

Hunt, Scott face off in personality match

When former Gov. Bob Scott announced last year that he would challenge incumbent Jim Hunt in the Democratic primary, many observers said Scott's re-election bid would provide a tight race to decide who would face Republican I. Beverly Lake in November.

And while the two candidates offer opposing viewpoints on several issues, for the most part Hunt and Scott present similar platforms with no major differences, which has turned the race into a personality-oriented rather than issue-oriented campaign.

At the outset, Scott went on the offensive, attacking Hunt's policies and accusing the governor of running a political machine. The strategy drew attention to his campaign, but at the same time prompted his own advisers and editorial writers across the state to suggest he tone down the criticism and concentrate on his own programs.

In February Hunt and Scott debated each other in Greensboro, with each side claiming victory. But the event saw the governor trying to fend off Scott's attacks, charging that many of the challenger's questions were not worth answering.

Throughout the campaign, Scott, like Hunt, has tried to emphasize the programs he implemented while serving

as governor. During his 1969-1973 tenure the former governor reorganized state government and the state's universities, which led to the formation of the present 16-campus system.

During his campaign Hunt has focused on his accomplishments as governor and lieutenant governor, emphasizing the industry he has brought into the state. The governor says his chief goal is to find more high-paying jobs for North Carolina residents and actively recruit both domestic and foreign industry.

Scott says reducing state government and making the most efficient use of tax revenues will be his chief goal if elected. He opposes seeking foreign investment in the state.

One of the main issues on which the two differ concerns the question of state-funded abortions. Hunt favors state-funded abortions for welfare recipients, while Scott says the issue should be left up to the woman and her physician. Both support the Equal Rights Amendment, but Scott says there are more important issues and the constitutional amendment would not be a top priority.

Scott also says his polls indicate that he is closing the gap on Hunt's lead, but many observers say the governor still looks strong going into the May 6 primary.



Jim Hunt



Bob Scott

Green, Stuart vie in close race

Of all the races in North Carolina this spring, the battle for lieutenant governor could prove to be the closest, with many voters deciding who to vote for right before they go to the polls.

The Democratic campaign pits incumbent Jimmy Green against Speaker of the House Carl Stewart, with the winner facing Republican William Cobey in November.

Like the governor's race, the campaigns of Green and Stewart have concentrated on personalities rather than issues. Green, the 59-year-old veteran, served one term in the state Senate and seven terms in the House before being elected lieutenant governor in 1976. Stewart, 43, was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Duke University and Duke Law School before beginning the first of his seven terms in the House at age 30.

Green is pictured as the conservative, both socially and fiscally. He opposes the Equal Rights Amendments and favors austerity in the state budget. He also has emphasized his support for increased drug enforcement activities at the Department of Justice and favors a boost in state aid to private education.

Stewart, on the other hand, considers himself a moderate and hopes to capture a significant portion of the black vote. He has

denounced Green's portrayal of the challenger as "ultra liberal," and stressed the importance of a strong leader who is not influenced by politics.

Thus far, Stewart has outspent Green, and plans to spend close to \$180,000 on a media campaign in the closing weeks of the campaign which will center on his leadership ability.

Both Stewart and Green have hinted they will seek the office of governor in 1984. Green would have pursued the post this year if the state's constitution had not been amended in 1977 to allow both the governor and lieutenant governor to gain succession. He decided that Gov. Jim Hunt would be too strong to challenge in 1980.

If either Stewart or Green runs for governor in 1984, he might find another challenger, Attorney General Rufus Edmisten, who currently has thrown his support behind Green. Observers say Edmisten feels Stewart would be a stronger opponent in 1984 and therefore wants to keep him out of the lieutenant governor's spot, which traditionally has been a stepping stone to the governor's position.

Aides oppose Ingram in insurance bid

"The position of insurance commissioner doesn't have the pizzazz and sex appeal of other races, but let me tell you that there is no race for public office which is more important to the people of North Carolina than the campaign for insurance commissioner."

So reads a news release from one of the candidates running for commissioner in the May 6 primary. Half of his statement is true—other races do overshadow the insurance commissioner's election—but this year North Carolina voters have a lively race and may need a scorecard to keep up with the candidates.

Three Democrats, who were at one time strong supporters of commissioner

John Ingram, have since had a change of heart, claiming that Ingram has become obsessed with his own importance. Each hopes to unseat his former boss and run against Republican Ed Tenney this fall.

Roy Rabon of Raleigh joined the insurance department and began his first term in 1973, but resigned in frustration last June. Kenn Brown of Garner also joined the Ingram team in 1973, rising to the position of chief deputy commissioner. After a dispute with Ingram he either was fired or resigned.

Burlington attorney Jim Long joined the department in 1975, but only stayed for 15 months, fired by Ingram after his re-election in 1976.

Ingram has come under attack for his policies in recent years. In 1977 he lost a considerable amount of power when the General Assembly allowed the insurance industry to impose rate increases despite his veto, pending court review.

The power issue is a main focus of the campaign, with Rabon, Brown and Ingram saying the power should be returned to the commissioner's office. Long has taken a neutral stand.

Ingram says he has saved the state's consumers hundreds of millions of dollars before losing his power in 1977 and also says his opponents are desperate.

State House race quiet; Senate poses contest

In the 17th district state House race, three Democratic candidates, all of whom could be expected to vote almost identically in the General Assembly, are seeking the party's two nominations in the May 6 primary.

Unlike the House race, which lacks any clear issues, the Democratic state Senate race in the 16th district reflects a split between the two incumbents and their challengers.

The three Democratic candidates in the House race—incumbent Trish Hunt of Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill lawyer Joe Hackney and local realtor and Pittsboro resident Wallace Kaufman—reflect the liberal characteristics of the 17th district, which includes Chatham and Orange counties. All support the Equal Rights Amendment, funding for public transportation and more ambitious energy legislation.

But Kaufman has said there are important differences in the candidates' experience and commitment. Kaufman said his experience in energy issues—he has served as president of both the Conservation Council of North Carolina and the N.C. Land Trustees, which supports alternative energy technology—and his work as author, UNC English professor and realtor—set him apart from the other candidates.

Although Hackney said he doubted there were any issue differences among the candidates, he said he could

serve the two-county district better than Kaufman—Hackney has served as district attorney for the two counties and has been active in the Joint Orange Chatham Community Action Agency.

Hunt said although each candidate had different backgrounds they are still likely to cast the same votes in the legislature. Hunt, who was first elected to the House in 1972, recently was ranked by the Public Policy Research Group as the most effective woman legislator in the state. She was ranked 12th of 170 over all.

There is one issue—reapportionment—that has sparked some differences among the candidates. Kaufman said he supported the idea set forth by the consumer group Common Cause that would allow a non-partisan committee to redistrict the state according to the 1980 census figures. While Hackney said he thought the legislators could work with a non-partisan advisory committee, he said the redistricting should be left to the General Assembly. Hunt also said the reapportionment should remain in the hands of the legislators although a non-partisan committee could advise the legislators.

James Stephen Blair is the only Republican House candidate.

In the state Senate race, there clearly are differences among the candidates. The incumbents, Charles Vickery of Orange County and Russell Walker of Randolph

County, are lined up against three Democratic challengers. The two incumbents have expressed more liberal views than their opponents, all of whom described themselves as conservative candidates.

One issue that separates the incumbents from the challengers is the Equal Rights Amendment. Both Vickery and Walker have consistently voted for ERA. But all of the challengers—Glen R. Connor of Southern Pines, L.L. Smithey of Randolph County and Charles R. Sullivan of Southern Pines—oppose passage of the amendment.

Connor, Smithey and Sullivan also objected to the way in which the incumbents have represented the 16th district, saying they would advocate a more open government that remains in touch with its constituency. But both Vickery and Walker said the challengers were offering far too simple pictures of government and failed to understand the tasks of a state senator.

There are three candidates in the Republican race for the state Senate primary. Alice Ward of Asheboro, Charles Adams of Randolph County and Maurice Wilson of Asheboro are seeking their party's two nominations. But the Republican race has failed to generate any issue controversy. Ward, who ran unsuccessfully for the state Senate two years ago, said she wanted to wait until after the primary to discuss the issues.

Primary Roundup

County spending at issue in commissioners' race

In November, Orange County voters, including the usually liberal voters in Chapel Hill and Carrboro, resoundingly rejected a \$2.4 million bond referendum that would have financed improvements in county schools, renovations in the Hillsborough jail and expansion of other county facilities.

When the final results on the referendum, which had been supported by all five members of the Orange County Board of Commissioners, were in, Efland dairy farmer Ben Lloyd rejoiced. Lloyd, an outspoken critic of county spending, had led the fight against the referendum.

In the current Democratic primary race for the two open seats on the Board of Commissioners, Lloyd once again is depending on the appeal of a tax-slashing platform to elect him to the party's nomination May 6. Lloyd has challenged current chairman of the board, Richard Whitted, and incumbent, Don Willhoit in the primary. Bo Dunlap, assistant director of alumni affairs at UNC, also is seeking one of the two party nominations for the November general election.

"I believe the people of Orange County have had enough," Dunlap said. "The foremost complaint is that the commissioners have lost contact with the people of the county. The county commissioners have been acting from a position of personal determination and not in response to the people."

Despite both Lloyd's and Dunlap's critical appraisal of county spending, the two incumbents have defended the current board's policies and have said the

county's 90-cent property tax per \$100 valuation is necessary to maintain county services.

"I guess the main difference is that the incumbents are emphasizing the evaluation of needs and attempts to meet these needs, whereas the opponents' first concern seems to be with taxes," Willhoit said. Willhoit is director of the health and safety office at UNC.

"The county has been very responsible in addressing needs and has a reasonable tax rate. I don't believe taxes should be cut. The only way to cut taxes is to cut services and I don't think there are any services in the county that could be cut." Whitted was first elected to the board in 1972. He works in the insurance office at Duke University.

In the Republican primary for the county board, Chapel Hill resident Josephine Barbour is running unopposed.

Voter Notes

North Carolina holds its election primary May 6. City Editor Anne-Marie Downey summarizes the state House and Senate races and the Orange County Board of Commissioners race. State and National Editor Jim Hummel takes a look at the governor, lieutenant governor and insurance commissioner contests.

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