

UNC Elections Board restores its authority

By NANCY WYKLE
Staff Writer

The Elections Board has regained its decision-making authority by appointing new graduate student members, as required by the Student Code.

The Student Supreme Court declared the Elections Board null on Feb. 16 because no graduate students were members of the board. The court recommended that the board fulfill its membership requirements immediately.

Since the ruling, Audreye Vanden Heuvel, Graduate Professional Students' Federation president, has appointed graduate students Kevin Bridges, Rob Katz and Rob Dembinski to the Elections Board.

Vanden Heuvel made the appointments before campus elections.

Elections Board Chairman Wilborn Roberson said the board has had problems getting graduate members because they lack time and interest.

"If the GPSF doesn't appoint people, we probably won't get any," he said.

The last time a graduate student served on the Elections Board was three years ago, Roberson said.

Because of the low number of appointments, there should be enough people interested to fill the available positions in the future,

said Student Congress member Jurgen Buchenau (Dist. 3).

"There is a lot of apathy, but some interest does exist," he said. "It just takes some efforts to recruit them."

A process for appointing graduate members to the Elections Board needs to be developed, Roberson said. The president of the GPSF should continue appointing people because the president already appoints graduate students to Chancellor's Committees, he said.

The number of graduate student members appointed to the Elections Board will vary in proportion to the number of graduate students each year, Roberson said.

"I guess we'll just have to average the number every year," he said.

Graduate students would make an important contribution to the board, Buchenau said.

"If the Elections Board consists solely of undergraduates, then it will not do a good job redistricting graduate areas," he said.

The redistricting process last year involved no graduate students, and as a result Student Congress had to amend some of the Elections Board's decisions, Buchenau said.

"The Elections Board has quite a lot of power, as we've seen," Buchenau said.

Chapel Hill budget faces shortages

By L.D. CURLE
Staff Writer

According to a budget report released by the Chapel Hill town manager, the town will not meet proposed budget requirements unless current revenues increase and town expenses are reduced.

The town is going to have find a way to deal with a gap of \$800,000 between projected town revenues and expenses, council member Nancy Preston said.

"Certainly we wouldn't cut services so that it would be noticeable," Preston said.

The town will not eliminate essential town services, such as police positions, she said.

The town might have to raise taxes, but Preston does not see this as the best solution to the problem.

A reason for the large difference between revenue and expenses is that the town's franchise tax and sales tax are not producing as much revenue as expected, she said.

Town Manager David Taylor said the town's new recycling program, slow revenue sources and an increase in health insurance premiums for Chapel Hill employees were reasons the town was not expected to meet the requirements of its proposed annual budget.

The town manager's report explains that the town's problems can be traced to an additional \$235,000

in increased landfill fees, \$275,000 in shortfalls on the utility franchise and tangibles tax, and an additional \$200,000 for health insurance premiums.

The report suggests that town revenue could be increased through a property tax rate increase of 5 cents on every \$100.

Council member Roosevelt Wilkerson said if the recycling program were delayed the town could save \$100,000 to \$150,000.

A suggestion delaying the recycling program and establishing a curbside trash pick-up service is now being examined by the manager, Wilkerson said.

If the recycling and solid waste

programs were implemented together, the town would save more money, he said.

The proposal for curbside trash pick-up and the recycling program would make recycling a town responsibility, Wilkerson said. The recycling program is currently managed by outside organizations.

Preston said the recycling and solid waste programs could not wait any longer.

"We have to begin to prepare for the second phase of the landfill, which is a liner costing \$1 million," she said.

The council will have approximately a month to consider the manager's report before a public hearing on the issue.

Arboretum gates not meant to bar entry

By DANA CLINTON LUMSDEN
Staff Writer

Gates installed around Coker Arboretum in mid-February are not actually meant to prevent people from entering, but are there as a deterrent, according to UNC officials.

The gates and signs are meant to discourage students from going into the Arboretum during the night, said Matt Mlekush, associate director of the physical plant.

"There was some concern that people were walking through the Arboretum at night," he said. "The gates are simply there to discourage people from entering. They are not there for decoration."

Sgt. Ned Comar of the University police said the locks on the Arboretum would not block people from entering if they really wanted to enter.

"The purpose is to give a sort of soft-firm message that the University suggests that you do not enter the Arboretum at night," Comar said. "If you wanted to really keep people from entering the Arboretum you would erect a 10- to 12-foot fence with razor wire on top of it."

Comar said that compared with other places on campus, the Arboretum has a rather safe track record. "We had a murder there about 25 years ago, and some cases of people flashing during the daytime," he said.

"Compared to the area around the Bell Tower and the path to Morrison (which is lighted), the Arboretum has a fairly good track record."

Comar said that most of the crimes reported on campus have taken place during the daytime and with several people around. "We really don't have that many assaults, and those that have taken place usually take place during the middle of the day and with a lot of people like the three that have happened in Davis Library."

Mlekush said there were no plans to install lighting in the arboretum. "The main reason that we added the gates is because lighting would be too costly and this seemed the best of all

the alternatives."

Residents of Olde Campus have been warned to avoid the Arboretum at night, said Roger Nelson, area director for Olde Campus. "It's an excellent idea that they have added these gates. Sometimes there's a false sense of security on this campus. I'm for anything that keeps people from doing things that are unsafe."

Students who live on Olde Campus said they felt the gates were not enough.

"I thought when they (the University) said that they were going to put up gates, they meant all around the Arboretum," said Susan Smith, a sophomore nursing major from High Point. "Either put it all around the Arboretum and lock it up or don't put it up at all."

School board may change student transfer policy

By MARIA BATISTA
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School Board is considering a new transfer policy in an attempt to reduce the number of out-of-district students attending local schools.

Superintendent of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Gerry House said the transfer policy would go into effect next year; it pertains to students living in the school system and those living in neighboring districts, including Orange and Chatham Counties.

The need for a change in this policy results from the severe overcrowding in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools.

"For years, the board's philosophy supported an open-door policy for transfers," House said, but the out-of-district children are now impeding the education of the children in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro district.

"Our first priority is to provide a high-quality education for children in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school

district," House said.

There are now 94 out-of-district students in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools. Beginning in the 1990-91 school year, as these students progress from elementary to junior high to high school, they will have to return to their own district upon completion at that school level.

"If someone is currently in sixth grade, they will be able to go to the junior high," House said. "They don't have to worry about it until high school."

This policy includes Culbreth and Phillips Junior High Schools. Phillips ninth graders will attend Chapel Hill Senior High School (CHHS) beginning next year, while Culbreth ninth graders will remain at the junior high.

That means the Phillips students will be allowed to graduate from Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, but those at Culbreth will not.

Under the proposed policy, no ninth-grade students in the Culbreth

zone will be allowed to attend CHHS without special permission from the superintendent's office, House said.

Consideration will be given to those with special needs, he said.

No new transfers will be allowed from Phillips to Culbreth because overcrowding is projected at Culbreth by 1990-91. There are now 56 students attending Culbreth who live in the Phillips attendance zone.

Under the new policy, out-of-district student transfers in grades K-12 would no longer be able to attend Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools. Before, the policy only applied to students in grades K-6.

Clyde Frazier is the father of a child attending Frank Porter Graham Elementary this year and of a child who begins kindergarten next year.

Frazier's main concern is about his younger child attending school at such a distance from where either he or his wife would be.

"We would not be able to participate in school life as much with the children so far removed from us," he said.

Frazier asked the board to consider three points strongly.

The policy should be more considerate of family situations, he said. The rule about siblings causes problems for the children and the parents, and inconveniences will result from having children at different school systems.

The contributions of the students and their parents should be taken into consideration, Frazier said. The trouble, expense and time the parents have taken to improve their children's education should not be forgotten but rewarded.

Finally, the out-of-district students averaged one-half a student extra per classroom, not a significant amount, Frazier said.

"If you (the school administration)

kicked out these students tomorrow, I don't think you'd need one less classroom or one less teacher," he said.

School Board Member Mary Bushnell said she disagreed.

"A student makes a difference in the classroom," she said. "Even though it's such a small number, they (the extra students) can create problems in organization."

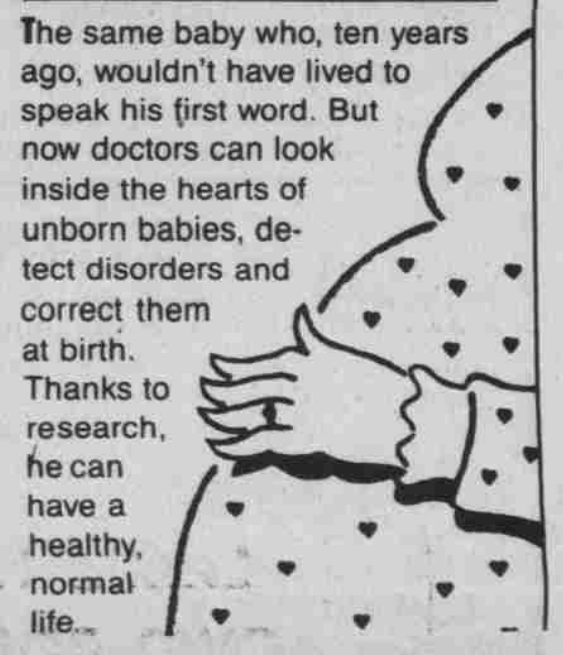
School Board Chairman Ted Parrish said appeals from those who oppose this policy would be heard by the board, but the restrictions would be imposed.

"The board approves of becoming increasingly restrictive," Parrish said. "We are moving towards eliminating transfers."

Board Member Ruth Royster said she regretted having to enforce these restrictions.

She said, "The bottom line is, I wish we didn't have to do this."

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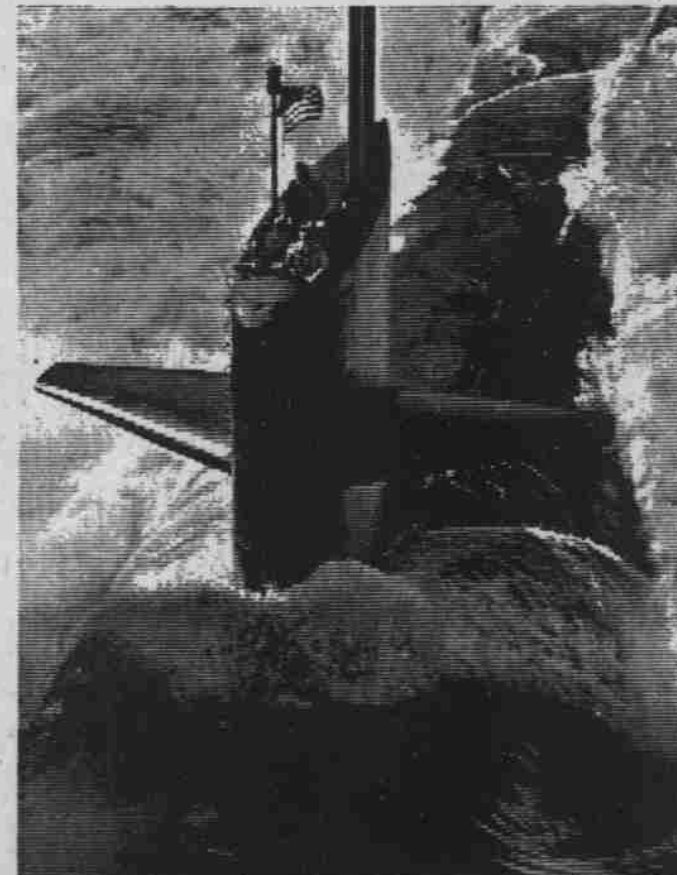
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