

Meet the candidates: the N.C. gubernatorial race

Crawford counts on support of working people

By LAURA MAYFIELD
Staff Writer

North Carolina needs a governor who is concerned with the state's working people, not a politician who is preoccupied with his record, says Democratic gubernatorial candidate Carroll Crawford.

"It's going to take everyone working together to stop the politicians from bleeding us dry," Crawford said.

Crawford, a Mt. Ulla mechanic, served for two years as grand dragon of the N.C. Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. "The U.S. government is basically the same as the Christian Knights," he said.

Crawford's campaign hinges on support from the working people, both black and white. In fact, he said, blacks can form the majority of his constituency as they dominate the working class.

"The blacks know me and know that I'm fair," he said.

N.C. Elections

His involvement with the Klan will not be an issue in his campaign, Crawford said, although he is not ashamed of it.

"I had to get my name known throughout North Carolina. It was really a two-year campaign. We never hurt anyone. Any rights we accomplished are for anyone. We just wanted to prove whites have freedom of assembly, press and speech too," he said.

Crawford would work for discipline in state institutions such as schools and prisons. He would also instigate a work program requiring welfare recipients to work for the state.

"It (the work program) would entice them to go to work, so taxpayers could get something back

out of the system. We need to set the cons to work," he said.

Support programs for the sick and elderly are also necessary, as are changes in insurance and state referendum policies, he said.

His chances of defeating Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan and the other gubernatorial candidates in the May 3 primary are good, Crawford said. "I have a 90 percent chance — that is, the 90 percent interested in change."

Voters will support Crawford because they know him and know he represents them, he said.

"If I can't win on my own record I don't need to win. If you must spend \$1 million buying votes, do you deserve to win?"

"I don't know whether these politicians have had more experience. We are the people, the government. The politicians are not. Politicians have to bear with the people," he said.

Waste compact is focus of Friedman campaign

By CHRIS LANDGRAFF
Staff Writer

Bruce Friedman, a plumbing contractor from Sylva, has centered his Democratic gubernatorial campaign on North Carolina's membership in the Southeast Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact, he said in a recent interview.

"No other candidate is an active opponent of North Carolina's membership in the compact, and I am offering the choice to the voters," Friedman said.

He said he is running as the alternative to Democratic candidate Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan and Republican Gov. Jim Martin who have both complied with the requests of utility companies and are allowing North Carolina to become a nuclear dump site.

The democratic process was overlooked in the decision to join the compact, and he wants to raise

N.C. Elections

awareness of the significance of the compact, he said.

Rather than using paid advertisements in his campaign, he is depending on media coverage, he said.

"I have a large network of environmental groups supporting me and I am going around the state speaking to different groups," Friedman said. "I am gaining support as people hear of the issues I stand for."

Since entering the race, Friedman has added the issue of increased funding for education to his platform.

"The salaries of our teachers must be increased. We cannot improve our system if teachers are leaving the state because North Carolina's salaries cannot compete with other states throughout the nation," he said.

Friedman also wants to increase

aid to families who cannot afford medical insurance. "The increasing costs of medical care and medical insurance are causing too many people to fall through the cracks. The government cannot sit back and watch this happen," he said.

As governor, he would "modernize North Carolina state government" by granting the governor limited veto power over state legislation, creating a full-time state legislature and instituting a citizen's initiated referendum process.

"We need a voter-initiated referendum to increase the power of the people," he said. Many other states enjoy this process, and there is no reason why North Carolina should not institute such a plan, he said.

But the main point of the election should be as a voter referendum for the waste dump, Friedman said, so that a vote for him would be a vote against the dump.



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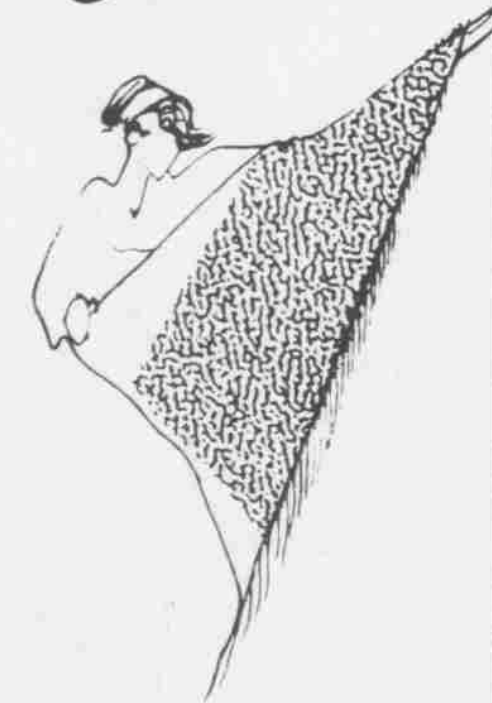
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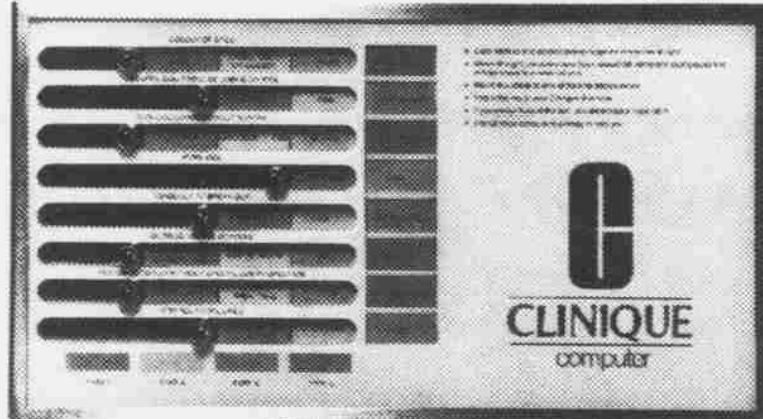


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