheville.

Too close to call

In North Carolina, voters have witnessed what Guillory described as another "assault your opponent" Senate campaign. Democratic candidate Erskine Bowles and Republican opponent Richard Burr — like those before them — have carried out much of their battle for the seat being vacated by vice presidential candidate John Edwards over TV airwaves. "We have these high-spending campaigns in which one campaign starts this barrage of assault ads," Guillory said. "We don't seem to be able to get out of this spiral."

But Guillory insists that these ads, while they rely heavily on negative campaigning, will not have a dramatic effect on voters. Burr spent Monday touring the western part of the state, going door to door in small towns with his wife, Brooke. "We're optimistic," said Doug Heye, spokesman for the Burr campaign. "We've worked really hard and certainly had a surge of momentum in the past few weeks." Bowles spent Monday in Raleigh, nearing the end of a tour that stretches from Wilmington to Asheville. He will campaign today in Charlotte, Greensboro and Raleigh. Burr will vote in his hometown of Winston-Salem and then make appearances at local polling sites. Last week, a Citizen-Times/Mason-Dixon poll found both candidates had 46 percent of likely voters' support.

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PAC

FROM PAGE 1
 and electricity. In years past, the state has taken some or all of that money to help fill gaping budget holes, and the issue almost always causes a dog-fight in the legislature. This year, for the first time in recent history, the legislature didn't officially consider touching overhead receipts. It also approved \$180 million in funding over the next few years for a new cancer center at the University. Both overhead receipts and the cancer center have faced hurdles in previous years, but Fulton said Citizens for Higher Education helped the University deal with these obstacles in tight budget times. "There are a lot of needs in the state, and I think our interest is making sure that our state continues to value higher education and what it can provide to economic development," Fulton said. "This state has a long history of supporting higher education, but we have had legislatures over there that don't view public higher education positively." But the PAC has its share of critics. Detractors like Sen. Hugh Webster, a Republican from Alamance County, said the donations, which often go to political heavyweights, are frequently a means of doing one thing — buy-

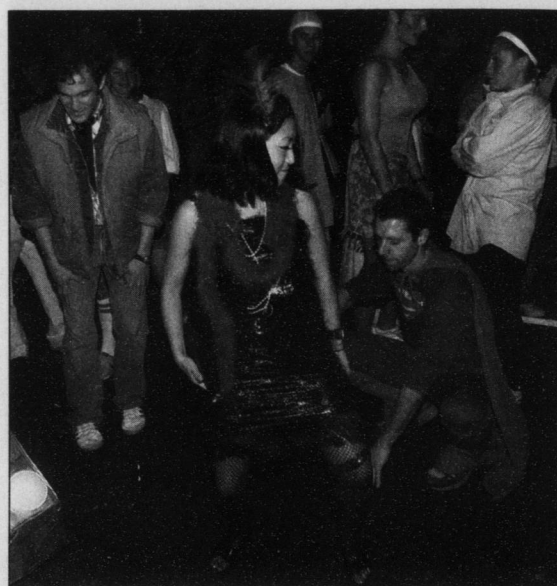
ing influence. "They tend to try and bet on the winning horse," Webster said. "What this amounts to is buying influence. Some of them say it's gaining access, so that they'll listen to you." "I personally don't accept that, because everybody has access to me. Of course, I'm not the chair of Appropriations. I'm not one of the in-crowd. I don't sell out to special interest groups, and the (UNC system) is a special interest group." None of the PAC's money went to people who have not held office before and who therefore don't have a legislative record on higher education issues. Citizens for Higher Education did give money to freshman legislators, including Cecil Hargett, D-Onslow, who now is up for re-election for the first time. Basnight, the Senate leader, said the donations to him and other legislators are legal and ethical means of showing support. "People support people they believe in," he said. "What this PAC tries to accomplish are things that affect the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. That's all they're about." "Now they help me. My guess would be that I'm a friend of the University's mission, and that is to educate the students." UNC-Chapel Hill is not the only higher education institution that seeks to gain an upper hand

in the legislature by forming a PAC. Supporters of other schools, including N.C. State and Duke universities, have formed political action committees, though these committees' efforts are much smaller in scale. The UNC system formed a committee that spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in the late 1990s trying to get state voters to approve a \$3.1 billion capital improvement bond. "Those PACs are completely independent and separate from the (system)," said Mark Fleming, the system's vice president for government relations. "They are run by the alumni and supporters and have been completely done on a voluntary basis. I think it's very important that people understand that." "They are run by the alumni and supporters and have been completely done on a voluntary basis. I think it's very important that people understand that." Recently, political groups known as 527 organizations — so named because of their classification in the tax code — have come under fire for their influence in this year's elections, particularly the presidential race. But Fulton said that isn't the aim of Citizens for Higher Education. "We never go in and try to beat somebody," Fulton said. "We're trying to be supportive of people. Our (money) goes to candidates. We're not out here spending money like a 527."

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HALLOWEEN

FROM PAGE 1
 ing that staff experiences significant training to prepare for campus events that generate a large crowd. Campus police responded to a call from Ehringhaus Residence Hall staff regarding a group of 11 people under 21 who were found in a room with alcohol. No one in the group was affiliated with UNC, and they were forced to leave, reports state. The Orange County Department of Emergency Medical Services saw a total of 33 patients between 8:30 p.m. and 3:30 a.m., according to Michael Day, assistant director of EMS. "There were a lot of inebriated people," Day said. Most of the patients were treated for alcohol-related problems, such as alcohol poisoning. EMS transported six people to UNC Hospitals, five of whom were experiencing alcohol-related issues. The sixth person was struck by a vehicle close to Rosemary Street and was taken to the hospital as a routine transport, Day said. According to campus police reports, EMS workers were called on to care for at least five students because of drug or alcohol use. No one treated or taken to the hospital sustained serious injuries, Day said. The crowd on Franklin Street peaked at 80,000 people, an increase from last year's 78,000. To handle the large crowd, the Chapel Hill Police Department had to put its secondary traffic diversion plan into place, which included moving road blocks from Franklin and Mallette streets to West Franklin and South Roberson streets, Smith said. "Sometimes when the crowd exceeds the first barricade, we have to move it back," he said. "It eases congestion and keeps cars from going into the crowd." Mills said his agency increased the number of agents it had on the streets to help keep the crowd



Partygoers enjoy the Halloween revelry Sunday night on Franklin Street. Despite the large crowd, police reported no serious or unusual activity.

under control, but did not do anything else out of the ordinary. He said one noticeable change was a more courteous and accepting crowd than in past years. "We didn't get as much negative feedback from people charged." Nine other charges were reported by Chapel Hill police and were all drug-related, ranging from possession of marijuana to possession of drug paraphernalia, reports state. According to Chapel Hill police reports, police charged one person with carrying a concealed weapon. Other incidents were also reported at the University. A 12-foot-long railing from a fence within Coker Arboretum was used to break a window pane in the east door of the Morehead Building, but there are no suspects

or witnesses in the case, campus police reports state. According to campus police reports, police found Christopher Cline of 206 Stacy Residence Hall and Brian Gorham of 202 Spencer Residence Hall carrying two signs from the George Watts Hill Alumni Center. Both were cited for misdemeanor larceny, reports state. Day noted a change in the times when people were on the streets. "It seems like everyone got started earlier and ended a little earlier. Nine o'clock and they were raring to go." Smith, Day and Mills all said they thought Sunday was similar to last year's party. "The crowd seemed to be pretty festive," Smith said.

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VOTING

FROM PAGE 1
 is hard to get people to give up a couple of weeks of their life." Despite the record turnout, the county is preparing for even more people to vote today than in the past two weeks. "We are expecting 40 percent of the registered voters to vote on Election Day, which is basically everyone who hasn't voted yet," Thomas said. If her prediction is right, more than 70 percent of the county's residents will have voted before polls close today — about 18 percentage points higher than in 2000.

"We are adding at least two extra (volunteers) to each voting location, and the Orange County Sheriff's Department will help with traffic," she said. Jeremy Spivey, a VoteCarolina executive board member, said the group will provide shuttles to help UNC students make it to the polls. "We have worked on getting some oversized posters for (today) and setting up a transportation system that any student can access, regardless of location or political party," Spivey said. Jensen said the Young Democrats have worked about 40 hours in the past couple of days making sched-

ules for its 400 volunteers. "We worked so hard, we didn't get out to Franklin Street for Halloween," he said. "But presidential elections only come once every four years." Jordan Selleck, chairman of the UNC College Republicans, said his group has tried to get voters to the polls and has targeted Republicans who typically haven't turned out. "We have been going door to door and have been trying to get our own base to vote," Selleck said. Polls today will open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.

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ROBBERY

FROM PAGE 1
 New York Yankees baseball cap. The suspects were last seen leaving the area and might drive a dark blue or black Nissan Pathfinder, according to the release. "The victim was clearly aware of his surroundings and was able to give a good description," said Derek Poarch, chief of University police. Officials were planning to send a mass e-mail Monday to faculty, staff and students to notify them of the

robbery and to urge public safety. "We'd like students to heed the information we promote on a regular basis," said Randy Young, University police spokesman. Poarch said the incident was clearly Halloween-related because of the much larger population in Chapel Hill on Sunday. "The victim was visiting for Halloween, and we suspect the people that committed the crime were also here for Halloween," he said. The case is under investigation with several leads, Poarch said.

In light of the incident, he emphasized that it is important for students to be aware of their surroundings and to follow basic safety tips. These include avoiding walking alone at night, using mass transit and the Point-2-Point bus service, and noting where police call stations are located on campus. "That is the advice we'd give in wake of this incident or any other situation," Young said.

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THE Daily Crossword By Stanley B. Whitten

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ACROSS	DOWN	ACROSS	DOWN
1 Woman of tomorrow?	1 Asian desert	23 Well-ventilated	44 Splendor
5 D.C. subway system	2 Levin and Gershwin	25 Flamboyant tie	45 Makes a new offer
10 Winnow	3 Alejandro and Fernando	26 Author of "Dred"	47 Adhesive mixture
14 Nabisco treat	4 Successful dieter?	27 Ezra of verse	49 Swerved, nautically
15 Actor Dennehy	5 Advanced deg.	29 Watered fabric	50 Indication of healing
16 Kind of shirt	6 Russian-born illustrator	30 Tibia and femur	51 Salad fish?
17 Kerry	7 Equal scores	31 Out of kilter	52 Israeli diplomat Abba
20 Japanese immigrant	8 Coarse file	32 Lashes securely	53 Relating to the ear
21 Undercover operations	9 Tip or Eugene	33 Principle	54 Summit
22 TV brand	10 Bridges	34 Golfer's aide	55 Next
24 Bandleader Brown	11 Tiny bit	36 ER personnel	57 Past
25 Cleo's killer	12 Apply the whip to	37 High mountain	58 Meat cut
28 Composer Henry ___ Hadley	13 Ripped	39 Wife of Cronus	59 Whirlpool
32 Govt. economics agcy.	18 Speeding citation	40 Disney Studios head	61 Superlative ending
35 Personal warehouse?	19 Christmas carol		
37 Location			
38 Kerry			
41 Possesses			
42 Sent again			
43 Kennedy or Knight			
44 Irons			
46 Piggery			
47 "Uialume" author			
48 Even one			
50 Fulton's Clermont, e.g.			
56 Two under par			
60 Kerry			
62 Premed subj.			
63 Ten-cent coins			
64 Writer			

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