

GOP strong in state, candidate says



Sam Wilson speaks Wednesday to UNC College Republicans

By STACI COX
Assistant State and National Editor

Republicans are running strong in North Carolina and cannot afford to lose presidential or state elections, the GOP candidate for state attorney general said in a speech to about 25 College Republicans Wednesday night.

"1988 looks like a great year for us," said Sam Wilson, who is running against incumbent Democrat Lacy Thornburg.

Wilson said he was a registered Democrat in college, but now dislikes Democratic views. Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis is avoiding the issues because he is afraid the majority of voters won't agree with his "liberal" stands, he said.

"Dukakis is between the devil and the deep blue sea," Wilson said. "He knows if he answers issues with candor he will lose, but if he deceives the people, which he is trying to do, he will also lose."

Wilson paused in his speech to give a thumbs-up to a member of the audience wearing an Ollie North T-shirt.

"I'm proud to say Lt. Col. North made an appearance for my campaign," Wilson said. North, who was indicted in the Iran-contra scandal, spoke at a July fund-raiser for Wilson in Raleigh.

In the race for attorney general, Wilson said his opponent has a "hidden agenda."

Thornburg makes decisions strictly on the basis of politics and blocks Gov. Jim Martin's initiatives whenever possible, Wilson said.

"I want to fight crime, not fight

our governor," he said.

Thornburg appointed Bob Morgan as head of the State Bureau of Investigations, then allowed Morgan to use his post for political campaigns and lobbying, Wilson said. Thornburg also supported state Rep. William Watkins when Watkins was sued for overcharging to act as executor of a woman's will, he said.

"That's one of the hallmarks of my opponent: his allegiance to cronyism," Wilson said.

If elected, Wilson promised he would work against drug trafficking in schools and for a law requiring a 30-year sentence with no parole for drug pushers convicted of selling drugs within 1,000 yards of school property.

"I want drug traffickers not just to slow down in a school zone, I want them to stop," he said.

The 30-year penalty would also apply to minors who are caught selling drugs on or around school property, although local district attorneys would have the option to press lesser charges.

"If this law is to mean anything, there can be no kiddy exception," Wilson said.

The federal government should have the right to use the military to stop drug traffickers from entering the United States and should enforce drug testing for public service officials, Wilson said. He also supports the death penalty for extremely violent crimes and drug traffickers.

"Getting these things done takes people planting the flag and standing up... for what they believe in."

History has effect on party affiliation, UNC professor says

By WILLIAM TAGGART
Staff Writer

A majority of voters this fall will not pick a party according to the issues of the campaign but will already have their votes determined by historical motives, said William Leuchtenburg Wednesday at a meeting of the Retired Faculty Association.

"By no small degree, the electorate does not make up its mind afresh every four years," said Leuchtenburg, a Kenan professor of history. "Most people come to regard themselves as Republican or Democrat and maintain that election after election, often throughout a lifetime."

The effects of the Civil War can still be seen in the geographic division of party power, he said. The South has remained consistently Democratic, while the Union victory and the support of the North kept the Republicans in power for 60 years, he said.

From 1860 to 1932, only two Democrats entered the White House, each with less than 50 percent of the popular vote. Vermont did not elect a Democrat as governor until 1962. A popular campaign slogan was, "Vote the way you shot."

The Republican Party began to call itself the "Grand Old Party" and was considered the party of the Union and patriotism, he said.

"In 1988, the emergence of the Pledge of Allegiance as an issue and (George) Bush's visit to a flag factory are part of a strategy centuries old," Leuchtenburg said. The Republicans continue to show the Democrats as less patriotic, he said.

Just as the Civil War put the GOP in power, the Depression

devastated its political fortunes and established the Democrats as the new political force, he said.

A new Democratic coalition of Southern, ethnic and low-income voters founded under Franklin Roosevelt has helped keep the Democrats in political control since 1932, Leuchtenburg said. Since the Depression, the Republicans have controlled Congress only twice for a total of four years, and the Democrats have controlled it since the time of Dwight Eisenhower.

The strength of the Democratic coalition has faded, but it was still visible in the 1984 presidential race, when Walter Mondale won the majority of the black, Jewish, unemployed, labor and urban electorate, Leuchtenburg said.

Many people wonder if the 1984 landslide of Ronald Reagan marks the beginning of new Republican dominance, he said. "But if we are already in a new Republican era, it is hard to account for the majority of Democratic governors and the Democratic control of Congress."

The possibility of either Bush or Michael Dukakis winning a landslide victory this year is unlikely, Leuchtenburg said, because an increasing number of voters identify with neither party.

While a large majority of voters still choose a candidate based on historical motives, 30 percent of the electorate is unaligned, Leuchtenburg said. As more voters become politically independent, political contests will become much more volatile in the future, he added.

"The hand of history will rest more gently on the electorate than it ever has before," Leuchtenburg said.

State office hopefuls strive for recognition

By CRYSTAL BERNSTEIN
Staff Writer

Although the public may not be as concerned about the campaigns for secretary of state, both candidates for the office say the race is important.

To get their messages across, the candidates say they are relying on public appearances, advertising or name recognition.

Republican John Carrington has begun to advertise heavily through television, radio and newspapers. Democrat Rufus Edmisten has not begun to advertise, and said his campaign will focus on direct contact with voters.

Due to the high cost of advertising on radio and television, Edmisten said he is relying on old friendships and hard work to win the election.

"I am not a wealthy person," said Edmisten, the 1984 Democratic gubernatorial candidate. "I recognize that I have good name recognition."

He said his former position as N.C. attorney general, which he held for 10 years, will lend visibility to his candidacy.

Carrington has made several personal appearances, but is concentrating on advertising.

"I don't think there's a station in North Carolina that we've missed," said Don Penven, Carrington's campaign treasurer.

Carrington is focusing on his experience as a businessman, because the secretary of state primarily works with new businesses in North Carolina.

"No one's ever really campaigned

as hard as John," Penven said. "We haven't seen a thing from the other fellow."

Both candidates agreed that one of the most important functions of the office is the licensing of new businesses in North Carolina, to attract industry and jobs to the state. Edmisten said the office is "the heartbeat of the business community of North Carolina."

Carrington and Edmisten said they have different motives for winning the election. Penven said Republicans expect Edmisten to use the office as a political stepping-stone for other positions in state government, but Carrington would bring his experience to the office and prevent the office from incurring unnecessary

expenses through expansion.

Edmisten said he wants to "stamp out" fraud and help those who want to start new businesses in the area.

Abraham Holtzman, a political science professor at North Carolina State University, said the only importance of this election lies in political party motives.

"The office itself is a nothing," he said. Voters have been apathetic in previous elections, voting only for candidates running for better-known offices and neglecting to vote for less-recognized positions such as secretary of state, he said.

Holtzman says that he thinks the Democrats will win because Edmisten has more name recognition than Carrington.

Mayor, citizens plan Carrboro library

By L.D. CURLE
Staff Writer

Carrboro Mayor Eleanor Kinnaird is cooperating with citizens in an effort to plan and establish the town's first library.

The prospective library will be small, containing best sellers, classics, children's books and magazines and newspapers targeted for retired people.

"The point of the library will be convenience rather than collection," Kinnaird said Wednesday.

She is forming a Friends of the Library committee, which will examine popular demand, possible sites and funding for the project.

Kinnaird said she started to plan

this project after several people mentioned it to her while she was campaigning for mayor.

The library, which is still a couple of years away, might be located on the second floor of the town hall, Kinnaird said.

That floor is not being utilized now because it does not have an exit for the handicapped, she said.

A main source of funds for the library could be the Hyconeechee Program, a system set up by the state in the 1940s to bring libraries to rural areas, Kinnaird said.

Other sources might include donations, county funds and a minor amount to be taken from city funds,

she said.

Orange County head librarian Kathleen Peiffer said the library could be a branch of the Orange County Library if it chooses to affiliate and signs a contractual agreement.

The closest library to Carrboro now is the Chapel Hill Public Library, located at 523 E. Franklin St. The Chapel Hill library is now in the process of establishing a new building.

The site for the library has already been selected, and GGA Architects has been chosen as the architect for the new building. The design process for the building is under way now.

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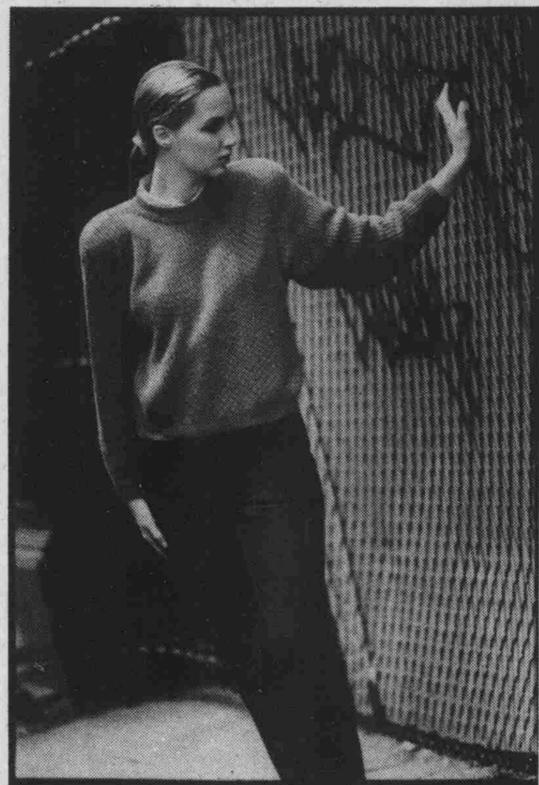
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