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Republican Flaherty speaks at UNCC

By Brad Rich

Republican gubernatorial candidate David T. Flaherty held a question and answer session with a group of students, faculty and staff members Wednesday morning, September 22 at 10:00 a.m. in rooms 107-108 of the Cone University Center.

Flaherty was introduced by Dr. Schley Lyons, head of the Political Science department, then gave a brief opening statement.

He said the reason he is running is because, "I feel I can do the job. I feel I can save the taxpayers money, streamline government and make it more responsive. I have a real desire to achieve a role which will have an impact on the state of North Carolina."

Flaherty spoke of dishonest politicians, and claimed not to be one himself. "Many politicians will tell you anything you want to hear. This is wrong. If elected, I will propose a law, similar to the one that Ohio has, that will make it a criminal offense for politicians to not keep their campaign promises." Flaherty added that the Ohio law has not been tried constitutionally yet, but he hopes that it is soon.

A question then came from the audience on how young people can get involved in politics. Flaherty answered, "The best way is through Young Republicans or Young Democrats. I didn't get involved in politics myself until after college, and I missed a lot. Another good way is simply to work for a candidate."

Flaherty was then asked a question about energy versus the environment. He said that North Carolina has recognized the limitations of our resources, but presently is using 58 per cent more fuel

than we did four years ago. "I want to protect the environment," he said, "but where do we draw the line? Do we close a plant and put 400 people out of work like we did a few weeks ago, or do we give the plant more time to conform to standards?"

Flaherty said he supported nuclear power, but suggested we "not run hell bent for it." He said we should also be looking for alternative energy sources.

When the question of unemployment in North Carolina was raised, Flaherty explained that had it not been for the recession, North Carolina's per capita would have jumped to a very high point. "We have done a phenomenal job attracting industry," he said, "but often we've not located them well. Too many industries are in certain areas, while other areas with high unemployment and a strong potential labor force don't get them."

"We need to coordinate our industry hunting better, for many cities have faster growth than they can handle. We also need to replace lost industries," he continued.

Flaherty said he supported optional liquor by the drink for Mecklenburg County, but added that he couldn't be a proponent of it in general and still be a viable candidate for Governor. He urged the audience to look at his record to see where he stands on the issue.

Flaherty was also concerned with the low morale of North Carolina's highway patrolmen. He blamed the morale problem on two things: (1) the patrolmen are terribly underpaid ("I wouldn't want to walk to my car in the wee hours of the morning for what they get paid either," Flaherty said), and (2) the system is too political. There is no effective merit

system being used for promotion, and the head of the department is a political appointment.

Flaherty said he was in favor of capitol punishment for the offenses of first degree murder and rape, but felt that the system needs to be implemented more efficiently.

When asked whether he supported the Republican platform, Flaherty said, "I support it conceptually, but I don't know every detail of it. I do support the conservative platform."

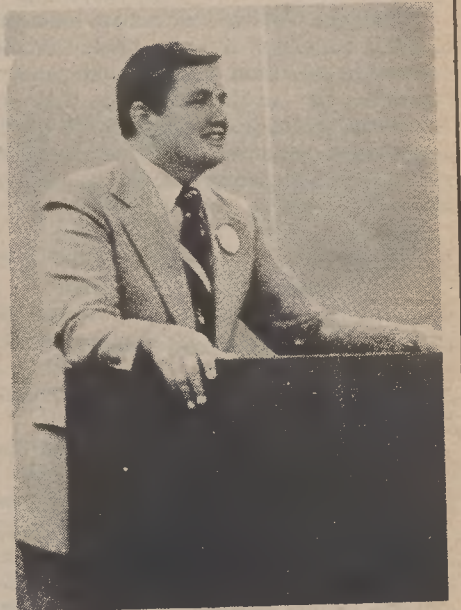
On education, Flaherty said, "The greatest asset in good education is good teachers. To have good teachers, we must pay adequate salaries. Another problem is a lack of leadership from Raleigh. The superintendent must have more power; at the present he must always go through the Board of Education."

Flaherty also said that there is too much squabbling between the superintendent and the Board. He said the department of Public Instruction should be restructured so the Board appoints the superintendent, and picks a man they can work with. The Board members themselves should be elected, one from each Congressional district, and five nominees from the teachers. "The county school systems are better organized right now than the state," he said.

Despite supporting higher wages for teachers, Flaherty was against unionization of the profession. "That would turn the public off," he said, "and besides, we have gone from 35th to 18th place in teacher salaries without unions."

Flaherty said he was in favor of George Wood's suggestion that North Carolina hold a constitutional convention. "In fact," he said, "I wish I

Carolina Journal photo by Lisa Laney



Republican gubernatorial candidate David Flaherty, speaking to a crowd on campus

had thought of it myself." He said the North Carolina General Assembly is too strong, the strongest in the nation, and this should be changed. He said he was not afraid of any effects the proposed convention might have, and would welcome such changes as having the Governor and Lieutenant Governor on the same ticket. "What Governor would send his Lieutenant Governor out to make speeches for him when they aren't even on the same ticket," he said.

He thinks the Governor should either serve a six year term or be allowed to

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Apartment-style dorm life

Development on campus (second in a series)

Carolina Journal photo by Susan Cole

By Pat Griendling

With the expectancy of new dorms comes the curiosity concerning the design of them. In an effort to respond to students needs, a survey was taken by the administration concerning what the students valued most in dorm life. The overall concensus was "privacy." Bill Little, the architect, and architecture students who worked with him, helped to develop the wish for privacy into reality.

William Britt and Doug Orr, who are involved with housing gave some insight into the design of the buildings. The whole complex will house 240 students separated six units with 40 students to each apartment complex. Each unit will be two and one half floors with two apartments on each of the other two floors. The apartments will house four students, and will contain four bedroom equipped with dresser, bed and desk. Included in each apartment will be a kitchenette, dining room, living room, washroom combination and a sundeck with sliding glass doors. The doors will be constructed with wood and masonry, not cedarblock. The six units will surround a central plaza which according to Doug Orr, will be nice "for the dorms might be situated between Dorm 72 and Dorm 73 and the Health Center. This will make the walk from Dorm 73 and Dorm 72 to the main campus not quite so solitary." To William Britt, the dorms present "an

important alternative to the students. This gives the students a range in style."

Doug Orr, who gave a lot of insight into the design of the apartments, explained that one advantage to the students was that, "it gives privacy, but at the same time a sense of community. I think the dorms will be a unique advantage to UNCC. I think a lot of credit goes to Bill Little and the architecture students who worked in the program committee. Both really did an excellent job."

Orr felt the students would be interested to know the design of the apartments were made with strong emphasis on the environment. "Because the units are to be constructed on a slope, all vegetation within five feet will be preserved. An inspector will be there to make sure of this." Another advantage is the conservation of energy. "Students right now pay rent that covers utilities used by all the students," explained Doug Orr. "With this design, to each four students there will be one meter. Therefore, if the four students are thrifty, they will save on electricity and money. The apartments will have peaked roofs with ventilation for which will save on energy."

Doug Orr is optimistic concerning the financing problems of the dorms. "Mr. Eills worked hard in the financing of the dorms. Financing looks like it will work out." The problem according to

Orr is "the state does not allocate loans. They gave authorization to borrow money. We intend to borrow the money and pay off the loan through the charge for rent. There is quite a bit that goes into the financing of a loan. The Board of Governors has to give approval and present the request to the Legislature. Interest rates are high, and there are not interest subsidies." According to William Britt, "These new dorms will be much more expensive because the old dorms were similar in construction. This saved money and helped make the job easier."

240 new sleeping quarters is not really enough, however. There are 300 on the waiting list and according to Orr, "We would like to see authorization given to add 500 new beds to the 240. We could use some new approach for the design of them or maybe some combination."

The new beds will present a need for additional parking space, for 240 new students will have to find places to park their cars.

Right now, however, the students can at least anticipate some new living quarters. The one thing that still has to be definitely decided upon is the determination of the site. Even though the housing committee has presented different ideas, the consideration of the parking problem and accessibility to the rest of the campus must be determined.

UNCC's Belk Tower symbolizes

campus is undergoing