

The Daily Tar Heel

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Runoff election pits senior duos

BY BRIAN HUDSON, NEWS EDITOR

Then there were two. Well, four, actually.

Rising seniors will choose between two pairs for senior class president and vice president today; Doug Weiss and Juelle McDonald are facing off against Meg Petersen and Eric Schmidt.

The pairs will be joined on the ballot by two runoff elections for Student Congress.

In last week's general election, District 9 saw a four-way tie between write-in candidates for one seat. District 7 had a four-way tie between write-ins, who were competing for three seats.

District 7 includes graduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences and in the humanities, and District 9 represents graduate students in medical schools.

Juniors and graduate students in those districts can vote today from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Student Central. The Board of Elections also will offer provisional paper ballots in its office in Union 2501.

Feb. 14, when the senior class candidates first faced off, the results were

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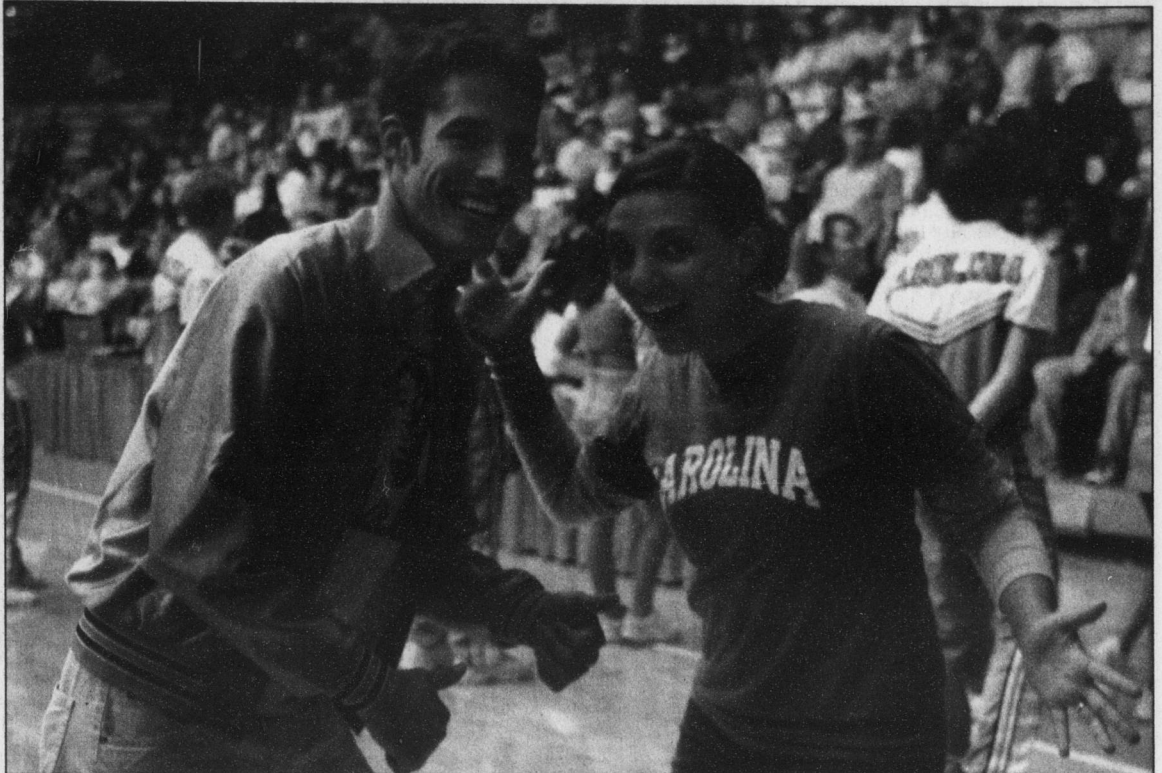


Running with Weiss is biology double major Juelle McDonald.

Vote today on Student Central from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.



Running with Petersen is international studies major Eric Schmidt.



Doug Weiss and Meg Petersen pose at the women's basketball game against Boston College on Monday. Because neither candidate won a majority in last week's election, the two juniors continued campaigning this week and will face each other in the runoff election today for senior class president.

DTH/GALEN CLARKE

FIRST AMENDMENT CASE A LONG TIME COMING

BY KAVITA PILLAI
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to announce today whether an almost six-year saga involving the strength and breadth of certain First Amendment protections will come to an end.

The case is *Hosty v. Carter*. It involves three student journalists at Governors State University in Illinois who sued the university in January 2001 for the actions of a dean who wanted prior approval of the student publication, *The Innovator*.

Supreme Court justices were scheduled to meet in closed conference Friday to weigh the merits of the plaintiffs' petition for a writ of certiorari — a decision from the Court to hear an appeal of a lower court's ruling.

If the Supreme Court grants a hearing, the heart of the arguments will address whether college students have full First Amendment protections, or — like high school journalists — they are subject to censorship and prior restraint by the institutions that back them.

Although petitioning for a hearing by the highest court risks an unfavorable ruling for student journalists nationwide — the decision by the 7th

Circuit Court of Appeals applies to only three states — student press supporters say that the alternative is worse, and that a decision needs to be made once and for all.

"The 7th Circuit decision, by its own accord, has received an enormous amount of circulation and publicity and has already affected the conduct of public universities and administrators all over the country," said Lee Levine, attorney for lead plaintiff Margaret Hosty.

"In a significant way, letting the 7th Circuit stand would be pretty darn close to conceding the issue nationwide."

Power and responsibility

According to the 7th Circuit's majority opinion, handed down in June 2005, *The Innovator* published articles written by Hosty in 2000 criticizing Roger Oden, dean of GSU's College of Arts and Sciences. The articles prompted university officials to decry *The Innovator* as using "irresponsible and defamatory journalism."

The work led Patricia Carter, then-dean of student affairs and services, to demand prior review of the pub-

lication, ordering the newspaper's printer to hold the presses until the content had been approved.

Hosty, in an e-mail interview, claimed the prior review was an attempt by the university to keep bad press out of the newsstands.

"I would say that's a fairly strong motive for the administration wanting to shut down and keep silent the student press," she stated.

GSU's executive director of public affairs, Chuck Connolly, said the university would not comment on matters still in litigation.

Judge Terence Evans, in his dissent, gives a scathing review of the university's actions.

"The *Innovator*, as opposed to writing merely about football games, actually chose to publish hard-hitting stories," he wrote. "In response, rather than applauding the young journalists, the University decided to prohibit publication unless a school official reviewed the paper's content before it was printed.

"Few restrictions on speech seem to run more afoul of basic First Amendment values."

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Legal dictionary

The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals

The court has jurisdiction over district courts in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

Writ of certiorari

A decision from the U.S. Supreme Court to review a case from lower courts.

Prior review

Refers to anyone reviewing a publication before it can be printed.

Qualified immunity

A defense that protects a government employee from liability for civil damages if his or her actions do not violate a law that is clearly established.

Traditional public forum

A category under which a newspaper cannot be censored by the state, except when restricting the speech serves a compelling government interest.

VITA: Don't do taxes without it

BY KAYLA CARRICK
STAFF WRITER

A small room in the basement of Carrboro Town Hall houses four computer stations Monday, each equipped with a volunteer recently trained in the art of income tax returns.

Filling out income tax forms might seem like a burdensome task for those unfamiliar with the process, but the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program trains and certifies volunteers — ranging from retired CEOs to University accounting students — to help fill out tax forms for people who want assistance.

Orange County resident Joseph Signa has used VITA's services for the past three years. "It's convenient, it's quick, and normally I'm completely confused," he said.

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Orange County offers VITA services for mostly low- to middle-income clients at locations including Carrboro Town Hall, the Chapel Hill Senior Center and Hillsborough-Central Orange

Senior Center.

Services began this month and will continue through tax return deadline in mid-April.

Last year, the program did 1,850 tax returns, saving people an average of \$150 per return.

Often people will spend as much money to get their taxes prepared as they receive on a refund, said Kathy Porter, director of the senior volunteer program.

"It's just fair that they get this service," she said. "People need that refund to put kids in day care and food on the table."

The Internal Revenue Service, which sponsors the volunteers' certification, sees free assistance programs such as VITA as a necessity, Porter said.

Volunteers attend a week of training about taxes and new tax laws. They then must pass a certification test written by the IRS.

Client eligibility for VITA is based on the number of people in the family and its level of income. Typically, the family must earn

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Second UNC alumnus strives for Oscar glory

BY HARRY KAPLOWITZ
ASSISTANT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The casual observer might not have noticed it, but director George Clooney's 2005 film "Good Night, and Good Luck" took place entirely indoors.

And that made production designer Jim Bissell's job just a little more difficult.

Bissell, a 1973 graduate of the University, recently was nominated for an Oscar, alongside Jan Pascale, for his work on the film.

Along with fellow alumnus Hughes Winborne, nominated for his editing work on "Crash," Bissell anxiously will await the March 5 ceremony.



Jim Bissell has been nominated for an Oscar for his work on "Good Night, and Good Luck."

As production designer, Bissell worked with set designers and other visual technicians to create a realistic depiction of a professional newsroom.

"It's terrific; it's really a thrill; it's a surprise," Bissell said of his Oscar nomination. "I'm very

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Sheldon legacy persists after 15 years

BY SHERA EVERETTE
STAFF WRITER

Fifteen years after his death, the murder of Internationalist Books and Community Center founder Bob Sheldon remains unsolved, but his legacy lives on.

Internationalist Books will honor Sheldon's life and death today, on what the town has proclaimed "Bob Sheldon Day," which will be recognized with a speech from Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy and a vigil.

The vigil will move from the store's current location, at 405 W. Franklin St., to the original location at 408 Rosemary St.

On Feb. 21, 1991, Sheldon was found lying unconscious on the floor of Internationalist Books,

bleeding from an apparent gunshot wound to the left side of his head.

The murder was believed to be politically motivated as Sheldon was a strong critic of the first Gulf War.

"He had gone on the 6 o'clock news talking about how we should not be involved in the war, and he had organized strikes," said Biff Hollingsworth, a volunteer and member of the Internationalist Books board of directors.

"A lot of people feel that if it were some sort of political thing it would be somebody who had an argument about the war. That's one myth. Some people just think he was at the wrong place at the

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Robert Sheldon, former Internationalist owner

1968: Sheldon moves to Philadelphia to attend UPenn. He drops out to become a paid organizer for the anti-war group "Resistance!"

1981: Sheldon opens the Internationalist Books center at 408 Rosemary Street, originally conceived as a reading room to distribute communist, socialist and Marxist literature.

1986: Sheldon and the bookstore direct efforts in opposition to the proposed Shearon Harris nuclear plant.

January 1991: Sheldon goes

on WRAL-TV's 6 p.m. news to denounce the Gulf War.

Feb. 21, 1991: Sheldon is shot just before closing up the store for the night. The murder is still unsolved.

July 21, 1992: Sonic Youth releases its album "Dirty" which includes "Chapel Hill," a song inspired in part by Sheldon's murder.

Feb. 21, 2006: Bookstore celebrates 25th anniversary. Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy declares the day "Bob Sheldon Day."

CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, the Monday front page feature picture, "The air up there," incorrectly states that freshman Cesar Fuentes-Mendoza dunked over a friend. His friend dunked over him.

The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

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EDITOR'S BLOG The Daily Tar Heel was the subject of a sit-in Monday in response to the publication of a cartoon depicting the Prophet Muhammad. An apology the paper is not prepared to offer was requested. Read the full statement and comment at "A Word from the Editor."



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THE WINNER IS ...

Individuals and chapters were awarded at the 11th annual Fraternity and Sorority Life Chapter Excellence Awards in the Great Hall on Monday.

today in history

FEB. 21, 1976 ...

The N.C. student legislature endorses a \$43 million bond referendum for improvements at 13 campuses in the consolidated UNC system.

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