

The Daily Tar Heel

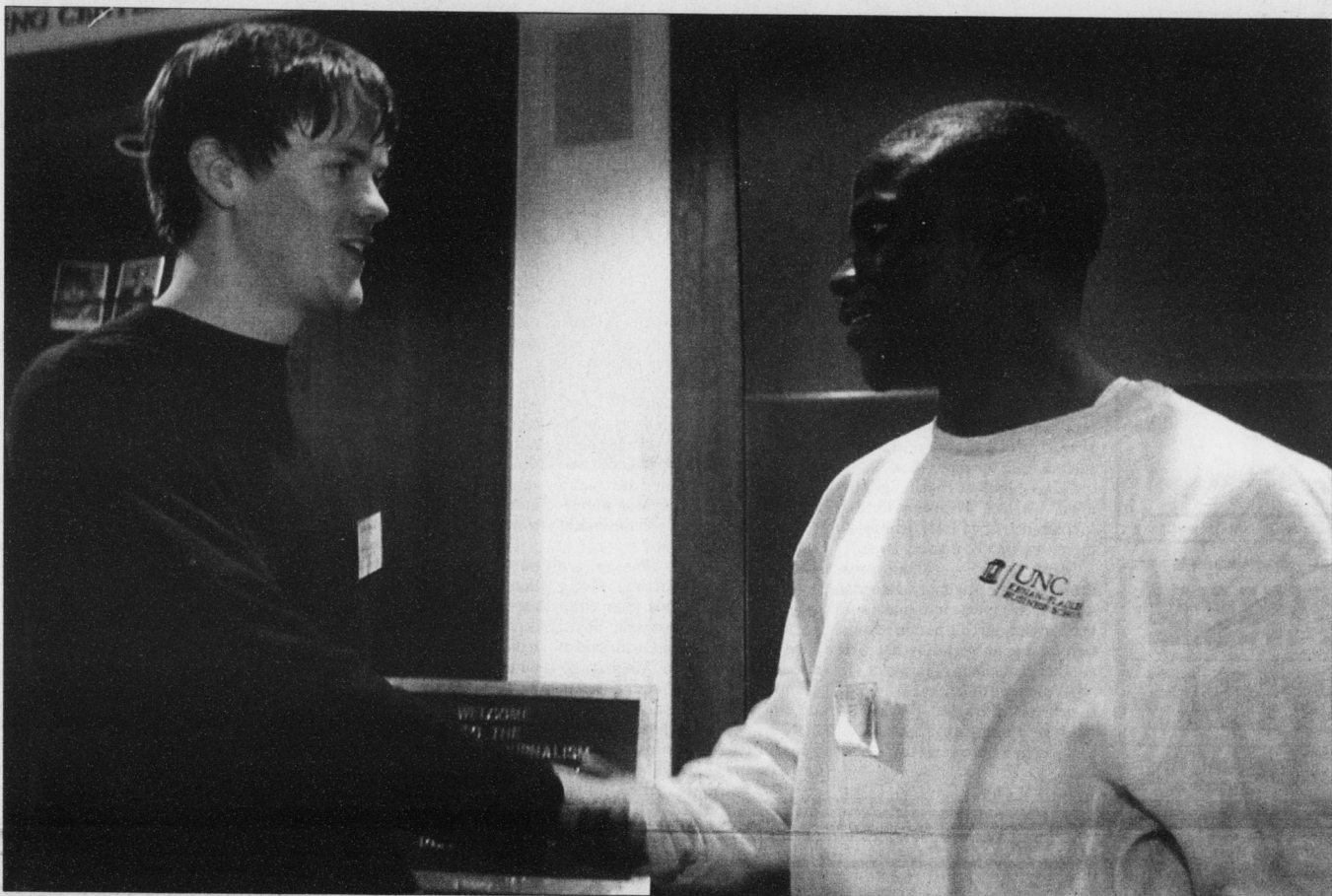
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2005 STUDENT ELECTIONS

OFFICIALS EXPECT CLEAN END TO CONTEST



Seth Dearmin (left) and Seke Ballard shake hands Feb. 8 after the announcement that a runoff election would be held between the two student body president candidates. DTH FILE PHOTO/JUSTIN SMITH

BY BRIAN HUDSON
SENIOR WRITER

After weeks of campaigning, dozens of stump speeches and countless handshakes, student body president candidates Seke Ballard and Seth Dearmin are ready for the election to come to a close tonight.

Today, students will determine which of the two candidates will represent their interests next year.

Ballard seeks to revitalize academics on campus by introducing an endowed distinguished speaker series, reopening many campus computer labs and allowing students to access their professors' evaluations.

Dearmin promises to add convenience to students' lives by providing a farmers' market on campus, distributing condoms in every residence hall and expanding wireless Internet connections to Franklin Street.

Both candidates are ready to hear the students' decision. "It's been an exciting experience," Ballard said. "I'm ready to see what the student body thinks."

And elections officials are confident that a winner will emerge tonight — unlike on the night of last year's runoff, when a two-week-long scandal emerged and delayed results.

Until the 11th hour of the 2004 runoff election, student leaders also had anticipated a smooth process. But last-minute allegations of campaign violations delayed the announcement of the new student body president.

The allegations became even more contentious after the announcement that candidate Lily West led Matt Calabria by a mere seven votes out of the total 6,120 cast in the race.

After several days of uncertainty, the Board of Elections held a hearing on the charges against both candidates. They ruled that the allegations against

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In race for final votes, teams tout differences



Madison Perry and Whit Walker are emphasizing their iPit proposal to create an online information hub.



Bobby Whisnant Jr. and Jenny Peddycord are looking to expand traditional senior class activities.

BY STEPHANIE NEWTON
STAFF WRITER

In a final push to close the loop on the election season, the two campaigns for senior class office are stressing the core values that set them apart.

Both sets of candidates have pledged to connect the senior class through events and service opportunities so that the class of 2006 will leave UNC without any regrets.

Madison Perry and Whit Walker's approach includes efforts that would create an online information portal, promote recycling in the community and soliciting input for class gift and Commencement speaker options.

Candidates Bobby Whisnant and Jenny Peddycord's vision includes expanding Commencement activities, establishing routine service projects and soliciting input for class gift and Commencement speaker options.

Perry and Walker received 915 votes last week, inching past the 914 total garnered by Whisnant and Peddycord. But 16 write-in votes left

SEE SENIOR, PAGE 5

2004 ELECTION REVISITED

Last year's SBP runoff election was marred by 11th hour allegations:

FEB. 17, 2004

Candidates separated by 7 votes as rumors of violations surface for both campaign teams.

FEB. 22, 2004

Board of Elections formally hears charges against Matt Calabria and Lily West.

FEB. 24, 2004

Board rules for a second runoff, allotting West 1 cent for final efforts.

MARCH 2, 2004

Calabria wins out with 58 percent of the vote. West takes 42 percent.

APRIL 6, 2004

Calabria is sworn in.

SUMMER 2004

Student leaders take on ambiguities related to campus election rules in the Student Code.

Death sparks request

Legislature to eye 'Stephen's Law'

BY EREN TATARAGASI
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — Four months after a jury acquitted a local man in the death of a UNC alumnus, a Guilford County legislator has filed a bill that would change the way similar cases are taken up in the future.

At Tuesday's session of the N.C. General Assembly, Rep. Mary Price Taylor Harrison filed a bill nicknamed "Stephen's Law" in honor of University alumnus



and Tar Heel Sports Network reporter Stephen Gates. Gates was

killed last year in a hit-and-run accident near the split of interstates 40 and 85. In November, a jury found Rabah Samara not guilty of all charges related to the incident.

"We feel that there is a need to change the law," said Pat Gates, Stephen Gates' mother. "Especially now that people are aware they can get away with this, we're worried that it might happen more often."

The state's hit-and-run statute now requires that a person charged must have driven a vehicle

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Mayor fills space on downtown committee

BY JAKE POTTER
STAFF WRITER

On the same night it brought a petition to the Chapel Hill Town Council requesting the condemnation of a vacant Franklin Street restaurant, the Downtown Economic



Mayor Kevin Foy will fill the vacant space on the DEDC.

Development Corporation added Mayor Kevin Foy to its ranks.

Foy's addition will fill the corporation's seventh seat, empty for the last four months after a November controversy over a closed meeting session led to former Chairman Bob Epting's resignation.

Foy recommended himself as Epting's replacement Monday.

The council approved the

SEE DEDC, PAGE 5

Theaters aided desegregation movement

BY MEREDITH LEE MILLER
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Local businesses were the focal point of social change during the turbulent decades that surrounded the civil rights movement.

Protesters — black and white — staged sit-ins and picketed segregated businesses along Franklin Street and in surrounding areas during the 1960s in an effort to give black community members equal opportunities.

After months of protests, the Varsity Theatre and Carolina Theatre became some of the first integrated

movie theaters in the Southeast.

The Chapel Hill Weekly reported that the protests emerged after manager E. Carrington Smith refused a request from a local ministerial association to allow one desegregated showing of the movie

"Porgy and Bess," a film version of the Broadway show with an all-black cast.

An executive committee called Citizens for "Open" Movies organized

the protests.

Walter Dellinger, who was a UNC sophomore at the time, was the only Southern undergraduate on the committee. And the experience in the group led him to pursue a career of advocating for civil rights, he said.

"I agreed to do it on the spur of the moment," Dellinger said. "It had a profound effect on my life."

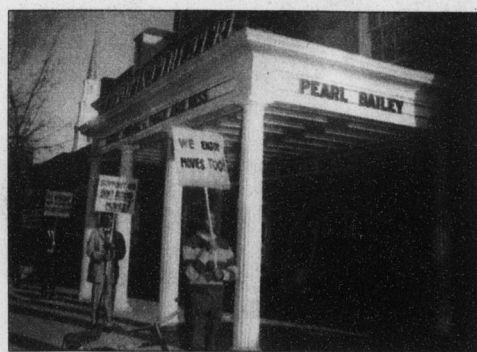
He said it was quite a shock to him and his parents to see his picture in the paper with the leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Both theaters became partially desegregated in 1961, allowing black UNC students to enter, according to The Chapel Hill Weekly.

"I feel the eventual hope is that this trial period will open the way for the whole public to attend movies," Ann Douglass, one of the first two blacks to enter the Carolina Theatre, on Aug. 17, 1961, said in The Chapel Hill Weekly.

"I feel that just having Negro students to participate is still not desegregation."

SEE BUSINESS, PAGE 5



Demonstrators protest in 1960 outside the Carolina Theatre, which later became one of the first theaters to desegregate. COURTESY OF THE CHAPEL HILL TOWN HALL

ONLINE

Check out the DTH's Web site for up-to-the-minute election results and coverage of the candidates. Find more of today's stories at www.dthonline.com.

VOTE TODAY

Make your runoff choices between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. at <http://studentcentral.unc.edu>.

WEATHER

TODAY Partly cloudy, H 71, L 46
WEDNESDAY P.M. showers, H 71, L 35
THURSDAY Mostly sunny, H 50, L 24

