

# State candidates wrangle about legislative programs

From Associated Press reports

Legislative Democrats Wednesday accused Gov. Jim Martin of taking credit for programs on the campaign trail that were enacted despite his opposition, but a Martin aide said it was the Legislature that blocked many of Martin's good ideas.

"Jim Martin and the Republicans who are campaigning for office have opposed almost every constructive and good piece of legislation considered by the General Assembly during the last four years, and then after it was passed, he has taken credit for it," House Speaker Liston Ramsey said at a news conference with Democratic House members and senators in front of the Legislature.

"Jim Martin talks a lot about better schools, better roads, better jobs and a better environment," Ramsey said. "The facts are plain. He has flunked on all four issues."

State Sen. Kenneth Royall, D-Durham, said Martin violated state law and the Constitution by submitting a budget that was out of balance. Martin's budget was based on revenue projections that later proved to be too optimistic.

"The governor could have stayed within the law and Constitution if he had not turned his nose at the North Carolina Advisory Budget Commission, a pillar of North Carolina's budgetary structure for the past 63 years," Royall said.

Royall said Martin had shown an "arrogant disregard for sound budgeting procedures" this year by ignoring the ABC, a committee of legislators that in previous years had quietly reshaped Martin's budget before it arrived at the General Assembly.

"Mr. Martin has nothing but contempt for the legislative branch of government," Royall said. "He unleashes mean-spirited criticism at the Legislature at every opportunity and seems to rank the Legislature somewhere between Satan and Sherman."

Royall said Martin had practiced "pure chicanery" by demanding the Legislature do things that were unreasonable and then portraying himself as fighting an obstructionist Legislature when they refused.

"That's sort of like the pot calling the kettle black to accuse the governor of taking credit from an obstructionist Legislature," said Martin campaign spokesman Tim Pittman. "The Legislature, unfortunately, blocked a lot of good ideas from the governor. This election, to some degree, comes down to how the voters feel about the Legislature."

Martin, meanwhile, told Republicans at a luncheon in Mitchell County that he hoped to get both a second term and a Republican lieutenant governor for the next four years.

Current Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan is running against Martin.

"I want better roads and schools, but I also want a better lieutenant governor," Martin said in Spruce Pine. "Jim Gardner will be someone I can work with."

Gardner, meanwhile, says that if Democrats in the state Senate attempt to strip him of such power as appointing committee chairmen, the ploy will backfire.

"I'm convinced that, if they did that, they could well destroy the Democrat Party of this state as a force for a long time," Gardner told the Winston-Salem Journal. "You have an election in 1990, and every one of them has to run for re-election."

"If they would freeze me out, change the rules, all for pure partisan politics, I would just simply go to the people of the state and say, 'Is this what you want? You want people who just disregard your vote, it doesn't mean anything? Put these people out.'"

Under the state Constitution, the lieutenant governor's only powers are to preside over the Senate and cast a vote in case of a tie. Senate rules, which can be changed by a two-thirds vote, now allow the lieutenant governor to appoint committee members and chairmen, which gives him influence over legislation sent to those committees.

# U.S. bankruptcy judge to pick PTL purchaser from 4 bidders

From Associated Press reports

COLUMBIA, S.C. — U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Rufus Reynolds is expected to choose a buyer for PTL's assets in two weeks from four bidders, including one who wants to return deposed leader Jim Bakker to the helm at Heritage USA.

PTL Trustee M.C. "Red" Benton in October recommended Reynolds accept a \$115 million offer from Stephen Mernick of Toronto. After that, another Canadian, Vancouver's Peter Thomas of Samoth Capital Corp., resubmitted a bid of \$113 million directly to the court.

A bid of \$120 million was made last week by a Christian business association called "Holy Celebration." Its two trustees are Herbert Nelson, a lawyer from Greenbelt, Md., and Sandi Kalez of Seattle. Houston attorney William Dupont represents them.

A group of ministers and businessmen loosely known as "Lexalt University" have offered \$116 million for

PTL.

On Nov. 16, Reynolds will hold a hearing to decide which of the four offers will be accepted for the television network and 2,200-acre Christian retreat near Fort Mill.

According to U.S. Bankruptcy Court Trustee Joseph Buzhardt, the Mernick bid is the only one that can be legally approved on Nov. 16. He said there must be 20 days' notice for approval of a sale.

"It's absolutely necessary," to give the ministry back to Bakker, said the Rev. Edward Brown of Atlanta, who was acting for "Lexalt University."

"If Jim Bakker is not at the helm in the future, sooner or later, Heritage USA would fall apart."

"I am thrilled at the thought of returning to television with the people we love," Bakker said Wednesday. "We're looking forward to returning Heritage USA to the partners and lifetime members who built it."

"We will be very happy to work with those who have the same goal

of restoration of PTL and Heritage USA to a full ministry center," Bakker said in response to Brown's comments. The Jim and Tammy Ministries are currently located in Charlotte, N.C.

Brown offered \$116 million in his bid Thursday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Columbia. But "Lexalt University does not really exist," said Brown, an interdenominational minister and financial consultant.

He said Lexalt University and The Covenant Group are names for the "facilitators," the financial backers who will "bring the funds."

Lexalt University backers are "ministers who are teachers. There will be an opportunity to teach" at Heritage USA if it's sold to Lexalt University, he said.

The Covenant Group describes itself as "Christian businessmen and associates of men all over the country, in and out of the United States."

# Student struck by automobile while crossing Raleigh Street

By JENNY CLONINGER  
Assistant University Editor

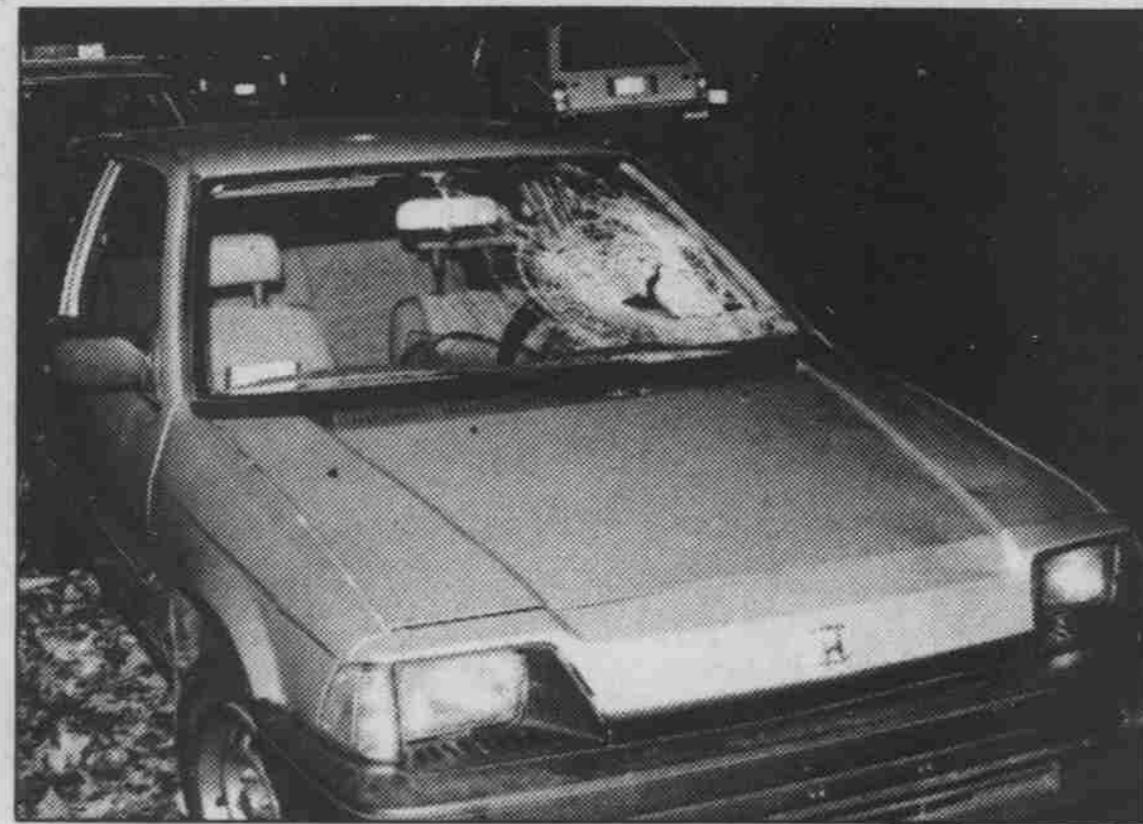
A UNC student was struck and injured by a car when she crossed the section of Raleigh Street in front of Alderman Residence Hall Wednesday night.

Witnesses said Karin Elizabeth Tracy, a 19-year-old sophomore from Raleigh, ran from between two parked cars. The driver of the oncoming car in the southbound lane didn't have time to see her and stop.

"He probably never saw her until the impact occurred," a Chapel Hill police officer said Wednesday.

Tracy was admitted to North Carolina Memorial Hospital Wednesday night and is listed in fair condition. She was still being examined and treated Wednesday evening, but hospital officials said she was awake and alert.

Tracy was struck by the front of the Honda Civic and thrown onto the windshield, which her head struck and broke. She sustained some injuries, but further information was not available Wednesday night.



DTH/Brian Foley

This Honda was damaged when it struck a student Wednesday

Tracy was conscious after the incident, talking and complaining of pain in her shoulder, said Lt. John Jones of the Chapel Hill Police Department.

Two doctors were present at the accident scene, he said, and they gave Tracy immediate care.

The accident is still under investigation.

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