

DIXIE ROCK 19



DTH/SYDNEY HESS

Nadia Pinkston races to the top on Saturday at the Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation climbing wall. Pinkston took first place in the Dixie Rock 19 climbing competition's women's recreational class, which is open to climbers new to competing in the sport.

ELECTIONS

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in first in the most recent election. He did not raise any outside money and loaned his campaign only \$500.

In the past, candidates who relied on their personal money to fund their campaigns generally lost the race, Kleinschmidt said.

That changed in 2007 with newcomer Matt Czajkowski, who spent more than \$20,000 on his campaign for Town Council. More than \$17,000 of that money came from his pocket.

"Last election was the first time anybody won where they gave themselves a lot of money," Kleinschmidt said. "The community is concerned about the effect of expensive campaigns and how that might limit the accessibility of the process."

The VOE program aims to address recent concerns that running for local office could become prohibitively expensive and that elected officials could become more responsive to the people financing their campaign than the residents they are supposed to represent.

Compliance with the program is voluntary, and there are no spending limits for those who don't accept public funds. But their participating opponents are eligible for extra funds if the nonparticipants' spending exceeds the program's spending thresholds.

"It creates an incentive for non-

"Last election was the first time anybody won where they gave themselves a lot of money."

MARK KLEINSCHMIDT, TOWN COUNCIL

participating candidates to hold down their spending and gives comfort to participating candidates to go into the program," Strom said.

With the rescue money, the gap could be closed, or at least lessened, making the nonparticipant's extra spending less effective, Strom said.

North Carolina has already implemented public financing for some judicial elections and for selected Council of State offices. Chapel Hill received permission to experiment with its own program in July.

The 2009 and 2011 elections will serve as trial runs of the VOE program on which the N.C. General Assembly will base its final approval in 2011.

"We don't want to become like some communities where you don't have a chance at winning a council seat without spending a fortune," Kleinschmidt said.

"What a person in Chapel Hill wants is to stop it before it starts."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

SUITS

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lection of more than 100 suits to anyone. Wright's grandchildren, who now are in their 40s and 50s, inherited his possessions.

"They couldn't fit into his suits, so they got the ties, hats and shoes they wanted," Dickerson said.

The tone at the suit sale was relatively somber, as if this were the final goodbye to the small-town fashion icon.

Caitlin Dareff, who purchased an orange suit Saturday, said she wanted to have a memory of the stylish man she came to idolize growing up in Chapel Hill.

"I always really admired him, smiling and tipping his hat," she said. "You really feel that his fashion was fabulous."

Dareff was so inspired by Wright's style and persona that she wrote a poem about him for a school project.

"He knew fashion," Dickerson said. "I'd be dressed to go somewhere, and he'd say, 'I'm going to get you black pumps and a black purse to go with

"I always really admired him. ... You really feel that his fashion was fabulous."

CAITLIN DAREFF, PURCHASED A SUIT

that.' He'd hand me \$100 and say, 'Get you an outfit with this.'"

The size 38 and 40 suits — each with a shirt and pocket handkerchief — run for \$100. A matching hat and shoes, sizes 8 to 10, cost \$25 more.

"His way of thinking was that wherever you go, be dressed up," Dickerson said. "His sense of purpose was very admirable."

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

DOT

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David Mills, executive director of the Common Sense Foundation, a progressive N.C. think tank, is among those who say that has mired the selection process in politics.

"Too many of the appointments are made with politics in mind, rather than transportation expertise," he said.

Mills added that the problem isn't new.

"I think every governor has been guilty, to a greater or lesser extent, of appointing friends to various boards," he said. "That system of spoils is bad for the state."

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

N.C. gubernatorial candidates comment on transportation

Richard Moore: "First of all, we want to make the DOT less political, and they have their own consultant report that said the place needed to be more transparent."

> www.richardmoore.org/issues/issueArticles/financial_management.html#transportation

Beverly Perdue: "Decentralize it, make it highly accountable but then turn people loose to have some kind of flexibility."

> bevperdue.com/release_details.asp?id=1007

Bob Orr: "The first thing I would do is a complete restructuring, reorganization of the management principles."

> www.orr2008.com/Issues/Transportation/transportation.html

Pat McCrory: "You need to plan for the next 50 years, not for the next election."

> www.patmccrory.com/transport.htm

Fred Smith: "We need to take our formula, which we now have for distributing transportation funds, we need to revisit that."

> 2008.joinfred.com/web/content/issues/roads-and-the-environment/

Bill Graham: "You've got to build the roads where the cars are."

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COURTESY OF BRAD REAGAN

Brad Reagan's "Octopus" is made of metal, expanding foam, sculpy, wood knobs, wire, googly eyes, acrylic, shellac, foam and cellulosa.

ACKLAND

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Just steps from Forer's photography are Brad Reagan's flower sculptures, Natalia Vega-Forer's and Ellie Pierson's installation pieces and Lori Esposito's paintings. The collection is truly an eclectic mix.

Brown said the exhibition is viewed as one of the last steps in the students' university education, as it is the first museum showing for many of the MFA candidates.

"It's cool for us to give these artists a chance to have, in some cases, their first exhibition in a real museum," Brown said. "It's also another learning opportunity, as they now get to see how an installation happens and how to work with the museum staff."

"But most importantly these exhibitions are always good."

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

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