

Parties debate convert estimates

By RACHEL STIFFLER
Staff Writer

Republicans continue to call the "Operation Open Door" campaign a success despite charges from the Democratic Party that the estimate of converts to the GOP is padded.

The Republican National Committee said in a press conference Aug. 22 that the drive had resulted in 7,075 new Republicans in North Carolina, while another 10,257 Democrats have made verbal commitments to switch parties but have not done so yet.

"Operation Open Door" was a 100-day drive that began on May 7 and wrapped up on Aug. 15. Its goal was to recruit 100,000 new voters into the GOP. In conjunction with "Operation Switch," a statewide drive in North Carolina, a goal was set to recruit 15,000 in the state alone.

Mary Mead, spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee, said the figures were gathered from Board of Elections and Republican Party offices in each county in North Carolina. She said the national drive netted over 100,000 new voters, 98 percent of which were in Florida, Louisiana, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

Mead said all the figures were completely verifiable. During the press conference on Aug. 22, reporters were provided with a list of county Board of Elections offices and their telephone numbers so the figures could be checked by any doubters.

Democrats disputed the figures, citing two surveys conducted by the Raleigh News and Observer and the Charlotte Observer which estimated the number of converts to be between 2,100 and 2,600.

Chris Shields, state GOP spokesman, called the drive a success. "We were very pleased," he said in a telephone interview Wednesday. "We did what we set out to do. All I have to say (in response to the Democratic accusation) is that their smoke screen to cover up the fact that Republican numbers are going up and their numbers are going down."

Shields was quoted in the Aug. 23 edition of the Durham Morning Herald as saying the GOP's figures were verified by GOP workers who visited election offices in the state and checked records. He said the newspaper surveys were not as accurate because they were verified by telephone.

However, Anne Hubbard, press secretary for the N.C. Democratic Party, said she has "a lot more confidence in work done by objective reporters than in these boastful claims of the Republicans."

"I don't believe that there are 7,075 Democrats in North Carolina that would change," she said. "There's no point in even considering the other 10,000." She said the discrepancies in the surveys showed that the Republicans

were "overly confident" about voters who may switch. "They tell far short of what they predicted, so they're trying to pump up those numbers," she said.

Hubbard conceded that the newspaper surveys are probably an accurate representation of the number of switches in party registration, but she said her party is "not at all concerned." She said with the strength of a popular Republican president, GOP numbers peaked in November of 1984. "It's been downhill for them ever since," she said.

"The Democratic Party is becoming increasingly dynamic," she said. "We're being very aggressive holding onto voters, we're fielding better candidates, and we're a lot more fun."

Alex Brock, executive director of the N.C. Board of Elections, said the state office does not keep records of how many voters changed their party registration. That, he said, must be obtained by going to each county office individually and asking for the figures, a task too massive for his available manpower.

In response to the controversy, Brock said, "The only thing I can say is that I believe all of them. All of the political parties and the News and Observer thrown in are going to print what they want to print and say what they want to say. I'm not saying that anybody's lying, it's just that that kind of information is difficult (to verify)."

"The real question is, 'What difference does it make?'" he said. "It's how they vote that matters, not how they register."

Thad Beyle, professor of political science at UNC, said he believes that "a lot of people they (the GOP) are attracting already vote Republican but are registered Democrat."

He said this is a result of a long heritage of being a Democrat, particularly in the South, among people who grew up in the eras of Franklin Roosevelt and John Kennedy.

The students currently at UNC, however, are the product of a new trend, he said. "They're growing up Republican and saying they're Republicans. They've grown up with Nixon, Ford, and Reagan. Kids today have a strong fatherly image of the GOP."

Beyle said the Democrats can attract new voters and keep the ones already registered by running better candidates and by putting more time between national and state elections.

"They need to get different people to run (nationally) so no one (running for a state office) will get hurt by being called a 'Mondale Liberal' or a 'Mondale Democrat'," Beyle said. He said some states have already started holding state-level elections during years in which national elections are not being held so that this type of problem will not recur.

He said he believed that although the trend in voter preference is currently toward the Republican Party, a reversal could easily occur in the next several years.

Soviets warn U.S. against weapon test

From wire reports

MOSCOW — The Soviet news agency Tass issued a statement Wednesday warning the United States not to go ahead with a planned testing of an anti-satellite weapon.

The statement also said that Moscow would not consider itself under obligation to bide by its 2-year-old commitment not to deploy such weapons if the U.S. goes ahead with its plan.

The Reagan administration dismissed the Tass announcement as meaningless. White House officials contend that space weapons are needed in order to maintain a military balance.

Saudi Arabia offers installations

WASHINGTON — Saudi Arabia has agreed to let U.S. military forces use Saudi installations in case of Soviet aggression or if the Middle East country is unable to quell a Persian gulf crisis by itself.

According to a State Department official, the Saudi Arabian government was offering this last year when Iran was threatening to attack Saudi oil sites.

However, the Saudi Arabian government was still refusing to allow the U.S. joint planning for these contingencies.

Mississippi declared disaster area

WASHINGTON — Mississippi was declared a major disaster area Wednesday by President Reagan due to the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Elena.

This announcement will allow federal assistance from

news in brief

the President's Disaster Relief Fund to aid in the recovery efforts in specific regions in the state.

A Civil Defense official estimated that Elena caused more than a half-billion dollars worth of damage in Mississippi alone.

Israeli planes strike base

BEIRUT — Israeli planes retaliated with a strike over a Palestine guerrilla base Wednesday after a car bomb exploded in a Christian section of Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley, killing 14 people and wounding 46.

The Israeli military command said that the mission was successful and all planes returned safely after hitting a four-building complex of the Palestinian Arab Revolutionary Committee, a Libyan-backed guerrilla group.

The car bomb was the sixth in Lebanon in less than a month. At least 140 people were killed and 250 were wounded by the other five explosions.

S. African police wound 40

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — At least 40 people were wounded by police firing live ammunition from shotguns along with rubber bullets from rifle-like launchers in Cape Town Wednesday as rioting continued.

Because of the political problems, South Africa's currency dropped sharply, and monetary controls were put on to avoid a financial crisis.

Tuition costs influence college choices

By GORDON RANKIN
Staff Writer

UNC students have the tuition benefits of a state-supported school, but students at private institutions must dig deeper into their pockets to finance a college education.

The cost at all American colleges and universities rose an average of 7.1 percent for the 1985-86 academic year, according to the Collegiate Roster. With the price of learning being considerably higher at private schools, today's high school seniors are putting more thought into their choices of colleges.

Students at Mars Hill College, a small liberal arts school in the mountains of North Carolina, pay approximately \$6,000 per year. This amount covers tuition, room, board and fees.

According to Susan Ruark, director of financial aid at Mars Hill, the only cost a student will incur above the \$6,000 is the price of books.

"We make a serious attempt to outline a complete budget for the potential applicant, so that there are no hidden costs," Ruark said.

Ruark said 69 percent of this year's student body received some form of financial aid. The average amount of the financial awards are \$2,900, or

roughly half the cost to attend Mars Hill.

This year at Duke University, students will pay about \$13,200. That amount will cover all expenses with the exception of textbooks and travel between the university and home. Duke represents the highest tuition of any school in North Carolina, but administrators insure that no accepted applicants are excluded for financial reasons.

"We at Duke have made a commitment to meeting exactly 100 percent of a student's demonstrated need," said James Belvin, financial aid director at Duke.

Belvin said Duke didn't present any hidden costs of unreasonable expense and guaranteed four years of housing, eliminating the need for off-campus apartments or other expenses.

Tuition at Methodist College this year will amount to \$4,700 and about 75 percent of the students will receive a financial aid package. Costs above that amount would include books, personal expenses and a nominal identification card fee.

Cost is not the only factor for potential college applicants. Other major concerns are the environment of the college, the quality of life and the quality of education.

"We are proud of the fact that our classes are relatively small, some with less than ten members," M. Elton Hendricks, president of Methodist College, said.

He said all faculty members were qualified, experienced people, and graduate students were not permitted to teach.

At UNC, students from North Carolina will pay \$794 in tuition for 1985-86; out-of-state students will pay \$3,714. Room and board averages \$1,156 for all students, Eleanor Morris, UNC's director of financial aid, said.

"We have calculated that between 35 and 40 percent of the students here receive some form of scholarship, loan or grant," Morris said.

The cost of personal expenses and meals varies for each Carolina student, as does that of books. Class size also differs greatly, but unaccessible professors are not a problem at UNC, according to Morris.

None of the collegetives surveyed said their school, whether it be public or private, was a better value than any of the other institutions.

"It is up to the applicant to decide which school and which degree suits him," Morris said.

Eyeing Senate, Hunt gets new pollster

By JILL GERBER
Staff Writer

Former Gov. Jim Hunt has replaced the polling firm he used in his 1984 campaign against Sen. Jesse Helms.

Hunt, currently a Raleigh lawyer, dropped the Washington-based Peter D. Hart Research Associates, which he used in three previous state elections. His new firm is Hickman-Maslin Associates, also based in Washington,

said an article in the Charlotte Observer. Hickman-Maslin has already conducted one poll for Hunt, who is considering a bid for Republican Sen. John East's seat.

Gary Pearce, Hunt's campaign director against Helms last year, would not discuss the recent Hickman-Maslin poll. He said Hunt was not displeased with the Hart firm, which was also used last year by defeated presidential candidate

Walter Mondale.

"Peter Hart has always done our polls before, and Gov. Hunt could use him again if he chooses to run," said Pearce.

He also said Hunt switched pollsters to provide a North Carolinian's perspective to his political research. Harrison Hickman, the N.C. link of Hickman-Maslin Associates, is from Wake Forest.

Tricia Renner, an executive director of Hickman-Maslin, declined to discuss why Hunt changed polling services.

"We're not in the position to comment right now," she said. "Harrison (Hickman) is an advisor to the governor, but that's a private matter between them."

for the record

The cutlines to photos depicting the Sharon Lynn Stewart services in Thurs-

day's Daily Tar Heel were reversed. The DTH regrets the production error.

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NCBG sponsors wild flower workshop

By JANE MINTZ
Staff Writer

The N.C. Botanical Garden will sponsor a wild flower workshop Saturday and a Mason Farm animal program Saturday and Sunday.

The workshop, "Fall Wild Flowers, or Don't be Afraid of the Goldenrod," will explain the basic parts of a flower and how to use that information to identify a flower. Participants will attend an afternoon field trip, during

which they will identify fall wild flowers in the area.

Ken Moore, assistant director of the N.C. Botanical Garden and workshop conductor, said participants should wear comfortable walking clothes and bring a sack lunch.

The session will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in the Totten Center at the Botanical Garden. The registration fee includes the price of Cuthbert's "How to Know the Fall Wild Flowers."

For registration and fee information, call 967-2246.

The program on common and unusual animals at Mason Farm includes a slide show Saturday to acquaint participants with the creatures and their native habitats.

Sunday, Steve Hall, a UNC zoology graduate student and seven-year resident of Mason Farm, will guide participants through Piedmont successional forests and by swampy areas to see relict populations more typical of N.C. mountains or more northern regions.

The animal program will be held 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Totten Center Saturday and 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. For registration and fee information, call 967-2246.

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