

The Daily Tar Heel

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www.dailytarheel.com

County seeking informed electorate

VOTER REGISTRATION FOR COUNTY, STATE PRIMARIES FAST APPROACHES

BY RACHEL ULLRICH
STAFF WRITER

Less than a month remains before county and state primaries, and the deadline to register to vote in the May election has approached with seemingly little notice.

Voter registration closes at 5 p.m. Friday. With three county commissioners' seats, four Orange County Board of Education spots, the sheriff's office and multiple state offices up for grabs, this election could prove monumental for county government.

But leaders are worried that the election might go unnoticed by residents whose atten-

tion is more focused on national issues.

"The public is much more interested in a presidential election," said Jack Sanders, chairman of the Orange County Democratic Party.

The last county race took place in 2004 during presidential and senatorial elections, yielding a turnout of about 68 percent of the county's eligible voters.

"The fact that there's also no senatorial race in North Carolina means there's not that emphasis on the national political scene," Sanders said of this year's race, adding that people are less likely to register to vote in local primaries.

Some University students are proof of such a disconnect.

Sophomore Jenna Wilson and senior Michael Norton both said they only vote in presidential elections.

"(I might vote) if I actually knew there was an election," Wilson said. "It's not really publicized."

Norton agreed, citing the need for more frequent Pit forums and Daily Tar Heel articles to inform people of the upcoming election.

Registration forms can be picked up at Davis Library or downloaded online at www.co.orange.nc.us/elect/#Registration.

Campus groups such as VoteCarolina headed up projects in the fall municipal election to counteract such blasé attitudes. A mere 4

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Locations to obtain voter registration forms

► Board of Elections Office
110 E. King St., Hillsborough

► Carrboro Town Hall
West Main Street

► Chapel Hill Town Hall
North Columbia Street

► Chapel Hill Public Library
Library Drive, Chapel Hill

► Davis Library
UNC-CH campus

► Orange County Public Library
300 W. Tryon St., Hillsborough

► McDougle School Library
Old Fayetteville Road, Carrboro

Mail forms to:
Orange County Board of Elections

P.O. Box 220
Hillsborough, N.C. 27278

REGISTRATION BOOKS FOR MAY PRIMARIES CLOSE FRIDAY

Nomination sails through

Congress amends stance on process

BY MAC MOLLISON
STAFF WRITER

After much deliberation and disagreement, Student Congress approved Mark Ihnat's bid for Honor Court chairman in a special session Monday night, reversing last week's decision.

The abnormally brief session was called Friday when Ihnat, after a meeting with Congress leaders, released a signed statement indicating a negotiation in the impasse.

Ihnat originally was turned down for the position Tuesday because of an internal election process that was used in his selection — although Congress members were satisfied with Ihnat's qualifications.

Representatives said the process infringed on their over-

sight of the selection and was in conflict with the Student Code and the Instrument of Student Governance, which regulates the judicial branch.

But the agreement among Ihnat and top Congress leaders assuaged many of those concerns.

The election process will remain next year, but it will be a closed election, and the student body president, who oversees the hiring, will see the results first.

Ihnat pledged that, if approved for the position, he would replace the election with an "opinion poll."

After the session, Ihnat stressed that the agreement does not represent a backing down of the Court in the standoff with Congress.

"After we sat down we had the opportunity to devise a system that is the best," he said of Friday's meeting.

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UNC SAYS BRING IT ON



DTH/LOGAN PRICE

Varsity cheerleaders (left to right) Drew Llamas, Bob Brodnick, Hallie Coleman, Nathan Stasko and Jennifer Beasley view a recording of their routine after a rehearsal for fans in Fetzer Gymnasium. The team leaves for College Nationals Wednesday. More photos at dailytarheel.com.

Cheerleaders prepare for Nationals

BY JULIE TURKEWITZ
STAFF WRITER

Like a boomerang in black spandex, Holly Donaldson catapults toward the ceiling of Fetzer Gym C, flips backward, twists and lands in the arms of the four muscled men below her.

Clap. Pause. Repeat.

In the fluorescent confines of Fetzer, Donaldson and 19 other cheerleaders are practicing stunts most fans will never see — on

Wednesday, take these skills to College Nationals in Daytona, Fla.

Her basket toss is one of a number of skills the University does not allow at games.

"I think people would be absolutely shocked if they saw our routine," says Hallie Coleman, a junior and a co-captain.

For a two-minute-15-second lightning sprint, the squad flips, throws, dances and jumps. Voices boom, teeth flash, sweat glistens

— practically another world from the usual "D-fense" fans hear at games.

"Sell it," yells a coach. Eight feet up, Coleman grins flirtatiously at the imaginary judges below her.

For Coleman and team, Nationals practice began four months ago. Practice for football season began in August and has been almost continuous since.

Breaks are few and far between. (Fall break? Football games. Winter break? Basketball season. Spring break? ACC and NCAA tourna-

ments). To get to the national stage, squad members suffered broken hands, shin splints, sprained ankles and strained backs. One team member had surgery after cheerleading caused a herniated disk in his back.

"This is our Final Four," says Brown Walters, UNC cheer veteran and nine-year coach. "We have been working on the skills necessary for competition for years."

UNC's competition record has

SEE CHEERLEADERS, PAGE 4



DTH/SAMANTHA LEVY

Speaker Luke Farley addresses members of Student Congress on Monday before voting to confirm Mark Ihnat as Honor Court chairman.

Executive branch transition allows for fresh beginnings

BY KELLY GIEDRAITIS
STAFF WRITER

Soon after James Allred was elected student body president, he found himself with little time to rest and regroup after a grueling monthlong campaign.

A Feb. 15 meeting with departing Student Body President Seth Dearmin left Allred with even less free time.

"The day after the election I met with Seth," he said. "Every committee meeting he had from Feb. 15 to April 4 went on my calendar."

The two met regularly, attended events together and maintained a constant dialogue to ensure the smoothest possible

transition.

With just a year at the helm of the campus, time is a perennial constraint for the student body president, and it often takes the work of several presidents to see a project to fruition.

This afternoon, as Allred officially succeeds Dearmin, a large part of his charge will be to carry out initiatives left over from Dearmin — some of which he inherited from previous presidents.

Cleaning up the leftovers

On top of about 80 of Allred's own platform planks, the incomplete projects from Dearmin's

ATTEND THE CEREMONY

Time: 7 p.m.
Date: Today
Location: Great Hall

term will be prioritized, Allred said.

"A lot of these projects need that one more extra push to get it through," he said.

Allred said he will adopt as his own projects the creation of a music downloading program at UNC and the fulfillment of plans to form a single voting precinct on campus.

After a pilot program last

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Missed opportunities doomed UNC

BY DANIEL MALLOY
SENIOR WRITER

BOSTON — Ivory Latta's face wrenched into a grimace as tears streamed down her cheeks.

She had come down awkwardly on her knee eight minutes into

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Next year's outlook is rosy for UNC and Maryland

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trainer.

At first, Coach Sylvia Hatchell feared an ACL injury, but Latta was diagnosed with a hyperextended knee and returned to the game less than two minutes later. She jogged in to boisterous cheers

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DTH/BRANDON SMITH

Freshman Heather Claytor is comforted in the locker room after the Tar Heels' season-ending loss to Maryland, 81-70, in the Final Four on Sunday.

CORRECTION

Due to an editing error, a photo accompanying the Monday's front-page story, "Franklin's evolution" is incorrectly attributed. The shot should be credited to the N.C. Collection and photographer Roland Giduz.

The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

bloggin' | dailytarheel.com

ARTS DESK Chapel Hill band remains in running for MTV-brokered record deal

OPINION DESK Adventures in paying Department of Public Safety parking fines

PUBLIC EDITOR More on the process of selecting the next Daily Tar Heel editor

OPINION PAGE REDESIGN

TO LAUNCH THURSDAY

Bloggin': Discuss the redesign on the editor's blog. New poll: Do you like the new opinion page?

Vote at www.dailytarheel.com

The Daily Tar Heel wants your feedback before the launch, scheduled for this week.



today in history

APRIL 4, 1951 ...

UNC's medical school opens its doors to blacks because, as the only one in the state, there is no "separate but equal" alternative.

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