

Supporters of Dole Focus on Precedent

By TAENA KIM
Staff Writer

Elizabeth Dole's supporters are focusing on the doors the presidential candidate opened during her short-lived campaign, not the ones closed when she recently withdrew from the race due to financial difficulties.

Women leaders say Dole, who withdrew from the race last week, has set a precedent for other women politicians.

"I think any sense of disappointment vanishes when you look at the good she's done for women," said David Manns, a spokesman for Dole.

He said Dole was the most promising female candidate to run for president.

Marilyn Bero, president of the Board of Directors for the National Women's Hall of Fame, said it was disappointing to lose a candidate due to finances. "It had to do with looking at the fact that Bush and Forbes had unlimited amounts of resources to campaign," she said.

But the Women's Hall of Fame was impressed with the road Dole had helped pave for women in politics, Bero said. "The way she conducted herself was extraordinary," she said. "(Other women politicians) can learn that it is possible to run for higher offices."

Dole's bid for president illustrated the need for proportional representation of women in the government, Bero said.

"Women need to run for higher office for change to be made," she said.

Political science Professor Thad Beyle also said Dole had set a positive precedent for women. "I think she's been the most serious candidate for the presiden-

tial race," Beyle said. "She may have opened up the road a bit."

With Dole out of the race, her supporters are now faced with the hard decision of who to support.

Political science Professor Jeffrey Obler said Dole's supporters would probably give their votes to Bush.

"They will not vote for Steve Forbes or John McCain," Obler said. "I think George W. Bush ... is emphasizing compassionate conservatism."

"I am speculating that if Dole stayed in the race, she would attract more female voters, and they would like Bush's slogan."

Because Dole abandoned her bid for the Republican nomination, some political experts have speculated that she might make a play for the vice presidency as George W. Bush's running mate. "I think it's a possibility," Obler said. "She is certainly an attractive candidate."

Obler said Dole was a possibility if the Republicans wanted to close the gender gap that had occurred over the past several years.

But Manns said rumors of Dole running as a vice presidential candidate were premature speculation.

"She hasn't thought about that," he said. "She was running for president."

Despite leaving the race early, Manns said Dole had enjoyed her run for the Republican nomination.

"She's forever changed the race by bringing new people."

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Carrboro Voter Turnout Uncertain

By JENNY ROSSER
Staff Writer

With local elections days away, candidates for the Carrboro Board of Aldermen say they hope the uncontested race will not discourage voters from coming out to the polls.

Carrboro's election is unique this year because all three candidates seeking an alderman position - Joal Broun, Alex Zaffron and Mark Dorosin - are running unopposed. Carrboro Mayor Mike Nelson is also up for re-election and running uncontested.

Carolyn Thomas, a member of the Orange County Board of Elections, said although there might be a slight drop in

voter turnout, she did not expect a significant decrease.

Carrboro resident Margaret Andrews, of 207 Lorraine St., said she was not sure about how the uncontested elections would influence her decision to vote.

"I guess I'll vote, but I need to think about it," she said.

In contrast, Harold Marks, of 605 Jones Ferry Road, said he would not vote. "It is a rather dull world in Carrboro," he said.



Alderman Jacquelyn Gist said she was impressed with this year's candidates for office.

Dorosin said because voting was so important, he hoped people would not be deterred. "Voting is a responsibility that people should be excited to exercise," he said. "However, voter turnout will probably be lower than normal, and that saddens me."

Dorosin said he was running a low-level campaign because he was uncontested. "I'm still trying to walk around neighborhoods and talk to voters, but the campaign is far reduced than it would be in a contested election."

Zaffron said by voting people were able to show candidates what issues they were interested in. "By voting we as candidates are able to see what ideas and concepts resonate with people, and this gives the board guidance," he said.

Alderman Jacquelyn Gist said this year's elections were important because the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Board

was holding contested elections.

"These elections are important, because they will have an impact on educating our children," she said. "In addition, because the schools have such a large budget, they have a lot to do with tax rates."

Broun said she also hoped voters would remember the importance of school board elections.

Dorosin said Carrboro's elections should not be viewed as a lack of enthusiasm for local politics.

"Carrboro's uncontested elections are not the result of people being apathetic," he said. "I think it is a sign that people are pleased with the way things are going, and they should come out and show it."

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Euthanasia Bill Divides Representatives

By BRENT KINKER
Staff Writer

A bill passed this week by the U.S. House of Representatives attempted to clarify the federal government's stance on euthanasia.

The Pain Relief Promotion Act, which was passed Wednesday in a 271-156 vote, would place major ramifications on doctor-assisted suicide.

Euthanasia would remain illegal under the bill, while allowing physicians to apply whatever medicine necessary to relieve a patient's suffering.

The bill would give doctors the right

to use whatever measures necessary to keep patients from enduring pain even if it potentially hastens death, said Mike Schwartz, a press representative for Rep. Tom Coburn, R-OK.

But doctors would not be allowed to use the medication to intentionally kill someone, Schwartz said.

"We've freed doctors to do what they should do," he said. "Killing people is not what they are for."

Schwartz said the bill's major opposition came from Oregon, the only state where assisted suicide is currently legal.

No representatives or senators from Oregon could be reached for comment.

Other Congressmen opposing the bill said it was inappropriate for the government to interfere in the issue.

"It's a tough issue morally, helping someone kill themselves," said Mike Slackman, press representative for Rep. Neil Abercrombie, D-Hawaii. "The federal government intruding in this is not the way to go."

Slackman said the public should further discuss the issues behind the bill.

"There's just not enough of a consensus on it yet," he said. "We'd like to see the public debate it further."

But legislation currently in place regulates the government's role in control-

ling painkillers. "These are federally controlled substances," Schwartz said. "(Physicians) are responsible to the Drug Enforcement Agency who monitors the use of these drugs."

Rep. Mike McIntyre, D-NC, said he also approved of the bill's moral stance.

"We should honor life," McIntyre said. "I don't think we want to go down the slippery slope of euthanasia and assisted suicide. It follows the fundamental legal position of 'thou shall not kill.'"

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Regulation To Protect Patients

President Clinton said he plans to issue an executive order protecting the privacy rights of medical patients.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Clinton plans to issue an executive order Friday proposing new regulations to strengthen privacy protections for electronic health and medical information, administration officials said.

The proposed regulations would limit the use and release of private health information transmitted or maintained by computers. It comes after Congress failed to meet a self-imposed Aug. 21 deadline for legislating new protections.

"I will use the full authority of this office to create the first comprehensive national standards for the protection of medical records," Clinton said in a prepared statement.

"The new rule I'm proposing would apply to all electronic medical records and to all health plans. It represents an unprecedented step toward putting Americans back in control of their own medical records," he said.

An existing patchwork of state laws protects medical privacy, but the protections vary widely. Currently, there are no federal guarantees that private information won't be passed to employers, sold to pharmaceutical companies or talked about in insurance company offices.

The new federal rules would go beyond the weaker protections of some states, but would not override those with more restrictive laws.

The rules would apply only to electronic information, including computer records that have been copied to paper. Medical records that have existed only on paper are not covered.

Under the proposal, a patient's information would not be released by doctors, hospitals or health plans for purposes unrelated to treatment and payment without written consent. Private information can now be released to financial institutions, direct marketing firms and others without a patient's knowledge or consent.

When required to release medical information, health organizations would have to limit the disclosure to the minimum necessary for each case instead of a patient's entire record. For example, when paying for medical services, no treatment information would be sent to banks or credit card companies.

The proposal would create new civil and criminal penalties for improperly disclosing patient information. Intentionally releasing information would be punished with up to a \$50,000 fine and one year in jail. Someone trying to sell information could face a \$250,000 fine and 10 years in prison.

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