

4 announce candidacy for 3 Carrboro alderman positions

By TRACY LAWSON
Staff Writer

Four candidates threw their hats into the Carrboro political arena this summer when they announced their plans to run for three seats on the Carrboro Board of Aldermen.

Hillard Caldwell, Jacquelyn Gist, Tom Gurganus and Michael Nelson have filed with the Orange County Board of Elections and are competing for three spots which will be vacated in the fall.

Caldwell, senior member of the board and mayor pro-tempore of Carrboro, is vying for his third term.

The appointment of a city manager and the increased security of town employees, as well as the board's success at holding down the tax rate while increasing the tax base are achievements Caldwell hopes will secure the votes of Carrboro residents.

Caldwell said students are an important part of the Carrboro community and the town's economy is dependent on them.

"Even though this is a bedroom community, if they (the students) were to leave, the economy would go down the drain," he said.

Caldwell also said he would like to see a student liaison who would serve as a non-voting member. "I often hear the argument that students don't pay taxes; however, they do contribute greatly to the economy of Carrboro, and their views and concerns should be heard."

Gist, who is running for her first term on the board, feels she is qualified for the position because of her experience as a social worker and with solving problems.

In addition she is the vice chairman of the Board of Adjustment, a Carrboro representative on the Public/Private Partnership low-income housing task force, and a member of the steering committee for the Orange County low-income housing corporation.

One of the issues Gist plans to concentrate on is the safety of Carrboro residents. "Everyone feels less safe today than they did 10 years ago. This, however, is not the fault of the Carrboro police force. The community is already safe, but I would like to see it safer. Not only would I like to encourage community watch programs but I would also encourage

watching out for all the folks in Carrboro."

Another issue of importance that Gist hopes to resolve is the problem of declining parking space in downtown Carrboro.

"There should be one place for people who work in downtown Carrboro to park and other lots with two-hour parking limits for downtown patrons," she said. "Other than the park-and-ride lots, Carrboro should not be a parking lot for the campus."

Also campaigning for a board seat

is incumbent Tom Gurganus, a member of the solid waste task force, who believes one of the biggest issues of the upcoming elections is the environment.

"I would like to encourage recycling as well as finding creative alternatives to dumping — such as incineration. Also I hope to help the town find a location for a new landfill," he said.

Gurganus said he hoped students take an interest in town government because the issues discussed and voted on involve them directly.

"The town plans to put bike paths and sidewalks on the two biggest streets in Carrboro, which would benefit students who ride bikes," he said. "In addition I hope students will take an interest in recycling so they can help in the effort to keep the landfills from filling too quickly."

Projects started over the past four years should continue, Gurganus said. "I would continue to support the plans to ease the downtown traffic congestion. I would like to review suggestions made by the traffic advisory board and adopt part of the plan and

begin implementing the plan within the next few months."

Nelson, a vice chairman of the Orange County Democratic party, is running for his first term on the board and hopes his active participation in area politics will aid him in his election bid.

An active member of the community Democratic party for a number of years, Nelson has also worked on district Democratic projects and was appointed by the Board of Aldermen to serve on the Orange County Human Relations commission.

Other issues Nelson is interested in include working to reduce the amount of traffic congestion in downtown and encouraging the economic development and revitalization of Carrboro.

Nelson agrees with Gurganus that the most important issue of the election is the environment and he also believes the town should act to improve the parking problems in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area. "I would like to increase the number of park-and-ride lots so students can park at the outskirts of town and ride the buses to campus."

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Budget

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said. The debt will be paid through funds the libraries receive this semester, which will result in the purchase of far fewer newly published books, he said.

Student Body President Brien Lewis said he thought there was an under-reaction to last year's budget problems. "State legislators have very little concept of how the University actually operates. Although their intentions may be good — as in they're not trying to slaughter us — they're unaware of the severe impact of their actions."

"Student government backs Chancellor Hardin's call for University control and autonomy over the budget."

Senior Dean Batten said: "Students are often last on everyone's priority list, particularly the administration's. It would seem that since students are the reason for this university's existence that this would not be the case. Funds which are crucial to their academic endeavors should not be diverted for any reason whatsoever."

The University receives money in quarterly allotments from the state, O'Connor said. Funds were frozen last semester in non-personnel areas, which hurt supplies, he said.

Wayne Jones, associate vice chancellor of finance, said the amount of money allocated to the University varied from quarter to quarter. Projected increases in enrollment result in additional money, he said. This August, September and October, the University was given little additional money because the projected enrollment increase is low, he said.

"We didn't get the increases we hoped for," Jones said.

Last year's budget problems will not reoccur if projected state revenues are realized, Jones said.

Budget officials are still working to appropriate money. The UNC budget should be finalized by mid-September, O'Connor said.

Although alumni have been generous with contributions, donations are not enough to cover the budget cut, O'Connor said. "The funds give the University the capacity to take the extra step. They give us the margin of excellence."

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