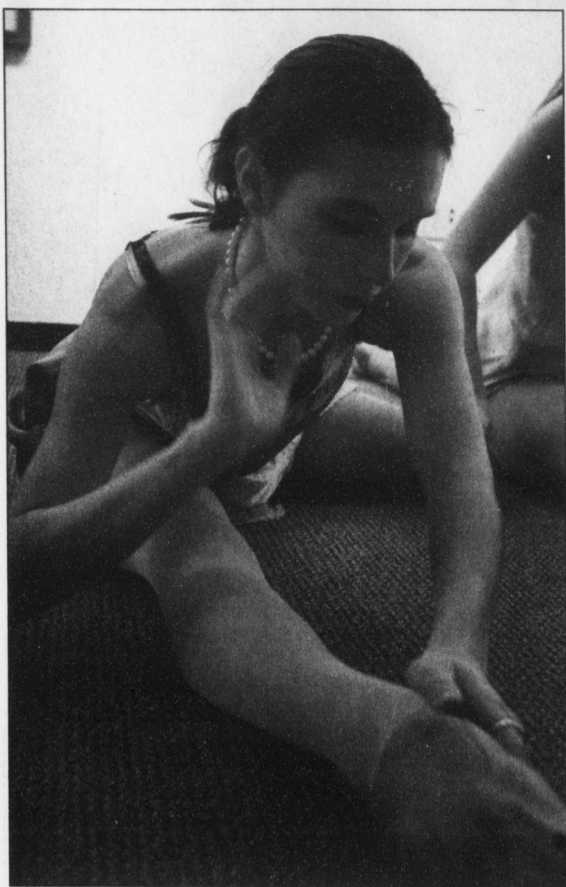


BREAK A LEG



DTH/GALEN CLARKE

Freshman Emily Faircloth of Carolina Vibe stretches in the art gallery of the Student Union before performing the lyrical dance "Ain't No Sunshine" in the Union auditorium Monday night. The show was held to raise money to benefit Relay For Life in the fight against cancer.

County schools endorse switch to block scheduling; discuss reassignment plans

TIME FOR BLOCK

The Orange County Board of Education unanimously approved a switch to block scheduling for the district's two high schools — Orange and Cedar Ridge high schools — Monday. The members approved the switch after feedback from two parent information sessions was categorized as generally positive. The schedule change is set to take effect fall 2006. The school board did not decide if it will favor a straight or modified block, but staff development opportunities will be offered in either scenario.

Cameron Park Elementary School. The April 22 celebration is being organized by a committee of parents and volunteers.

"It's bringing awareness to the great school that we have over there, but it's also bringing together 50 years of wonderful people who have come through that school," said parent Shelli Yearsley, who is serving on the planning committee.

The celebration will involve students, parents, teachers and alumni and will aim to improve the school's streetscape and to highlight its unique cultural history and landscape.

and approved the study's move into phase two. The second phase of the study will include classifying the job titles of maintenance and transportation workers and making salary adjustments accordingly.

The school board agreed that workers involved in phase two should receive retroactive salary compensation from Dec. 1, 2004, the date those involved in phase one got their pay raises.

Three bus drivers attended the meeting, and the school board agreed that bus drivers should be part of phase three of the study.

CELEBRATING HISTORY

The school board heard plans for the 50th anniversary celebration of

CLEANING UP THEIR ACT

The school board also discussed the district's classified salary study

MOVING THE STUDENTS

Also Monday, George McFarley, associate superintendent for support services and the facilitator of the committee

charged with reassigning students to the district's new middle school, Gravelly Hill — presented the school board with the reassignment plans he plans to share at public hearings Jan. 26 and Feb. 2.

The school board gave McFarley a nod of approval but debated the issue of grandfathering — giving older students at each school who were supposed to be reassigned the option of staying at their old school.

The members decided that juniors and seniors in high school should have the opportunity to grandfather, as well as fifth-graders in elementary school. Eighth-graders would not have that option because Gravelly Hill will not have an eighth-grade its first year.

Students who choose to grandfather would be required to provide their own transportation.

COMPILED BY JESSICA SCHONBERG

Republicans see transition

Zalaquett takes reins of UNC group

BY ERIN ZUREICK  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

After junior Jordan Selleck's resignation Sunday night as chairman of the College Republicans, new leadership already is in place and looking to infuse new energy into the group.

Sophomore Amanda Zalaquett stepped in to serve out the remainder of Selleck's term and led her first meeting as interim chairwoman Monday night.

About 40 of the group's 200 dues-paying members attended — sans Selleck, who said he was unable to make the meeting due to a busy workload.

The group currently is in the middle of a blitz to back conservative students who are campaigning for Student Congress seats in the Feb. 14 campuswide election.

Congress Speaker Luke Farley, a member of the organization, spoke at the meeting, and said he would like to see interest in the campus legislative body invigorated.

"I think there's been a general apathy about Student Congress lately," he said.

"We have a diversity of opinion. That's why it's important to get a lot of voices."

Zalaquett, who previously served as the group's executive

director, said she would like to see a balance of ideas as well as more fiscally conservative policies in Congress.

"There's a lot of spending for organizations that don't affect a lot of people on campus," she said.

Seven students who are running for Congress seats also attended the meeting.

Sophomore Layne Powers, who is running in District 2 — which represents Middle Campus dorms — said she wants to see increased political diversity at UNC.

"I think it's important to get more conservative representation in Congress and more conservative representation on campus in general," she said.

Zalaquett said increased participation and membership are other goals for her term.

She said she is eager to lead the group through the rest of the term, which she said will end when the group chooses new leadership in March.



Sophomore Amanda Zalaquett has assumed control of the College Republicans

Farley said he thinks Zalaquett's transition will be a smooth one. "I'm very pleased," he said. "I think she has a really good vision for the organization."

Selleck, who spent one-and-a-half terms leading the organization, said the time was right for him to step down.

In his decision he cited a need to focus more on academic work and to get a job.

"I enjoyed it tremendously and learned a lot of skills in terms of running an organization and leadership skills."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

Democrats change out leaders

Campus group fills leadership spots

BY COLIN CAMPBELL  
STAFF WRITER

As they begin their first semester in office, the new leaders of UNC's Young Democrats are looking to influence politics both on and off campus.

As the new co-presidents of the group, senior Katie Tolliver and sophomore David Beard said one of their major responsibilities will be planning for November's national midterm elections, when several congressional seats will be contested.

Tolliver and Beard said they plan to continue the initiatives of their predecessors — specifically

by focusing on improving fundraising and increasing student involvement in the political process.

"One of the things that'll change is that we'll be a lot more focused on campaign work," Beard said, noting that the large number of Democrats competing in recent local elections prevented major involvement by Young Democrats.

The group's constitution prohibits involvement in local elections when two or more Democrats are competing for the same seat.

Young Democrats will be most involved with the more competi-

*"I'd like to see a continuation of community service and campaign work."*

BLAKELY WHILDEN, FORMER CO-PRESIDENT

tive national congressional races in North Carolina come November, such as those for the 8th and 11th districts.

Despite taking stabs at state and national politics, group members said they still want to remain committed to campus election campaigns.

"We'll work hard to get progressive people in Student Congress," Beard said.

Former Young Democrats Co-President Blakely Whilden worked with her successors last year and

said she hopes they continue her programs.

"I'd like to see a continuation of community service and campaign work," she said. "They both will do a great job."

The group's leadership is rounded out by sophomore Uzma Panjwani, vice president; freshman Cara Shewchuk, secretary; and freshman Jake Anderson, treasurer.

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

Gerhardt weighs in on future of Alito

UNC professor says filibuster unlikely

BY JOE COLLEVECCHIO  
STAFF WRITER

In as little as five years Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court case that legalized abortion, might be dismantled to the point of rendering it ineffective, said UNC law professor Michael Gerhardt during a meeting of the Young Democrats on Monday night.

Gerhardt addressed a small crowd in the Student Union Cabaret about his recent role as a witness in the Senate confirmation hearings for Judge Samuel Alito, who is expected to replace retiring justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the Supreme Court bench.

The confirmation of Alito, combined with the addition of Chief Justice John Roberts to the bench earlier this year, is expected to push the nation's highest court significantly to the right.

"When Roe goes down, and I don't really think anyone doubts it will, it's going to go down bit by bit," Gerhardt said.

"We're probably talking four or five years."

Gerhardt also discussed the possibility of Senate Republicans using the "nuclear option," a tactic to limit a possible Democratic filibuster of the nomination. The



Professor Michael Gerhardt discussed his testimony at the Samuel Alito hearing

tactic would circumvent Senate filibuster rules, which state that the minority party can block a judicial appointment through an indefinite filibuster unless a 60 percent majority votes to continue with the confirmation.

"They call it the nuclear option because the (Senate) could melt down," Gerhardt joked. He stressed that the option effectively could rob the minority party of any involvement in the judicial selection process.

When asked about Senate Democrats' attempts to question Alito, Gerhardt said he felt they did an adequate job but were frustrated by Republican efforts to deflect "vigorous examination."

Gerhardt described Senate Republicans as using a "four-corners offense" to try to run down the clock and limit the number of questions Democrats could ask Alito.

He said that the approach could force Democrats to filibuster the judicial nomination hearings set for today, but that in the long run a filibuster probably would prove ineffective at slowing or stopping Alito's confirmation.

He said a filibuster is an unlikely scenario.

Gerhardt said he thinks both judges Alito and Roberts are as conservative, if not more so, than right-wing justice Antonin Scalia, and are likely to vote in a similar fashion on issues such as abortion and school prayer.

"I think that the good news is, in most respects, things aren't going to get much worse," Gerhardt said.

David Beard, a sophomore political science major and co-president of the Young Democrats, said the group should help energize the campus in the event of a filibuster.

"Republicans are manipulating the judicial process for their own benefit," he said.

Sarah Grossblatt, a sophomore public policy major, said the speech was a "reality check."

"It was more intense than I expected," Grossblatt said. "I didn't think things were going to be this grim for the Democrats."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

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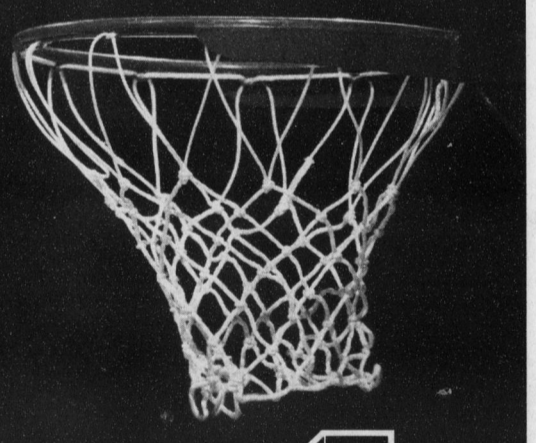
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