

# Voters to decide three amendments

By SHARON KEBSCHULL  
Staff Writer

North Carolinians who go to the polls Nov. 4 will find three amendments to the state constitution on the ballot.

The first and third amendments — proposed by Democratic state Rep. Daniel Lilley — concern financing through privately owned bonds. The second would affect absentee ballots for November elections.

The first amendment would authorize issuance of revenue bonds to finance private colleges and universities.

In 1982 the amendment was defeated with 52.8 percent of the people voting against it. For the election, a group called Friends of Higher Education (FHE) formed to tell taxpayers that the amendment would not cost them anything.

It would allow non-profit independent organizations to use financing from the bonds to improve their facilities at a lower interest rate, said Hope Williams, executive director of the N.C. Association of Independent

Colleges and Universities. This will prevent them from having to raise tuition rates and other fees, she said.

"We haven't talked to anyone against it, but I always run scared, since this was on the ballot four years ago and narrowly lost," said Jacob Martinson, director of FHE. The group has used mailings, brochures, speakers and television ads to inform voters, he said.

The third would give the state and other public authorities the power to develop new and existing seaports and airports, including the power to finance and refinance seaport, airport and related facilities and improvements.

The third amendment would cost taxpayers nothing, said William Edwards, executive director of the N.C. Port Authority. The amendment would allow corporations to use bond revenues for their own benefit, such as building a private dock. Without the amendment, corporations would have to use the funds to build a dock for the general public. Corporations would have to repay the bonds, which will be

secured on a lease.

"The way the law is now is a hindrance to airports and seaports," Edwards said. "I'm hoping it'll pass easily, but I don't know how much education the public has had."

The second amendment on the ballot would make a difference in absentee ballots. It states: "When a vacancy occurs during a term of an officer 60 days before a regularly scheduled election, a mid-term election shall be held."

This amendment, proposed by Democratic state Sen. Melvin Watt, will change the current policy, which states that if a vacancy occurs 31 days

before an election, it must be put on the Nov. 4 ballot. Absentee ballots can be sent out up to 60 days before the election, so some candidates miss being put on the ballot, said Alex Brock, the executive director of the State Board of Elections.

"This is just a convenient time for it, and the General Assembly was receptive to it," Brock said. The only campaigning for it was through the media, election officials and the League of Women Voters. He said he did not think there was any opposition to it, calling it merely a logistical problem.

# Soviet leader plans to visit traditionally U.S. sphere

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is planning to visit Latin America, apparently in an attempt to penetrate peacefully an area where the United States has long been the dominant influence, administration officials said.

Gorbachev plans to visit Cuba, Moscow's closest ally in the hemisphere, and is also expected to become the first Soviet leader to travel to Mexico, Argentina and Brazil.

## News in Brief

### Vatican resists homosexuality

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican instructed bishops Thursday to stamp out pro-homosexual views within the Roman Catholic church and oppose legislative attempts which condone them.

A letter to the bishops approved by Pope John Paul II accuses pro-homosexual groups of "deceitful propaganda."

# CASH attorney opposes nuclear plant licensing

By TRACEY MAXWELL  
Staff Writer

The low-level operating license recently granted to the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant permits high-level waste to be stored at the plant site, said Bob Epting, an attorney for the Coalition for Alternatives to Shearon Harris.

"This should infuriate the public," Epting said at a press conference Thursday afternoon in his Chapel Hill office.

The license states that CP&L, which owns the plant, may bury high-level waste products from the plant. If CP&L can obtain insurance coverage, the plant may receive and possess, but not separate, nuclear waste from units 1 and 2 of the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant and Unit 2 of the Robinson Steam Electric Plant.

The Brunswick and Robinson plants are also owned and operated by CP&L, Epting said. "The license calls them steam plants, but don't miss the fact that they are nuclear power plants," he said.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission granted the license to CP&L Oct. 24, authorizing officials to load fuel into the plant's reactor to begin testing.

To bring the waste to the Harris plant site, about 35 miles southwest of Chapel Hill, CP&L will have to transport it along state highways, Epting said.

The required insurance agreement would limit liability to \$650 million, he said. "The question I want to ask the NRC and CP&L is how they plan to insure the people of North Carolina against loss if a transport

truck runs into a school bus or overturns near a school."

Epting said the waste from all three sites would equal about 40 tons per year.

He also mentioned CASH's official petition filed with the NRC Oct. 17 that cited several safety concerns.

He said the petition addressed three main issues: a construction flaw at Shearon Harris called "cable-tray separation," CP&L's firing of two quality assurance employees "for doing their job too well," and specific reports of other construction

flaws from a confidential source.

The source named 40 or 50 specific instances when inspectors failed to thoroughly check the unusual placement of anchor bolts into the concrete walls, Epting said. But so far NRC officials have said the allegations are too vague, he said.

He said he thinks it is "extremely important and extremely serious" that the NRC investigate these allegations. "It's not too late, in fact it's exactly the right time to admit the allegations are site specific and to check them out," he said. "We're hopeful they'll do so."

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## Broyhill

amount of goods is coming in at a predictable rate," Broyhill said earlier at a meeting with reporters in Greensboro. "If we're faced with 20 to 30 percent increases in the import level every month, that's when it becomes difficult to handle."

Broyhill concluded with a plea to supporters to "use your telephone, use your influence" to get out the vote on Tuesday "for the betterment of America."

Martin also warned against complacency.

"You know how many more shopping days there are until Nov. 4?" Martin asked. "You know how many (voters) there are out there to get? Well, go out and get them."

He also kept up his plea for more

Republicans in the Democrat-controlled General Assembly and to do away with the supersubcommittee he said met secretly to enact the state budget. And he asked again to no longer be the only governor in the nation without veto power.

Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Howard Coble, R-N.C., said Robin Britt, the Democrat he ousted in 1984, had distorted his record on social security.

"Vicious television advertising is the most cruel form of advertising because it plays upon the fears of senior citizens," he said.

Coble also said Britt had accused him of voting like Helms. "I guess all I can say to that is 'guilty as charged.'"

He warned the GOP not to forget conservative Democrats when going to the polls because "we need them and they need us."

## Sanford from page 1

tion, which has been under a two-year, court-ordered ban on nationwide farm foreclosures, is preparing to resume the foreclosure process, Sanford said.

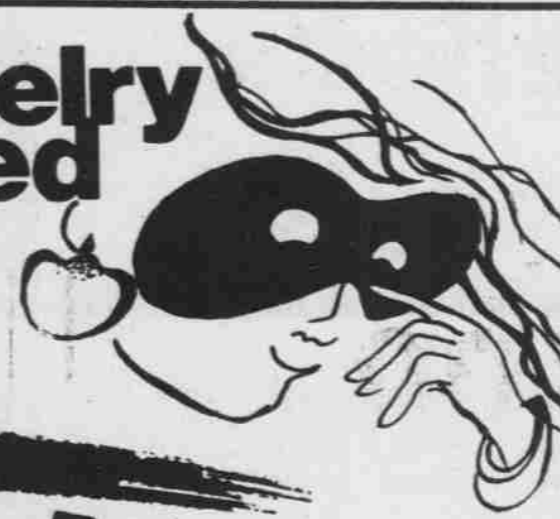
"The FmHA has already hired 11 lawyers in North Carolina alone to handle the planned increase in foreclosures, starting right after the election," Sanford said. "We will put a stop to that."

On specific farm votes, Sanford said he agreed with Broyhill's support for the 1985 Farm Bill and his support of a resolution urging the Farm Credit System to consider the restructuring of delinquent loans to farmers. But he said Broyhill voted "present," instead of casting a yes or no vote, on a motion to restore deep cuts in farm export programs and a 60 percent cut in the agricultural extension service.

Broyhill has said that measure was brought up out of order, prompting his procedural vote.

Sanford said Broyhill was the only Southern senator not to vote for a recent farm-credit relief bill, but Broyhill said he was not in Washington when the vote came and that he knew his support was not vital to its passage.

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