

Let's Get to Work

by Jack Sanders, OCDP Chair

Feeling discouraged? You are not alone. The mood of the nation is dark. A disastrous and immoral war rages on. An incompetent and discredited President has no other program than to run out the clock in Iraq and obstruct investigations into his corrupt administration. A polarized Congress sputters, unable to address the urgent needs of the country, and a conservative Supreme Court turns back the clock.

There's more. The economy rewards the wealthy while jobs move overseas, and the working class struggles to make ends meet. The national debt climbs toward 10 trillion dollars. Social problems fester – poverty, violence, a growing prison population, lack of opportunity for many young Americans, especially those of color, etc. Special interests wield enormous power, and giant corporations control the mass media.

What does this add up to? The American people feel like the national government is no longer theirs, and they're right.

Remember last November, when the elections produced a period of euphoria and hope? The newly elected Democratic Congress would begin the long national recovery from the Bush debacle. First and most important was to stop the Iraq war that has taken the lives and limbs of so many, sparked a vicious civil war, inflamed Islamic militants everywhere, and diverted half a trillion dollars from health care, energy, jobs, education, and infrastructure projects urgently needed at home.

Then the reality became apparent. The Democrats held only a razor-thin edge in the Senate, and the Republicans closed ranks in support of the President's surge. The Democratic caucus in the House was not united. The President would not accept even an optional timetable for withdrawal. When Congress passed the Supplemental Appropriations Bill, an angry gloom fell over the country, and here we are.

Don't despair – at least not yet! There are solid grounds for optimism. Congress is now exercising oversight after six years of "anything goes." A growing majority of Americans has concluded that the Iraq war must be ended. The country has reached a consensus about global warming: it's real, and it's serious. The national disgrace of 45 million Americans without regular health care and the high cost of our profit-based health care system have made change possible. The shameful spectacle of Katrina has put poverty and race back on the national agenda.

Longer term, the anti-government credo of the Republicans has been thoroughly discredited. Young people favor the Democratic Party values of the common good, social and economic justice, civil liberties, fair and open democracy, and cooperation with the rest of the world. The Internet facilitates organization, communication, and participation in the political process and provides access to alternative sources of information. There is a growing realization that vigorous grassroots politics is absolutely essential to the restoration of government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

But we can't wait for the long term. Our country's problems are urgent, and eight years of a head-in-the-sand administration will leave us in a terrible hole. The 2008 elections are already dominating the news. Let's get to work!

What can we do? A lot, really. Let's start at the local level. Get involved in the Orange County issues of smart growth, taxes, and schools. Talk to your elected officials. Serve on a city or county advisory board, or volunteer in the schools or for a local non-profit. Work for a candidate, or become one yourself. Help get out the vote for the local elections this fall. Local politics affects you and your neighbors directly, and you can make a difference.

Let's be specific. Orange County is beautiful and prosperous. But do you know that 13 percent of our population, about 14,000 persons, lives below



the federal poverty level (\$20,650 for a family of four)? That 2,700 county children are not covered by health insurance? Make sure Orange County puts a real focus on the poverty in our midst. Help organize for and actively support affordable housing, childcare for working families that need it, early childhood education and health care for all children, and a real living wage. Poverty is a fundamental moral issue,

and people of conscience and good sense can't ignore it.

At the state level, the General Assembly now has before it such matters as mental health, energy, the death penalty, the environment, and additional tax options for counties. We are fortunate to have excellent legislators who are very accessible. Follow issues of interest to you, such as health care or energy, and contact your

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Clean Elections in NC The state of the state

by Debby Stirling

One year ago, a news release from NC Policy Watch cautioned, "After months of political scandal and corrupt campaign fund-raising, the public mandate is clear. Reform, reform, reform!"

In the wake of national and state-level scandals, citizens should expect – indeed demand – a comprehensive package of campaign reform measures, including concrete steps to ensure clean elections.

Here is an update on how we're doing in NC with some of the most important reform issues – from the integrity of the ballot box and campaign finance reform to funding of judicial races and whether certain state officials should be appointed instead of elected.

Verifiable voting

After an electronic voting machine in Carteret County lost 4,400 votes during the 2004 general election – leaving two close statewide races up in the air for months – North Carolina began taking election reform very seriously.

Bills temporarily banning purchases of paperless electronic voting machines were co-sponsored by both Sen. Ellie Kinnaird and Rep. Verla Insko. The non-profit Electronic Frontier Foundation brought a legal challenge against Diebold Election Systems (maker and seller of electronic touch-screen voting machines) and persisted until Diebold withdrew its machines from vote-counting in NC elections.

The upshot? Because of pressure from citizens throughout the state and such groups as Common Cause NC, Democracy NC, and the NC Coalition for Verified Voting, we can now count ourselves among those states with the

strictest election day requirements. Thirty states now require a voter-verified paper record. But paper records are most effective when used as the basis for mandatory manual audits in randomly selected precincts. North Carolina, along with 14 other states, has added this extra safeguard requiring manual audits. "Get It Straight by 2008" federal legislation now in Congress aims to bring verified voting to all 50 states.

Campaign financing

When George Washington first stood for Virginia's colonial legislature in 1757, he was accused of trying to buy the election by providing 160 gallons of rum, wine and beer to influence a mere 391 registered voters.

The issue of "buying" influence remains a problem to this day. We need campaign finance reform to diminish the likelihood that sizeable donations to the campaigns of candidates for political office will buy influence in the form of a political payback down the line.

Of course, there is no getting around the fact that politicians need lots of money to publicize their candidacies, engage citizens, and get voters to the polls – all without appearing to buy votes or show favor to financial supporters.

Public financing of elections is one solution. Advocates of public financing believe the relatively small investment in public financing bears fruit many times over when policies are made with no ties to narrow, special interests. Several states already offer optional public financing for legislative candidates who collect the requisite number of relatively small qualifying donations and agree to limits on spending and fundraising.

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Orange County Democratic Party
PO Box 3368
Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3368

Victory!
Same-day voter registration has passed the NC General Assembly! The final version of the bill was approved in the NC House by a 69-47 margin and the NC Senate by 35-15. Governor Mike Easley has indicated that he will sign the bill into law soon. This would make North Carolina the ninth state in the nation to have same-day registration.

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Speak Out on Community Priorities

We asked several community leaders to identify the issues of highest priority for the future of Orange County. Here are their thoughts.

1. Tom Jensen

- As Orange County grows rapidly, we need to find ways to maintain the historic character of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough while also preserving our beautiful open spaces.

- We need to find ways to ensure that senior citizens and other folks who are life-long residents of our county don't have their taxes go up so much that they can no longer afford to live here.

- We also need to work proactively to ensure that Orange County maintains a climate, both socially and economically, that is conducive for a racially diverse population.

Tom Jensen is a conservation organizer for the NC Sierra Club who serves on the Chapel Hill Planning Board.

2. Joal Broun

- Affordable housing and the lack thereof.

- Minority achievement in the public schools, especially the Chapel Hill-Carrboro public schools.

- Waste transfer siting station.



Joal Broun is a public defender and affordable housing advocate who serves as a Carrboro Alderman.

3. Tim Toben

- How will Orange County grow? We can either grow up (in the town centers) or out (with sprawl) and protect the rural buffer.

- The university is the 800-pound gorilla. How do we tame it to become the nation's leader in green building and green energy? Can Carolina North be carbon neutral?

- How can we promote more local food growers and cooperatives?

- Can we freeze petro-fuel consumption, even with a growing population? Yes, with biofuels and more fuel efficient vehicles, and urban vs. suburban growth.

- We need an Orange County Smart Growth Board, made up of the mayors of Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Hillsborough and six other smart growth advocates -- I suggest James Carnahan, me, Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Bernadette Pelissier (Sierra Club) and two others.

Tim Toben is CEO of Carolina Green Energy Corp. in Chapel Hill.

Wanted DATA BASE MANAGERS

If you have data base skills and would like to volunteer your services to the Orange County Democratic Party, please call (919) 933-9662. Help us update records for these precincts:

East Franklin	North Carrboro
Eno	Northside
Glenwood	Owasa
Hillsborough	Ridgefield
Lions Club	St John
Mason Farm	Tolars

Become a Precinct Officer

There are openings for various positions in precincts throughout the county. If you see an opening you're interested in, contact the OCDP office at (919) 933-9662.

CHAIR

East Franklin
Eno
Lions Club

VICE CHAIR

Cedar Falls
Coker Hills
East Franklin
Eastside
Eno
Hillsborough
Lions Club
Mason Farm
Northside
Weaver Dairy
Westwood

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Battle Park
Cedar Falls
Coles Store
Country Club
Damascus
East Franklin
Eno
Estes Hills
Glenwood
Hillsborough
Lions Club
Mason Farm
Northside
Owasa
Weaver Dairy
Westwood
Lincoln
Tolars

Calendar

August 5

The Community Relations Committee of Carol Woods will host David Price at 7 p.m. for a report from Washington. Carol Woods Assembly Hall, Chapel Hill

August 15

OCDP officers meet (third Tuesdays)

August 21

Ellie Kinnaird will present a "Report from Raleigh" at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, in the Carol Woods Assembly Hall

August 26

State Executive Committee meets in Greensboro on Saturday

September 18

OCDP officers meet (third Tuesdays)

September 20

The Orange County Executive Committee will meet Thursday at the Human Services Center on Homestead Road, Chapel Hill

October 12

Voter registration closes at 5 p.m.

October 16

OCDP officers meet (third Tuesdays)

October 18

One-stop voting registration begins, and runs through 1 p.m. on November 3

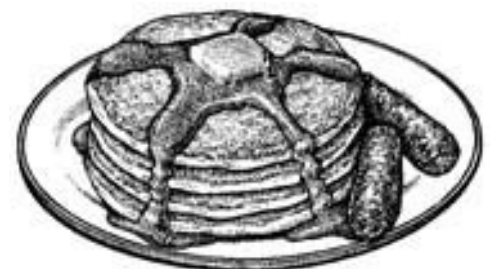
October 20

OCDP Legislative Breakfast, 8-10 a.m. on Saturday at the Friday Center, Chapel Hill

November 6

Election Day. Polls are open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

2007 Orange County Democratic Party Legislative Breakfast



The Annual Report of Orange County's Legislators to the Party

Saturday, October 20, 2007, 8-10 AM

Trillium Room
The Friday Center

A full buffet breakfast and good fellowship with fellow Democrats

Advance Purchase (by October 15) \$40

At the door \$50

Early Bird Special (by Sept. 1) \$35

Teen and UNC Young Dems \$20
(purchase by October 15 required)

Mail your order with check to:
OCDP, P.O. Box 3368, Chapel Hill, NC
27515-3368.

Ticket(s) will be mailed to you.

Century Club Members January to June, 2007

These are the names of Orange County Democrats who have donated at least \$100 to the OCDP in 2007 – or couples who have donated at least \$175. The Party also thanks the many valuable donations that have come in smaller amounts.

If you've received this newsletter in the mail, take a look at the enclosed letter from OCDP Chair Jack Sanders. Consider making a non-tax deductible donation and sharing your issues with the Orange County Democratic Party at P.O. Box 3368, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3368. Please note your employer (if any) in the notation line on the check. Thank you.

Janet Allen	Geoffrey L. Hathaway	Mike Nelson
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Mary S. Bushnell	Harriet Herring	Oliver Orr, Jr.
Chris Callaway	Loren Hintz	Bernadette Pelissier
Hodding Carter, III	Carol J. Holcomb	David & Lisa Price
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Mohan Chilukuri	Glenn R. Howze	Jack Sanders
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Carolina North and the Environment: What Can We Do?

By Bernadette Pelissier

The Carolina North property, which lies in the heart of Chapel Hill and is traversed by Bolin Creek, comprises almost a thousand of the total 13,000 acres that make up Chapel Hill. In 50 years, once completed, Carolina North – which UNC plans to develop as a research campus -- will be equivalent in size to two Southpoint malls.

The environmental impact of Carolina North will be huge. Try to imagine the potential load of traffic imposed by this enterprise, which will bring ten thousand, fifteen thousand, or more commuters to the Carolina North campus each day.

The University of North Carolina (UNC) Board of Trustees intends to submit a plan to the Town of Chapel Hill in October 2007 to develop 250 acres of the Carolina North property. But there is insufficient information for a complete community assessment of the impact of Carolina North by then. I believe we need more time and better answers before the town council votes on UNC's plan.

So do a number of other members of the Carolina North Leadership Advisory Council (LAC) who presented at a June 4th public forum on plans for the property and who noted that the Carolina North Ecological Assessment results (see http://research.unc.edu/cn/ecological_assessment_public_review.pdf) were available only at the end of the LAC deliberations.

Preserving the environment

Why is this particular property so important? A large portion of this land is environmentally sensitive, according to the Carolina North Ecological Assessment, which takes into account factors such as vegetation, habitat, soil, and water resources. We already face challenges to the preservation of the environment in Orange County, including challenges to the quality of our air, water, and bioresources such as biodiversity (see Orange County's "2004 State of the Environment Report"). We do not want Carolina North to negatively impact our environment.

What do we know about UNC's plan, and what is still unclear?

UNC has agreed to limit any development during the next 50 years to 250 acres, approximately one-quarter of the Carolina North property. Most of the development will occur on the Horace Williams Airport site, the area most suitable for development. However, as deliberations during the LAC meetings revealed, the university does not agree to permanent protection of the remaining acreage. One of the UNC trustees who serves on LAC said the university wants to keep its options open for a possible "Carolina North II." Whether this means even more than 250 acres could be developed is not yet clear. It appears that the "footprint" of the planned development will be all 250 acres, suggesting that a second campus would be built on additional land within the property.

Before the Town Council votes, Orange County citizens deserve answers:

- Does the university need to develop all 250 acres during the next 50 years? Is their footprint too big?
- How will the university honor the general principle in the LAC report that "undisturbed systems have an inherent value that is recognized and respected?"
- The quality of the water in Crow Branch Creek on the Carolina North property is already impaired. The most recent development plans show a north-south transit corridor near Crow Branch Creek. Is this necessary?
- How can we ensure that this transit corridor does not lead to development in the future?

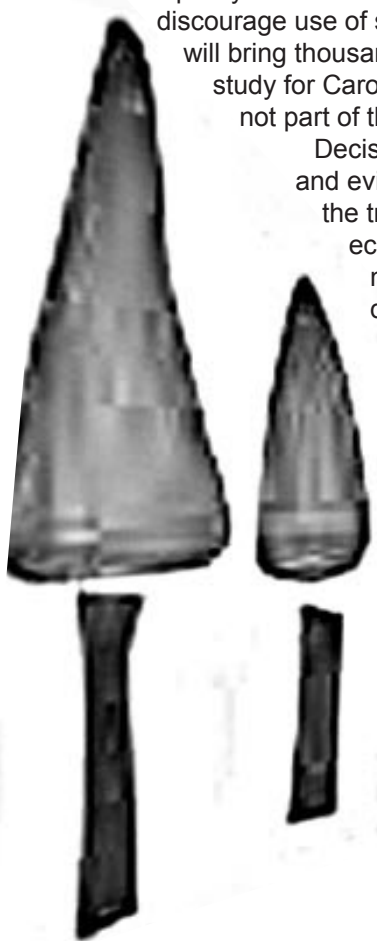
Traffic and air quality present one of the most daunting challenges for Carolina North's development. A general principle agreed upon by all LAC members except the university is that "Carolina North will have no net negative impact on air quality of the area." Instead, the university agreed to adopt energy and resource-conservation measures in all aspects of Carolina North development.

The university has stated that it will not build another coal-fired power plant to provide energy for Carolina North, and this is good news. However, decisions about transit infrastructure will be of crucial importance to future air quality. We don't know, for example, how the university intends to discourage use of single-passenger vehicles for a development that will bring thousands of employees to the center of town. A transit study for Carolina North only began in November 2006 and was not part of the LAC deliberations.

Decisions on our future should be based both on vision and evidence. How will the university's plan match up with the transit study (which has not been finalized) and the ecological assessment—studies whose results were not available for the Leadership Advisory Council deliberations?

It is up to the entire community to help shape Carolina North, not just the university. Each of us can help ensure that environmental principles are balanced with the university's desire to expand the campus. Get involved. Let the town council know we need time to review the proposed plan and related agreements in light of their impact on the environment. Tell us what will be done about transit issues, so that we can make good decisions about traffic and air quality.

Bernadette Pelissier served on the LAC and is a member of the Orange County Planning Board, the Orange County Commission for the Environment, and chair of the Orange Chatham Sierra Club.



Clean Elections from page 1

Financing judicial elections

New here in North Carolina in 2004 and again in 2006, the majority of state-level judicial candidates qualified for public financing—paid for in part by the \$3 check-off on the state income tax form. Such financing neither increases one's tax burden nor decreases one's tax refund; it simply directs \$3 of the taxes an individual already pays to encourage fair elections.

How well does this system work? Judicial candidates in these recent elections found that their first hurdle was gathering enough small donations to qualify for public financing: contributions of mandated amounts from \$10 to \$500 given by at least 350 different individuals must total no less than \$35,000. Candidates also discovered that fundraising events were particularly tricky, reporting requirements were complex, and they sometimes ran into funding shortfalls in the program. Fortunately, a provision in the law supplies "rescue" funds when publicly financed candidates are left in the dust by high-spending opponents whose campaigns are financed the old-fashioned way—by private largess.

Democracy NC reports that in the 2002 election (before public campaign financing became available) NC's top judges received 73% of their campaign funds from attorneys and special-interest groups. This dropped to 14% in the 2004 election after public financing began.

"We're finding that overall, the proportion of money from attorneys is smaller," says Bob Hall, executive director of Democracy NC. "Even if they're getting \$50,000 from attorneys, they're getting \$300,000 from the rest of us—the public at large."

A legislative pilot program to try out public financing in two House and two Senate districts was considered in 2006 and voted down. (Insko and Hackney voted aye; Faison, nay.)

Although much remains to be ironed out, candidates who have opted in for public financing agree that this system is preferable to purely private fundraising.

Appoint or elect?

North Carolina has 10 statewide elected offices known as the Council of State. In addition to the Governor, the Council includes the Lieutenant Governor, Commissioners of Insurance, Labor and Agriculture, the State Treasurer, Attorney General, State Auditor, Secretary of State and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Often people with a vested interest are those who care most about who is elected to these positions. As a consequence, political contributions to campaigns for such positions tend to come from the very groups who are regulated by the state agencies run by the officials who are elected to these positions.

Look for bills in 2007 that either: 1) change the state constitution to let the governor appoint more Council of State positions, or 2) expand optional public financing to at least some Council of State races.

HB1517 and SB1205 would do just that. HB1517, still in committee as we went to press, would allow three Council races to be publicly financed in 2008. If it passes there, the bill will end up on the House floor for a full vote of the House. SB1205 would require all Council of State seats to offer public funding by 2012. Call your House and Senate legislators and encourage them to vote for these bills.

"The lobbying reform bills the General Assembly passed last year limited what lobbyists can give legislators and expanded reporting requirements for both groups," Rep. Verla Insko says. "These bills did not, however, take special interest money out of the election process. Short of public financing of campaigns, no good mechanism exists to entirely remove special interest influence."

The most obvious omission in last year's bills, Insko says, is the absence of any limitation on the amount of money a lobbyist can raise for a candidate. The General Assembly made it illegal to "bundle" money (collect and co-mingle multiple checks) for candidates, she says, "but lobbyists can still write letters or make fundraising calls, and industry PACs [political action committees] can still write big checks—and they will."

New leadership

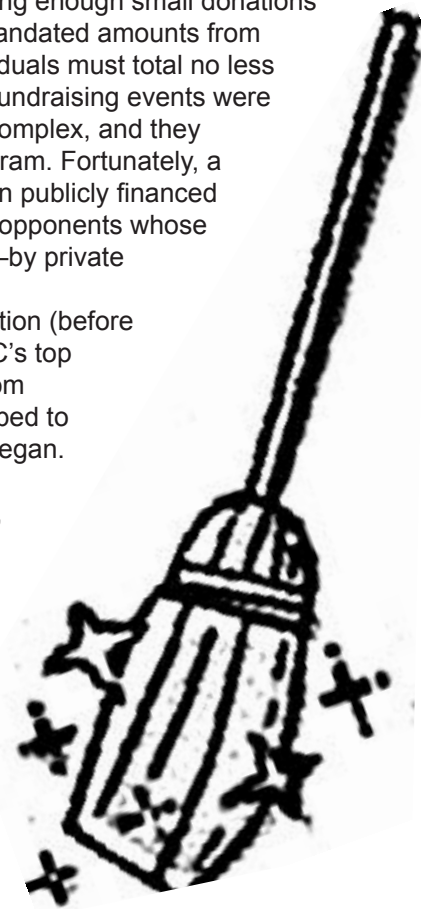
It has been an eventful year, with the change in leadership at the state legislature dominating local headlines for months—not an easy time, Sen. Ellie Kinnaird admits.

"When people would call me irate, asking why the House was putting up with the scandal [about House Speaker Black], I kept saying, 'they are working behind the scenes.' You don't want someone who, while not tainted, wouldn't take our state in the best direction.

"We now have a person of integrity, honesty, fairness and intelligence in Joe Hackney," Kinnaird says. "We now have the best of the best, so the time it took to get to that goal was worth it."

How did North Carolina fare?

There has been some good news this year. Same-day voter registration just passed the NC General Assembly. Other changes being discussed include public campaign financing, independent redistricting, greater access to the ballot for additional parties, and term limits (especially for House and Senate leaders). Some of these reforms may be advanced as a package, or we may see individual bills debated during the 2007 session.



Steps you can take to balance growth and the environment

We need to carefully assess the impact of Carolina North on our area's environment and speak out at public hearings. Neighborhoods for Responsible Growth (http://www.nrg-nc.net/prototype_dcd/) will be sponsoring a meeting with Town of Chapel Hill staff and other experts on Wednesday, August 29th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Chapel Hill Public Library. An overview of the process and suggestions about how you can affect the outcome will be provided. NRG's web site will provide information on the meeting date and location.

For more information

See the Leadership Advisory Council report on Carolina North at: http://research.unc.edu/cn/FINAL_LAC_REPORT.pdf.

Consider contacting CH Town Council members with your questions and concerns at: <http://www.ci.chapel-hill.nc.us/index.asp?nid=26>

Chapel Hill Hosts a National Campaign



Since we Orange County Democrats happen to have a neighbor who aspires to occupy the Oval Office, we thought we should take advantage of this rare opportunity to check out the hustle and bustle inside the national headquarters of a presidential campaign.

What would you expect to see there? Maybe an assembly line of volunteers sitting on both sides of long tables madly stuffing, addressing and stamping envelopes? The odor of coffee grounds and half-eaten pizza wafting up from filled wastebaskets? Or rapid-fire phone conversations ending with expressions like "...okay, get that to me fast!"?

Those of us who share mental images like these have probably gotten them from movies dating back to the era when reporters wore fedoras with PRESS cards tucked into the hatband. Things are different now, to say the least.

The first sign of how today's political campaigns differ from those of

yesteryear is apparent the minute one steps off the elevator at the second floor at Edwards' headquarters. Visitors are greeted at the reception area but cannot see any campaign workers or work in progress without a "hall pass."

While this privacy measure not only safeguards the sensitive, competitive nature of political campaigns, it also suggests a concern for physical security—a need that was underscored in mid-March, when a white-powder-filled envelope was mailed to Edwards' office. The incident disrupted operations for a few hours until the substance was judged harmless.

Beyond the door to the inner sanctum, the office complex is a maze of individual cubicles with computers operating in near silence. There is not even the sound of keying-in (what used to be called typing), since most of the 60-some workers currently assigned to the office do web research, and net

surfing is a largely silent activity.

Ceiling-mounted, large-screen televisions tuned to different news channels play with the sound muted, allowing workers to glance up periodically to see what is happening in the world without being distracted by the audio commentary. Everyone looks to be in deep concentration; nobody chats or does campaign busywork. Even those talking on phones seem to do it quietly.

The Edwards' "head shed" is not really a typical campaign office, says Deputy National Press Secretary Kate Beddingfield, "but if you were to walk into any campaign headquarters three months before the election, it would look vastly different from the same office eight months out from caucus day in Iowa. We are staffed up earlier than I think anyone has ever been for the primary season. Even just a few cycles ago, it would have been unheard of to have press staffers, for example, on the

ground in the early states this far out."

By late summer, at the height of the campaign, Beddingfield expects to have about 150 people working at the office. Meanwhile, campaign efforts are concentrated in four early-primary states: Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina. "That's where the action is," she says.

The mostly young staffers at the headquarters office, most of them seasoned campaign workers, come from all over the country. Many live in apartments in and around Southern Village and share accommodations.

"It's a lot of fun," said Beddingfield. "The hours are long—even this far out from the Iowa caucus—but there is a lot of camaraderie and humor. We're proud of what John Edwards is fighting for and inspired by what we get to do here every day."

An Extraordinary Volunteer

When Peggy Nimkoff claims to be a Yellow Dog Democrat, she ain't just a-woofin', as the old expression goes.

This Florida native moved to the Triangle some 27 years ago and plunged right into volunteering for the party.

Nimkoff's formal job titles include database manager for the Dogwood Acres Precinct and secretary of OCDP's Volunteer & Outreach Committee. But she also works every afternoon in the Edwards-for-President campaign office in Southern Village.

Nancy Park, OCDP 3rd vice chair in charge of operations, sings Nimkoff's praises. "I could sum up her involvement by saying that Peggy does valuable behind-the-scenes work, but that doesn't come close to measuring her worth," Nancy says. "The bottom line is that Peggy is one of those people I can always call in a pinch and can count on to give us a hand. She's a rare find, in other words."

Even now, in addition to her work with the Edwards campaign, Nimkoff continues to staff the OCDP office by checking all the incoming phone messages, processing donations, and writing thank-you notes. She also recruits volunteers to man tables where people can register to vote, ask questions, or pick up printed information at public events like Hillsborough's Hog Day and the Festival for the Eno.

As the mother of four, Nimkoff had little time for volunteer activities in years past. "I worked for the March of Dimes in Raleigh for 25 years, then retired and went to work for the Durham Public Education Network for three more years," she says. "I raised funds and



supervised volunteer committees, and I came away with an appreciation of the vital role volunteers play and a first-hand understanding of how much they can accomplish."

Edwards' campaign headquarters is always looking for volunteers, and sign-up forms are available at the reception desk, Nimkoff says. "There are mailings, fund-raising phonathons, data-entry needs, phones to be answered—even some tasks requiring specialized skills. But I would also urge local Democrats to get involved in our monthly One-Corps projects aimed at improving the surrounding communities."

Nimkoff does plan to take a vacation from her volunteer duties. On her schedule for sometime this fall is a trip to Vietnam with one of her daughters to bring home her first granddaughter.

Then it's right back to work for the Democrats.

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legislators about your views.

Finally, let's talk electoral politics. These are perilous times. The 2008 election will be crucial in turning this country around, and electing a Democratic President is essential. Frankly, the Republican candidates for President are scary. All are courting the conservative Republican base, all but one support the war, and they compete to see who is toughest in calling for "enhanced interrogation techniques" (torture). The election of any of them means more "war on terror," small government slanted toward the rich and powerful, and more conservative Supreme Court judges. On our side, we have excellent Democratic candidates, including Orange County's own John Edwards, whose local campaign headquarters offers a unique opportunity to volunteer. Support your favorite for the primary, but unite behind our nominee for a win in November.

To build on the Democratic majority in Congress, the first step is to replace Senator Dole, who has distinguished herself primarily by her lack of accomplishments for North Carolina. In the state and local elections, let's continue the proud Orange County tradition of leading the state toward progressive government. With a big turnout especially for the Council of State and statewide judicial races, Orange County can make the difference.

What can you do?

The Orange County Democratic Party is planning a sustained effort through to the November 2008 elections. We aim to register 3,000 more Democratic voters and to turn out 5,000 more voters for the Democratic

ticket than in 2004. The Precinct Leadership Committee and coaches will be supporting precinct activities and helping to build effective precinct organizations. The Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Committee will be coordinating our registration drive and voter-turnout activities. The Turn North Carolina Blue Committee will help party organizations and candidates outside Orange County.

Your participation is crucial.

- Make sure your neighbors are registered and that they vote.
- Be a part of your precinct activities, or join one of the committees preparing for the election.
- Help with the registration drive and the GOTV campaign.
- Contribute money to support our efforts.

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a historical swing back to rational, inclusive, and progressive policies. It will take good organization and hard work on our part, but it is absolutely essential, and it will be exciting. Join the party!

The Orange County Democratic Party
121 South Estes Dr., Suite 103 A
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
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