

Elections '89: CHAPEL HILL

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Community groups endorse town council candidates

By CHRISTINE THOMAS

Staff Writer

Even as early as September, Chapel Hill Town Council candidates were receiving endorsements from community organizations, but there has been little talk about issues and controversy in the election.

Voters will go to the polls to vote for the mayor and four council candidates on Tuesday. The candidate for mayor is running unopposed, and there are seven candidates vying for four seats on the council, three of which are council incumbents.

The Home Builders Association of Durham and Chapel Hill (HBA) released its endorsements Thursday. HBA endorsed candidates to become more politically active in the community, spokesman Bill Kalkhof said.

"We endorsed each of the candidates we did for different reasons. All of them do support the same issues of concern to the home building industry, like their stand on the development review and approval process, and the expansion of the tax base."

The HBA endorsed unopposed Mayor Jonathan Howes, incumbents Julie Andresen and David Pasquini, and newcomer Alan Rimer.

One of the first endorsements of the election year came in September from the Orange County Greens Organization with its backing of Joyce Brown.

In early October, Dan Coleman, spokesman for the Greens, said his organization chose to endorse Brown because of her stand on environmental issues. The Greens also supported her stands on democratic processes in government, growth issues and affordable housing.

The Orange County Greens Organization is politically independent, affiliated with the national and international Greens Organization, which promotes ecological and social issues.

The Alliance of Neighborhoods endorsed four candidates for office. Margaret Taylor, president of the alliance, said her organization endorsed the three incumbents: Julie Andresen, David Pasquini and Art Werner. The Alliance is also endorsing council race newcomer Joyce Brown.

In choosing to endorse candidates, Taylor said neighborhood leaders throughout Chapel Hill voted in caucus. These neighborhood leaders voted on who they wanted to endorse.

The Alliance chose these candidates because it felt each of them had done a

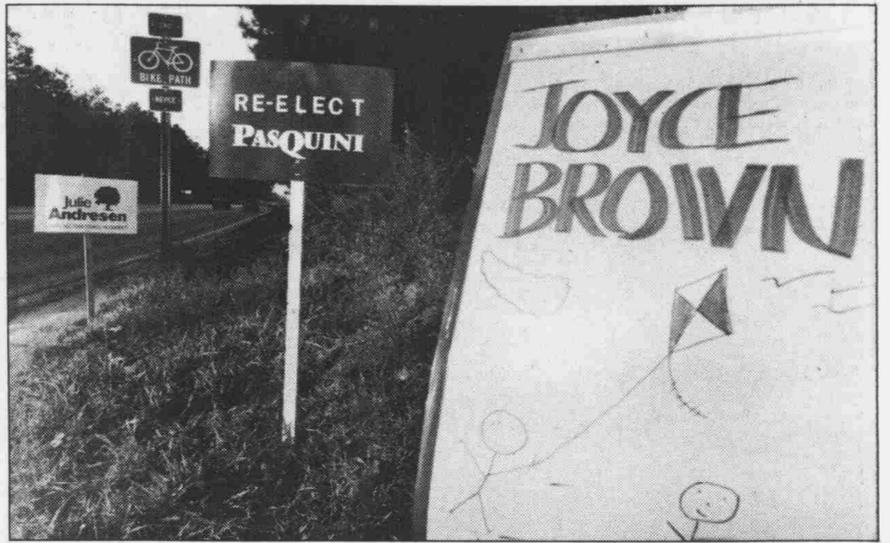
good job of serving the community. The Alliance endorsed Brown because of her position on environmental issues and her stand on residential participation in government, Taylor said.

Another local environmental group, the Sierra Club, endorsed two candidates seeking council positions. The club chose to endorse Art Werner and Joyce Brown. The selection process conducted by the Sierra Club involved sending a questionnaire to each candidate. The questions dealt with such issues as solid waste management, watershed protection and air pollution.

The Cat's Cradle, a downtown bar, endorsed Art Werner because of his help last year in relocating when it was forced to move. In addition to its endorsement of Werner, the management of the Cradle also sponsored a benefit concert to let students know about him.

The South Orange Black Caucus also recently announced its endorsements of Art Werner, Bill Thorpe and Joyce Brown.

Although various organizations chose to endorse candidates, town council member Joe Herzenberg said the lack of an opponent against Mayor Jonathan Howes was one of the reasons the election seemed so quiet.



DTH/Tracey Langhorne

Election propoganda at the intersection of Estes Drive and Airport Road

TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Bill Thorpe

Bill Thorpe has not taken a particular stand on the noise ordinance issue, but said he supported the idea of communication between student and non-student residents.

In a situation such as this, Thorpe said an increase in communication between the students and residents living near the campus was important.

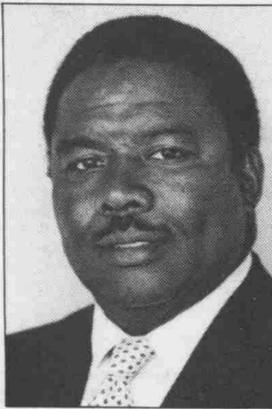
To stress the idea of communication, Thorpe said he favored working with student leaders such as the town council's student liaison.

"But he (the liaison) doesn't have access to information from the administrative staff. As a councilman I would ensure that he gets all the information he needs concerning issues important to students."

Thorpe said he also favored building a parking deck on the lot at Rosemary and Henderson streets to bring more people downtown and to help alleviate traffic problems downtown.

"It will attract people downtown. People aren't going downtown because there is no place to park."

In reference to the homeless, Thorpe said he supported the homeless shelter and its location downtown, away from neighborhoods. He said he preferred extending the lease of the existing shelter to finding a new site.



"I was previously involved in searching for a site for the shelter. Residents at the time were concerned about protecting their neighborhoods."

As are most candidates, Thorpe is concerned with protecting the environment.

"I support the caring effort which the town has started by separating its trash. I will work with the committee presently working on the landfill and sup-

port their efforts to prevent it from filling up too quickly."

Thorpe said he had always supported student activities, and as a council member, he said he would continue to do so. "I will listen to them, work with them and keep them informed."

He said he also would make sure students were heard.

"I will support their needs. If this means increasing bus services or strengthening police protection, I will work towards those programs."

Thorpe has served eight years on the Chapel Hill Town Council, two as mayor pro tem from 1985 to 1987.

Some projects in which he has been involved have been in support of students. He was involved in the recommendation to put a stoplight at the corner of McCauley and Pittsboro streets. "It was a matter of safety not only for those traveling to and from the credit union across the street, but for the sorority sisters who live there."

Thorpe was also involved in bringing the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday to the council.

Thorpe, who works for IBM in the manufacturing division, said he had a strong commitment to public service and would like to serve the public through his involvement in the council.

Helen Urquhart

Helen Urquhart, a newcomer to the Chapel Hill Town Council race, said the noise ordinance should implement some restraint other than the measurement of sound in decibels.

"Since sound travels differently through different mediums, it's going to be louder depending on the location; whether it's on a paved or dirt road is going to make a difference. If you have a law, I think you should be able to enforce it equally, and with the variances it's just not possible."

Urquhart said the neighborhoods should not be exposed to excessive noise. She added that the permit regulating certain hours for functions may be fair for students, but that there remain conflicts for residents.

"There are no records of students complaining about noise. The complaints are always going the other way."

Urquhart suggested that lessors state in the lease that once a resident disturbs the neighborhood, the lessee be evicted.

To alleviate traffic problems, Urquhart said she supported UNC and North Carolina Memorial Hospital implementing a driving reduction plan with incentives for employees to use the town's park-and-ride lots.

"With the new trolley system intact, the employees can, at lunchtime, use



the trolleys to get around without having to return to the fringe lots for their cars."

Development in Chapel Hill will continue, Urquhart said. Therefore, she said landowners needed to be protected against zoning that would allow for businesses in a residential area.

"I think we need to examine the development review process. The process is very long and complicated for

developers, but at the same time landowners need to be assured of zoning security. I feel there's not an overall plan."

Urquhart said she liked to see student participation in voting and wants to see more students involved in town government. She also said that the student voice, for a long time, has been ignored by the town.

"At the student forum, I enjoyed talking with students. I think they have some very good ideas concerning Chapel Hill."

Urquhart holds a bachelor's degree in political science and economics from Purdue University. She also has a graduate degree from the UNC School of Public Health.

Urquhart is on the town's board of adjustment, has served on the Orange County Commission for the Status of Women and on the Sierra Club Citizens' Tree Ordinance Committee. She is also one of the founding members of the Alliance of Neighborhoods.

Urquhart said she was running for town council because she wanted to increase participation in government.

"I think there needs to be greater citizen participation. It's too much w-the-government and not enough w-the-people."

Art Werner

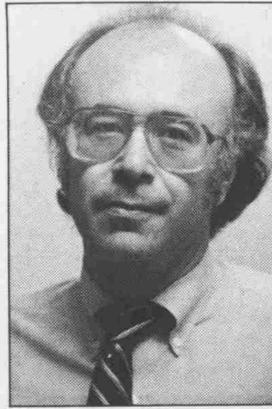
Town Council member Art Werner, who is seeking a second term of office, said his broad range of business experience, experience as an environmentalist and past service on the town council would allow him to continue to provide the necessary leadership to Chapel Hill.

As a town council member, Werner has worked to encourage environmental concerns and strong growth in Chapel Hill. With professional experience as an environmental engineer, Werner said he felt he had been able to contribute useful information to the council in dealing with environmental issues.

Protecting the watershed is just one of the issues Werner has worked on as a council member. He has voiced concern for protecting the existing green space in Chapel Hill and is working on the parking committee to consider locating a parking deck in the former site of the Rosemary Square project.

A recent proposal by the town manager to lower the decibel level from 75 decibels (dB) to 70 dB is a reasonable compromise, Werner said. In the candidates forum he said that unlike the controversy two years ago, the responsibility now lies with neighbors respecting each other.

"We already have one noise ordinance and the town manager's request seems relatively reasonable. But before we change the current ordinance



we need to take a good long look at how to modify it."

Last December, Werner helped the Cat's Cradle, a downtown Chapel Hill business, relocate after it was forced to move because it could not renew its lease. The Cradle is a business frequented by University students, and Werner's help in relocating it showed the students that he would listen to their voice in town government, he said.

All the issues involving the town involve students, and with the student population living in Chapel Hill, the

town needs to hear the student voice, he said.

One way the students can speak to the community is voting in Tuesday's election. Werner encourages students to go out and vote Tuesday, and vote for him.

When he ran for town council four years ago, Werner said he felt the community focus was on curbing growth and development in Chapel Hill. During his term on the council Werner said he has contributed to getting town growth under control.

The recent adoption of a revised comprehensive plan for Chapel Hill will help keep that growth under control, Werner said. The plan involves dealing with environmental concerns of the community, transportation and affordable housing. Werner said the revised plan will be beneficial, and the council will try to be faithful to it.

There is no one single important issue in this year's election, but some issues are more important than others, he said. Other than the protecting of the watershed, the budget is an issue that needs to be focused on. The present level of the town budget is a goal for the council members to strive to maintain.

Werner recognized traffic in Chapel Hill to be a definite cause for concern. In some areas traffic congestion is obviously a problem that needs solving, he said.

Compiled by Jennifer Dickens, Sheila Long and Christine Thomas

Pollsites

In Chapel Hill:

Battle Park — Chapel Hill Community Center — Plant Road
Coker Hills — Church of Reconciliation — 110 Elliott Road
Colonial Heights — YMCA — 980 Airport Road
Country Club — Fetzer Gym — UNC Campus — South Road
East Franklin — The Lutheran Church — 300 E. Rosemary St.
Estes Hills — Guy B. Phillips School — Estes Drive
Foxcroft — Foxcroft Information Center — Off Dobbins Drive
Glenwood — Glenwood School — Prestwick Road
Greenwood — General Administration Building — UNC Campus — South Road
Kings Mill — Aldersgate Methodist Church — 632 Laurel Hill Road
Lincoln — Lincoln Center Administration Building — Merritt Mill Road
Mason Farm — Community Church Building — Purefoy Road
Northside — Chapel Hill Municipal Building — 306 N. Columbia St.
Ridgefield — Binkley Baptist Church — 1712 Willow Drive
Weaver Dairy — Fire Station — Weaver Dairy Road and Highway 86 North
Westwood — Frank Porter Graham School — N.C. Highway 54 Bypass
Dogwood Acres — Grey Culbreth School — Culbreth Drive
Orange Grove — Orange Grove Fire Station — Orange Grove Road
White Cross — White Cross Recreation Center — White Cross Road

In Carrboro:

Lions Club — Lion's Club Building — 131 Fidelity St.
OWASA — OWASA Filter Plant — Jones Ferry Road
Town Hall — Carrboro Town Hall — West Main Street

Board of Education only:

Coles Store — Union Grove Methodist Church — Union Grove Church Road
Patterson — New Hope Community Center — Whitfield Road
St. John — St. John Church — Off Hatch Road

Orange County:

Eastside — Ephesus Road School — Highway 70 West — Efland
Efland — Efland-Cheeks Elementary School — Highway 70 West — Efland
Caldwell — Caldwell Community Building — Highway 57 North — Rougemont
Carr — Cedar Grove Fire Station #1 — Intersection of Penecost Road and Carr Store Road — Mebane

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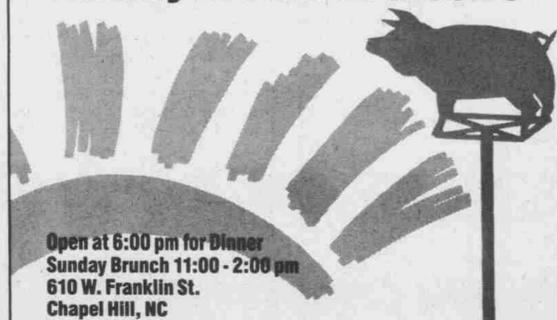


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