

# Voters surprisingly inconsistent in 1978 elections

By Michael D. Evans

The 1978 national election results leave one with the impression the American people have absolutely no idea what they want from their political leaders. Inconsistent best describes the trend of this off-year election.

The victors, though the victory is small, are the Republicans. While not winning a large number of offices from the Democrats, they won some where it hurt most. However, the overall gain of the Republicans is far less than previous off-year results would have dictated.

Republican victories, though, cannot be considered as total victories for the rising New Right (Anti-People Movement). The reaction of the American people to the issues of the New Right is about as consistent as their overall voting patterns.

Chief among the geographic areas of inconsistency is Mecklenburg County. Our county returned a conservative senator and congressman to office, along with a conservative County Commission, yet voted to send the most liberal slate to the North Carolina Senate. Certainly consistency would have provided for Jim "Little Jesse" McDuffie's reelection, but the county woke up momentarily.

The rest of North Carolina proved to be much more consistent, though still extremely conservative, in its voting. Right challenges to left leaning incumbent Democrats Steve Neal (5th District) and Lamar Gudger (11th District) were strong, though the incumbents did win. Richardson Preyer (6th District), our only other representative with liberal leanings fared much better.

The overall outlook for North Carolina. The Senate: With the nation's most conservative senator in Jesse Helms and a second one hot on the conservative trail in Robert Morgan (who ran as a Democrat), we can expect no support from our senators on social, environmental or labor issues. But Exxon will be proud of them.

The House: Here we



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fare better, but not by much. Southern conservatives still abound, headed by Jim "Nuclear Power at any cost" Martin (9th District) and Jim Broyhill (10th District). Neal and Preyer are bright spots in a gloomy outlook, while Gudger shows promise of being progressive, since he placed his seat on the line with a pro-ERA vote. Across the Nation.

## The East

In this area, the most impressive race was Democrat Paul Tsongas defeat of incumbent Republican Senator Edward Brooke in Massachusetts. Tsongas has a "100" or perfect rating with Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), a liberal organization which rates congressional votes. Tsongas, as a strong liberal, will be an able replacement for Brooke, who in recent years began selling out to big business, and the perfect complement to one of the Senate's two super-liberals, Ted Kennedy.

However, even Massachusetts was not above the inconsistency of the rest of the nation. Despite a reputation as the most liberal and progressive state in the union, Massachusetts elected a conservative governor in Democrat Edward King. Most liberal Democrats had supported the Republican candidate, Frances Hatch, in the election. Parties, as well as voters, were confused in this election.

The remainder of the East represented a small

move to the right, particularly in Republican William Cohen's defeat of William Hathaway in Maine, the loss of Thomas McIntyre in New Hampshire and the election of Republican Richard Thornburgh as governor of Pennsylvania.

## The South

The South has always been conservative and if this year's election results are any indication, it will always be conservative. The leading neo-Fascist Republicans, Helms, Strom Thurmond of South Carolina and John Tower of Texas, were all returned to office. Thurmond was reelected despite the candidacy of Democrat Charles "Pug" Ravenel, perhaps the most respectable candidate ever to run for statewide office in South Carolina.

Given the pessimism which exists regarding southern politics, the Democratic party provides the only hope of sanity and the party still fares well in the South. Alabama, Louisiana and Georgia remained Democratic strongholds, but Mississippi elected their first Republican senator since Reconstruction. Thad Cochran was elected because of a Democratic party split due to the independent candidacy of black activist Charles Evers, who finished third.

The most dismal results in the South, aside from the reelection of the New Right's Big Three, were the election of a Republican governor in Texas and the election of Republican

John Warner to replace William Scott (one of the 10 dumbest congressmen) as a Virginia State. Warner won on the appeal of his wife (and we all know who she is).

## The Midwest

The Democrats were hit hardest here. Minnesota left reality momentarily and elected two Republican senators and a Republican governor. And to think just three years ago, Hubert Humphrey, Walter Mondale and Wendell Anderson, all loyal progressives, held those seats — a tremendous loss to the Democratic party and the nation.

The loss of Democratic liberal Dick Clark of Iowa will hurt progressives. However, the region can boast of a female senator, Nancy Landon Kassebaum in Kansas, though she is a moderate at best. Kassebaum is being touted as the first female to become a senator in her own right (repeat the middle name). Republican Larry Pressler, with the support from Democratic workers, took the seat given up by retiring liberal James Abourezk in South Dakota. Pressler should complement the Senate's other super-liberal (Kennedy being one), George McGovern.

Finally, the 1978 campaign's most unorthodox candidacy was carried on by Lee Dryfuss, a former college president nicknamed "LSD," who won as governor of Wisconsin as a Republican. Dryfuss emptied the

usual Republican sources of their funding but is expected to serve much more progressive.

## The West

Jerry Brown's reelection as governor of California has to be the region's highlight. Brown beat Evelle Younger, an intolerable candidate who responded to a question on his affiliation with organized crime by saying, "I never said I was tough on crime."

Colorado perhaps should win an award for being the most inconsistent state. Colorado voters booted out incumbent Democratic liberal Floyd Haskell in favor of

Bill Armstrong, a Reaganite. However, in true American contradictory form, they elected a slightly left Democratic governor. Their other senator, Gary Hart, one of McGovern's co-campaign managers, must now decide which way the voters want him to turn. Perhaps he should remain a liberal ideologue.

The remainder of the West produced few surprises, neither making a strong move to the right or to the left. In California, the proposition to fire gays teaching in public schools was defeated, so there is still some hope left for the country.

## Torres thought to have veto power

By James Kirkpatrick

The University Program Board (UPB) may be the only student organization with an advisor who thinks she has veto power — Barbara Torres, assistant dean of students for campus programming and UPB advisor, stated in an article done on the board in the Oct. 17 issue of the *Carolina Journal* she had veto power over UPB's decisions.

According to Vern Parrish, assistant dean of students and Cone University Center director, this is not the case. This is also not true for media advisors, Frank Josephs and Larry Ferguson, or Robert "Bo" Pittman, WFAE station manager.

Torres confirmed her earlier published statement in a recent interview. She emphasized, however, this power had not been used and the UPB committees are waking harmoniously together for this year.

Parrish, who held Torres' position for a short period when he first came to UNCC in 1972, explained the history of the position. It was originally funded by student activity fees (before 1972). When he took it over, Academic Affairs began paying the position and this year the salary is being paid by Student Affairs.

He felt if the advisor had veto power, it would



(photo by Robin Colby)  
UPB advisor Barbara Torres.

be a "contradiction." Parrish said, "The advisor's job is to give advice."

UPB Vice Chairperson Richard Best wasn't sure whether Torres had veto power or not. "It's never happened," Best commented. "If she wanted to stop a program, though, I'm sure she could."

Each spring, students elect a UPB chairperson to head campus programming. The money budgeted for programs is from student activity fees while Torres' position is funded by the state. An advisor with veto power could indirectly or directly dictate to the students what they could program, publish or play.