

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 114, ISSUE 100

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2006

www.dailytarheel.com

Court rules in elections dispute

Delays issuing verdict in claim against Congress

BY MAC MOLLISON AND KATE SULLIVAN
STAFF WRITERS

The Student Supreme Court tried two cases involving the Board of Elections on Sunday night in its first session in about a year.

In *McLamb v. Board of Elections* the Court upheld the board's decision to hold a re-election for vacant off-campus Student Congress seats.

It withheld its verdict in the second case, *Board of Elections v. Student Congress*, using a Student Code requirement that verdicts be delayed until the day after the trial except in emergencies.

In that case, the board said Congress' Facebook Protection Act violates the Student Code.

In the first case, Congress candidate Stephanie

McLamb challenged the board's decision to redo an Oct. 17 special election in district six, in which she was the second highest vote-getter.

McLamb had hoped to be awarded one of the two open seats in the off-campus district in lieu of becoming a candidate in Tuesday's re-election.

The elections board decided to hold a re-election after finding that candidate Jessica Thompson, the top vote-getter in the election, illegally solicited votes by handing out candy.

Congress Rep. Tyler Younts, McLamb's counsel, said the board's decision to hold a re-election in light of a campaign violation conflicts with its decision not to do so in the South Campus election.

"In district three you had very close votes,"

Younts said, pointing out that the margins of votes in the two elections were comparable.

"A person used (Facebook.com) to campaign for her election, and she was fined \$2," he said. "The reason I bring this up is Facebook is open to thousands of people in this University. ... If district six could have been affected by candy distribution, then district three could have been affected by Facebook."

He said the discrepancy between the decisions showed that the board hadn't acted fairly.

Student Attorney General Candace Debnam was the elections board's counsel in both cases.

"This isn't about what happened in the other districts," she countered. "This is about what happened in district six."

Debnam said the situation was different for

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Supreme Court cases

McLamb v. Board of Elections: Junior Stephanie McLamb ran for one of two Student Congress seats in the off-campus district six. She finished with the second-highest vote total in the Oct. 17 election, but a campaign violation by top vote-getter Jessica Thompson caused the Board of Elections to void the election.

McLamb filed a complaint stating that the elections board should certify her as the winner of one of the two seats.

Verdict: The court upheld the

board's decision, validating its call for a re-election.

Board of Elections v. Student Congress: The board filed a complaint after Congress passed the Facebook Protection Act during its Oct. 10 meeting. The bill overturned the board's ruling to eliminate the use of Facebook.com and other social networking Web sites for student election campaigns.

Verdict: The court will announce its verdict later this week after a more in-depth discussion.

Halloween offers host of safety concerns

Officials nationwide amp up security at street celebrations

BY SAMUEL LAU
STAFF WRITER

Increasing safety at Halloween events can include more than just increasing police presence.

While the town of Chapel Hill prepares for the 50,000 to 70,000 people expected to flock to Franklin Street on Tuesday by enhancing safety measures, other cities across the country have decided to deter potential mischief by changing the celebrations to include family-friendly events.

This year for the first time, the hosts of infamously raunchy celebrations from Wisconsin to Baltimore have planned activities meant specifically to target families.

In response to high costs and occasional violence, the town of Madison, Wis., decided to take control of the annual party on State Street, making it a safer event for residents and University of Wisconsin students.

State Street attendees were charged \$5 this year to attend the festivities, held Saturday night, in order to contribute to the nearly \$600,000 in Madison police costs. The Franklin Street celebration costs Chapel Hill about \$220,000.

The event also featured a food court and musical acts as alternative, nonalcoholic activities for event-goers.

"We are hoping it will help create a little more structure for the event and make it more positive and not such a free-for-all," said George Twigg, communications director for Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz.

The police arrested 143 individuals as of 2 a.m. Sunday, as compared to 334 in 2005, according to a press release from the Madison police department.

Baltimore also introduced more child-friendly events this year to supplement the traditional wild party that occurs at Fell's Point near the city's inner harbor.

The first-ever "Halloween Around the Harbor" offered more than 20 events for families during the weekend.

Elizabeth Vitro, a senior at Loyola College, Md., said she noticed many kids in Halloween costumes during her visits to the harbor this weekend and said she feels like the events are great for Baltimore's image.

"It's really turning Baltimore around," she said, noting the city's historically unsafe reputation. "It's nice to see a clean area for kids to celebrate Halloween without being bothered by the inappropriate things at Fell's Point."

Greenville is taking similar steps to Chapel Hill in dealing with its family-inappropriate celebrations by concentrating on safety.

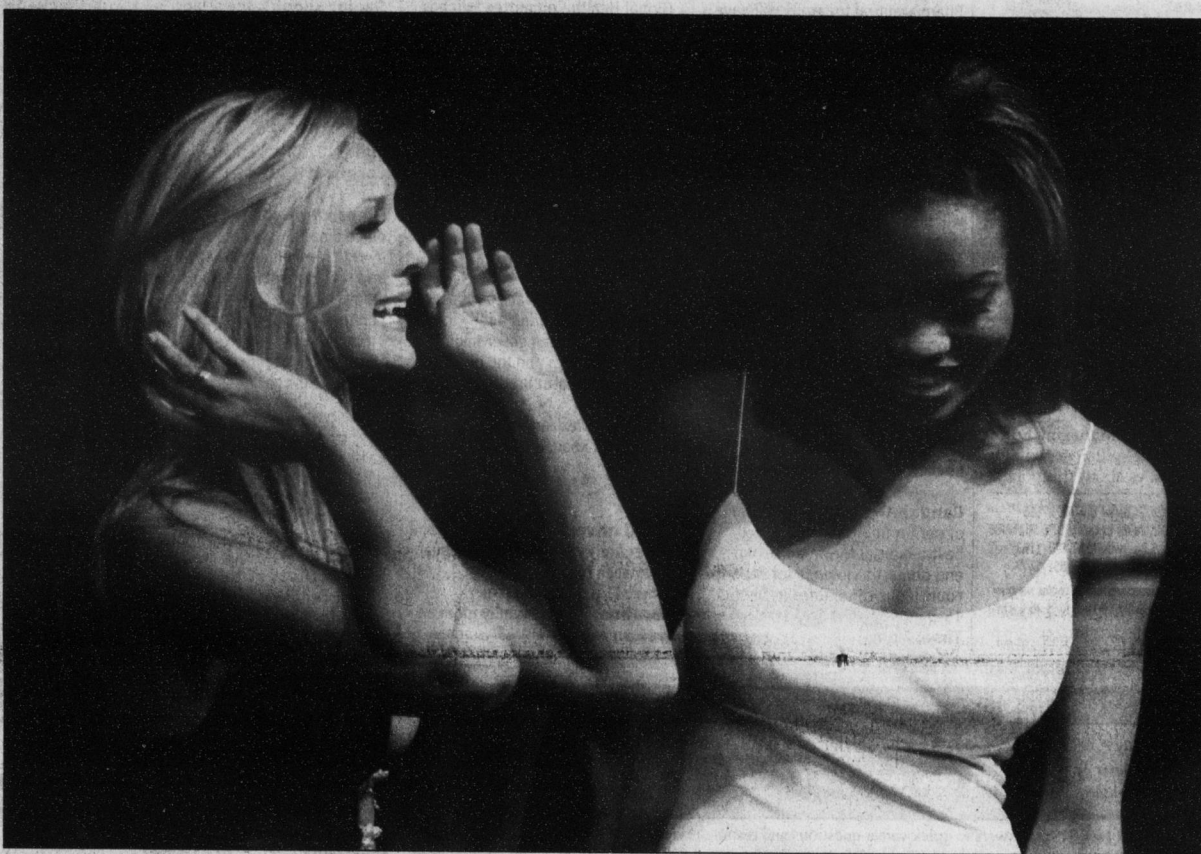
The Halloween party in the town traditionally attracts between six to 12 thousand people a year, and this year about 150 police officers will be working the event, said Greenville Police Captain J.A. Bartlett.

Chapel Hill will have 380 officers downtown this year, 40 more than last year.

Bartlett said Greenville also will close streets down earlier this year and restrict any costume props that could be used as weapons.

The nation's largest Halloween celebration, while still focusing on safety, always has emphasized the

SEE HALLOWEEN, PAGE 5



UNC senior Jessica Floyd, right, bows her head and walks to receive her prize after hearing her name announced as first runner-up at the Miss North Carolina USA pageant as the new winner, N.C. State student Erin O'Kelley celebrates. Floyd was one of four UNC undergraduates to compete in the pageant this year.

THERE SHE ALMOST IS

Senior is runner-up in Miss N.C. USA

BY NICOLE NORFLEET
STAFF WRITER

HIGH POINT — Wearing a white custom-designed evening gown and a wide smile, UNC senior Jessica Floyd held her opponent's hand and waited for the judges' choice.

"No. 25, Jessica Floyd," the master of ceremonies yelled.

He called her name first, making her runner-up in the pageant and the woman beside her — N.C. State student

Erin O'Kelley — the new Miss North Carolina USA. O'Kelley screamed as a crown was placed on her head.

More than 80 women competed in the Miss North Carolina USA pageant in High Point on Friday and Saturday. Several of them were from UNC.

"I'm happy and disappointed," Floyd said backstage after her second-place finish. "I did come here to win."

Three other UNC undergraduates competed: senior Reba Nunley, sophomore Ashley Gwyn and freshman Ashley Beach, who was voted Miss Photogenic.

On Saturday, High Point Theatre was packed to capacity. The stage was deco-

rated in an Asian theme with Chinese lanterns, colorful umbrellas and a gong. Supporters screamed and rang bells for their favorite contestants.

"I just show up and do all the yelling and stuff," said Sylena Floyd, 20, who sat in the theater with a picture of her cousin, Jessica, pinned to her shirt.

Floyd's mother, a group of cousins and several high school classmates were in the audience to lend support.

"I am so incredibly proud of her," said the senior's mother, Pearl Burris-Floyd. "She is the best gift that God could have given any mother."

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Floyd's mother, Pearl, shows off the ribbon she and other friends and family members wore to support Jessica.



MONDAY SPOTLIGHT

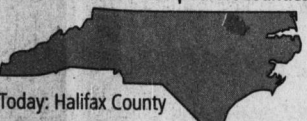
Halifax sits atop list of N.C.'s poorest counties

Editor's note: The Daily Tar Heel traveled to North Carolina's five poorest counties to gauge the University's mission to provide service to the state.

BY JOE COLLEVECCHIO
STAFF WRITER

HALIFAX — Driving through Halifax County, North Carolina's agricultural roots slowly overwhelm the trees as a patchwork of farmhouses and fields

North Carolina's five poorest counties



Today: Halifax County

shave the land. Rows of green crops and cotton, white with new boles, crosshatch the thick, black soil.

The town of Halifax grows from this land, a whisper from I-95 halfway between Florida and New York. It is home to the Halifax Resolves, the first document endorsed by any American

colony calling for independence from Britain.

The historical society there maintains the home of William R. Davie, a governor of North Carolina and one of the fathers of the University.

And, according to data from the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau, Halifax is the poorest county in the state. Almost a quarter of the population lives below the poverty line, and more than 8 percent of its residents are unemployed.

County leaders are working to better those numbers, but they say they need

SEE HALIFAX, PAGE 5

County rich with need

Halifax County

- Total population: 57,370
 - White population: 42.6 percent
 - Black population: 52.6 percent
 - Hispanic population: 1.0 percent
 - Families below the poverty level: 19.4 percent
 - Individuals below the poverty level: 23.9 percent
 - Unemployed percent of civilian labor force: 8.1 percent
- SOURCE: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau data

CORRECTION

Due to an editing error, the Friday front-page headline, "Former provost at home at ASU" incorrectly states that Robert Shelton is president of ASU. He actually is president of the University of Arizona. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

online | dailytarheel.com

COOKIE MONSTER A Southern Season features 500-pound pumpkin cookie

BE AWARE Advocates for Human Rights to host week to bring attention to cause

DATING BLOG How to politely decline the guy who won't take no for an answer

campus | page 4

STUDYING STUDYING Student government leaders study ways to expand and better place reading days during exam periods to help students ace that final.

arts | page 7

WORKING IN CONCERT Students collect music from the University and community as part of a project that will culminate in the production of a compilation CD.

this day in history

OCT. 30, 2003 ...
Two of four students charged with disorderly conduct at a February men's basketball game are found guilty for running onto the floor waving anti-Iraq war banners.

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