

ELECTIONS School Board Candidate Profiles ELECTIONS

Chapel Hill and Carrboro will elect five new members to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education Nov. 7. Today, The Daily Tar Heel profiles the final three of the 13 candidates seeking to improve the school system.

School Overcrowding Needs to End

Matthew Barton said he wants the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education to curtail school overcrowding, and as a member of Stop Overcrowding Schools, he said he would work to make sure the board uses proper planning to solve the problem.

"We (S.O.S.) are actively campaigning for a reasonable, substantial impact fee," Barton said. "It would be used to help finance the acquisition of land and construction of new schools."

"There is a lot of new construction in Chapel Hill and Carrboro, and the average houses being built have about 9,000 square feet," he said. "The current fee is only \$1,500. We would like to bring that up to \$3,000."

Barton said the impact fee would alleviate the tax impact on long-term residents of the town and would subsidize those moving to the area.

"It should be a graduated impact fee," he said. "It would be lower for low-cost housing, so that it would not have a negative impact on low-cost housing."

Barton said there were other ways to raise revenue for building new schools but that it was important to plan correctly to obtain the maximum benefit from public funds.

"The school board needs to work very closely with town and county officials with research that shows impact studies and to plan new development so that it will not overwhelm schools in the future," Barton said.

New developments such as Southern Village and others are expected to place a heavy burden on the school board to find space to place new students, Barton said.



Matthew Barton

Age: 39
Address: 218 Stratford Road
Previous Experience: Current vice president of Sewell Elementary School PTA
Occupation: Software engineer
Children: Two, one in public school
Length of Time in Community: Two years
College Attended: Yale University

"The town showed that twice as many students are coming in new households than had previously been stated," Barton said. "Large developments are coming in, bringing larger numbers of students into town. The town's study now gives us a factual basis for the need to increase impact fees."

Once students are in classrooms, the focus turns to performance and safety. Barton said the board is on track to raise minority test scores, with a commitment to experiment with programs proven in other schools to help minorities.

Site-based management is another topic Barton would like to address as a member of the board. He said he feels site-based management is good, but measures should be taken to ensure parents and students receive the benefit of good administration.

"It takes time for people to learn how to use site-based management," Barton said.

"It should not be used as a replacement for trained administrators and educators, because a lot of parents do not have time to attend the meetings. We still need a skilled group of administrators."

PROFILE COMPILED BY CARLOS DE MATTOS

Current Curricula Do Not Benefit All

Louise Cole said she would like to see the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools establish true site-based management and change its curriculum.

"With true site-based management, if a particular school wants to implement a new curriculum and good things happen, the others will want to try it," Cole said.

Cole said the current curriculum is not challenging some students and is leaving others behind. She said she was concerned that minority scores in the system are below the state and national average.

"Durham had almost 10 times the number of students taking the SAT, but beat our minority scores by almost 40 points," Cole said. "In a school system proud of being the best in the state, we're lagging behind with our minority students."

Cole said poor race relations is one of the problems that has caused the disparity between black and white children.

"I feel the curriculum is just not working for the black children," she said.

Cole recommended using either the core knowledge curriculum or the Calvert curriculum, both of which have shown promising results in raising the test scores of minorities. She said the Calvert curriculum, adopted by an inner-city school in Baltimore, improved scores of students significantly.

"A lot of curricula today are trying to give students self-esteem, but you can't give them that," she said. "They need to earn it."

Cole also said the present school board was financially irresponsible. "Lack of proper facilities and recent extravagant planning have reduced the district's ability to build," she said. "We've spent so much



Louise Cole

Age: 49
Address: 904 Woodbine Dr.
Previous Experience: Culbreth Middle School Governance Committee, Curriculum Restructuring Task Force
Occupation: Microbiologist, immunologist for the Environmental Protection Agency
Children: Six, two in public school
Length of Time in Community: 19 years
College Attended: Brigham Young University

money on these Cadillac-type schools that we could have built four or five schools."

"I'm very upset with the waste of money the administration has perpetrated," Cole said. "We had a \$40 million bond referendum, and they only built one and three-quarters schools with that money. The schools are extremely elaborate. They're extremely hard to heat and cool. The hallways have 36-foot ceilings, and the library has a 42-foot ceiling," she said.

Cole said she hopes parents will have a greater say in what goes on in their children's schools.

"I like public input, but if we have true site-based management, the parents are not going to have to come to the school board," she said. "They're going to go directly to their teachers and the principals, and they would only come to the board if there's a problem they can't solve at the local level."

One problem that concerns parents is violence in the schools. Cole said teachers should be given more support in disciplining and removing unruly children from the classroom.

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Better Leaders Will Improve Schools

It is time to establish new leadership in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education, Peter Morcombe said.

"Poor leaders have one answer to every problem," Morcombe said. "That is, 'Give us more money.' We don't need more taxes. We just need better leadership."

Morcombe said his major goal will be to decentralize the way the system is run. He said he would accomplish this by establishing site-based management.

"Our district has established site-based management, but has been careful to keep the real power at the Lincoln Center," Morcombe said.

"Until the vast majority of our public school administrators work on-site, site-based management will remain just another sham reform," he said. "When authority is truly at site level, schools are free to be different and free to find creative solutions."

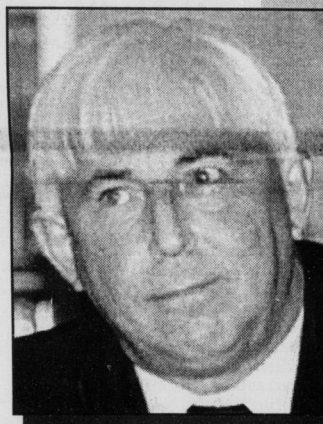
Morcombe said decentralizing the system should help to improve minority test scores.

"It's the highest-performing school system in the state as far as white children are concerned," Morcombe said.

"It's not even average as far as black children are concerned. What we want to do as school board members is encourage the schools to go out and find the things that work."

Morcombe said race relations in the school system are in need of improvement.

"Black parents know fraud is being perpetrated on them," he said. "I would strongly base anything I would want to do as a school board member in trying to close this disparity between the black and the



Peter Morcombe

Age: 57
Address: 110 Lisa Dr.
Previous Experience: None
Occupation: Electrical engineer
Children: Six, one in public school
Length of Time in Community: Eight years
College Attended: Cambridge University

white students. There are lots of ways to do it, if you will just take the handcuffs off the principals and the teachers."

Morcombe said he felt the board did not support teachers' attempts to combat violence and disruption in the classrooms and that unruly children should be removed.

"You can't just allow the teaching experience of 22 other kids to be ruined by one kid who wants to ride around on the floor and make noises," Morcombe said.

He blamed the current board for overcrowding in the schools because of wasteful spending and poor planning. To allevi-

ate overcrowding, he suggested a bond in 1996, bigger than the last \$40 million bond.

"Before it has a chance to pass you need the school board and the administration to say, 'We're sorry, taxpayers, we made terrible mistakes with the last bond, and we're going to rectify that situation. This time we're going to do it right,'" he said.

"If the incumbents come up with that statement, nobody is going to believe them, so you really have to have a set of new people on the school board who are credible."

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UNIVERSITY DAY

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of the University was broadened from one into 16," said John Sanders, emeritus director of the Institute of Government. "On the whole I think it's been good for Chapel Hill, given the alternatives."

One of the alternatives Sanders mentioned was a system used in some states under which there is one governing board for the entire state, rather than separate institutional boards for each university.

"The (BOT) can give more attention to needs," he said. "That's one advantage we have compared to that alternative."

Sanders said being linked to the 15 other schools has been beneficial to UNC-CH, especially regarding the allocation of money. He said a statewide bond issue of

around \$310 million which was to go to the UNC system that was passed several years ago was proof of the advantage.

"The only reason it won was because it was all for one and one for all," he said. "Had there been 16 separate bond issues, I think all of them would have lost."

Sanders said concentrating programs such as law and medicine at a few universities was more economically sound.

"It's an ideal way to use limited resources," he said. "We can't afford to run 16 medical schools."

Significance of the Ceremony

Spangler said all the campuses in the UNC system recognized academics in some sort of celebration each year. However, the ceremony at UNC-CH this year has taken on special meaning, he added.

"At UNC this is a double ceremony in a way," he said. "Each campus (of the 16 system schools) has some event in the fall which celebrates scholarship."

"There will be 200 universities represented by delegates. We encourage the chancellors from the 15 other schools to attend."

"I think it is a very significant event," Spangler said. "The history of UNC-Chapel Hill has been a distinguished one. When things go well, it reflects favorably on other campuses."

Spangler said he thought there would be several thousand people present at today's ceremony.

"It's an event of significance across the state of North Carolina," Spangler said. "In every town and village, we have graduates who've done well in all those areas."

COMING OUT

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and exposing people to gays," she said. "It is incredibly important for visibility."

Erickson said there was a need to make students aware of gay issues. "This is supposedly such a liberal, open-minded campus, but people still have a lot of myths and misconceptions about gays," she said.

Stacy Hermelin, a junior from Greensboro, said she participated in Wednesday's activities because she felt they might have made students more comfortable with homosexuality.

"NCOD (National Coming Out Day) is great because everyone can realize that they really do know gay people," she said.

"Once that happens, homophobia will start to decrease. We hope that NCOD will allow people to be more open and to be proud of who they are."

Students were very supportive of NCOD activities this year, said Dale Kawamura, B-GLAD co-chairman. In previous years, NCOD activities have been unpopular with many students, but the reaction seemed to be better this year, he said.

"National Coming Out Day was very successful because we had a lot of interest

in the activities in the Pit and good attendance at all of our programs," he said. "Every year it gets better."

Erickson also said the event got a good reaction from the student body.

"I feel like this year we've had a lot of support," she said. "Hopefully NCOD will be able to dispel some of the myths. We still have the reactions from people who don't understand, but I hope that they approach us about their concerns."

Many students who were not affiliated with B-GLAD participated in Wednesday's activities.

Campus Calendar

THURSDAY
3 p.m. UNC COUNSELING CENTER presents "Intimate Relationships: Changing Old Patterns Group."
4 p.m. UNIVERSITY CAREER SERVICES will sponsor "Nonprofit Sector Internships" in 306 Hanes Hall.
5 p.m. CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS will have a meeting in the Employee-Faculty Lounge in Howell Hall.
7 p.m. SARR will have a dialogue program training session in Union 206.

CHILD ADVOCACY PROGRAM will meet in Union 213.
OVERCOMERS will meet in 100 Hamilton Hall. The topic is "Having non-Christian friends."
CAROLINA INDIAN CIRCLE will meet in Union 210.
N.C. FELLOWS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT will have a workshop on "Public Speaking: A Leader's Meeting."
9 p.m. CELLAR DOOR LITERARY MAGAZINE will have a general interest meeting in Union 226.

For the Record

In the Oct. 11 issue of The Daily Tar Heel, the headline "Fetzer, Kerckhoff Comfortably Win Re-Election in Raleigh and Durham" incorrectly stated that Durham Mayor Sylvia Kerckhoff retained her position in the election. Kerckhoff received the highest number of votes in the primary election. Kerckhoff and Harry Rodehizer will face off for the final election next month. The DTH regrets the error.

Voice Your Opinions on Local Government at The Daily Tar Heel's Candidate Forums
Carrboro Candidates, 7 p.m., Sun., Oct. 15, Union Auditorium
Chapel Hill Candidates, 7 p.m., Tues., Oct. 17, Great Hall

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Carrboro Board of Aldermen & Carrboro Mayor

7pm, Sunday, October 15
Union Auditorium

Chapel Hill Town Council & Chapel Hill Mayor

7pm, Tuesday, October 17
Great Hall

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For more information call Jen Fiumara or Thanassis Cambanis at 962-0245 • Forums sponsored by The Daily Tar Heel