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Result might cause appeal

District 2 result rests on single vote

BY BRIAN HUDSON
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

A one-vote margin of victory in the Oct. 18 special election for the District 2 congressional seat has the potential to cause further controversy in the much-disputed race.

Junior Nicete Moodie edged out freshman Pablo Friedmann 65 votes to 64 in the competition for the seat, which represents midcampus dorms.

The legitimacy of the election, which was certified by the UNC Board of Elections

pending receipt of candidate financial statements, was called into question Sunday in a case before the Student Supreme Court. The results were announced following the hearing.

Voting irregularities during the special election led the Black Student Movement, which endorsed Moodie, to call on the Court for a nullification.

Drew Erteschik, chief justice of the Court, said the body ruled against the BSM because it was bound by the Code, which states that the Court can overturn an election only in the case that the outcome was called into question.

Although the BSM asserted that the integrity was called into question, it didn't have the evidence to challenge the outcome, he said.

Erteschik pointed to a section of the Code that allows the election board to nullify an election if it feels a violation compromised an election.

"At this point I think if it comes down to one vote the ball sort of is in the board's court," he said.

The elections board notified Friedmann on Monday morning in an e-mail of his loss, but he was not told of the final vote count.

When informed of the one-vote margin Monday afternoon, Friedmann said he was shocked, but he was hesitant to say whether he would follow up with action, though he didn't rule out the possibility.

"I don't want to act prematurely," he said. "I want to have all the facts."

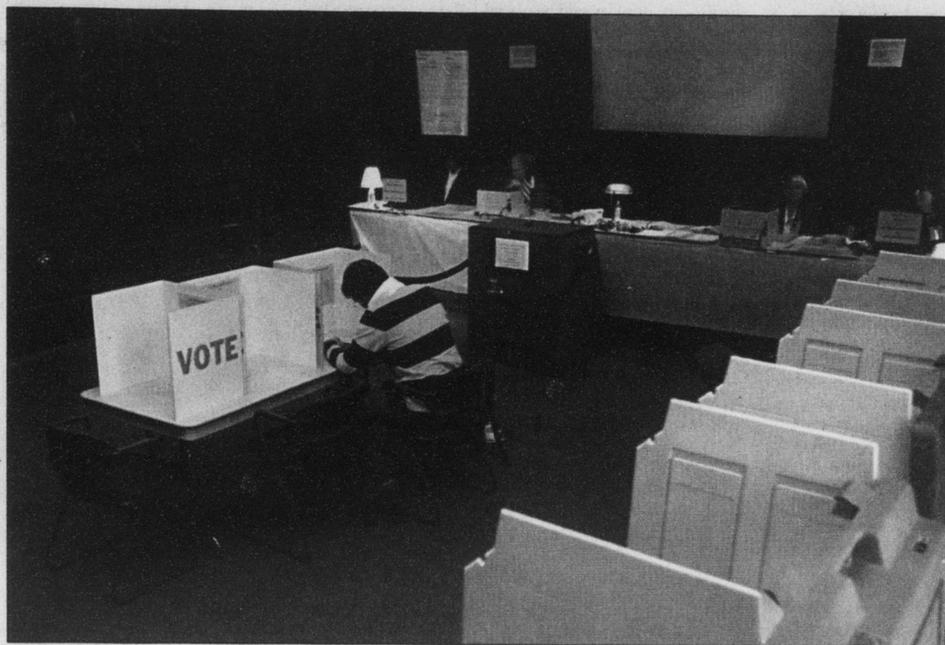
Initially he said he had been opposed to overturning the election because he believes all candidates were disenfranchised equally by the irregularities.

But the closeness of the election might change his decision, he said.

"It's a difference of one vote," Friedmann said. "Had it been a difference of 20 votes I would have been like, 'Whatever.'"

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ELECTIONS LIMP OUT OF GATE



Sophomore Wesley Merville casts his ballot during the early voting period at the Morehead Planetarium & Science Center on Monday. The polls opened at 9 a.m. at the site, and 28 people came out during the day to exercise their democratic rights.

POLLS OPEN FOR CHAPEL HILL, CARRBORO VOTERS BUT SEE LOW TURNOUT

BY LAURA OLENIACZ, STAFF WRITER

A few leaves blew across the empty steps of Morehead Planetarium and Science Center on Monday — the first day of one-stop early voting there — but that's about all that went down at what's been called the most popular Orange County polling site.

James Weathers, chief judge of a local precinct, said a total of 28 area residents and students voted in the seven hours that the planetarium's polls were open Monday, although he said turnout likely will increase.

Among the 28 voters was Rebecca Goz, a Chapel Hill resident and UNC faculty member.

Goz walked straight up to the planetarium's polls and cast her vote Monday, avoiding the lines and hassle of the regular polling dates.

"I have always felt my vote counts," she said. "I cherish my citizenship."

Early voting allows registered voters to vote two weeks before the regular elections at any of three locations — the Orange County Board of Elections office in Hillsborough, the planetarium and Carrboro Town Hall — regardless of their precinct.

"A lot of people vote early because they think it will be more convenient," said Carolyn Thomas, director of the board of elections.

Voting in Hillsborough also has been light, Thomas said.

Still, some say early voting days provide the most accessible way to cast a ballot.

"If they wait for Election Day they have to travel to their precinct's polling place ... and this is a very easy and convenient day to get out and vote," said UNC Young Democrats Co-president Blakely Whilden.

Last year's national elections saw record numbers turn out for early voting, with 3,579 votes cast four days after the early voting polls

opened at the planetarium. In 2003 municipal elections drew more than 30,000 voters during the early voting period.

However, only 329 people aged 18 to 22 voted that year.

"Students definitely are not as involved as they could be," said Young Democrats Co-president

Kris Gould. "The students ... don't seem to care about (the elections) but I think they definitely should," he said.

The organization is trying to drum up support for the elections, planning events that members hope will draw students into politics.

The Young Democrats are hoping to hold a discussion featuring John Edwards, former vice presidential candidate. After the event

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"If they wait for Election Day they have to travel to their precinct's polling place."

BLAKELY WHILDEN,
CO-PRESIDENT YOUNG DEMOCRATS

Early voting information

Morehead Planetarium and Science Center
250 E. Franklin St.
Chapel Hill, NC

► Monday to Friday
Oct. 24 to Nov. 5
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

► Saturdays
Oct. 29 and Nov. 5
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bernanke tapped as reserve chairman

Looks to issue inflation targets

BY ERIC JOHNSON
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

In a Monday announcement, President Bush named Ben Bernanke, a well-respected academic and chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, to succeed Alan Greenspan as chairman of the Federal Reserve.



Ben Bernanke likely will succeed Alan Greenspan as Fed chairman.

Bernanke immediately pledged that his top priority will be to maintain the policies enacted during Greenspan's tenure.

"I will do everything in my power, in collaboration with my Fed colleagues, to help ensure the continued prosperity and stability of the American economy," he said.

The selection of Bernanke, a former member of the Fed's Board of Governors and a widely known monetary economist, was well-received by U.S. financial markets. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed nearly 170 points Monday, and the Nasdaq closed 33 points higher.

The Fed chairman has significant power in setting U.S. monetary policy, working to promote stable economic growth while keeping a lid on inflation.

"What the Fed does is very important," said Richard Froyen, an economics professor at UNC-Chapel Hill.

"In financial markets, for what goes on in economic policy, the chairman of the Fed is the second most important person in the country, behind the president."

Bernanke's strong background in academia and limited exposure to the political world — he has been Bush's chief economic adviser only since June — send a signal of stability for Fed policy, Froyen said.

"I think he's an excellent choice," he said. "Over his career, he hasn't been a partisan, hasn't been very political at all. His main career has been as a monetary economist."

As chairman of Princeton's economics department from 1996 to 2002 and a founding editor of the International Journal of Central Banking, Bernanke has published a large body of work on macroeconomic policy.

"He's an extremely strong economist," said Douglas Pearce, head of the economics department at N.C. State University. "I've had several of his papers over the years on my graduate

SEE BERNANKE, PAGE 7

Dearmin to release report

Set to highlight first half of term

BY NATE HEWITT
AND KATIE HOFFMANN
STAFF WRITERS

At the midpoint of his term, Student Body President Seth Dearmin and his cabinet are looking to lay out all their accomplishments before the student body.

The 2005 October Report, which will be released today — highlights the progress made thus far by the Dearmin administration.

The document traditionally contains information on student government's progress through Oct. 15 and features progress made on platform planks, press releases and relevant newspaper articles.



"The October Report serves two roles: to inform current students and administrators and all stakeholders about the activities of student government and to serve as a historical record," said Matt Calabria, 2004-05 student body president.

He said the report is a good opportunity for members of student government to step back and assess their progress.

"The process of putting together the October Report makes you think about what you have and have not accomplished," Calabria said.

"It really helps the student government leaders gain perspective on their activities so far," he said.

Calabria said a student body president at least should have started to work on his main platform issues by the release of the

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Water rates a point of contention

BY TED STRONG
CITY EDITOR

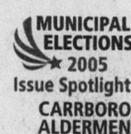
In Hillsborough this year, high-quality H₂O is more than just a cool, quenching liquid.

It's also an important campaign issue, as residents continue to pay hefty prices for city water and sewer services.

Water rates recently were adjusted to be revenue-neutral, and sewer rates were hiked this year.

In essence, the race boils down to two main points of view.

One camp holds that current efforts to steady the rates are working and will take effect with time.



Wednesday: How Carrboro's growing Latino population has an influence on town politics

"Water rates, they're absolutely high ... but we're doing everything that we can to hold them down," said Mike Gering, a Town Board incumbent.

The other maintains that more could be done.

"Our water rates are high," said Paul Newton, a board challenger.

"The Town Board has no plan to do anything about our water rates, other than to raise them."

Regardless of what camp they fall into, candidates agree the high rates come as the town pays down long-term debt service on expansions to the system, including a new reservoir.

"It's really a long-term debt service that we are trying to pay off," said Frances Dancy, another board incumbent.

"It's not because we want to raise water just to be raising water, but in order to give the people the kind of service that we need," she added.

Candidates have said that prospects of actually lowering rates for

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CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, the Oct. 17 front page story, "County debates tax, funding equity," incorrectly states that city schools and Orange County Schools have \$3,945 and \$2,796 to spend per pupil, respectively. These totals are solely the amount provided to each district by Orange County. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

online | dailytarheel.com

THIS IS GARBAGE Environmentalists oppose a landfill proposed in eastern N.C.

SAVE THE FARM Mason Farm seeks neighborhood conservation district status

MULTIMEDIA Check online to find a slideshow from Saturday's football game

city | page 2

IT'S YOUR FORUM
The Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership gears up for a forum at 5 p.m. today at the Varsity Theatre to discuss the Main Street approach.



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SMOKING HOT TREND
Smoking hookahs is becoming more popular on the West Coast and growing locally, but health officials warn of dangerous effects.

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