

The Carolina Journal

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It's Election Time Again

By Nancy Davis

Being Student Body President could probably be compared to the food in the cafeteria. No matter how hard you work or what you do, some people only see the bad in it. There is a similar stereotype placed on both that automatically assumes that the "services" will be bad. So why would anybody want to go through a month of hard campaigning, three days of waiting anxiously for the results, and then a year of hassles, complaints and criticism?

For whatever reason, it is that time again and students are gearing up for the elections.

Elections come later than usual this year (April 12, 13, and 14), but the campaigning is now beginning and with the campaigns come the rumors. Students are already asking who is running, who is not running and should I run?

The rumors are not too hard to chase down even though there are still a lot of closed mouths and indecision. At the same time, however, there are candidates who are ready for the students to know their plans and are announcing their candidacies. Throughout the campaign, the *Carolina Journal* will be following up on rumors, keeping in touch with candidates, and attempting to involve as many members of the UNCC community in the elections as possible.

In this first of many "election" articles, rumored possible candidates have been interviewed and asked of their plans. These candidates, just like anybody else have the right to change their minds. But for now, they are off and running with some others probably joining in and one or two pulling out.

Jeff Hall, a candidate for president last year has been sitting on a seesaw for about the past month. After obviously planning to run again this year, Hall suddenly slowed down his precampaign efforts. Presently serving as Attorney General, Hall has remained active in student government and it was almost a natural assumption that he would run this spring.

Hall said he started looking at the office a lot more seriously. Even though he felt he had a lot of support in the dorms, Hall just was not sure he had the time. Involved in the Model UN and North Carolina Student Legislature, Hall will be gone for a week to New York City for the UN conference in March and for another week in April to Raleigh for the NCSL session. At one time he just didn't think he could devote enough time to his campaign.

Recently in a Student Legislature meeting, there was a motion to impeach Hall, but it was defeated soundly. Hall referred to the incident as the "political impeachment procedure...which everybody knew was a political ploy...I lost a lot of faith and respect for many people." He said this was one of the reasons he had started

issues were discussed."

Meanwhile, Twining decided not to run because of time and money. "I'd have to stop doing a lot of things," said Twining. Originally, running for president was a goal for his junior year, but he said, "I saw an opportunity and jumped into it too quick." Upon finding out Twining was not running, Hall started having second thoughts about his decision to not run.

"I've had a lot of people say they were disappointed that I wasn't going to run," Jeff said. Maybe it was the support from other people or that mystical urge that keeps haunting politicians. Whatever it was that caused him to seesaw in the other direction, it's hit him hard. On Friday, March 3rd, Hall will resign as Attorney General and plunge headfirst into his campaign for student body president. Hall explained his resignation by saying, "It wouldn't be fair to me or the students."

While Hall was making his decision, Jack Summerlin, chairperson of the Student Legislature, was also a victim of the rumors. Actively involved in student government for about three years, Summerlin is another one of those candidates who is expected to run. But Summerlin is still deciding and said, "I hate to say yes or no...at this point, I haven't exactly decided whether I really am going to or not."

Summerlin, who has "lived through three presidents," also says he is having to think about the time commitment that goes with the job. Summerlin says he is having to ask himself, "Am I going to be able to do a good job...not a mediocre...but a real good job?" If he doesn't run, he plans to finish up his term as chairperson and then devote his time to getting out of school.

Even though students are already asking each other will they support Summerlin, it is not official. If and when he does file for president, he says he won't resign as chairperson. "I don't like to see a job dropped in order to do something else," said Summerlin. He also explained he feels his remaining in office will supply



Jeff Hall announced his candidacy today. (photo by Dean Dugger)

some continuity to Student Legislature.

"We've heard a great deal of people say student government doesn't have any stability...I don't like that image conveyed. It looks bad for us to have that uncontinuity," said Summerlin. He feels he can do both without there being any conflict of interests. "I really don't have any direct input," he said, explaining his strong feeling that being chairperson won't interfere with running for president.

There are serious doubts that the presidential election will be a two man race. David Edwards, a junior political science major, is unlike Summerlin in that he has definitely decided to run and unlike Hall in that it didn't take him long to make up his mind. Edwards is preparing for his campaign and says, "I'm a person that's looking for a job rather than a person who's looking for a title."

He has been considering running for awhile admitting that "it entered my head when I was a freshman. What influenced my decision to run was that first, the time was right and second, I felt the urge to serve." Edwards, another member of NCSL and a justice on the Student Superior Court, has also worked with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Law Explorers Post and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Youth Advisory Board.



Presidential hopeful Jack Summerlin (photo by Michael Anderson)

reconsidering running for office.

During the time that Hall was putting the break on his campaign, rumors that another student legislator was running were being passed. Jim Twining, sophomore class president, talked with several students, including Hall about running for office himself. Hall was at a point where he had almost decided not to run when he talked to Twining. Yet, Hall said he would not make any "firm commitment to support anyone until the candidates filed and the

South Alabama Crawls Past 49ers

By James Braswell

As a team hell-bent on pulling a Sun Belt upset, South Alabama (USA) toppled UNCC 66-56 in the semifinals of the second annual Sun Belt Conference tournament at the Charlotte Coliseum Saturday night.

And the victorious Jaguars did it in a very stubborn and deliberate fashion, but carried an uncanny poise when UNCC attempted a rally.

The factor that was most evident in carrying the responsibility for the 49ers loss was the game's tempo. UNCC had put together an eight game winning streak during the last half of the season, and the 49ers offense was in high gear during the streak. Fast breaks and a quick tempo were earmarks of many of those wins, and when the pace slowed the games got closer. Well, against South Alabama any type of fast pace notions that appeared in the 49ers style of play, was quickly killed by the

winners.

South Alabama ran a very deliberate and controlled offense and UNCC was unable to hasten the pace. Only in the opening minutes were the Niners able to quicken things. With 8:13 remaining in the first half, UNCC held a 12-6 lead. But South Alabama continued to work the ball with the deliberate style and score at a high rate per possession. The Jaguars held a 22-18 halftime lead.

The second half was one of much the same style of play with UNCC unable to break through the USA zone, and unable to halt the Jaguars' offense. USA scored on its first six possessions of the second half, and built a 2 point lead.

UNCC was able to make a late run at the game. Twice the 49ers cut the lead to four points, but turnovers in clutch situations, and clutch free throwing by the visitors, put the game out of reach.

For the game UNCC shot 75 percent

from the floor in the second half and 58 percent for the game. In comparison, UNCC shot 41 percent in the second period, and finished with 37.5 percent for the contest. A most noticeable statistic, the shooting percentages pointed out what Lee Rose said was the major factor in the loss — execution.

Said Rose in a post game interview, "They executed very well. They hit their free throws and you have to hit your free throws. Again, their execution made the difference."

The UNCC coach was gracious in defeat and expressed that he wasn't surprised with the defense that South Alabama used. "I wasn't surprised at all with the defense," said Rose. "Cliff (USA Coach Cliff Ellis) is an excellent basketball coach. He has written two books on basketball. I think maybe I should read them."

(cont'd. on p. 11)



S. Alabama cheerleaders celebrate (photo by Frank Alexander)