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Congress elections undecided

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS CAUSE DELAY

BY ROBIN HILMANETL AND BRIAN HUDSON
STAFF WRITERS

Technological difficulties and voting irregularities during a campuswide special election Tuesday have delayed results and led many candidates to call for a nullification of the results.

The technical problems began Tuesday morning when off-campus students, who vote in District 6, had difficulty accessing Student Central to vote.

The problems with the district came from a coding malfunction that was rectified by the afternoon, Board of Elections officials said.

Anne Spangler, a member of the elec-

tions board, said at the time that it threw a wrench in the works but that it was nothing that couldn't be fixed.

"That kind of thing happens when you're working online," she said.

ONLINE

Check back to see the results of Tuesday's special elections.

Technical difficulties continued throughout the day. At about 6:30 p.m., the entire system crashed, and students were not able to access Student Central at all.

Jim Brewer, vice chairman of the elections board, said at 7 p.m. — about 20 minutes after he was notified of the problem — that the board was working with Academic and Technology

Networks officials to bring the system back online. Brewer said the problem was rectified soon thereafter.

"This was a problem with Student Central," he said. "Student Central has had some problems in the past few weeks."

The night capped off with more system difficulties when the polls closed at 10 p.m. Brewer said at the time that the elections board was working with ATN officials to retrieve the results.

In light of the irregularities, many began calling for the elections board to cancel the election and reschedule it for a later date.

Brewer said at 10 p.m. that the board would not consider invalidating the results until they could be retrieved.

He said at the time that he did not know when the results would be available or

when the board would be willing to make a decision.

As of press time, elections officials were still in a meeting regarding the problems and were drafting the board's reaction to the incident in a written statement.

Many candidates expressed frustration that they hadn't received any updates from election officials after difficulties arose.

When contacted, a number of candidates were unaware that such problems existed.

Several expressed concern that students were turned away from voting because of the difficulties.

"Often people don't vote because of frustrations with the system. I don't want that to be a problem on campus," said freshman

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System funding has long history

Our state constitution, Article IX, Section 9, directs that: The General Assembly shall provide that the benefits of the University of North Carolina and other public institutions of higher education, as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the state free of expense.

That unique provision states the fundamental policy of the state on financing public higher education, though today it is seldom given more than a perfunctory nod.

What were its origins and inspirations? And what is its present advance?

One of the conditions imposed by the U.S. Congress on the defeated Confederate States was that they revise their state constitutions to provide that all males 21 and over should be able to vote and hold office, thus abandoning previous restrictive tax-paying and property-owning requirements.

That opened the way to a much wider citizen participation in public affairs. Our state Constitutional Convention of 1868 wrote the provisions into a new constitution.

The politically dominant faction in that convention also was determined to bring greater democracy to several additional aspects of our state and local affairs. They wanted to revive the public schools, which had collapsed following the Civil War, to provide a literate citizenry, both white and black.

They saw the University, then 73 years old, as a bastion of the economic elite of the state, designed to train its sons for leadership roles. They wanted to widen it to a broad-

SEE EXPENSES, PAGE 4



GUEST COLUMNIST

John Sanders writes about the history of tuition-setting.

ANSWER THE BELL



DTH/GILLIAN BOLSOVER

Linsay Shuford, a sophomore biology major, is the master bell ringer of the Bell Tower on UNC's campus. She acquired the position this year, and since the beginning of the semester, she has spent much of her time programming new songs into a brand new computer system that rings the bells based on the programmed playlist. She has acquired

many traditional songs and said she is trying to increase the variety by playing Disney songs and taking student requests. Shuford said she loves her job, especially climbing to the top of the tower, where she can see for miles on a clear day. Here, she poses in the Bell Tower in front of the clock. See page 7 for the full story on the bell ringing tradition at UNC.

Board examines claims of fraud

Congress speaker accused in letter

BY BRIAN HUDSON
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

A group of seven student leaders, including three prominent members of Student Congress, filed a letter of complaint to the UNC Board of Elections questioning the validity of one of the seats up for grab in Tuesday's special election.

The letter, presented to the elections board early Tuesday morning, claimed that one of the open South Campus seats found its way onto the ballot through a violation of the Student Code.

The group said that in light of this and other voting irregularities, the elections board should invalidate the election for the seat.

The letter states that Luke Farley, speaker of Student Congress, was in breach of the Student Code when he added another seat to the ballot from District 3 — which



Luke Farley said he will not respond to any allegations until he speaks with the UNC elections board.

represents South Campus dorms, Odum Village and student family housing at Baity Hill.

The letter also claims that the seat should be invalidated because Congress members, candidates and the campus in general were not notified of the addition.

During the Sept. 27 candidate interest meeting, students were told that there was one available seat in District 3, the letter states.

A week after the Oct. 2 resignation of a representative from that district, Farley contacted the Board of Elections requesting that the seat be added to the ballot.

The letter claims that the Student

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Board likely to limit tuition hikes

Campus-based raises expected

BY ERIC JOHNSON
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

BOONE — Responding to criticism that its policy has been inconsistent from year to year, the UNC-system Board of Governors likely will adopt specific guidelines for the next round of campus-based tuition and fee hikes.

A plan presented Tuesday to the board's budget and finance

committee would set maximum amounts for tuition and fee increases at each school for the 2006-07 academic year, also offering campuses some assurance that significant rate hikes will be approved.

"If they adhere to the guidelines, then they can assume that the process for approval will be very streamlined," said Hannah

Gage, chairwoman of the budget and finance committee. "I think that's an important step for us to take for them."

Officials at N.C. State University and UNC-Chapel Hill have been some of the most ardent proponents of setting clearer tuition guidelines, and chancellors for both schools said Tuesday that they are pleased with the board's proposal.

"I think it's an excellent policy," said UNC-CH Chancellor James

Moeser. "I'm not surprised. I actually anticipated that's exactly what they would do."

If the policy is adopted, both schools would have a \$451 cap on requests for tuition and fee hikes for the 2006-07 year, and Moeser said UNC-CH might choose to ask for the maximum amount.

"I think it could be very close to the \$450, but that depends on which scenario the Board of

SEE HIKES, PAGE 4

Candidates examine better scheduling options

New planning periods cited

BY BRIANNA BISHOP
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

The classroom is arguably one of the most influential places of a child's academic career.

But to make that environment successful, candidates for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education say teachers must have

as much support as possible.

This fall's race comes at the heels of a new initiative that was implemented at the beginning of the school year.

Eight times a year, schools operate on a delayed-start schedule so teachers can have more time to plan and coordinate. The next delay will be Thursday.

Stephanie Knott, the district's spokeswoman, explained that the state legislators reduced teachers' work schedule by five days.



Monday: How Hillsborough can expand its commercial tax base while still maintaining its small town feel

However, hours required for professional development were not reduced, giving teachers less time to fit in that training.

"That was kind of the rationale for the delayed opening in Chapel Hill," Knott said.

Candidates seem to agree that the delays will be successful for the district, but they still want to look at other ways to support and retain excellent teachers.

Candidate Jean Hamilton said that the workplace conditions task force created a lot of good recommendations and that the school board now needs to make sure those ideas are implemented.

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online | dailytarheel.com

MOVING SALE Carrboro nonprofit El Centro Latino prepares for its move

TARGETING SAFETY A downtown group's task force on safety meets today

MULTIMEDIA Visit the Blue Fusion section for images from the N.C. State Fair

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SALT OF THE EARTH UNC launches the Southern African Large Telescope, the largest telescope in the Southern Hemisphere, along with 10 funding partners.

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WHICH ONE ARE YOU? A 'townie' or a 'wannabe'? Residents either start out in Chapel Hill and stay at UNC or move to Chapel Hill full time upon graduation.



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DANGEROUS PICKS UNC ranks 11th in the ACC in turnover margin. QB Matt Baker is last in interceptions. Bunting says more offensive consistency is needed.

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