

Changes in lieutenant governor post not top legislative priority

By Stephanie Greer
Staff Writer

Despite discussions in the N.C. General Assembly concerning new legislation to modify the duties of the lieutenant governor's office, no action has been taken or is expected soon, according to members of the General Assembly.

"Next to crucial issues, this is not something that would take the highest priority right now," said N.C. Sen. Howard Lee, D-Orange.

Lee previously had introduced a bill that called for the creation of a constitutional commission to review, among other things, the facets of the lieutenant governor's duties, and to recommend a change in those duties if necessary.

"I think the position (of lieutenant governor) has changed drastically since 1988 ... the duties and responsibilities have been reduced, and it doesn't justify the money spent on it," Lee said.

Lee said he had not decided what his position would be on the issue.

"I'll see over the next few weeks where I want to go on it ... I'm just going to have to take it as it comes. I have not put a schedule on it yet," he said of the bill.

The suggested changes included re-defining the duties of the lieutenant governor, combining the position with another governmental position, eliminating the office or cutting the position down to a part-time job.

The lieutenant governor's post was not made a full-time position until 1972, said Bob Phillips, press secretary for N.C. Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker. Some bad feelings resulted between the Senate and the lieutenant governor in 1988 when the Democrat-controlled N.C. Senate stripped the new Republican Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner of his ability to appoint committees and assign bills, he said.

Phillips called the recent controversy concerning the powers of the lieutenant governor "mainly political" and "a continuation" of the 1988 unrest between Gardner and the Democratic Senate.

Rachel Perry, press secretary for N.C. Gov. Jim Hunt, said the disagreement about the lieutenant governor's position had been going on since 1972. "The question of the lieutenant governor's power is not a new one," she said.

Phillips said the lieutenant governor's position was necessary as a "bridge" between the House and the Senate.

"The House and Senate are said to have not as good a working relationship as they should have ... (Wicker) looks at his job as a policy trouble-shooter," he said.

Both sides of the issue have received a certain measure of support from the general public.

Phillips pointed out that since Wicker was elected by more than a million votes, "talk about eliminating his job will bother a lot of people."

Lee also said he had encountered strong support for the creation of the constitutional commission from members of the N.C. General Assembly, noting that "there are many questions that need to be looked at."

Despite the differing opinions, nothing has happened concerning the issue, said N.C. Sen. Donald Kincaid, R-Caldwell. Kincaid also said he did not expect to see any changes within the office of the lieutenant governor.

"I don't think we need to create more bureaucracy," he said.

Kincaid also said public reaction to the issue had been unremarkable.

"The people don't give a tinker's damn either way," he said.

Wicker already has assumed some of his duties as lieutenant governor, including being sworn in as a member of the N.C. Board of Education and the N.C. Board of Community Colleges. During the next year, Wicker is expected to keep a "high profile" in education and small business issues, Perry said.

Phillips said normality will reign during the lieutenant governor's term.

"Wicker will go about his job as he

promised in the campaign," he said.

Both Perry and Phillips stressed the excellent working relationship between Hunt and Wicker and noted that the two would work as a team for the next four years.

Perry said, "Governor Hunt has a great deal of confidence in (Wicker's) ability ... (Hunt) believes that legislative leaders, the lieutenant governor and the governor are all elected to carry out the wishes of the people."

Paintball

find out more about the sport.

A game of paintball, which usually lasts about half an hour, isn't all that complicated or drawn-out and gives a player a good workout to boot, Murphy said.

But there is a slight drawback to the game: cost.

Playing on a professional paintball field, which has evolved into a place of business like a bowling alley or a miniature golf course, can take its toll on one's wallet.

Even if paintball fans can find someone who will let them use some lightly wooded land, they might have to pay.

A number of indoor paintball fields have sprung up in recent years too,

Murphy said. Even his hometown of Huntington, W.V., has one. But ironically, he has never played there, he said.

Equipment costs too.

A basic paintball gun, powered by carbon dioxide canisters, costs about \$50. Top-of-the-line models may cost \$300 or more, Murphy said.

Besides the gun, another essential for playing the sport is the paintball itself, a round plastic capsule — about the size of a pinball — filled with brightly colored, water-soluble paint. The average range of a fired paintball is 50 yards, Murphy said.

Players also need carbon dioxide to power the gun, and many buy accessories such as bulk loader attachments and

carrying cases.

The absolute essential for the game is a pair of goggles, Murphy said.

"You can't just wear, like, your little chemistry goggles. You have to wear something that can sustain a direct hit."

Players who want to avoid getting a fat lip also wear something to cover their mouths, he said.

Paintball enthusiasts usually order equipment from one of several magazines, such as Paintball Sports or Action Pursuit Games, that are devoted to the sport.

Murphy, who has been playing the game on and off for the past four years, said he hoped interest in the sport would gain enough momentum at the University so that paintball teams could compete intramurally or against teams from other universities in the area.

A paintball team generally comprises 10 to 15 players, he said, but sometimes teams can number as few as two people.

An intense version of the game, called speedball, is played in a smaller arena with barricades and lasts only about five minutes.

Regardless of how many people play on a team or what version is being played, paintball has a universal appeal, Murphy said.

"It's mostly just the adrenaline rush. It's something that appeals to the kid in us — cowboys and Indians, cops and robbers," he said.

"And there's always that bit of insanity in us that makes us want to shoot people."

More U.S. women buying firearms

By Jerry McElreath
Staff Writer

American women are buying more guns than ever, but gun industry experts and gun control advocates disagree about why women are purchasing the firearms.

An increase in gun ownership by women has been noticeable since about 1983, said Ed Klecka, a National Rifle Association media coordinator. The issue came to the forefront in 1989 when Smith and Wesson introduced its LadySmith gun line.

Ken Jorgensen, a Smith and Wesson public relations manager, said the company had discovered a niche for women in the gun-buying market in 1983, when a Gallup Poll estimated that eight million women were considering buying guns. By 1988, that figure had jumped to 15.5 million.

The increase in purchases of firearms by women generally has been attributed to a desire for personal protection, but some experts question whether the guns provide real security.

Shawn Taylor, communications assistant for Handgun Control, Inc., said marketing guns as a means for women to protect themselves was an attempt to

play on women's fears of rape and assault.

"I think it's just a false sense of security," Taylor said.

Taylor said that, in spite of gun manufacturers' claims, guns were not an effective means of personal protection. She said it would be difficult for a woman to reach her gun if she were assaulted.

But officials in the gun industry said they thought women were now discovering other uses for their firearms.

Jorgensen said many women who initially bought guns for personal protection now were becoming interested in shooting as a hobby.

"We have found a lot (of women) buy the handguns and become interested in competitive shooting and hunting," Jorgensen said.

Don Beamon, manager of the Colonial Gun Shop in Hillsborough, said most of his female customers were buying guns for reasons other than personal protection.

"There are more women enjoying shooting, rather than just buying guns for personal protection," Beamon said.

The LadySmith line, marketed specifically for women, differed from Smith and Wesson's other handguns in a num-

ber of ways, Jorgensen said. He said Smith and Wesson had received input from women while they were designing the gun.

"The (LadySmiths) have a satin, stainless steel finish that does not mar. The revolvers have rosewood grips and they have been rounded a little bit so they don't snag on things," Jorgensen said.

He said the improvements made the gun more appealing to women and made it easier to carry in a purse.

Jorgensen said the gun had sold briskly, with sales doubling between early 1991 and late 1992.

Many of the guns' early sales were attributed to men buying guns for their spouse's protection, Jorgensen said. "I think women are buying more on their own now," he said.

The NRA has seen an increase in women's enrollment during the past few years, Klecka said. He also said the number of women enrolling in personal protection programs was rising.

Klecka said the NRA had personal protection programs tailored specifically for women. The programs teach firearm safety and marksmanship and discuss general measures women can take to protect themselves.

The Dragon's Garden



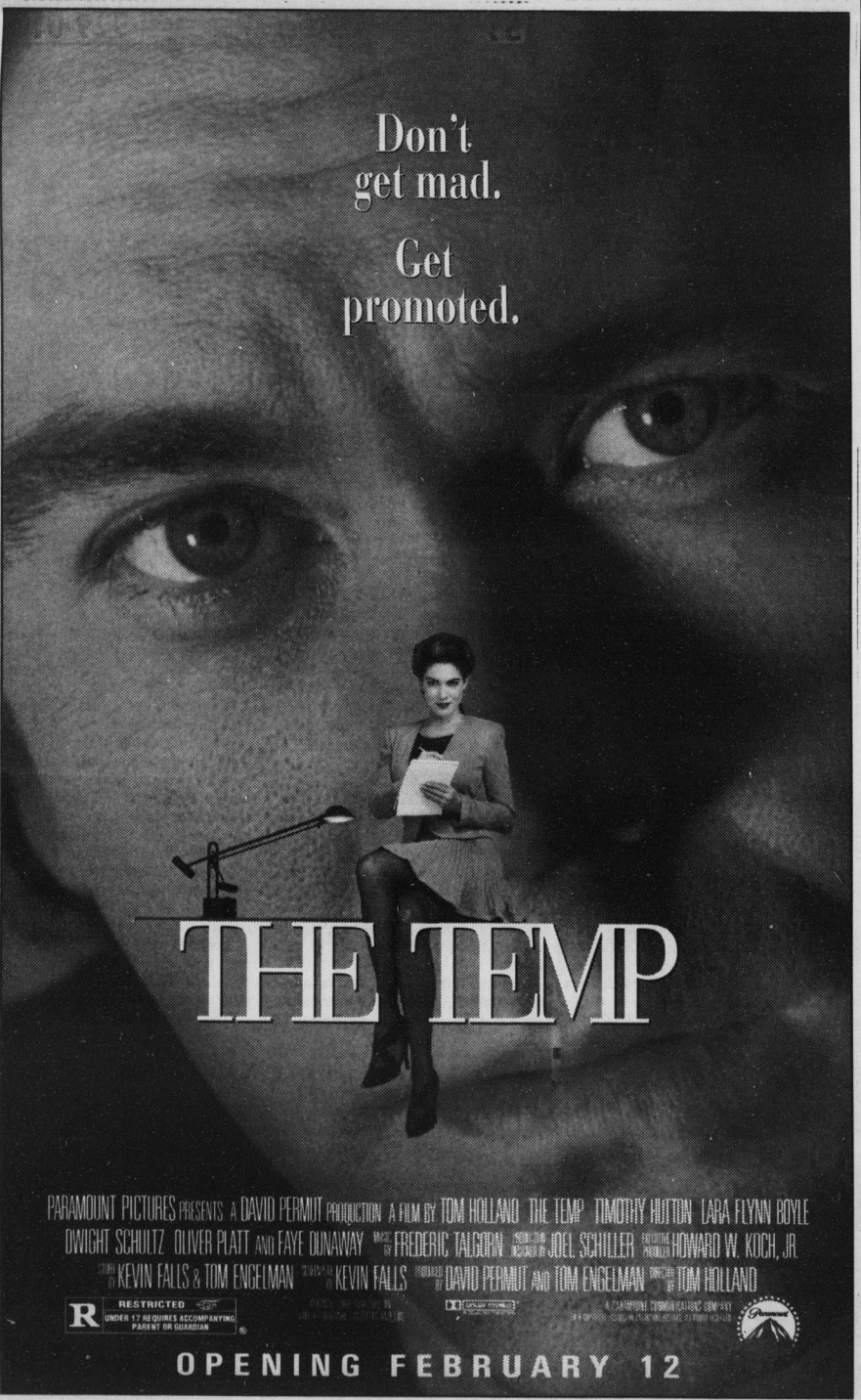
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"It is a harsh reality for many women on campus," she said. "It is something that people have to realize that these don't just happen to other people."

Lloyd said she would call for major reform of the UNC Honor Code to help victims of sexual assaults bring their assailants to justice. Victims of sexual assaults currently are "treated no differently than the victim of a robbery," she said.

Lloyd said she personally did not like the 24-hour lockdown in the residence halls, but would support it if students did. She said she would like to see residence halls operate on a system in which the doors were locked at night and only one door was open during the day.

Lloyd also said she would support altering residence hall room doors so that they would lock automatically.

Copland: Will use experience to make campus safer

Jim Copland said he wanted to draw on his experience with the Rape Awareness Week and his work on the Campus Y's Rape-Free Zone project to improve campus safety as student body president.

"I will be a voice for campus safety," he said.

Copland said he wanted to improve University safety by adding lights and security call boxes and by expanding the Point-to-Point program.

Copland, who cited his experience working against date and acquaintance rape, said he wanted to continue to be active in fighting assaults and rapes.

Copland's strategy involves increasing campus awareness about rape and educating students about prevention.

He said he wanted to review the UNC response plan for rape and streamline the police to fit the needs of today's campus.

"I want to take a look at the plan and make sure it includes enough on education and awareness," he said.

Clark: Safety is top priority in campaign

Carl Clark said his top priority if elected student body president would be to improve safety on campus.

"I conducted a survey of 200 people,

and 90 percent of them said safety on campus was their highest concern," he said.

Clark said that the University needed to provide security for students attending night classes and that he believed a "Safety Shuttle" would help them to stay safe.

"This will be an extension of the Point-to-Point shuttle and will run consecutively every 30 minutes in areas where students are taking classes. Students will not have to call for the shuttle," he said.

Clark also wants to install car-level phones in parking lots and around campus. "This will allow students to call for the Point-to-Point service from within their cars, and then park and wait for the shuttle in their cars," he said.

"I want to expand the Point-to-Point shuttle service to off-campus residents. I don't care where they live — they all need safe transport."

Clark said a Campus Watch Program, modeled after the Neighborhood and Community Watch national programs, would help to improve safety on campus. "This will help prevent crime by coordinating student volunteers," he said. "A part of this program is the Adopt-a-Cop program, in which campus police are assigned to various dorms."

Campus checkpoints, which would allow students to walk safely from one part of campus to another, also were on Clark's list.

Cox: Has personal experience with safety problem

David Cox, who was mugged last year, said students need to take a more active role in ensuring campus safety.

Cox has proposed that the University give one hour of credit per semester to students who participate in student patrol groups on campus and in the community.

"We should have students who work on a volunteer basis and get University credit," he said. "The University ought to see that it is a very good proposal because safety is going to be a huge, huge improvement over what we have now and all they have to give up is one hour of credit."

"That's not too much to ask consid-

ering what you get in return."

The program would be a cheap solution to the University's growing security problems, Cox said. "I'm trying to focus on where we can make improvements without spending money," he said.

He said that while attempts to install more emergency phones on campus and better lighting were important, they cost money.

Cox said that he thought the University was doing a good job in handling the security problem and that the student patrols would only improve campus security.

"We have some good security in place, he said. "I think the main thing we need to do is to have more visible security."

The 24-hour lockdown, implemented last fall after an increase in assaults, is a good policy, Cox said.

Benefits of the policy outweighed the inconveniences, Cox said. He said students could always use the phones outside the residence halls to call the student they want to visit.

Patillo: Students must get involved in safety effort

Adrian Patillo said students should come up with new ideas for security instead of just complaining about the safety problems on campus.

He said that the Point-to-Point shuttle, which has received a lot of criticism for its unavailability, needed funding and new ideas to help it make more workable schedules. "It was good in theory," he said. "A lot of people have been hacking away at it. Don't just bring problems to the table — bring some solutions."

Patillo said the major problem with shuttle and other campus security efforts was the lack of funds.

"I think the problem is money — they don't have the money to operate the way that they can," he said.

He said students should not expect the state to fund Point-to-Point. "I think it would be naive of us to think that the state is going to give us money for that," he said.

Citing the low turnout at the Student Environmental Action Coalition candidates' forum Tuesday, Patillo said his top priority was getting more students involved in planning solutions to major problems such as campus crime.

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