

Political groups continue on despite student apathy

By JOEL KATZENSTEIN
Staff Writer

Almost every Monday morning, Bob Sheldon can be found setting up a table in the Pit. Having selected a topic that he and his organization feel is pertinent and will generate discussion and controversy, Bob uses his table as a sounding board and a display case with books on alternative political opinions, bumper stickers protesting U.S. military activities and fliers calling for social and political action.

Bob Sheldon, of Internationalist Books, is one of many common faces in the Pit's "political row" and his goal is to generate political awareness — a goal that he shares with a handful of political organizations on campus.

Gone are the days when Carolina students chanted, "Burn, baby burn," and, "All we are saying is give peace a chance." Instead with a more reserved and even apathetic mood on campus political views are often kept silent. There are, however, students who are both politically active and aware on campus. They plan rallies, collect signatures for protests, set up booths with literature in the Pit and write letters of concern to

their congressmen.

"Groups that were once socially oriented like the Campus Y are becoming more politically active," Lisa Mercer, president of the campus Democratic Socialists of America, said. "The fact that they are getting involved means that political activism will be just around the corner."

Mercer said, "The problems we faced in the '60s haven't been overcome. We see the same systemic failings that we did then." According to Mercer, students are beginning to react, though not as vocally as they did 20 years ago.

"In theory there are many people who are Democratic Socialists," Mercer said. Estimating a membership of more than 800 acknowledged members in the Triangle area, Mercer said the party is definitely growing. "Although we were almost entirely made up of graduate students and faculty, we now have 20 active student members."

Mercer said that recent student involvement in the DSA can be attributed to their opinion of the Democratic Party. "People see the DSA as the only viable, sane national alternative to a stale Democratic Party," Mercer said.

The party to which Mercer referred is also represented on campus in the form of the Young Democrats. Here since 1966, the Young Democrats have about 100 active members accord-

ing to Tim Newman, a member of the organization.

Newman also a co-chairman for the Carolina Students for Jim Hunt, said the Young Democrats sponsor candidate forums on campus for state government positions including attorney general and lieutenant governor. There are plans for a gubernatorial forum in the spring.

"We have a very diverse group of students that see the potential for far-reaching changes through the Democratic Party," Newman said. "We're more a party of the people — trying to help others through government service whereas the Republican Party is a party of self-preservationists."

The Republican Party also has student representation at UNC. The College Republicans' president, Garth Dunklin, said that college-age Republicans may not be highly visible, but their voices are being heard.

"In a poll conducted by the Republican National Committee in October, it was discovered that 56 percent of those polled between the ages of 18 and 24 were in support of President Reagan," Dunklin said. "The College Republicans is the largest student organization in the country."

Dunklin said that students get most involved during an election year because they feel that this is

when they can be of the most help. There are about 40 active members. "Students who get involved usually want to help a candidate with his campaign," Dunklin said. He said that becoming more aware of reality had determined his political leanings. "The more I came into contact with the real world the more conservative I became."

A new group on campus was formed three weeks ago to better student government. SEEDS (Students Effectively Establishing a Democratic System), a progressive political party, developed because of feeling that Student Government is not responsive to the needs and interests of students.

"SEEDS is a carry-over from many discussions people have had on the effectiveness of Student Government," Bill Barlow, a graduate student in city and regional planning said. "We want to raise political issues and see them through. The Campus Governing Council operates on an allocation basis and they don't discuss things that we feel are very important." Barlow said that SEEDS hoped to take an issue and see it through to some form of completion.

Barlow said that although SEEDS has just begun, there are already 20 active members and he and Carol B. Solow recently won vacant graduate seats on CGC. "I found a need to get involved politically on campus and there is a need for

political action," said Solow, a graduate student in social work.

SEEDS is a coalition of progressive groups that wish to confront such issues as water conservation, a nuclear free zone and divestment. "We want to be aggressive in representing issues that are currently affecting students," Barlow said.

The N.C. Student Legislature is another organization that is active on campus. However, the structure of NCSL is much different than that of other student political groups on campus. "NCSL is a non-partisan way to get involved in politics," said Mary Roff, NCSL president.

"Students active in NCSL — the active membership is about 40 — discuss N.C. issues and invite state legislators to speak on issues instead of candidates," Roff said. "We debate the issues and have state legislators speak."

"We have people who love Jesse Helms and people who hate him," she said. Students who get involved in NCSL are interested in seeing how issues are discussed in actual government situations and they get to see step by step how the issues are handled, Roff said. "We have the opportunity to interact with NCSL members from other schools during our state meetings and it is there that we pass resolutions about state issues," she said.

Past

The strike ended after Gov. Bob Scott announced an increase in the state's minimum wage and the University acceded to workers' demands for more equitable overtime pay and the hiring of minority supervisors.

Failing to get administration support for their ideas, UNC student activists of the late '60s were likely to set out on their own, said speech professor Paul Brandes. Students rented buses to establish a profit-making transportation system on South Campus. And one group, dissatisfied with UNC's curriculum, established an unsanctioned night school staffed by student lecturers.

The activists had received valuable leadership training during integration battles in their high schools, Brandes said. Students weaned on confrontations with their local school board members and town officials had no reluctance to bring their grievances to the University administration and the Board of Trustees.

"The poor board would never meet, but somebody wasn't after them," he said.

The fervor began to cool considerably in the semesters following the Kent State protest, Bello said. Students turned their attention to campus issues and social activities.

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—Thomas Bello, former student body president

National

"I think that the recent events in Grenada, Lebanon and Central America have generated a lot of concern among students," he said. "There haven't been a great number of protests, but I don't think you'll see a return to '60s-style demonstrations unless we start the draft."

Ward said he believes that the decline of campus activism actually began in 1970, after the initial reaction to the Kent State shootings subsided. There are two theories behind the end of activism, he said. First, students began to see the danger of marching in the streets. At Kent State, it resulted in four deaths. Second, as the war in Vietnam continued, students perceived that the protests really didn't matter.

Despite the conservative trend on today's campuses, several schools have experienced specific incidents that indicate the pendulum could begin swinging the other way.

The Progressive Student Network at the University of Michigan, for example,

were becoming burned out. There is only so much protesting you can do until you get frustrated.

"Everybody was asking, 'Where are all the protesters?' Most of us were studying."

With the pressing issues of the Vietnam War and civil rights largely behind them, students turned to their more natural concerns of academics and careers said J. Carlyle Sitterson, chancellor of the University from 1966 to 1972. As a legacy of the unrest of the '60s, students were left with a skepticism about the ability of government to solve modern problems.

"During the '60s, there was an expectation — certainly a hope — that it was

possible for government to solve the perennial issues of mankind — poverty, peace, racial justice," Sitterson said. "We've become less certain that they can be solved by government."

UNC President William C. Friday said that students didn't become less active, they just began to channel their energies within the system, participating in volunteer work and writing letters to the editor.

"I've never known a student generation that has failed to make itself known in some way. That's the tradition of Chapel Hill," Friday said. "The real disappointment would be if you were not heard."

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The 'DTH' Survey

The Daily Tar Heel's political attitudes survey was conducted from 6 to 10 p.m. on seven days during the last two weeks of September. The sample of student telephone numbers was drawn randomly from a list of numbers of students registered at the University as of Sept. 7. Evening College students and students living outside Chapel Hill and Orange County were included in the sample.

A total of 384 students were questioned about their political behaviors and attitudes. Because of the random-sampling

techniques used in the survey, there is a 95 percent certainty that their answers reflect the attitudes of the student population as a whole within a plus or minus 5 percent margin.

The survey, which consisted of 52 questions, was developed by two graduate students at the UNC School of Journalism, Gary Dorsey and Ellen Rusten. Dorsey and Rusten also supervised the calls, made by The Daily Tar Heel staff, and tabulated and analyzed the results. Technical assistance was provided

by professors Phil Meyer of the School of Journalism and M. Richard Cramer of the department of sociology.

The DTH staff would like to thank Gary and Ellen for their work on the survey. Thanks also to Steve Ferguson, Wayne Thompson and Janice Murphy.

FOR THE RECORD: Coach Crum Does Not Endorse Alcoholic Beverages

A beer distributor recently ran an advertisement in *The Daily Tar Heel* saluting Coach Crum which used his name and likeness. The beer distributor did this without Coach Crum's permission. Coach Crum did not authorize the advertisement, and it is his policy not to endorse any alcoholic beverages. The DTH and the beer distributor regret the error.

UNIVERSITY DINING SERVICES EXAM SCHEDULE

Due to Lenoir Hall renovations, the Pineroom will close December 9th at 7:00 p.m.

The Fastbreak, however, will be open until December 21st at 1:00 p.m.; and will be set up to provide you with both fast food and cafeteria service.

The Fastbreak will operate:

Monday-Thursday 7:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.
Friday 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Cafeteria meals will be served:

Breakfast 7:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Dinner 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

The Deli Bar and Nature's Cove will also be open 7 days a week from 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

The Snack Bars on South Campus will operate during their regular service hours until December 21st at 1:00 p.m. Hot meals will still be served Monday-Thursday at Morrison and Hinton-James from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

The University Dining Services Office (3rd floor Lenoir) will be open to assist you from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday thru December 21st.

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR EXAMS!

Trust in government

	Believers	Middle	Skeptics
male	34%	19%	47%
female	35%	32%	33%
black	49%	22%	29%
white	33%	26%	41%
in-state	34%	21%	45%
out-of-state	37%	33%	30%
Greek	29%	19%	52%
non/Greek	36%	27%	37%
Democrats	37%	27%	36%
Republicans	27%	21%	52%
Independents	37%	37%	27%
Income:			
up to \$25,000	40%	29%	31%
\$26-\$35,000	36%	23%	41%
\$36-\$50,000	33%	25%	42%
Over \$50,000	27%	27%	45%

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