

Volunteers guard voters' rights

BY JAVAERIA QURESHI
STAFF WRITER

Election Protection's legal hot-line center was buzzing with chaotic energy all day Tuesday as volunteers provided advice and legal counsel to voters all across North Carolina.

Volunteers for the statewide, nonpartisan organization that aims to answer voters' questions dealt with inquiries about registration information, precinct locations, identification requirements and absentee and provisional ballots.

By 5 p.m. Tuesday, 140 incidents in North Carolina had been reported directly to volunteers working at the organization.

In addition to the 80 law students and lawyers who staffed

the hot line at the Institute of Government, volunteers also monitored polling stations and on-site incidents.

"The point is to make sure that everybody who is entitled to vote gets to vote and that their votes are counted," said Lynn Fontana, a plaintiff employment lawyer in Durham and a 1987 UNC School of Law graduate who volunteered at the hot line.

Throughout the day, volunteers dealt with reports of time limits being imposed at some Mecklenburg County polling sites. Callers said voters who spent longer than five minutes at the polls were forced to leave.

The time limit poses a serious problem by rushing the disabled, the elderly and those who need spe-

cial language assistance, said Sarah Zambon, a UNC law student and founder of the University's chapter of Just Democracy.

"These are repercussions of having such a great turnout, which is great," said Zambon.

Callers also reported that staffers at some Mecklenburg sites called people to vote by their registration numbers. Voters who had been waiting for hours watched in frustration as some at the end of the line got to cast their ballot first, some callers said. Discouraged, many left without voting.

Volunteers at the hot line contacted Election Protection poll monitors and told them to dissuade voters from leaving.

Also in Mecklenburg County,

there were reports of a black woman being harassed and accosted when she tried to vote in the wrong precinct, according to a volunteer.

Hot-line volunteers contacted a local attorney to look into the case and referred the woman to the Department of Justice.

Zambon said she recognized that there were some complaints the hot line would not be able to address in one day.

"At the very least I hope voters feel that their concerns are being met and they have somebody who is listening to them so that they do not feel disenfranchised — so that they have a voice."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

PRICE

FROM PAGE 3

Batchelor, sporting a dark gray suit and a "Bush-Cheney '04" sticker.

"I'm disappointed that I lost to a very tough competitor," he said. "I was a little surprised that the numbers were not a little bigger because of the size of the volunteer staff and the amount of time I put into it."

As Republican supporters cheered the latest poll results, he said he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife but does not plan to withdraw from politics.

Batchelor called Price a little after 11 p.m. to congratulate him. He later commented that he was impressed with the clean campaign run on both sides.

Decked in red, his wife, Suzanne, said that despite the commitment

required in such a major race, it was worth it.

"It was stressful, but all of the people we've met ... contacts and volunteers, that has made it worth it," she said.

Donning a Bush-Cheney hat and covered in campaign stickers, campaign volunteer Ed Stiles said working for Batchelor was rewarding and encouraging.

He added that if Batchelor were to run again for any office, he would be there in a heartbeat.

"That man was fighting an uphill battle from the beginning. ... But the way he just pressed on ... it is just totally awe-inspiring to me, and I found a great friend in Todd because of it."

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

KINNAIRD

FROM PAGE 3

representative for areas outside of Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

"Regardless of (what goes on there) it's going to translate into her being a very effective legislator for Person."

Kinnaird bounced between three locations Tuesday night. After a quick stop at Top of the Hill, she had dinner at Carrboro's Acme Restaurant with friends and campaign workers.

She pointed out her favorite venues and suggested improvements while walking around her hometown of Carrboro, where she was mayor from 1987 to 1996. Kinnaird was later visited by Kevin Foy, mayor of Chapel Hill.

Her last stop was University Mall's Spice Street, where volunteers for the Orange County Democratic Party were gathered. Party chairman Barry Katz knew

Kinnaird's devotion to Carrboro and was pleasantly surprised to see her in Chapel Hill.

"The Carrboro people have their own party going on, but she's here. I love it," he said. "That says something."

Whitfield spent the evening visiting several Orange County precincts, and waited for the day's tallies at Orange County Republican headquarters. He said his plan if he won was to shake a few hands and wait on the rest of the results.

After conceding his defeat, Whitfield did not dismiss the idea of running again. "It is an option," he said.

But he added that it is not necessarily a priority in his life.

"I am 57 years old. It is not a career goal for me," he said. "I ran because I was giving an option to voters."

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

Pretzel shop joins business fatalities

Rent, competition force Monday close

BY ZACH JEPSEN
STAFF WRITER

After three years of business, Katie's Soft Pretzels closed Monday, leaving one more empty storefront on Franklin Street.

Owner Chris Stott said Katie's main problem was not getting enough customers. "A store like mine does require a lot of foot traffic."

Stott said it was difficult for Katie's to attract enough customers in its location at 125 E. Franklin St., next to Pepper's Pizza.

"There's a lot of factors as to why the volume of people on Franklin Street wasn't consistent with the volume needed to support a place like Katie's," he said.

Competing with The Streets at Southpoint in Durham and on-campus stores was one of those problems, Stott said.

He said there were other difficulties. "Rent certainly isn't cheap on Franklin Street."

But Stott said he had a great working relationship with his landlord. "There is a community sense, especially among the merchants."

He added that the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce was an excellent working partner.

Stott said he had made efforts to extend his business's life. "I tried to get some catering or off-site sales to offset the lack of foot traffic."

Stott said he hopes his business's closing will work to help Franklin Street in the long run.

He said landlords and property owners have to become more involved in their businesses to better current conditions in the business district. "If you could get half the landlords committed, then there would be a surge (in business)."

He added that better parking also would improve business downtown.

University Florist owner Charles House agreed that he would like to see the parking processes restructured downtown.

When parking spots aren't filled, the rates are raised when they should be reduced, he said.

"There needs to be some creative ways to deal with the parking situation," House added.

Stott said he is glad the city is taking steps toward improving Franklin Street.

"I do think the free buses were a stroke of genius," he said. "It could potentially be a real big boom."

But businesses will continue to close unless things change, he said.

Scott Maitland, proprietor of Top of the Hill restaurant and former chairman of the chamber, said business turnover is normal.

"You can't freak out too much," he said. "The process is natural."

House said the reasons a store closed shouldn't be speculated.

He said instead that it is important to emphasize Franklin Street's

growth.

Regarding future plans, Stott said he would like to see Katie's Soft Pretzels and his other business, Katie's Kitchen at Northgate Mall in Durham, operating together. "I hope one day to be back in Chapel Hill with that all under one roof."

While there were hardships, Stott said he was glad he worked on Franklin Street.

"I got a great response. People loved our product," he said. "It's just a shame there weren't enough of them."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Republicans lose at least 3 seats in N.C. House

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — At least three North Carolina House Republicans lost their seats Tuesday to Democratic challengers, a big step for Democrats who hope to control the chamber for the next two years.

The Senate also appeared to remain under Democratic con-

trol for another session, although the GOP knocked off first-term Democratic incumbents Joe Sam Queen of Haywood County and Cecil Hargett of Onslow County.

In New Hanover County, Democrat Julia Boseman narrowly beat first-term Republican Sen. Woody White, according to final, unofficial results. The victory would make her the first openly gay legislator in North Carolina.

Republican Reps. Sam Ellis and Don Munford of Wake County lost, as did eight-term Rep. Joni Bowie

of Guilford County.

Co-speakers led the state House for the past two years in part because Republicans couldn't unite behind one leader. Now it appears Democrats could gain a majority, winning or holding a lead in between 62 and 64 of 120 seats.

Co-Speaker Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, declined to discuss whether he will return in January as the sole speaker of the House.

"I have good solid support in my caucus, but I don't dare get out in front of them," Black said.

Ellis, a six-term lawmaker and thorn in the side of Richard Morgan, the Republican who served as co-speaker with Black for the last two years, lost to former Wake County Commissioner Linda Coleman. Coleman had 54 percent to 46 percent for Ellis, with all precincts reporting.

Senate leader Marc Basnight, D-Dare, who also won re-election, said he expected a net gain of one or two seats in his chamber, giving the Democrats 28 or 29 of the 50 senators.

Y

Yackety Yack

The Yearbook of UNC

YEARBOOK PORTRAITS

November 1-5 and November 8-12

11am-2pm & 3-6pm

SUITE 2415, OLD STUDENT UNION

*SENIORS: make appointment at www.mcgrathstudios.com, password: nc5

"BUSINESS ATTIRE PLEASE"

*UNDERCLASSMEN: just walk in

BUSINESS CASUAL ATTIRE PLEASE

No purchase necessary!

The Offices of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development

Cordially invite you to attend

A campus talk introducing the Renaissance Computing Institute

"Renaissance Computing: An Interdisciplinary Lever"

Presented by

Daniel A. Reed
Chancellor's Eminent Professor
Director, Renaissance Computing Institute
Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and CIO

Friday, November 5, 2004 • 1:00 p.m.
121 Hanes Art Center, UNC Campus

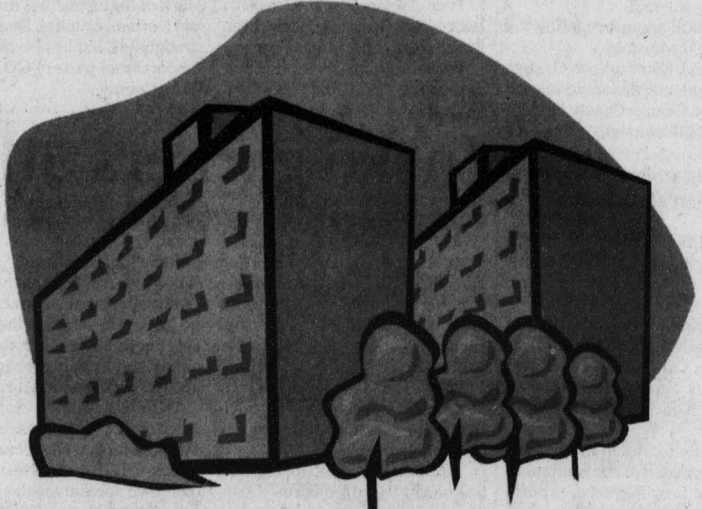
The road to success is always under construction...

Department of Housing and Residential Education Has Your Blueprints for Success!

Resident Advisor Timeline
Spring 2005 and Fall 2005 Candidates

RECRUITMENT SESSIONS		
November 3	7pm	Craige North Seminar Room 172
November 5	12pm	Student Union 3206A
November 8	8pm	Ehringhaus South Seminar Room 176
November 9	7pm	Carmichael Fishbowl
November 11	6pm	Mangum Lounge
November 16	8pm	Morrison South Seminar Room 174
November 17	6pm	Graham/Aycock 3rd Floor Lounge
November 18	12pm	Student Union 2518A

November 5, 2004 at 9am...Applications are available online only
November 22, 2004 at 5pm...Applications are due
December 2 and 3, 2004...Interviews conducted
December 14, 2004...Spring 2005 candidates notified of status
January 24-February 25, 2005...RA Seminar sessions
March 11, 2005...Fall 2005 candidates notified of status



University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

QUESTIONS?
View RA Selection website at <http://housing.unc.edu/raselection> beginning November 5
or contact the Selection Committee at raselection@unc.edu or call (919) 843-2783/2