

The Daily Tar Heel

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2008

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DIM LIGHTS

McCorkle Place lamps give off less light because of concern about their effect on plants and to preserve atmosphere, students learn on lighting tour.

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WOMEN'S TENNIS

A win Monday by doubles team Sophie Grabinski and Sanaz Marand meant the first regional doubles title in the history of the UNC program.



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SOCIAL JUSTICE

Spoken-word artists performed Tuesday at an event sponsored by the criminal justice action and awareness committee.

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ON THE ISSUES

See where the candidates for N.C. governor stand on the issues of the economy.

seeking your views

The Daily Tar Heel will run reader-submitted endorsements of candidates on Election Day. Write to dthedit@gmail.com, word limit 100.



ELECTION COUNTDOWN

4

days left of early and one-stop voting. For Orange County locations and times visit co.orange.nc.us/elect/onestop.asp#locations.

ELECTION DAY: NOV. 4

Today's weather

Mostly sunny
H 56, L 37

Thursday's weather

Partly cloudy
H 55, L 36

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Woman dies after being struck

Second fatality caused by a Chapel Hill bus

BY KRISTEN CRESANTE AND EVAN ROSE
ASSISTANT CITY EDITORS

Despite local efforts to ensure pedestrian safety, the second person in six months lost her life in a Monday collision with a Chapel Hill Transit bus.

Valerie Hughes, 33, was a radiology imaging specialist for UNC Health Care since November 2007.

"She had excellent rapport with her patients and acted as a role model for new staff," Michael DeGennaro, director of operation at the radiology department of UNC Hospitals, said in a statement.

"She will be missed by her fellow employees and her patients."

UNC Hospitals made grief counselors available Tuesday to employees who knew Hughes.

Collision in a crosswalk

At about 4 p.m. Monday, an NS-route Chapel Hill Transit bus struck Hughes as it turned left onto South Columbia Street from Mason Farm Road.

Hughes was crossing Columbia in the crosswalk with her head down when the bus turned, said Jonathan Haywood, a student in the UNC School of Medicine who was on the bus.

"Once we started going I looked over and saw her walking into the street," he said.

"The pedestrian was coming from our left, back towards the bus driver's left. I guess he just didn't see her."

Chapel Hill police identified the driver as James Willie Orr on Tuesday.

Several attempts to contact Chapel Hill Transit were unsuccessful.

Police are investigating Monday's incident.

Ian Allen, another passenger and medical student, said the bus was moving at a normal speed. Allen said he got off the bus and tried to help Hughes, who was trapped under a wheel.

"The driver was in a state of shock," he said. "He tried his best to facilitate the efforts of everyone who was trying to help her."

Both Allen and Haywood said Hughes was conscious, breathing and had a pulse immediately after the incident. Hughes died later at UNC Hospitals.

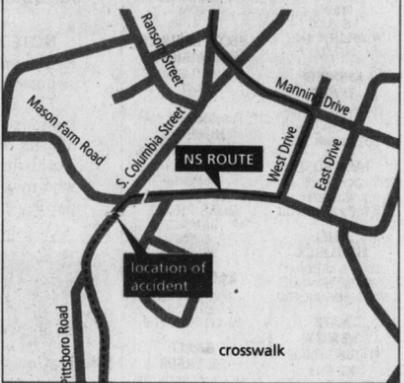
Pedestrian safety efforts

In the wake of several pedestrian fatalities, Chapel Hill and UNC officials have

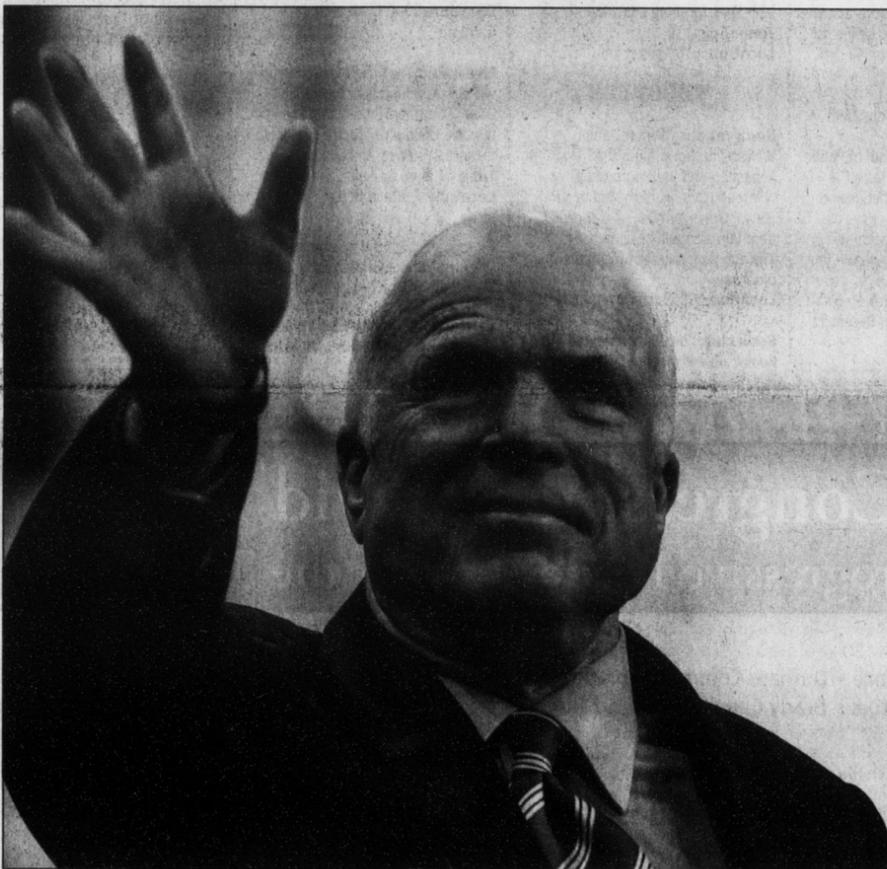
SEE BUS COLLISION, PAGE 8

Bus strikes pedestrian at crossing

A Chapel Hill Transit bus was turning onto South Columbia when it struck and killed a pedestrian at a crosswalk.



N.C. FORCES MCCAIN TO FIGHT



DTH/JESSE DEARING

Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain waves to the crowd of more than 8,000 Tuesday evening at the Crown Center in Fayetteville. The state remains a battleground state less than a week before Election Day.

BY MEGHAN COOKE AND ARIEL ZIRULNICK
STAFF WRITERS

FAYETTEVILLE — The last time a Democrat forced a Republican to fight for North Carolina was in 1992, when newcomer Bill Clinton ran against incumbent George H.W. Bush.

Clinton clinched a nationwide victory, but did not turn North Carolina blue. However, he did bring Bush rushing to defend votes in the tradi-

DTH ONLINE: See video from McCain's campaign stop in Fayetteville on Tuesday.

tionally Republican turf.

By pouring resources into the state, 2008 Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama has forced Republican opponent John McCain to do the same.

McCain's "Straight Talk Express," delayed by a flat tire, made a stop Tuesday evening in Fayetteville in front of more than 8,000 people.

With Election Day a week away, McCain's appearance is a sign he is

fighting to keep a state usually expected to be solidly Republican, said UNC journalism professor Ferrel Guillory.

McCain's speech Tuesday catered to the military community, a voting bloc that is a strong presence because of nearby Ft. Bragg, one of the largest military bases in the Southeast.

They're also voters that he once could take for granted.

"His essential task is to sustain Republican voting in this state the way it has been for the last three decades of presidential elections," Guillory said.

SEE MCCAIN, PAGE 8

Parents told DA they're anti-death penalty

BY EMILY STEPHENSON
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

On the day before classes started in August 2007, Eve Carson explained that she didn't support the death penalty because of flaws in its application.

Carson, moderating a summer-reading discussion with then-Chancellor James Moeser, primarily asked questions of the participants and only once offered her own judgment.

"It doesn't work, in my opinion," Carson, then in the early days of her tenure as UNC's student body president, told about 20 first-year students gathered to discuss Sister Helen Prejean's "The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions."

Little more than a year later, Orange County's prosecutor has said he will seek the death penalty for a man charged in Carson's murder.

A federal grand jury indicted Atwater on Monday. If convicted, federal prosecutors also have the option to seek the death penalty against Atwater.

Orange County District Attorney Jim Woodall said he weighed the Carsons' beliefs — her parents told him they oppose capital punishment and believe their daughter did too — before announcing in August that he plans to seek the death penalty against Demario James Atwater, 22, if he is convicted.

"They've let me know what their feelings are, but I made a decision," Woodall said. "Like any decision, what they told me weighed into the decision, but that's not the only factor in making that decision."

Woodall declined to identify the other factors that influenced his decision, explaining that he considers the details of his many conversations with the Carson family private.

Prosecutors say Atwater and Lawrence Alvin Lovette, 17, who won't face the death penalty because of his age, drove Carson in her car to withdraw money before shooting her several times in a wealthy neighborhood near East Franklin Street.

Carson's death and the resulting debate come after UNC spent months exploring capital punishment.

In addition to choosing Prejean's book as the summer reading for incoming students, the University brought the author to speak on campus.

Carson's friends said an issue that, while divisive,

SEE DEATH PENALTY, PAGE 8

Young donors show support

BY KELLEN MOORE
SENIOR WRITER

The presidential candidates are inspiring students to open their minds — and their wallets.

Students nationwide have given more than \$4.1 million to Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama and more than \$1 million to Republican presidential candidate John McCain.

That ratio favoring Obama also is reflected in donations from N.C. students.

More than 60 students have given \$200 or more to Obama's campaign, accounting for about \$51,800 of his total purse.

Ten have given \$200 or more to McCain, totaling about \$4,900 — less than one-tenth the amount that Obama's student supporters from North Carolina have given.

And those figures don't take into account donations of less

than \$200, which don't have to be reported by the candidates. They also don't include money given to political parties or political action committees that could eventually end up in candidates' hands.

Although student donations are a minute part of the national fundraising totals, cash-strapped college students are still willing to give when the candidates appeal to them.

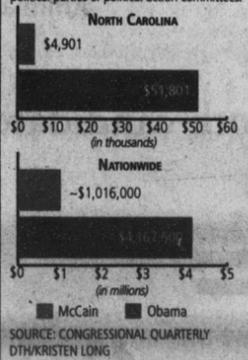
To date, Obama has raised a grand total of more than \$521.8 million. McCain has raised more than \$375.1 million.

Duke University graduate student Christian Kunder is one of those N.C. givers. Inspired by McCain's stance on the war in Iraq and climate change, he gave \$500 to the campaign in January via the Internet.

SEE YOUNG DONORS, PAGE 8

Student Contributions

Students nationwide have given more financial support to presidential candidate Barack Obama's campaign than to John McCain's. The totals do not include contributions of less than \$200 or money given indirectly through political parties or political action committees.



Congress rejects ethics query in display funds

BY HILLARY ROSE OWENS
STAFF WRITER

Student Congress will consider hosting an open forum for students to debate the merit of funding last week's anti-abortion display in Polk Place.

Ryan O'Quinn, vice chairman of Congress' rules and judiciary committee, will present the proposal at next week's full Congress meeting.

He had first presented a resolution to launch an ethics inquiry into Carolina Students for Life's funding request for the display.

"I wanted to submit this resolution mainly to get on the record some concerns, at least I had, for the funding request," O'Quinn said.

"It also reflects concerns brought to me by my constituents."

Other representatives rejected the proposal, saying it isn't the ethics committee's role to consider the validity of a group's event.

O'Quinn is a graduate student in the biology department and represents other graduate students.

Many of his constituents sent e-mails to Congress members complaining about the display.

O'Quinn addressed three concerns with the exhibit during the rules and judiciary committee meeting.

His main issue was the exhibit's age. He said after researching the display, he determined the information to be at least 5 years

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