

# The City Buzz

## Elections and Defections



ROCKLIN- Power plays and shifting loyalties were the hallmarks of the political scene Wednesday, which saw a drastic shift in political power following a lengthy and tense assembly session.

Assemblyman Tirado was elected Speaker of the House early yesterday morning following a lengthy question and answer session between Tirado and Assemblyman Faxon Rutledge, the Constitutionalist nominee.

Interestingly, Patriot Assemblyman Thomas accepted a nomination from

the Constitutionalist Party, but promptly endorsed Tirado for the position. This move was presumably to avoid a split vote between the Patriot candidates, the strategy adopted by the Constitutionalist Party, a shrewd move that demonstrated wisdom of party leadership.

Nonetheless, the election was unexpectedly close thanks to several Patriots who abstained or cast their ballot for Rutledge, while all Constitutionlists voted along party lines: subtle signs pointing to the upcoming storm on the horizon. By late afternoon the (continued on P2)

### Journey to Narnia?

Freshman legislators navigating the second day of City on the Hill may have been wondering what they have gotten themselves into after witnessing the past 48 hours of vying for leadership positions and hearing stories of COTH politicking from years past. Many, in fact, may be somewhat cautious about who they talk to or trust. In spite of that, two Assemblymembers from opposing parties who are rooming together have figured out how to enjoy their newfound friendship and remain loyal to their party.

After revealing that she had discussed inside information regarding her party's internal politics to her roommate, one Assemblywoman – who will remain unnamed – noted that they had “already had a discussion that any conversations we have in [our room] are ‘in the wardrobe’ and we can’t talk about it outside the wardrobe.”

Much like the magical wardrobe of Narnia, COTH proves to be an immersive experience from which we emerge and find that the conflicts and happenings within do nothing but sharpen our skills and strengthen our friendships.

These Assemblywomen will likely emerge the week having been true party loyalists and end up lifelong friends.

(cont'd from P1) winds of change were blowing as three Patriot Party members petitioned the Rules Committee requesting to switch parties. In spite of hefty dowry, the Constitutionalist Party embraced the Patriot defectors and promptly made a motion (well, actually several motions were made) to Vacate the Chair.

Tirado, living up to his name, was "able" calmly to hold off the assault for an unprecedented one and a half hours before a valid motion was made and he was voted out of office. Rutledge, nominated for the second time, beat out Assembly-

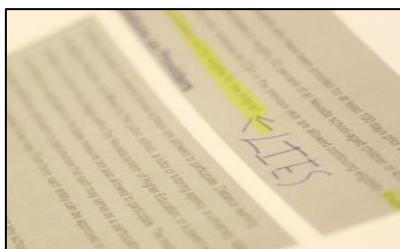
-members Petrikas, and Francisco by a mere four votes only made possible by the Constitutionalists' new majority status.

Now that the Constitutionalists claim both the Speaker and majority power, some have expressed concern that they will be able to maintain their position. With several days until the end of session, it remains to be seen if they will continue to be unified or if the Patriots will be able to find and exploit cracks within the party. In the space of 24 hours, the Patriots have fallen to a minority in an assembly they previously controlled, but it's not over yet.

*Ann Malane & Lauren Prichard*

**RESEARCH RAMPS UP**

ROCKLIN- In preparation for the upcoming sessions,



Assemblymembers spent hours today polishing their knowledge of proposed legislation. In her notes (left), Assemblywoman Zoe Breeding expressed her disillusionment with reporting surrounding many of the bills on Capitol Hill.

**On the Record**

Assemblyman Jackson was overheard saying, "If the media sticks a camera in your face, just act ditzzy [waiving hands] and go 'the media, media!!'"

"It's only the second day and my blood pressure has doubled!" stated Assemblywoman Payne. "I brought my insurance card," replied Assemblywoman Caulkins.

**Constitutionalists...  
or Communists?**

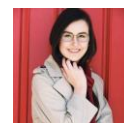
The Constitutionalist Party, thus far marked by party loyalty and transparency, today faces criticism that some of their recent decisions are more in line with Marx than Madison. Critics point to decisions to encourage Assemblymembers to transfer their personal funds to a communal account and to delegate research responsibilities to a few key members as evidence that the party would be more comfortable under socialism than democracy. Party members defend their move toward Collectivism by claiming that "donations" will be made voluntarily. Some are calling this a slippery slope to Communism. It seems that there may be a dark side to the Constitutionalists.



**good morning Contributors**



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