

Gardner to face Rand lawsuit against campaign ads

By JIM GREENHILL
Special to the DTH

Although Tony Rand refused to concede the race, Jim Gardner declared himself the winner Wednesday in the bitter campaign for lieutenant governor. But his problems may only just have begun.

Gardner spoke on the campaign and his political goals at a press conference and an interview Wednesday.

The Republican is facing a lawsuit filed by Rand, which involves an advertisement run by the Gardner campaign alleging that Rand defended drug dealers, harbored a

wanted man in his apartment and helped the man escape to Miami.

"Had the situation been reversed, I would not have filed that lawsuit until after the campaign," Gardner said. "It was a last-minute gimmick on his part to try to pull the campaign out."

"You can sue anybody for anything at anytime. The courts will have to decide this. Every single thing in those ads, to our knowledge, was true and we only put it out there to let people in this state decide — exactly like he did in his ads talking about various things that I have done in my lifetime," Gardner said.

"I thought the negative campaigns on both sides washed out. I don't think I picked up anything, and I don't think he picked up anything," Gardner said.

By Wednesday evening, Rand hadn't conceded and said he would not call Gardner to congratulate him.

"I'm sorry that my opponent didn't see fit to call me. In every campaign that I've ever been in, win or lose, that's been part of the process, always to congratulate the victor," Gardner said.

If Gardner is officially declared the winner, his next task is to work with the Democrat-controlled legislature.

North Carolina's lieutenant governor has traditionally been very powerful because he can appoint committee heads. He can have more power than the governor, because the state's governor is the only one in the country to have no veto power.

It has been speculated that Democrats may try to strip Gardner of his appointive powers.

But if they do, "I would carry the fight to the people of North Carolina," Gardner said.

"I would say, 'You've elected me fairly. I've tried to extend my hand. I've tried to work with them (the Legislature). They don't want me to

do this. Now you've got to help me replace them.'"

State legislators will be up for reelection in 1990.

"The people of North Carolina have made it very clear they want a two-party state. If the General Assembly ignores that, that would tell the people of North Carolina that their vote doesn't count," Gardner said. "That would do long-term harm to the Democratic Party."

Gardner sent a letter Wednesday to the newly-elected state senators congratulating them and stressing his hopes for bipartisan government, he said.

"I hope to meet individually with each one of them and talk together ... about what I think can be accomplished in the next four years. I want to meet with them, not halfway

but two-thirds of the way, to show that we can have a bipartisan administration," Gardner said.

"Let's try to improve education, let's try to improve roads in this state," he said. "Let's do something about drugs. You can't do that if you're sidelined fighting political skirmishes."

He said other priorities include making the General Assembly more open to the press and public and working for gubernatorial veto power, he said.

One way Gardner hopes to open the legislative process to the public is by holding regular news conferences. He also said he plans to invite committee chairmen to join him at those conferences and discuss pending legislation.

Bond issue's approval pleases officials

By MARY PARSONS
Staff Writer

Approval of a \$30 million Orange County bond package has left county officials ecstatic.

The package includes \$22 million for county school buildings, \$7 million for the renovation of county buildings and \$1 million to purchase land for a reservoir.

Kim Hoke, director of school-community relations for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, said, "I am delighted. I thought the response to the bond package showed that people were aware of the needs to adequately address facility problems and support them financially."

"Now the task is ours to move as quickly and thoroughly as we can

to get facilities constructed."

The bond gave the school system half of the revenue it needed, Hoke said. The other half will be met with state sales tax revenues, she said.

A ballpark date of 1991 has been set for the completion of middle school construction that will be paid for by the bond, she said. All of the school projects will be addressed simultaneously, because all "were needed yesterday," she said.

The school system intends to hire an architect immediately to get the projects under way, she said.

Orange County Financial Director Ellen Liston said the county plans to sell the bonds in the spring and begin construction of addi-

tional county buildings.

Orange County Commissioner John Hartwell said he is pleased that voters have taken an interest in a long-term solution regarding the reservoir. Sites at Corporation Lake and Seven Mile Lake are being surveyed to determine the best possible location.

The \$1 million is just enough to buy the land for the reservoir, he said. It will not pay for the cost of construction of the reservoir, but it will make an excellent start in buying the land at today's market value prices, he said.

The commissioners will make their interest as a willing buyer clearly known, but they will not run up prices by applying pressure to sell, Hartwell said. The land they

are looking at should be up for sale in the near future, he said.

Voter turnout in Orange County was strong, with a 65.7 percent turnout of registered voters. This figure included 65.9 percent of registered Republicans voting, 66.6 percent of registered Democrats and 67.8 percent of the unaffiliated voters casting ballots, officials at the Orange County Board of Elections said.

The two districts encompassing the UNC campus, Greenwood and Country Club, reported a 55.5 percent and 35.5 percent turnout respectively.

The actual results will not be final until they are certified by the State Board of Elections on Nov. 29.

Republican supporters defend Bush campaign

By KAREN DUNN
Staff Writer

Although Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis attributed his presidential election loss to the distortion of his record by President-elect George Bush, N.C. Republican Party officials said Wednesday Bush won the election fairly.

"George Bush ran a good campaign," said John Carney, communications assistant for the N.C. Republican Party. "People made a choice on what they heard. Michael Dukakis talked about George Bush, and

George Bush talked about Michael Dukakis. Voters believed George Bush and went to the polls accordingly."

Both Bush and Dukakis ran a campaign in which they tried to define each other's record, and the voters found Bush's record more favorable, Carney said.

The Dukakis campaign needs time to reflect on what went wrong for their candidate, said Tripp Jones, press aide for the Dukakis campaign. "Hindsight is always 20/20," he said. "We ran a good campaign. We're obviously a little disappointed. The best man didn't win the race."

Dukakis will now concentrate on his gubernatorial duties until his term expires in 1990. He has not decided whether to seek other political office, Jones said.

"He loves his job and is looking forward to getting back to it," Jones said.

Although Bush's negative campaigning had an effect on the Dukakis defeat, the accusations made by Bush won't be considered libelous, Jones said.

"The distortion and lies had an effect on the ability of Governor Dukakis to get his message out," he said.

The wide margin in the final electoral tally was not surprising, although the magnitude of the popular vote for Bush was unexpected, said Richard Richardson, chairman of the political science department.

Richardson said the presidential campaign will probably be the last national position Dukakis will seek.

"He'll be playing the role of a Mondale-Carter, even though he ran better than other Democrats in the '80s," Richardson said.

The outcome of the N.C. governor's race was not surprising, because it is common for incumbent governors to be re-elected, he said.

"(The voters) saw no reason to change."

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conciliatory tone, except when asked about negative campaigning and the choice of Baker, Bush's campaign director, as secretary of state.

"I believe in the redemption of souls," Dukakis said.

The distortion of his record contributed to his defeat, Dukakis said.

"Look, there's no question that the negative campaigning hurt me," he said. "I think one of the lessons of this campaign is that you have to respond, and you have to respond quickly."

The candidates disagreed whether the election set a mandate for Bush.

"I don't see a mandate, not when the House of Representatives increased its Democratic membership and the Senate increased its Democratic membership," Dukakis said.

Bush said: "I am very pleased with the results and I don't think it was overly close. The latest I saw was 54 percent which I think most people would consider a big win ... therefore I will take what I think the primary issues of the campaign were and work constructively with Congress."

Forums from page 1

"I think it was really effective," Ferris said. "The goal was to find out what people thought about proposals and get additional proposals."

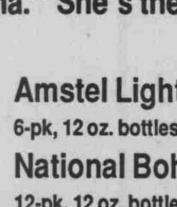
In response to the forums, student government plans to create a student-based teaching award, which would allow students to reward outstanding teachers, Ferris said.

The fourth forum, "Student Learning in a Research University," was also very effective, Schwartz said. The forum focused on the lack of undergraduate involvement in University research and resulted in a proposal for a new office through which such research cooperation could be coordinated.

The proposal was for "an office specifically set up to promote, encourage and facilitate this kind of collaborative effort in doing research," he said.

Ferris said that since many of the proposals are long-term, the results of the forum must not be forgotten when the group of students involved leave UNC.

Nobody holds as much beer as "Big Bertha." She's the coldest fridge in town!

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