

Local group questions wording of upcoming bond referendum

BY JULIA WOOD
STAFF WRITER

The wording of an upcoming Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools bond referendum is raising objections from a local group as to the legal implications if the referendum is passed.

Tommy Gardner, chairman of the public interest group TaxWatch, stated in a press release that the TaxWatch Board of Directors voted not to support the referendum for three reasons, one of which was an error in wording.

"While the TaxWatch committee was studying the referendum, a member of that committee, Dr. James White (UNC professor Emeritus) discovered a grave error in the wording on the ballot," Gardner stated.

White said the ballot says the current

tax rate is 35 cents per \$100 property value, when actually the current rate is 19 cents. He said if the referendum was passed with this discrepancy, it would leave open the chance for the county to raise taxes to 35 cents.

"That's very deceptive," White said. "It is possible the school administration might ask to raise it to 35 cents to build up the capital fund."

Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools Spokeswoman Kim Hoke said in 1967 the maximum allowable rate for the tax was increased to 35 cents, but it has never gone above 20 cents.

She said the referendum did not say the tax would be increased. "The point is that the current rate is 19 cents, and voting would not change that," she said.

Hoke said a tax increase was possible. "The way the referendum is written,

though, the commissioners could levy an increase," she said.

If the referendum is passed, the money will be used in a variety of areas. Hoke said the school system is currently restricted to using tax money for current expenses, which include teacher salary supplements, teacher assistants and programs for exceptional students.

"The referendum is asking for flexibility to apply tax money to either current expenses or capital outlays, which include construction and renovation of buildings," she said.

TaxWatch said it objected to this use of funds. "The present school board and school system now wants to take that money away from the teachers and students in the classroom and use it for building projects," Gardner stated. "TaxWatch does not think that the parents, teachers and students want to be shortchanged in that manner."

White said he called the State Board of Elections to ask if the error in wording could be changed and was told there was no way to legally change it since absentee ballots had already been sent out.

Voter education top priority this season

BY JIM MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Up until Oct. 11, various organizations milled throughout the Pit in search of recruiting voters, but these new voters might not be well informed on all of the political issues.

Kirti Shastri is affiliated with the Carolina Vote Project, the coalition which organized all of the student organizations' registration drives. She estimated 2,500 students were registered to vote during the drive.

She said no organizations associated with the Carolina Vote Project handed out campaign literature when people were registering. Shastri said student groups would distribute campaign paraphernalia which will outline pertinent issues.

"Various organizations within Chapel Hill will be doing voter education," she said. "Literature will definitely be around."

Amber Rustin, a freshman from

Durham, said while there is a lot of emphasis on campus regarding the Senatorial and presidential races she was concerned students were not informed about all of the issues. "There are a lot of people who don't know about community things like various N.C. laws and referendums," Rustin said.

Ian Palmquist, a sophomore from Raleigh, said he wasn't sure how many clubs would be educating voters. He said there definitely was a need for education.

"A lot of people don't keep up with what is going on around them," said Palmquist, the treasurer for Bisexuals, Gay men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity.

As the November elections near, campus as well as community groups are making plans to educate area voters.

Sharon Worthington, Orange County Democratic Party Headquarters manager, said it was important that new voters be educated regarding local issues. "There has to be some follow-up (to

registration)," she said. "If (student voters) need information on the issues or the candidates, we have it here."

Worthington said the party was expecting a big turnout in the elections. She said it usually had 60 percent of the county's vote, and the party is extending itself to UNC students.

"We're in the process of contacting all registered Democrats in the area, including students," she said.

The Orange County Republican Party is also reaching out to its voters.

"(We'll) continue to place ads in newspapers and run commercials on the television," Chairman W.M. Knight said.

Knight also said students should do research on their own in order to be truly informed. "I think if they're going to be involved in making a decision, they should take the time to look at the issues and individual candidates," he said. "I would make use of the library's papers, which contains voting records, candidate profiles and issues."

Campus Calendar

Wednesday
4 p.m. — The Political Science Honors Program will hold an informational meeting in 335 Hamilton Hall. All junior political sci-

ence majors interested in participating in the Honors program are invited to attend.

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. — Meredith College will offer a free informational session on the paralegal profession in 114 Harris. The program will feature graduates and staff of the Meredith Legal Assistants program.

8 p.m. — The PlayMakers Repertory Company will present a preview of its production of Edward Albee's "Three Tall Women." Opening night will be Saturday. Prices vary. Call 962-PLAY for more information.

Items of Interest
The University Counseling Center in Nash Hall will hold a career clinic at 3:15 p.m. Monday to help students develop a plan of action for choosing a major or career.
Leadership Development will conduct "Survival: Consensus Building and Persuasion," a leadership workshop from 7 p.m. to 9

p.m. Monday in Union 212.
University Career Services will conduct "Atlantic Recruiting Alliance" at 3:30 p.m. Monday in 209 Hanes Hall. This is an information session on interviewing in New York City on Feb. 24, 1997.

Students with a minimum 3.0 GPA may register for **Honors Courses** beginning today in 300 Steele Building.

On Tuesday the **UNC Music Department** will present "Conversations with the Past: Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Versions of Eighteenth-Century Music" at 8 p.m. in Hall Auditorium.

Experience Toastmasters! Every first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month at noon in G7 Burnett-Womack Building. Call 967-0446 for more information.

Interested in adding Korean and Vietnamese classes to the curriculum? Then show your support, and let the University know of the need for these classes here. More details and a petition of support are available beside the Union desk.

Carolina Club Track and Field practices 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday on the track. Everyone is welcome!

For more information call Nicole at 929-1345.

The **Human Rights Campaign** needs volunteers for phone operators, posting flyers, data entry and routine office tasks.

Shuttle service from UNC to our RTP office is provided.

Contact Brian at 572-9863 for more information.

For great trips, free gear check-out, fun and more, join the **UNC Outing Club**. Meetings are at 7 p.m. Thursdays in 109 Fetzer Gymnasium. Check it out.

UNC men's rugby practices from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday on Ehringhaus field.

For more information call Jon at 962-1362, or Neil at 914-5111.

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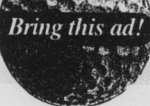
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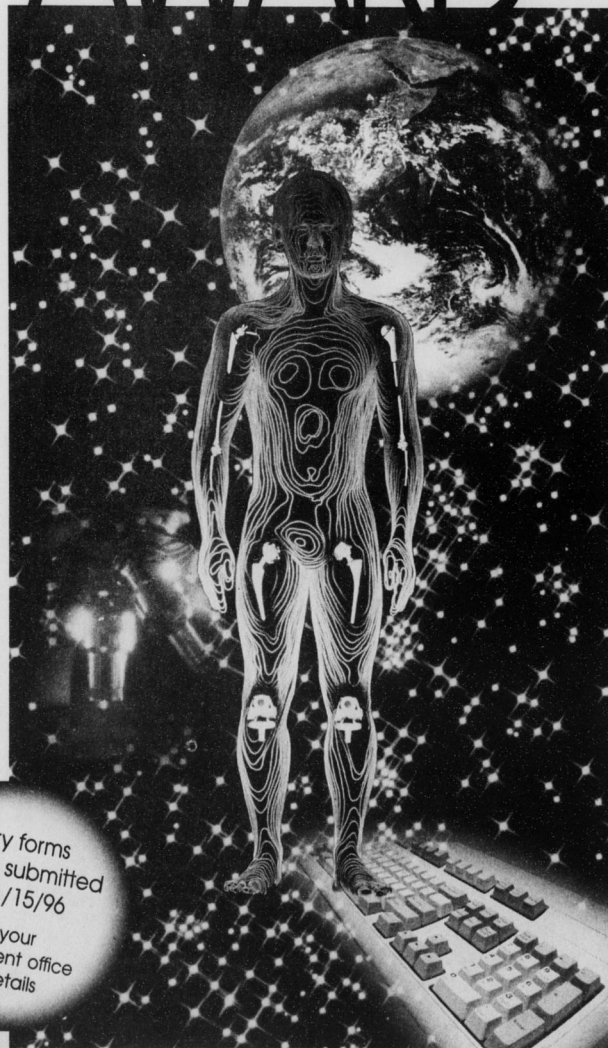
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