

YOU SPIN ME RIGHT ROUND



DTHELYSSA SHARP

Peyton Gadbery, 7, of Mebane, watches as one of her coins spins toward the "black hole" in the gravity well in the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center's gift shop Monday. Gadbery came to the planetarium with her mother Laura and two older sisters to see the show "Magic Tree House Space Mission," which is based on a best-selling series of educational children's books by author Mary Pope Osborne, who narrates the beginning of the show.

National and World News

FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Christopher Dodd endorses Obama

CLEVELAND (AP) — Sen. Christopher Dodd endorsed one-time presidential rival Barack Obama on Tuesday and said it is time for Democrats to join forces to defeat the Republicans in the fall campaign.

"I don't want a campaign that is divisive here, and there's a danger in that," Dodd said, although he denied he was nudging Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton to end her candidacy.

Dodd is the first of the Democratic campaign dropouts to endorse another candidate.

McCain disavows talk show chatter

CINCINNATI (AP) — Republican John McCain quickly denounced the comments of a radio talk show host who while warming up a campaign crowd referred repeatedly to Barack Hussein Obama and called the Democratic presidential candidate a "hack, Chicago-style" politician.

Hussein is Obama's middle name, but talk show host Bill Cunningham used it three times as he addressed the crowd before the likely Republican nominee's appearance.

Senate Republicans agree to debate bill that would cut off war funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — In an about-face, Senate Republicans on Tuesday agreed with Democrats to advance an anti-war bill because they said the debate would give them time to hail progress in Iraq.

The change of heart came after months of blocking similar measures. But unlike most of last year, security conditions in Iraq have improved, and Republicans say they now feel they have the upper hand on the debate.

"We welcome a discussion about Iraq," Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell declared.

The measure, by Democratic Sens. Russ Feingold of Wisconsin and Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, would cut off money for combat after 120 days. It had been expected to fall short of the 60 votes needed to overcome a procedural hurdle.

But after Republicans agreed in a private meeting that the debate could help make their case, the Senate voted 70-24 to begin debating it in earnest.

Aides said a final vote could come later this week. The White House said the president would veto such a measure.

Drug-resistant TB is spreading

LONDON (AP) — Drug-resistant tuberculosis is spreading even faster than medical experts had feared, the World Health Organization warned in report issued Tuesday.

The rate of TB patients infected with the drug-resistant strain topped 20 percent in some countries, the highest ever recorded, the U.N. agency said.

Though the report is the largest survey of drug-resistant TB, based on information collected between 2002 and 2006, there are still major gaps: Data were only available from about half of the world's countries.

Blackouts in Fla. affect 3 million

MIAMI (AP) — Florida's largest utility says equipment failure and a fire at a Miami substation led to power outages that affected up to 3 million people.

Florida Power & Light is still determining what caused the failure and fire. The company says such equipment failure should not have caused the widespread blackouts. The problem caused a nuclear plant south of Miami to automatically shut down.

Company officials say just about 20,000 people remained without power by 5:30 p.m., mostly due to outages caused by storms.

FAFSA

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pay for college is not simple," said Steve Brooks, executive director of the N.C. State Education Assistance Authority, which helps manage college loans for N.C. students.

"It's difficult to come up with a simple plan that is also fair. It's that trade-off between simplicity and fairness," Brooks said.

The UNC system recently created a commission to simplify the financial aid process through steps such as having the Internal Revenue Service contribute its data so that students and parents wouldn't have to answer the same tax questions twice.

"That would make it simpler on the family and make it more fair when making a calculation," Brooks said.

But he said relying on the IRS

for much of the data could cause extenuating circumstances, such as unemployment, to be forgotten if precautions aren't taken.

And relying on the IRS could necessitate that less recent tax information be used, making it less reflective of a student's actual needs, he said.

Obama and Clinton have both proposed eliminating the FAFSA form entirely. Instead they would add a space on annual tax forms where filers can authorize the use of their information to determine financial aid eligibility.

Both candidates also plan to make financial aid award amounts available earlier so that parents and students have more time to consider their financial options.

Legislation with similar ideas has been on the floor in Congress. The College Opportunity and

Affordability Act, which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on Feb. 7, has a provision for streamlining the FAFSA form.

It calls for reducing the number of questions on the form, allowing applicants to only enter information that needs updating and working with the IRS to fill out some sections of the FAFSA form automatically.

The bill is currently up for debate in the U.S. Senate.

"With the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act up in the air in Congress, we're already on a path to making a lot of the changes that they're both talking about," Thompson said.

"The reality is that it's going to be Congress that's going to pass the legislation."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

PLATFORM

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to support this activity for the longer term."

And although the platform originally called for a \$2 million endowment to fund the series, that hasn't been created. Instead, the first speaker probably will be funded with a combination of money from the Division of Student Affairs and student fees, with a possible endowment later, Jablonski said.

While collaboration was key for some projects, some of Carson's other successes will be all her ideas.

The Carson administration created a scholarship intended to reward a junior who has excelled during the first two years at UNC. The first scholarship will be awarded for 2008-09, Carson said, adding that an official call for applications will come in the next couple of weeks.

But some platform points, such as the addition of a Yogurt Pump in the Student Union, haven't had the same success.

Although "YoPo in the Union" flashed across many of Carson's campaign A-frames, YoPo is a no-go this year, as Union renovations have still not been decided.

Don Luse, Carolina Union director, said that he and Carson discussed her plan before she took office but that the renovations are still at least three years away.

Since the Yogurt Pump addition wasn't immediately possible, Carson encouraged students to give their opinions in forums hosted by the Student Union.

"We're providing feedback at the

meetings and also sort of following up on that feedback to push and make sure something happens," said Christie Cunningham, senior adviser for the Carson administration.

Although some students applaud Carson's method of reaching out to others to get things done, there is concern that too many people involved makes for an ineffective system.

"She's reaching out to people, and that's a good thing in terms of getting people involved, but I know that in leadership experience that can lead to inefficiencies," said Gia Branciforte, a senior who voted for Carson last year.

Now, with about a month left in her term, Carson said that her decision to integrate other groups proved successful and that she is pleased with the progress her administration has made this year.

"My platform, coming into this, was not a check-off sort of platform," Carson said. "It was a very building, big ideas-oriented platform, so I knew that it was going to be important for me to think long-term. ... We're trying to do things which make the University a better place in the long run."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

BASEBALL

FROM PAGE 1

of Tar Heel miscues — a theme in North Carolina's home opener — including a passed ball on a strike-out that would have ended the game by third baseman-turned-catcher Chad Flack. That play loaded the bases and allowed the inning to continue.

Then ODU first baseman Bryan Cipolla — whose ninth-inning solo home run gave Old Dominion its only earned run of the game — stepped up to the plate and knocked the ball deep to left field.

It appeared UNC left fielder Kendrick Burney would make it to the ball and end the inning, but on a rain-slicked turf, Burney's cleats failed him.

As he slipped on the grass, the ball dropped about a foot in fair territory and plated three ODU runners.

Those unearned runs proved to be the difference maker for the

Monarchs on the evening. The Tar Heels would get the tying run in scoring position in the bottom of the 10th, but a Seth Williams strikeout ended the rally.

With another game Thursday, there's no time for UNC to worry about the loss.

"This game is going to be out of our minds by tonight," junior Tim Federowicz said.

Starting Tar Heel pitcher, freshman Matt Harvey, had a solid performance in his first collegiate start, pitching 4.2 innings without allowing a run. He allowed three hits and two walks and struck out an impressive eight Old Dominion batters.

But errors cost UNC in the end. "Thank goodness it's just the fourth game of the year," Fox said.

"If they're all like this, I'll be dead by the end of the season."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

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Applications can be picked up at the Granville Towers South Desk at any time. All applications must be turned in at the mandatory SCA interest meeting on March 26th, at 9:00 PM, in the South Tower Basement Study Lounge.

Any questions can be directed to Kyle Stalls, Summer Conference Director, at kstalls@granvilletowers.com.

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SPANKY'S
578
Squibs

All completed forms must be submitted by Monday, March 3, 2008 at 5:00pm. One entry per person.

One winner will be chosen in a random drawing and announced in our special Carolina's Finest Award issue Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

Any DTH reader is eligible to win.