

Environmental Group Endorses School Candidates

BY GIBSON PATE
STAFF WRITER

The Orange County Greens, an environmental group involved in community politics, announced their endorsements for candidates running for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Board Thursday.

The Greens will be endorsing Bill Elstran, Harvey Goldstein, Sandra J. Theard and incumbents Ken Touw and Elizabeth Carter, Robin Magee, spokeswoman for the Greens, stated in a press release.

The endorsements for five of the 13

candidates were based on a candidate forum sponsored by the Greens in conjunction with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The Greens selected the candidates based on their stances on issues addressed at previous forums, Magee stated. The Greens also took into account the candidates' public records.

"We are interested in supporting candidates who are involved community members, who are committed to improving public school education for African American students and who can provide leadership on the difficult issues of planning,

ELECTIONS

Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Board

financing, overcrowding and teacher attrition," the release stated.

Ken Touw, chairman of the board who is running for re-election, had aided in transitional changes faced by the board in the past, Magee stated.

Touw said he was pleased and grateful for the Greens endorsement because endorsements are valuable, especially since this is the first time they have endorsed

school board candidates.

All of the candidates the Greens supported place an emphasis on minorities in their platforms.

The Greens were also enthusiastic about newcomers Theard, Elstan and Golstein. They stated that "each of these candidates has been involved in their school communities."

Elstran said he was honored to be endorsed by the Greens. "Anytime you are endorsed it makes you feel good," Elstran said. Because the Greens' support was from a younger age group, the endorsements were even more valuable, Elstran said.

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a lot of overlap. There are team efforts as any national government."

The United Nations is in debt, and the United States has been criticized recently for owing the organization \$1.4 billion in back dues. Ron Sher, the president of the West Triangle chapter of the United Nations Association, called the United States' refusal to pay an attempt to dictate policy.

In the post-Cold War era, the United Nations has been called upon to perform peacekeeping duties it was not designed for. Many have called the U.N. peacekeeping experiences in Somalia and in Bosnia failures, but the responsibility belongs to individual countries. "If it's true that the

U.N. peacekeepers have failed, most of the blame goes to U.N. nations," Mlyn said.

Henderson said the United Nations was not set up to deal with civil warfare, but had been forced to deal with it.

"When the United Nations was established, it only talked about U.N. power to stop international war," she said. "There have been dozens of successes to match these horrors in Bosnia and Somalia."

U.N. peacekeeping forces were made up of soldiers from various nations who had not been trained as peacekeepers, Mlyn said. "(U.N. Secretary-General) Boutros Boutros-Ghali called for the United Nations to have a freestanding army," he said. "That never happened."

Mlyn said the true measure of the United Nations' power lay in the authority it exerted over its member states. During the Gulf War, the United States sought U.N. approval before acting against Iraq.

"The U.S. perceived it needed to get U.N. approval," Mlyn said. "The United Nations provides legitimacy for the kind of activity that is going to happen (in post-Cold War years)." Mlyn said although the United Nations was celebrating its 50th anniversary, it wasn't outdated. "It's young in that its effectiveness in post-Cold War years has not been tested yet."



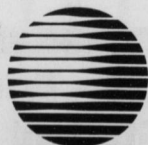
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