

Special election today to fill vacant congress seats

By SIMONE PAM
Staff Writer

The Elections Board will hold a special election today to fill three vacant Student Congress graduate seats in Districts 2, 5 and 7.

The election is being held because the winners from the Feb. 21 election failed to submit their financial forms by the 5 p.m. deadline the day after the election, said Elections Board Chairman Wilborn Roberson. The winners were disqualified and the seats became open.

In each district, the candidates are running unopposed.

The candidate from District 2 is Bill Brown. Brown was out of town Monday and could not be reached for comment.

The candidate from District 5 is Jim Taylor. Taylor, a second-year medical student from Chapel Hill, is running for re-election. Taylor could not be reached for comment Monday.

Both Brown and Taylor were the winners from the Feb. 21 election.

Winners are not usually disqualified, Roberson said.

"I don't know why they didn't hand their forms in," he said. "Two of (today's) candidates were the ones

who won."

The candidate from District 7 is Andrew Cohen, a graduate philosophy student from Melville, N.Y.

Cohen's prime goal is to improve fund raising for student groups and activities. "Fund raising would reduce the burden on Student Congress allocating funds, as well as having to raise student fees," he said. "There are a great number of openings that students have to directly support them."

Cohen, who did not run in the Feb. 21 election, said he had not consid-

ered running in the first election because he did not know this was an option for him, but when he learned of the new election, he decided to take advantage of it.

It's rather disappointing the election must be held over because of paperwork, Cohen said. "It's got to be done right in order to get the ball rolling, though."

It is the responsibility of Student Congress to make students realize that Student Congress is worthwhile to participate in, Cohen said. It seems there is a bigger problem in the graduate districts.

Roberson said if a seat had been left vacant in the past, it would not be filled until the fall. However, several members of Student Congress thought the congress should be filled before the new academic year.

Voter turnout is expected to be low because the elections are in graduate districts and because it is a special election, Roberson said.

District 2 includes the School of Education, School of Social Work and the computer science department.

District 5 includes the medical

school and the School of Nursing.

District 7 includes art (history and studio), biology, botany, chemistry, classics, comparative literature, dramatic art, ecology, English, folklore, geology, German, library science, linguistics, marine science, math, music, pharmacy, philosophy, physics, religious studies, romance languages, Slavic languages, statistics and zoology.

Write-in votes will also be accepted, Roberson said.

The two pollsites are Davis Library and the Health Sciences Library from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Graduate student turns talent to 1st novel

By ELIZABETH MURRAY
Staff Writer

The sleeve of his debut novel sums up the past and present Paul Lyons well: "Paul Lyons experienced in his own person the improving influences of the pool hall in his early youth, but seems determined to waste his prime in the professorate. At present, he is living in Chapel Hill, N.C."

Lyons is not a professor but a teaching graduate student at UNC who has just had his first book, "Table Legs," published by New Amsterdam Books. He is still in the midst of completing his formal academic studies.

"As far as the storyline goes, it's about someone who's a senior in high school who plays pool a lot,"

Lyons said. "He's from an upper middle-class family and goes to a pretty posh private school. There is the family expectation that he can go to college and play it straight versus the preference: the life of excitement that he can find in the poolroom."

Like most authors, Lyons found the basis for his novel in personal experience. "I actually was a middle-class kid playing with some very bad characters, and I love the game of pool," he said. "I'd been writing for a long time... When I went back to choose the subject, the thing I felt strongest about was that experience of playing pool. I like to write about things that I feel something about."

His first-person account of a teenager reads, in many ways, like a

long short story, according to one reader. Lyons' style includes incorporating parts of his previous writings into his book. "What I do with books a lot is pass notes and stories into them," he said.

He had written much of the material he used in "Table Legs" in earlier works. Lyons said he began thinking about the piece as a novel while he was studying for his oral exam during the summer of 1987.

"Table Legs" was published in October and is now on sale at Bull's Head Bookshop. It can also be ordered from most local bookstores, including the Intimate Bookshop.

In addition to writing, Lyons is also working on his dissertation and teaches creative writing and American literature at UNC. While many graduates and undergraduates at UNC have had books published, very few have faced circumstances as demanding as these.

"Paul is obviously very talented and well-disciplined to be able to carry his graduate studies and do the teaching he has to do, and write a novel too," said Joseph Flora, chairman of the English department.

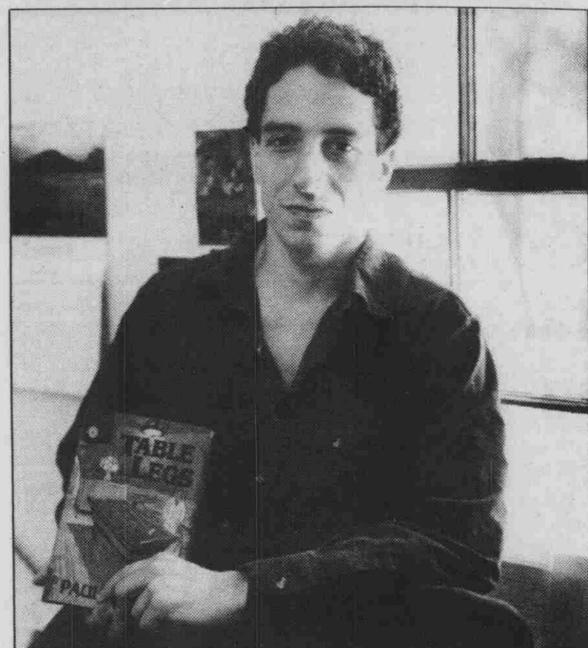
Discipline is part of the key to Lyons' success, according to Robert Bain, the professor in charge of directing Lyons' dissertation. The

dissertation is "a very complicated, difficult, stylistic study of the way Melville treats different styles," Bain said. "He (Lyons) is certainly one of the better graduate students that we've had in this department in a long time."

In addition, Lyons teaches English 23W, a loosely structured creative writing course that introduces its students to some of the kinds of writing that Lyons himself does. Tre Jackson, a sophomore English major who is presently taking the course, said, "It's a different kind of class. With writing, you can't be so dependent upon deadlines. For a creative story, you can't be creative when someone tells you to. He understands that."

Although Lyons enjoys his writing, it is not his first commitment. He plans to continue teaching and hopes that his book on Melville will be published. Lyons, who is in his fifth year of graduate studies, said he wants to remain in Chapel Hill for at least a year after he graduates. He is trying for a short-term position in the English department.

Lyons has already completed a first draft for his second novel. He does not know when it will be ready to be published.



DTH/David Surowiecki

Paul Lyons is a graduate student and author of 'Table Legs'

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Carolina Inn

separate legal status, making the Carolina Inn exempt from the state personnel and purchasing system. The other possibility is for a management company contractor to be hired.

"None of those alternatives have been explored in any great depth," he said. "No detailed plans have been made."

Hardin's comment surprised him, Rehkopf said. "We're in the exploratory stages of looking at different options. We're not anywhere close to deciding which way to go."

Associate Vice Chancellor Wayne Jones said another option for the Carolina Inn is exempting it from state personnel purchase regulations. It would then be handled in the same manner as an independent

contractor.

The Inn's financial troubles are the result of a combination of factors.

Staff members of the Carolina Inn are state employees, and the annual salary increases they receive are running the hotel into the ground, Rehkopf said. "That's where the real crunch is."

The decision the University makes will affect the staff, and Rehkopf has met with staff members individually to discuss the ideas being suggested and the complications it will have for them, he said.

Jones said increasing competition also plagued the Carolina Inn.

Mel Lewis, vice president of sales for Raleigh Convention and Visitors' Bureau, said 25 new hotels have been built in the Raleigh/Wake County area in the past 30 months. Another eight to 12 have probably been built

in the Durham/Chapel Hill area, he added.

Most of the new hotels in Research Triangle Park are designed for the corporate business community. The Carolina Inn is in direct competition with them for that market, Lewis said.

The situation for the Carolina Inn is not urgent, Jones said. "It is not a dire situation where the doors would threaten to close within three months."

The situation will have to be remedied in a few years, he said.

The Carolina Inn's financial troubles are compounded because the inn needs renovations.

The renovations will likely be financed through private donations or loans, Jones said. To borrow the money, revenue must be generated, he said.

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