

GENE RAINEY LEAVES OFFICE

By Mike Ochsenreiter
Student Editor

Local media announced a few weeks back that Dr. Gene Rainey, a political science professor here at UNC-A, would not seek re-election to the Asheville City Council. Dr. Rainey's voluntary political retirement, while greeted with disappointment in some quarters and elation in others, was a surprise to virtually everyone.

Politically speaking, Dr. Rainey is a *rara avis*. His uniqueness results from his penchant, nay dedication, to the practice of what I call "conviction politics." Those who know him, whether in agreement with him on issues of the day or not, recognize his commitment to conscience; indeed, it would not be hyperbolic to state that his conscience is his ultimate constituent.

Recently, I interviewed Dr. Rainey for this column. Here is part of what he said.

Question: What were some of your accomplishments during your four years on council?

Answer: I should preface my remarks by saying that when you work as a member of a seven member council it is the height of egotism to say I did this, or I did that. Even if you bring up an original idea, it's difficult, once it has gone through all that work, to say this is mine. One area that I consider to be a major accomplishment is the opening of the Tuesday meeting to the press. When I came on board I was convinced that the Tuesday meeting, which was closed, was illegal under the Sunshine Act. The Attorney General of North Carolina agreed with my interpretation, but the city attorney and a majority of council disagreed.

I talked with some of the reporters and finally one of them, a Citizen-Times reporter, got up enough nerve to come barging in. With the letter there from the Attorney General showing that the closed meeting was not defensible under the Open Meetings law, the council obviously could not throw out the issue, or the reporter. I look back with a great deal of fondness on that.

The second one is to bring Asheville to the point that it would admit that it had a corruption problem in its government. I have a lot of scars over that. I mean, during the early goings of that issue I took an awful beating from

almost everyone.

Those two, I guess, are single-handed and, in a sense, the only reason they are single-handed is that I was stupid enough to think I could stumble into them without any problems.

Question: How could an academician like yourself have been so naive?

Answer: Politics is always surprising. And then, too, what you read about in your textbooks is different from the real world. From my experience, I have a more balanced idea of what government is about, and how it works.

Question: There are some who think politics and scholarship do not mix. Cicero, for one, said: "Virtue, honesty, uprightness are the qualities that are required in a candidate, not fluency of language, nor knowledge of arts and sciences." What are your thoughts?

Answer: That's true, but Cicero shouldn't have put it either-or. Most politicians are a mixture of the two. This is essentially what I think the electorate looks for now, and Solzhenitzyn's Harvard address and Carter's last sermon on T.V. are getting at this. The American people are fed up with what seems to be feeding at the trough by elected leaders, and are more concerned with a higher level in politics, and less of the double-talk that they have been getting.

The majority of citizens would surely agree with Dr. Rainey's last statement. A new breed of politician, more honest and trustworthy, would certainly be a welcome change. Stay tuned to The Paper for a forthcoming interview with Dr. Walt Boland of the Sociology Department - another member of the University community headed for a leadership position in city government.

RESUME WORKSHOP

Dr. Ann Weber of the Psychology Department will speak during a two-day workshop on resume writing on Wednesday, Oct. 24, and Friday, Oct. 26 in Room 235 of Zageir Social Sciences Building.

The time is 2-3:30 p.m. for both sessions.

The workshop is sponsored by the Office of Testing, Counseling and Advising.

BLOODMOBILE HERE

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be on the campus, Oct. 29, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Appointments can be arranged in the cafeteria Tuesday through Friday, Oct. 23-26. Anyone who comes without an appointment may have to wait.

Donating a pint of blood is a safe, painless, quick and simple procedure.

Sharyn McDonald, director of student activities, said, "It will take only 45 minutes of your time to contribute to the better health of your community by giving blood and saving lives."

The main requirements are that donors be in good health, be at least 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. Other criteria may be checked with Ms. McDonald or any representative of the Inter-Organizational Council. The IOC, which is sponsoring the Bloodmobile visit, is offering \$25 to the organization which gets the largest number of people to give blood in its name.

BE ADVENTUROUS

The Health Adventure, in the MAHEC Building that spans Biltmore Avenue between St. Joseph's and Memorial Mission Hospitals, is holding an open house for college students on Wednesday, October 31, from 2-3:30 p.m.

The Health Adventure is a facility designed to make health education interesting and entertaining to children and adults.

Kathy Spencer, instructor coordinator for The Health Adventure, said college students seeking research or service projects could find it worth their trouble to become volunteers at the facility.

Volunteers are especially needed for instructing classes, collecting data and preparing materials. Hours can be arranged to fit the volunteer's convenience.

Call Kittie Kelly at 253-6601 for more information.



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