

The Carolina Journal

The Student Newspaper of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Volume XI, Number 24

Charlotte, North Carolina

March 9, 1976

Pharr and Verdinek in Presidential runoff

All for or against candidates win

PIRG victorious in landslide

By Doug Lerner

Tallies from the major spring elections, the largest paper ballot ever held on the UNCC campus, show us that the North Carolina Public Interest Research Group, NC PIRG, has won overwhelming student approval with more than 65% of the students voting to fund the statewide consumer and environmental group through a two dollar increase in the student activity fee. Other results have presidential candidates Bob Verdinek and Rickey Pharr heading for a run-off election next Wednesday and Thursday, and approval of the new Student Constitution (see complete election results elsewhere on this page).

By far, the question concerning the student body the most was the funding of NC PIRG. More students (992) cast votes on the PIRG question than on any other campus-wide decision - out polling the presidential race and the new student constitution.

A spokesman for the student group said, "We thank everyone who gave us support throughout the campaign, and of course we thank the student body for expressing confidence in us and for reaffirming the students' role as a constructive and participating citizen in the community."

Nine out of ten student polling places reported in favor of PIRG; even the Commuter Lounge where PIRG met with its most vocal opposition voted its approval of funding the student consumer group. A breakdown of the polling places and the percentage of students voting for PIRG are: Commuter Lounge 58.6%, Student Government Office 66%, Rowe Building 30.2%, Smith Building 54.6%, Gymnasium 100%, Dorm 72 (Scott Hall) 71.4%, Dorm 73 (Holshouser Hall) 76.8%, Sanford Hall 56%, Moore Hall 62.1% and the Dorm Cafeteria 69.8%.

Assuming approval of the students' decision, funding for PIRG will begin this fall. PIRG has been notified that President of the Student Body, Jamie Stemple, has written a letter to Chancellor Colvard informing him of the vote and requesting a meeting with student PIRG representatives to discuss speedy ratification of the vote.

In other elections, no clear decision was made by the student body to who our next President will be. Bob Verdinek received a plurality of the votes (311) and Rickey Pharr came in a strong second (214). The run-off between the two candidates will be held next week. Neither candidate could be reached for comment on what issues they will stress this week in the run-off election and none of the losing candidates have come out in favor of either Pharr or Verdinek yet.

The student constitution, after failing by one vote in an extremely low voter turnout last semester, won ratification by the student body in a campus wide question that got the most votes next to PIRG. Terry Fulbright, designer of the new constitution expressed his delight at the decision and expressed hopes for speedy ratification by the Chancellor. The new constitution takes effect immediately and students wanting a copy should go to the Student Government Offices in the Cone University Center.

The only other student wide question, other than 'for' or 'against' votes, was for the new Chairman of the University Program Board. John Knight lost his bid for re-election to Vice-Chairman Greg Reynolds in a 452-367 vote contest. Both Reynolds and Knight pledged support for each other and Knight will maintain an active role in the University Program Board.

Three candidates for office, Davis Trotter (Student Superior Court), Lisa Laney (Student Media Board) and Henry

Carrouth (WVFN Chairman) withdrew from the race for various reasons. Trotter also resigned as Vice-President of the student body after citing "growing inability to work with Student Legislature."

All candidates running on 'for' or 'against' ballots won, as unopposed

candidates always do. Terry Fulbright, Chairman of the Elections Board, and many of the ballot counters who worked from 7:30 pm until after 7:00 the next morning counting returns were inclined to propose immediate acceptance of students running unopposed in the future. No student has ever lost in a 'for'

or 'against' election, although many referendum questions have failed in the past.

Run-offs for the Student Body President will be held next Wednesday and Thursday. Times and places for the polls will be posted throughout the campus.

Nader speaks to University community; Calls for 'Control over technology'

By Brad Rich

Tuesday, March 2nd at 12:30 pm on the UNCC Gymnasium, Ralph Nader, "America's number one consumer advocate", spoke to a crowd of between two and three thousand on the subject of "Technology and Society-An Inquiry into Values."

Nader's appearance was sponsored by the University Forum Council, and is part of an annual program which has in the past featured such speakers as Henry Kissinger, James Rouse and Charles Kuralt. The second speaker in this year's program was Sydney Harris.

Robert Coleman, Chairman of the Forum Council, opened the program with a few welcoming remarks, saying this was the 11th forum held in conjunction with

Photo courtesy of Development Office



Ralph Nader.

the passing of legislature which brought UNCC into the state university system.

He then introduced Dwight Feemster, of NC-PIRG and UNCC, who in turn introduced Nader.

Nader opened with a brief discussion of his overall message for the day. "My mission," he said, "is to illuminate an area of technology...to reassert democratic control over technology."

Nader cited several major areas of technology, the first of which was the automobile industry. He said he first became interested in the auto industry while hitchhiking across the country as a college undergraduate. While riding with a truck driver, he noticed a clothes hook behind the driver's head which came dangerously close to him with each bump on the road. "I didn't think my discovery was of Einsteinian caliber," he said, "but it did make me start thinking."

During his first year at law school, Nader spent some time studying auto accidents. He was surprised auto accidents were viewed as "driver to driver combat" and no importance was placed on the effects of the highway or the vehicle. With this in mind, he began to write a paper on the subject, and started asking questions of people in the industry.

One question he asked was what reason there was for the tailfins on autos during this time period. The industry answered the tailfins satisfied a necessary aerodynamic function, but then they were later phased out. "Why?" asked Nader, "Did the winds change?"

From his paper, entitled "Automotive Design and the Law," Nader learned two lessons; one) information in most studies is dominated by the producer, and two) the

product is almost never evaluated from the consumer point of view.

Nader scorned the "Totally worthless and costly ornamentation on autos that...protect the vehicles from pedestrians. Thousands of lives could be saved by a few simple engineering changes made almost at no cost. We must develop a more humane technology," he added, "One without ornamental pornography. It is your right in a democracy, to ask questions and get answers."

Nader also discussed industrial disease, saying there are over 100,000 deaths a year caused by work-related diseases. "Some of these are not even recognized as diseases," he said. He then quoted statistics which said street crime accounts for only about 11,000 deaths per year. "Industrial disease is silent cumulative violence. Just because it doesn't pinch doesn't mean that it doesn't hurt."

From there, he moved to the energy problem, especially dealing with atomic energy. "We are fooling with nature on a global scale," he said, "And nature abused beyond a certain point turns on its abusers." He also said, "The busing controversy is like a spring picnic compared to the effects the atomic energy industry will have on the future."

Three alternatives to atomic energy were suggested by Nader, the first being energy conservation. "We waste more energy than anyone in the world," he said. "If this country were more efficient, we could double our economy without using any more energy."

He also suggested more prudent use of our abundant fossil fuels, and the development of solar technology. "Why hasn't solar energy been developed?" he asked. "Because the oil companies don't own the sun. It is disagreeable to Exxon, Standard Oil, etc. Also solar energy has a nasty habit of going straight to your homes, bypassing all of the utility companies."

Next Nader addressed the drug industry, saying drugs are not adequately tested. One example he cited was red dye number 2 and red dye number 40, which both have been removed (finally) from the market after being linked to the occurrence of cancer. He said, "The public thinks products are safe because the government puts them on the market. The companies, however, think of profits and sales first, and want producer power over the government."

Nader endorsed PIRG, saying "Student researchers can be very effective because they are idealistic and can ask questions that older people won't." He said the biggest problem on campuses today is boredom, and PIRG helps by "challenging you with real-life situations that demand deep analytic solutions. The University is a unique chance to experiment...pioneer and take chances. You may not have the opportunity in a job because the stakes might be too high in a job."

49ers receive NIT bid
(see story on page 12)

Spring election results

Student Body President

Robert Ainsworth	34
Fritz the Cat	151
Teresa Hammer	90
Rickey Pharr*	214
Pat Rose	103
Bob Verdinek*	311
Geoff Wallwork	71

Carolina Journal Editor

Michael Evans and Brad Rich*

Sanskrit Editor

Beth Griffith*

Student Body Representatives

Student Media Board
Kelly Campbell*
Susan Sluss*
Bill Stricker*

WVFN Chairman

Coleman Thompson*

Chairman, University Program Board

John Knight
Greg Reynolds*

Vice-Chairman, University Program Board

Mike Doyne*

Student Body Representatives

University Program Board

Sid Cameron*
Nita Julian*

Legislature Seats

David Moreau-Architecture*
Debbie Powell-Econ and Business Admin.*
Mike Rankin-Econ and Business Admin.*
Dick Garrett-Econ and Business Admin.
Rusty Gilmore-Engineering*
Angela Threatt-Nursing*
Mike Adams-Nursing
Frank Alexander-Social and Behavior Science*
Bobby Flowers-Social and Behavior Science*
Bobby Roberts-Social and Behavior Science*
Damon Smith-Science and Math*
Jeff Hall-Sophomore Class Pres.*
Andy Ringler-Sophomore Class Pres.
Randy Severs-Sophomore Class Pres.
Linda Fowler-Junior Class Pres.
Doug Love-Junior Class Pres.*

*Denotes Winner except in the case of President in which Pharr and Verdinek will be in run-off.