

National and World News

FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

N.C. lawmakers call for a debate

RALEIGH (AP) — North Carolina's top two lawmakers added their voices Wednesday to the calls for Barack Obama to debate Hillary Clinton later this month in Raleigh.

House Speaker Joe Hackney and Senate leader Marc Basnight wrote Obama on Wednesday, a day after Gov. Mike Easley also urged the Illinois senator to agree to the proposed debate.

Clinton has accepted an invitation from the state Democratic Party to participate in an April 27 debate, to air on CBS.

Clinton says GOP will lose in the fall

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Hillary Clinton said emphatically Wednesday night that Barack Obama can win the White House this fall, undercutting her efforts to deny him the Democratic presidential nomination by suggesting he would lead the party to defeat.

"Yes, yes, yes," she said when pressed about Obama's electability during a Pennsylvania debate.

Asked a similar question about Clinton, Obama said, "Absolutely and I've said so before."

Texas Mormons and lawyers descend on courtroom, create epic spectacle

AN ANGELO, Texas (AP) — A court hearing to decide the fate of the 416 children swept up in a raid on a West Texas polygamist sect descended into farce Thursday, with hundreds of lawyers in two packed buildings shouting objections and the judge struggling to maintain order.

The case — clearly one of the biggest, most convoluted child-custody hearings in U.S. history — presented an extraordinary spectacle: big-city lawyers in suits and mothers in 19th-century, pioneer-style dresses, all packed into a courtroom and a nearby auditorium connected by video.

At issue was an attempt by the state of Texas to strip the parents of custody and place the children in foster homes. As many feared, the proceedings turned into something of a circus — and a painfully slow one.

By midafternoon only two witnesses had testified. One witness, a state trooper, was cross-examined by dozens of attorneys, each of them asking the same question on behalf of a child or parent.

As the afternoon dragged on, no decisions had been made on the fate of any of the youngsters.

16 die in Taliban suicide bombing

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A suicide attack in front of a mosque in southwestern Afghanistan killed 16 people and wounded more than 30 others on Thursday, a provincial governor said.

The attack took place as men were getting ready for the evening prayer at the central mosque in Zaranj, the capital of Nimroz province, Gov. Ghulam Dastagir Azad said. Azad said there might have been more than one bomber.

Suicide attacks in Afghanistan spiked last year, with the Taliban launching more than 140.

Carter continues Hamas outreach

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Jimmy Carter held another meeting with officials from the Islamic militant group Hamas on Thursday, arguing it is necessary to talk to all parties to achieve peace between the Palestinians and Israel.

The former U.S. president said he urged Hamas leaders from the Gaza Strip to stop militants from firing rockets into southern Israel. The Cairo meeting came a day after Carter talked with Hamas officials in the West Bank, further angering Israelis when he embraced one of them.

SIT-IN

FROM PAGE 3

embrace the DSP.

Following a 1999 sit-in for workers' rights, UNC created anti-sweatshop policies, but Mirza said these codes haven't been enforced.

In 2005 an international nonprofit created the DSP to enforce those labor codes of conduct, Mirza said. Since then, more than 40 other universities have accepted the policy.

But in an August 2007 letter, Moeser wrote that too many questions remained about the program's effectiveness to adopt it.

Student Action with Workers set an April 16 deadline for UNC to sign on with DSP or face more protests.

Members of SAW met Wednesday afternoon with Moeser, a conversation he said went "very well."

Some student activists said they disagreed.

"We're tired of empty conversations that yield little more than promises of more conversations," said sophomore Haley Koch, a sit-in participant.

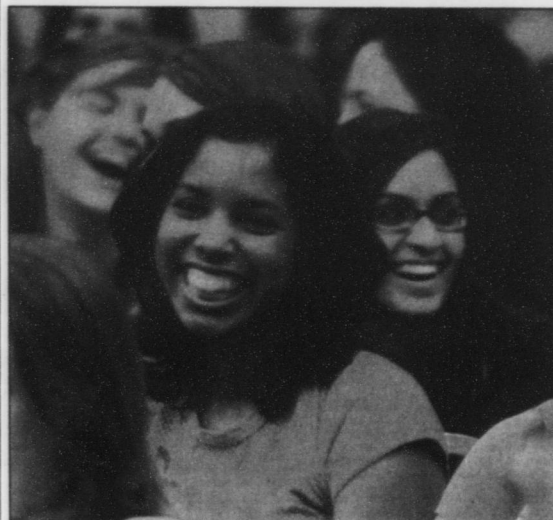
Similar protests this week at Appalachian State University, Pennsylvania State University and the University of Montana resulted in the arrest of a total of 46 students.

Despite his continued refusal of the program, Moeser said Thursday that he supported the students' right to protest.

"Those students are probably not going to be arrested," Moeser said. "We respect that culture. It's part of our tradition of free speech."

University Editor Whitney Kisling contributed reporting. Contact the University Editor at tdesk@unc.edu.

ORGASMIC



DTHCASSIE BUTLER

Sophomore Brigitte Acosta laughs in response to the Female Orgasm full-house event given by Marshall Miller and Dorian Solot on Thursday. "It was witty and insightful — everyone should go to one of these," Acosta said. Visit University news at dailytarheel.com for the full story.

JONES

FROM PAGE 3

from a desire to help those who don't have a political voice.

"Sometimes your lifestyle can't allow you to be politically active," she said.

For Jones, being active in the community sometimes requires alternative tactics, such as sending her husband to county commissioner meetings when she can't make them.

"I gave him a list of what to ask," she said and laughed.

She said the effects of development present specific issues that must be dealt with by all residents, not just those in government.

"The more I got involved, the more I began to see things. I saw the issues get bigger."

NELOA JONES, COMMISSIONER HOPEFUL

Jones said that the campaign is just a part of her advocacy and that she's here to stay.

"I can't imagine being anywhere else, landfill or no," she said. "I've come home now. Where else would I live?"

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

PELISSIER

FROM PAGE 3

When explaining how she would implement sustainability, she gave the example of a three-legged stool with legs of energy, environment and ecology.

"You can't work on the three legs separately," she said.

Pelissier intends to achieve this through the board of county commissioners by creating a sustainability coordinator position. The coordinator would act as a liaison between different planning commissions.

"You can better meet the needs of one group when you meet the needs of another group as well," she said.

"People just want crime taken care of. We should take a step back and ask what causes crime."

BERNADETTE PELISSIER, HOPEFUL

But Pelissier said that local government can only do so much in finding solutions and that the government must help the people do things for themselves.

"In the end it really will take all of us."

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