

ELECTIONS School Board Candidate Profiles ELECTIONS

Chapel Hill and Carrboro will elect five new members to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education Nov. 7. Today, The Daily Tar Heel profiles four of the 13 candidates seeking to improve the school system.

Schools Need More Support Systems

Elizabeth Carter says her children are her gift from God, and she believes her charge is to make sure they are ready to face the world.

Support systems for at-risk students, open discussion on race relations, more emphasis on raising minority standardized test scores and a zero tolerance policy toward violence in schools are just a few of the issues Carter would seek to address if elected to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education in November. Carter said these goals would help to prepare her kids for the "real world."

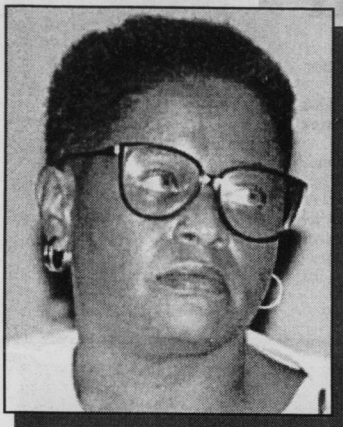
Students who slip through the cracks and are not successful in the schools' outline are the major problem facing the school system, Carter said. These children should be guided toward improvement rather than discounted as statistical failures, she said.

"Any time kids are not educated, it is a problem," she said. "We need to put things in place that help all students excel."

Race relations in the school system is a major concern Carter said and was purposely not discussed openly. Leaders seem more content to stay at a happy medium and employ a "don't rock the boat" attitude, she added.

"People need to appreciate (people) for who they are and stop the preconceived notions. Respect for one another is a key."

Vigorous proficiency standards should also be utilized to help raise minority test scores, Carter said. These standards would mandate that students master their current grade's curriculum before being promoted to the next grade level. She said she believed current standardized tests were more of an exercise in test-taking ability than an assessment of the subject matter learned.



Elizabeth Carter

Age: 44
Address: 203 King St.
Previous Experience: Elementary school volunteer, Carrboro Parent Teacher Association, Girl Scout leader
Occupation: Secretary at UNC Hospitals
Children: Two, both in public school
Length of Time in Community: 44 years
College Attended: Shaw University

Overcrowding in schools is also a problem she said she believed could be dealt with by continued collaboration between government officials, the school board and land developers. She said the construction of newer facilities and year-round schools were options for reducing overcrowding.

Violence in schools is not a major problem but is a problem worth dealing with, Carter said. Zero tolerance on the part of the school district could be the best policy for dealing with the violence, she said.

"School is a place for education, not a war ground."

Public input at school board meetings is something Carter would also like to see continue, provided there is mutual respect from both sides. "The voices of the public should be heard, but they should respect board members as well and stop the personal attacks," she said.

Carter said that she believed strongly in the value of an education and that she thought the best way to ensure future success for all students was to make sure parents were committed to being involved in their children's educational experience.

PROFILE COMPILED BY LUTHER CALDWELL

Past Experience Will Bring New Ideas

Rebecca Coyne, a new resident of Chapel Hill, said that due to her experiences with the Los Angeles school system, she feels she has a lot to offer the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school system.

Coyne said if she is elected she wants to focus mainly on the issues of overcrowding and expenditures within the school system.

"As this area continues to expand, the problem of overcrowding will become an even bigger issue," Coyne said.

"L.A. Unified is one of the largest school districts in the U.S., and they've already set up programs to cope with problems that Chapel Hill-Carrboro is just beginning to face."

She said she believes her experience in Los Angeles with the problem of having more people than space will help her in bringing ideas to the board that will benefit Chapel Hill.

"Twelve years ago L.A. dealt with land problems that Chapel Hill is now debating," Coyne said.

Some of these problems include the tripartite system which Chapel Hill has considered, a system which Coyne said does not work. It is in areas like this that Coyne wants to bring her experience to the board so that mistakes will not be repeated, and so the board can focus on better alternatives that have proven to produce positive results.

As for her position on expenditures, Coyne said she believes that old bonds must be re-evaluated for interest rate standings. Coyne said there are innovative ways of utilizing available sources and that these ideas need to be addressed by the board.

With her background in special educa-



Rebecca Coyne

Age: 41
Address: 1054 Burning Tree Dr.
Previous Experience: Teacher for gifted deaf at Central NC School for the Deaf, teacher for severely disabled and violently aggressive students in Los Angeles Unified School District
Occupation: Private tutor and full-time mother
Children: Five; four in public schools
Length of Time in Community: One year
College Attended: San Francisco State University

tion, Coyne said she also feels strongly about the need for everyone to have the same educational opportunities.

"Right now there are two curriculums being taught in the schools," she said. "One is a written-down curriculum which is a direct arrow to college; the other is a deviation which is taught when teachers decide that a child won't attend college."

Last year Coyne said she realized the problems this two-fold curriculum presented. She said she became offended and disturbed by this curriculum when she said teachers "would not even teach my son

multiplication tables."
 "I think there should be only one written curriculum that the teachers stick to regardless," she said. "The kids can do it, it just must be presented in a way which they retain it, even if it takes several times to explain."

As an active parent who is "in the school system for the long haul," Coyne said if elected she would also stress the need for more parent involvement in the schools and the need for parents to give more feedback to the administration.

PROFILE COMPILED BY GIBSON PATE

Overcrowding Should Be Eliminated

Nicholas Didow, candidate for a seat on the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education, has four major priorities he plans to address if elected to a seat.

"My first is the overcrowding situation, especially at the elementary and high school levels," he said.

To end the severe overcrowding in schools, Didow said he believed a \$40 million bond referendum would probably be required in the future, in addition to the new East Chapel Hill High School.

"I have advocated that the time to begin discussion about the referendum is now," Didow said. "The overcrowding is recognized widely in the community."

Chapel Hill and Carrboro have offered to develop what he calls "a new partnership" with the school system to develop an understanding of problems in the schools.

"A good school system is one of the major benefits of this larger community," he said. "We want to keep these schools good."

Didow, whose leadership record also includes serving on the original Frank Porter Graham Elementary School Governance Committee, said he also believed there should be more constructive public input from groups like Save Our Schools. He said he thought SOS was a good example of a community group whose positive constructive involvement has helped better the schools.

But Didow added that public opinion often came too late in the school board's decision process, and he would like to see public input and involvement long before plans come to the school board for final vote.



Nicholas Didow

Age: 47
Address: 117 Springhill Forest Rd.
Previous Experience: Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation Board of Directors, UNC Faculty Council
Occupation: Professor at Kenan-Flagler Business School
Children: Three, all in public school
Length of Time in Community: 22 years
Colleges Attended: Northwestern University, UNC-Chapel Hill

Involvement is also important for raising student achievement, he said. With a variety of intervention programs that have led to success and others just coming about, such as mentor programs, more students need to be more actively involved, he said.

Didow said parents also needed to be more involved in interaction with the students and the schools, which would also benefit the school board and the work it does. Parents need to be encouraged to help with homework, read notices and return notes sent home by the teacher.

"There seems to be an opportunity to

work with the families to make students more active in success and accomplishment," Didow said. "When I listen to the teachers in the classroom who have struggled to remedy this situation, they stress families need to be involved."

Didow said he thought students had made some significant advances in the previous years in race relations and in curbing violence with programs such as peer mediation that encourage students to have mutual respect for others and to solve their disputes successfully.

PROFILE COMPILED BY KELLY GARDNER

Students Need More Encouragement

Bea Hughes-Werner, a candidate for school board, said she feels there are three main problems presently facing the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school system.

If elected she would like to combat these problems in a way she believes would better the school system as a whole, Hughes-Werner said.

Hughes-Werner said one major problem facing the school system was the continued failure of black students to reach their full potential.

"We need to do everything possible to eliminate underachievement of African-Americans," Hughes-Werner said.

She said the key to solving these problems is to consider the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force, which focuses specifically on helping black students get the most from their education. Hughes-Werner was a member of this task force and said her work on the task force gave her several ideas on how to focus on the problems of black students.

"We need to implement Blue Ribbon Task Force recommendations," she said. "We should do this before any other project to help African-Americans."

Overcrowding and a lack of facilities are parts of another problem that faces the Chapel Hill-Carrboro system, she said. It would be a community decision to build more schools, because that would call for tax money. Hughes-Werner said looking at alternative ways to remedy the problem should be considered before placing that burden on the tax payers. She said she suggested schools that would run in separate morning and afternoon sessions.

"We are at our maximum," she said.



Bea Hughes-Werner

Age: 46
Address: 2447 Honeysuckle Rd.
Previous Experience: Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education, one year
Occupation: Professor at NCCU
Children: Two, both in public school
Length of Time in Community: 22 years
Colleges Attended: University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, UNC-Chapel Hill

"It's worse in the elementary schools."

Although Hughes-Werner said violence in the school system is not an extreme problem, she said there are a select few children who continuously cause disruption and create a poor learning environment for others. These children are able to disturb the class and essentially hold it hostage, Hughes-Werner said.

"It's exceedingly complicated," Hughes-Werner said. "We can't just expel these kids. It can be illegal because of special circumstances."

Hughes-Werner is currently active in

educational organizations. She is on the Orange County Skills Development Board, and she is also involved with the Head Start Program and the Recreation and Parks Work Group for School and Government.

She founded and is active in working with the homeless children's shelter on Franklin and Rosemary Streets.

She said the purpose of this program is to provide education to these homeless children.

"We do one-on-one stuff with these kids. I find it personally rewarding."

PROFILE COMPILED BY MEGAN DRISCOLL

Campus Calendar

MONDAY
 5 p.m. DELTA PHI ALPHA GERMAN HONOR SOCIETY will meet to plan the Oktoberfest in 403 Dey Hall.
 6 p.m. SEAC LOGISTICS COMMITTEE will meet in Union 220.

7 p.m. HONOR COURT AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S STAFF will hold mandatory presentations for freshmen and transfers in 100 Hamilton Hall and 111 Murphey Hall.
 7:30 p.m. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GROUP 84 will hold a program meeting titled "The

Case for Torture?" in Union 208.
 ITEMS OF INTEREST
 PAY IN-STATE TUITION? Learn about the application process and pitfalls from an attorney at a meeting sponsored by GPSF on Oct. 10 at 2 p.m. in Union 224.

UNC RUNNING CLUB will have group runs Monday through Friday at 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. No meetings Saturdays. Call Jon at 968-8654.
 SURVIVOR OF SUICIDE SUPPORT GROUP meets every first and third Thursday of each month. Call Brenda at 489-5473 for more information.
 HELLENIC ASSOCIATION is announcing the start of Greek dance classes. Classes will be held Wednesday from 7 to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 1 to 2 p.m. in Studio A in Woollen Gym.

CAROLINA S.A.F.E has openings for CPR and First Aid courses. Call 962-CPR.1 for more information.
 DAILY TAR HEEL CANDIDATE FORUMS Candidates for the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and mayor will come to the Union Auditorium Sunday at 7 p.m. to answer questions from students and members of the University community. Candidates for Chapel Hill Town Council and mayor will come to the Great Hall Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m.

For the Record

The Wednesday, Oct. 4, Daily Tar Heel story about Donald Clarke-Pearson should have stated that the rape, assault and kidnapping charges that had been filed against Clarke-Pearson were dropped by Orange County District Attorney Carl Fox. The DTH regrets the error.

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