

Upholding states' rights in business matters

By MICHAEL JORDAN
Staff Writer

Legislation to curb hostile takeovers in the business sector should not usurp the state's right to regulate business, the executive council of the National Association of Attorneys General told Congress in an interim resolution last week.

The 17-member council, which met in Portland, Ore., approved the interim resolution Sept. 21, said Lynn Ross, deputy director of the association. The entire association will consider the resolution during its Dec. 10 meeting, Ross said.

N.C. Attorney General Lacy Thornburg, a member of the executive council, while seeing the need to regulate hostile takeovers, wants

the individual states to retain their control over business within the state, said Jim Gulick, special N.C. deputy attorney general.

"There is a place for new federal protections in this area, but (Thornburg) is exceptionally concerned that it not be used to take away the states' power in the situations," Gulick said. "Companies are creatures of state law."

But since most companies extend beyond state boundaries and have widely distributed stock, some national guidance is needed, said Richard McEnally, UNC professor of business.

"This is a classic battle," McEnally said. Increased buyouts and takeovers

have prompted concern about the motives behind the business transactions.

Gulick said that a study by former Mayor of New Orleans Moon Landrieu reported that the 18 largest mergers in U.S. history have occurred within the last five years.

"In 1986 alone there were 36 leverage buyouts involving over \$1 billion each," Gulick said. "One of our serious concerns is that these mergers are done entirely for the basis of driving up stock prices."

Over \$176 billion — more than the total spent on plants and equipment for the year — was spent on takeover bids in 1986, Gulick said.

Despite the recent publicity, McEnally said much of the concern

over hostile takeovers is misplaced.

McEnally said hostile takeovers sometimes help companies "weed out" unneeded middle management, cut costs and streamline financial policies.

In an effort to regulate debt-finance buyouts, Sen. Terry Sanford, D-N.C., a member of the Senate Banking Committee, proposed a bill last June calling for public disclosure of financing used in takeovers, tighter restriction on the financing allowed and earlier disclosure of finances, said Tom Lawton, Sanford's press secretary.

The Senate Banking Committee will begin deliberations over similar bills Tuesday, Lawton said.

Iraqi warplanes fire missiles at Iranian oil tankers in gulf

From Associated Press reports

MANAMA, Bahrain — Iraq said its war jets attacked with missiles four tankers shuttling oil along the Iranian coast in a 20-hour span ending Sunday night, as Baghdad kept up pressure on Iran's vulnerable oil lifeline.

The attacks coincided with a new warning by Iraq of all-out war if Iran fails to accept a cease-fire demanded by the United Nations.

Iran retorted that it would pursue its "holy war" against Iraq's secular government until President Saddam Hussein was toppled. The Persian Gulf neighbors have been at war since September 1980.

Shipping officials based in the Persian Gulf confirmed the first three Iraqi attacks.

They could not immediately verify a fourth raid that the official Iraqi News Agency said was carried out after dark Sunday against a "very large naval target" off Iran.

That phrase usually means a tanker sailing between terminals on Iran's gulf coastline. INA, monitored in Cyprus, said all the warplanes returned safely.

Book details Casey's actions

WASHINGTON — The late CIA Director William Casey turned to the Saudi Arabian government for money and help when it became clear that his own effort to create a secret anti-terrorist force was not going to work, according to excerpts published Sunday of a forthcoming book by Bob Woodward.

The book also describes Casey as an action-oriented man who was "struck by the overall passivity of the president . . ."

Woodward also provided details of what he said was Casey's deathbed confession of his knowledge of the diversion of Iran arms profits to the Nicaraguan contra rebels.

In the book and in an interview with CBS-TV's "60 Minutes," Woodward describes when, after eluding CIA security, he got to

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Casey's hospital room. "He was dying. It was not the Casey I knew physically," Woodward said. "And so I got one question and . . . that question was: 'You knew about the diversion, didn't you?' . . . And he nodded. . . . And I said 'Why?' And he said, 'I believed.'"

Asked what Casey "believed," Woodward answered, "That we can change the world. That we can reshape it . . ."

Casey died May 6 of complications after being diagnosed as having a malignant brain tumor.

Excerpts from Woodward's book, "Veil: The Secret War of the CIA, 1981-1987," appeared in Sunday editions of The Washington Post and in the newspaper's magazine supplement.

Congress may restrict U.S. operations in gulf

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Sunday a congressional move to restrict U.S. military operations in the Persian Gulf would be the "height of absurdity."

Weinberger, who is in the Persian Gulf inspecting the American flotilla, was asked by television interviewers about a plan by Senate Democrats to amend a Pentagon budget bill to include congressional review of the reflagging and escorting of Kuwaiti tankers.

The amendment, somewhat similar to the War Powers Act, would require a report from Reagan within 30 days after the law takes effect, justifying his policy of protecting 11 Kuwaiti tankers with U.S. flags and Navy convoys.

Within 90 days of enactment, the reflagging and convoys would have to halt unless both the House and Senate vote in favor of their continued presence.

Students continue voter registration drive

By HUNTER LAMBETH
Staff Writer

UNC students and other Chapel Hill and Carrboro residents have until Oct. 5 to register to vote in the Nov. 3 town and Orange County elections.

Although this is not a presidential election year, a good local turnout is expected at the polls as a result of heightened public concern over development, environmental and University issues.

Among the 10 candidates running for the four open Chapel Hill Town Council positions are UNC students Charles Balan and Rob Friedman.

The UNC Student Government has a program for getting students registered to vote and involved in the town elections.

Charlene Byrd and John Edwards, appointed by Student Body President Brian Bailey, head up this year's campus registration drive.

"We set up in the Pit and in the

dorms," Byrd said. "Starting (this) week, we will be taking registration from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m."

Byrd said 723 people have already registered on campus this year.

"That number includes both students and faculty, but is open to anyone who meets registration requirements," Byrd said.

"Anyone who wants to vote must be a resident of the town they will vote in for at least 30 days prior to election day," said Delores Moe, chairman of Chapel Hill voter registration.

People who want to vote in the Chapel Hill or Carrboro town elections, for example, must have lived in that town since Oct. 3 or earlier.

Although it is easier for students to register on campus, they can also register at the town locations.

The municipal building on Airport Road and the public library are also registration sites for the Chapel Hill

Town Council and mayoral elections. The fire station on West Main Street is the registration site for the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and mayoral elections.

Voter registration at the Chapel Hill and Carrboro sites is held Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The last day to register is Oct. 5 at 5 p.m.

Voters can also register Oct. 1 at University Mall from 2 until 4 p.m.

By Aug. 9, 21,303 people had already registered to vote in Chapel Hill. The town does not keep records of the number of students registered.

Registration is generally slow at the start of every drive, and this year is no exception because local elections don't bring out as many voters as presidential elections, Moe said.

Moe registers voters at the municipal building, where she said registration is not as brisk as it is at the public library.

"It is usually very slow here," she said. "Over at the library there is usually a waiting line, but not here."

Since the first day of the voter registration drive, Sept. 8, Moe has registered a total of 38 people, but she said most people wait until the last day.

"Registration will pick up the last week, and on Oct. 5 it will be just hectic," Moe said. "At five minutes til 5 p.m., they all come rushing in. On the last day in 1985, I had 31 people register. On other days we will have two or three people, maybe."

"It only takes five minutes to do the whole registration process," Moe said. "The part that takes the longest is figuring out what precinct people are in."

No students are included among the five people running for three open seats on the Carrboro Board of Aldermen or the two people running for the mayoral position.

County may charge for ambulance service

By KARI BARLOW
Staff Writer

Orange County will probably begin charging for non-emergency ambulance rides in a few months because only one company has responded to its nine-month search for a private vendor to take over the service.

"We probably will have to add our own non-emergency crew to do it," said Bobby Baker, county emergency management director. "Plans are in progress right now."

The only offer to take over the ambulance service, made by a Raleigh-based company, was unworkable, Baker said. Further offers are unlikely, he said.

The county has operated the service free of charge since December 1986, when the SAS Piedmont Ambulance Service pulled out and left the non-emergency ambulance service for the county to operate, Baker said.

The county has been bearing the financial weight of the program and advertising in local newspapers to

find a company to run the service, Baker said.

Advertising efforts for a franchise have been unsuccessful because the service would not receive enough non-emergency ambulance calls to make the business profitable, Baker said.

"There are not enough calls to justify it," said Baker.

Unlike the non-emergency service, the emergency service is funded by donations and tax dollars. Almost \$41,500 was budgeted by the county for the non-emergency service, but providing the service free of charge is costing the county about \$500 each month.

The county now operates four ambulances that answer both emergency and non-emergency calls, but a conflict occasionally arises between the two types of calls. When this happens, the county relies on ambulances from other counties for reinforcement, Baker said.

The emergency ambulances respond to about 600 calls each

month, most commonly for victims of automobile accidents, strokes and heart attacks, Baker said. The 50 non-emergency calls that the county handles usually require transporting patients and the elderly to and from clinics and nursing homes.

The service is provided Monday

through Friday by the Orange County Emergency Medical Service, which is staffed by paid employees. During the weekends, the Orange County and South Orange Rescue Squads run the ambulance service. Both organizations are also staffed with trained volunteers.

Committee seeks dormitory representatives

By MARK FOLK
Staff Writer

Student Government's executive branch has formed a new representative committee to improve communication between students and Student Government.

Organizers hope the group will be made up of residents from every residence hall, involving more students in Student Government issues and projects.

Steve Day, chairman of the committee, said it was formed to eliminate the student apathy that results from

lack of awareness of Student Government's activities.

"We want to both collect and take information to students," Day said. "Our purpose is to not only let students know what we're doing, but also find out what they want us to do."

Day said the idea for the representative committee came from Brian Bailey, student body president. Promising to give more students a voice in the executive branch was one of the foundations of Bailey's campaign for student body president last

semester.

"This is something that Brian has wanted to do for some time," Day said. "I feel something like this will really help him in finding out how students feel on certain issues."

Bailey said the representative committee will encourage better understanding between students and Student Government.

"As student body president, I need to know what the students are thinking," Bailey said. "Right now, I don't know that."

Since the committee has only met once, plans for the group's structure have not been finalized. But Day said members would probably visit residence halls to gather information and solicit opinions.

"Going door to door is the best way to funnel information to and from students," he said. "The only problem is getting enough members to do it."

The committee is still looking for more members.

Interested students should sign up at the committee's table, which will be in the Pit from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. this week, or come by Suite C. The group's next meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in Room 213 of the Student Union.

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