

Young Democrats hold pride week

Themed events focus on key issues

BY CHRISTIAN WISSEH
STAFF WRITER

They're loud. They're proud. And they're in the Pit all week.

They are the Young Democrats celebrating Proud to be a Democrat Week with daily events leading up to the Young Democrats of North Carolina's 80th Anniversary on Saturday.

The group's statewide anniversary will be held at the Sheraton Imperial hotel in Durham and will feature speakers James Carville — a political consultant — and former N.C. Sen. John Edwards.

Carville, "the Ragin' Cajun," was Bill Clinton's campaign manager. And this week's features are not just typical lectures — for instance, there will be pie.

"The purpose of these events is to educate people about national issues in a fun way," said Sarah Shah, vice president of Young Democrats.

Today's theme is "Can You Stomach the National Debt?" a demonstration of a hot-button topic with a pie-eating contest.

Participants must eat through copious amounts of whipped cream in pie tins, thereby "eating" through national debt.

"We're trying to show the national debt in a way that can engage students," Shah said.

Today in Gardner Hall, the

Young Democrats and the College Republicans will be debating the big issues facing America this election season.

Organizers said the debate probably will focus on the issues that are addressed throughout the week, including the national debt and global warming.

On Wednesday, "Cool Down the Earth Day," the Young Democrats will be handing out free ice cream, focusing on global warming.

"The ice cream will represent the Earth and the different toppings will represent different solutions to global warming," Shah said.

And students can greet an impersonator of Republican presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain with dodge balls Thursday.

Shah said this event is a "lampoon of McCain's constant dodging and flip-flopping on issues." Each participant will receive an example of this flip-flopping from the group.

U.S. Rep. David Price, D-N.C., also will come to UNC to speak Thursday. Price represents District 4, which includes all of Durham and Orange counties.

And the band The Friday Afternoon Jam will be playing its tunes as the Young Democrats hold a voter registration drive Friday in the Pit.

With all these events in succes-



Freshman Justin Rosenthal encourages students in the Pit to register to vote during Proud to be a Democrat Week on Monday morning.

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SARAH SHAH, UNC YOUNG DEMOCRATS VICE PRESIDENT

sion, the group's leaders are worried about turnout.

"It's difficult to get people to come out and keep them interested every day," said Ben Buck, press director.

"But I believe that the events this week are engaging."

And organizers said they believe that this week is important, not

only for them but for increasing the visibility of the issues.

"It's important that we get the word out on these issues," Shah said. "The primaries are soon, and North Carolina will be a key state."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Groups question UNC's defense department ties

BY AMY EAGLEBURGER
SENIOR WRITER

The newly formed UNC Coalition Against the War and Students for a Democratic Society have launched an investigation into UNC's ties with the Department of Defense.

Clint Johnson, a junior political science major and a member of both groups, said the funding makes the UNC community complicit with the bloodshed in Iraq.

"It should make us angry, and it should move us to do something," he said, adding that the coalition plans to research such links and to mobilize in the fall.

In 2007 UNC received \$995,857 in sponsored research funding from the Department of Defense and less than \$10 million from other defense-related government organizations — total sponsored research funds came to more than \$610 million.

UNC is also participating in a Homeland Security-sponsored center on crisis recovery that will receive \$2.5 million annually for six years.

While those projects do bear the funding stamp of defense organizations, they are not war-making, and instead have broader applications, said Jan Prins, chairman of UNC's Department of Computer Science.

"It's just one of several venues for federal research, and I don't think anyone would equate it with supporting the war effort."

The Department of Computer Science currently has funding for projects including 3-D imaging for excavations and the development of

chip multiprocessors.

The organization receiving the most ire of the antiwar coalition is the Institute for Defense & Business. The 10-year-old nonprofit institute is a joint venture between the state and the University and is affiliated with the Kenan-Flagler Business School.

"What we do is independent of the war effort," said Mark Cramer, president of the IDB. "We're assisting the U.S. government to be more efficient and assisting them in being better stewards of the public dollar."

Their work includes partnering with Army depot managers to help administer centers that maintain trucks, tanks and other machinery.

In addition, IDB is involved in economic reconstruction. A significant portion of its work is in Iraq and Afghanistan, but it also works on disaster relief in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand.

Kenan-Flagler professors often teach IDB's executive courses, funded by the Department of Defense. IDB offers an MBA through UNC and Indiana University.

The coalition wants UNC to cut ties with the Pentagon and private companies involved in rebuilding, such as Boeing, which sponsored \$85,000 in UNC research in 2007.

"UNC should say that they will not do business with the Pentagon and with war profiteers," Johnson said.

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

Proud to be a Democrat Week

TUESDAY:

> "Can You Stomach the National Debt?"

Eat through the national debt in whipped cream and learn about Democratic and Republican fiscal policies and how they have affected the economy recently. Join Young Democrats for speeches, music and dancing as they present the Democratic platform.

> Debate '08

The year's first debate between UNC Young Democrats and College Republicans will address big issues facing the nation.

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: Gardner 105

WEDNESDAY:

> "Cool Down the Earth Day"

Ice cream sundaes will come with a topping of tips on how to reduce your carbon footprint.

THURSDAY:

> "McCain Dodgeball"

Learn more about the presumptive GOP nominee and his stance on election issues.

> Congressman David Price

The Carolina Israel public affairs committee, along with YD and the Roosevelt Institute, will host U.S. Rep. David Price, D-Orange, who will share his experiences from a recent trip to the Middle East.

Time: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Union 3206

FRIDAY:

> "Rock the Vote!"

Register to vote in the Pit.

Make Your Programming Dreams Happen!

Information & Applications available now at the Union Resource Hub

CAROLINA UNION ACTIVITIES BOARD

2008-2009

For more information, email Tom Allin

thomas.allin@gmail.com • www.unc.edu/cuab

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