

The Daily Tar Heel

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THE DAILY NEWSCAST



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U.N. report slams statute

Law bans collective bargaining in N.C.

BY TEMA LARTER
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — Holding signs reading "workers' rights are humans' rights," a group of about 20 activists gathered Tuesday on the steps of the N.C. Legislative Building to publicize the United Nations' condemnation of a controversial state law.

The 1959 legislation G.S. 95-98 prohibits collective bargaining for state workers, including UNC's many housekeepers, groundskeepers and cafeteria workers.

The U.N.'s International Labour Organization's report, delivered in response to grievances brought by N.C. union organizations, condemned the law based on prevailing international labor standards.

The suit was brought by the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) and the UE Local 150, also known as the N.C. Public Service Union.

North Carolina is one of only two states that ban collective bargaining. The other is Virginia.

"We were spurred into action by a legacy of injustice, starting with injustice against housekeepers and groundskeepers at UNC," said Bob Kingsley, UE director of organization. "We are here today to announce that the world is now watching."

Activists, including the UE Local 150, the state National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the N.C. AFL-CIO, said they hope the report will push lawmakers to introduce and pass counter-legislation in the near future.

But Sen. Phil Berger, R-Guilford, said he doesn't think a bill to overturn the legislation would garner much support in the public sector, especially for public safety workers.

"I don't think that the right to strike and the right to collectively bargain, which I support in private industry, is consistent with the obligation the government has to provide services for its citizens."

Berger said the 4.5 percent unemployment rate in North Carolina is tantamount to full employment, giving workers a range of choices.

"If someone is working for the government and they are dissatisfied, find another job," he said.

Tom Harris, chief of staff of the

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What is collective bargaining?

Collective bargaining is the process by which unions and employers negotiate the terms and conditions of workers' employment, including wages, benefits and working conditions. The N.C. law in question — General Statute 95-98 — prohibits collective bargaining, not unions. However, unions are virtually powerless without the ability to collectively bargain with employers.

2007 STUDENT GOVERNMENT INAUGURATION

PASSING OF THE TORCH

NEXT CROP OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT LEADERS ASSUMES POSITIONS



DTH PHOTOS/TRACI WHITE

Incoming Student Body President Eve Carson thanks the audience at the 2007 Student Government Inauguration on Tuesday night after giving her first speech in office. "What an amazing year this will be," she said about her term at the helm. Carson, who takes over from former President James Allred, received a standing ovation.

BY GREG MARGOLIS
STAFF WRITER

After one outgoing officer cried and at least two of the new ones flubbed their oaths, next year's student government leaders officially took their posts Tuesday.

The 14 executive and judicial officers and the 37 members of the 89th Student Congress were sworn into office by Matt Liles, chief justice of the Student Supreme Court.

The evening culminated with the inauguration of Eve Carson, who assumed the office of student body president from James Allred to a standing ovation from all officers on stage.

"I've loved UNC since my first week here," Carson said to an audience of about 50 students and family members. "This year will be a year of growth and inclusion."

The night was filled with many thank yous and congratulations. Outgoing leaders touted the experience and dedication of the incoming officers, who in turn praised their predecessors.

The outgoing officers gave brief speeches to sum up their terms and introduced those

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Senior Class President Meg Petersen tears up during her speech, while thanking her vice president, Eric Schmidt.



Visit our Web site for a video report from Tuesday's inauguration.

CARSON EAGER TO BEGIN WORK ON PROMISES

BY SERGIO TOVAR
STAFF WRITER

Since Student Body President Eve Carson was elected in February, her schedule has been full.

She started shadowing former Student Body President James Allred two days after her victory and has attended numerous meetings and student government functions in the meantime.

"He's a busy guy," said Carson, who took office Tuesday. "So I've been a busy girl."

But now it's time for Carson to take control of student government's top post and stand on her own.

"Everyone learns so much, and she's no exception," Allred said. "I think she's going to be ready to take over."

Carson said she's nervous and excited to assume the post.

She said one of her first orders of business is to break down her platform into sections so that her administration knows what they need to implement immediately, what they want to accomplish this summer and

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changing of the guard
A closer look at the SBP transition

ANALYSIS

GOP break with Bush follows national shift

BY STEPHEN LARGEN
STAFF WRITER

At first glance, U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., and U.S. Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C., hardly seem like the most likely politicians to oppose President Bush's Iraq War policies.

For one thing, both are conservative Republicans who usually vote in harmony with President Bush's social policies. The pair also have strong military ties.

Jones represents the coastal third district, which is home to Marine Corps installations Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point. As a result, his district has been one of the most



U.S. Rep. Walter Jones represents a military district and has come out strongly against the war.

hard-hit by the war in Iraq.

Hagel was a decorated infantryman during the Vietnam War.

But sure enough, Hagel and Jones have become the most outspoken Republicans against Bush's war stances.

In summer 2005 Jones and

Hagel first began to question openly the administration's tactics, rhetoric and execution of the war. Both since have become more vociferous in their criticism.

Hagel went so far as to broach the "I" word in a March interview with Esquire magazine, saying "Before this is over, you might see calls for his impeachment."

While Jones has received less attention than Hagel in the national media, his behind-the-scenes work has had a similar impact on the House.

In January, he co-sponsored a resolution to require congressional

approval before using force in Iran. In February, he voted with 10 other House Republicans for a resolution opposing the surge of more than 20,000 additional troops to Iraq.

Jones was an early supporter of the war, and a sponsor of the now infamous "freedom fries" campaign, a decision he now rues.

"I have been involved in the justification to get us into Iraq," he said. "I regret my vote."

Jones said he has sent hand-signed letters to the family of every U.S. soldier killed in Iraq.

Over the last two years, Jones and Hagel have developed a rela-

tionship and respect for each other's war opposition. Both now favor a troop redeployment.

"I don't think the president has a plan for victory," Jones said. "If you say that the definition of victory is the end of people fighting, we could be there for 25 years," he added, calling the situation a "civil war."

"If they're not willing to fight for their country, why should we continue to spend blood and money?"

Although he criticizes the administration's handling of the war, Jones said he will not consider

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CHOOSING A TEAM The Carolina Hispanic Association is set for elections

NOT A GAME Speaker says people treat the abortion debate like a sporting event

MOVE YOUR FEET Misconceptions dance group holds a performance



campus | page 6

DIVIDING WALL

A wall is constructed outside of Davis Library, on which students can write stereotypes. The display aims to raise awareness about the effect of such words.

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SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Senior Christine Robella will lead the UNC gymnastics team during regional competition as it attempts to reach NCAA Nationals for the first time.

this day in history

APRIL 4, 1967 ...

A freshman is named UNC's representative to the National Student Committee for Victory in Vietnam, dedicated to unlimited bombing of North Vietnam.

weather

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