

The Daily Tar Heel

INSIDE
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 30, 1996

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Acoustic 'Autumn'

UNC senior Mike Garrigan releases his CD tonight at Cat's Cradle. Page 5

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UNC guard Marion Jones is a Naismith candidate and All-ACC. Page 6

Today's Weather

Partly cloudy, chance of rain; mid 70s.
Thursday: Cloudy; low 70s.

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News/Features/Arts/Spots: 963-0245
Business/Advertising: 962-1163
Volume 104, Issue 99
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
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Search begins for new arts and sciences dean

Committee members want the University to hire a new dean by July 1.

BY SARA YAWN
STAFF WRITER

A committee appointed by Chancellor Michael Hooker to find and recommend a new dean for the College of Arts and Sciences recently began searching.

The committee, which was formed by Hooker in September, has held a few preliminary meetings and several applications have already been received, said Associate Provost Lawrence Gilbert.

The 20 members of the committee will look for someone to succeed Stephen Birdsall, who announced his intention to return to a full-time teaching position in the Department of Geography when his five-year term ends in June.

"We are going for the best person in the country," Gilbert said.

The College of Arts and Sciences, which Gilbert called "the heart and soul of the University," has 32 departments and 34 interdisciplinary units, with an

enrollment of about 12,500 undergraduates and 2,300 graduate students. The dean of the College of Arts and Sciences also serves as dean of the General College.

The committee will meet with groups and individuals to solicit input as to who should be chosen and what qualities the new dean should possess.

"As we prepare to educate the state's best and brightest for success in the 21st century, I will look to the next dean to provide the college with visionary leadership as well as forceful, inspirational and effective management," Hooker stated in a press release.

The committee will make a recommendation to Hooker following a nationwide search.

Hooker will then recommend a candidate to the Board of Trustees before the Board of Governors makes the final decision.

Some general criteria for candidates were laid out in an advertisement for the new dean.

"Candidates should have significant administrative experience, demonstrated collegiality, excellent communication skills, effectiveness as an administrative leader and a record of distinguished scholarship and teaching," the ad stated.

Barbara Moran, dean of the School of Information and Library Science and chairwoman of the committee, said she hoped to have a replacement in the position by July 1, but said it was impossible to say when a recommendation would be made.

"You never can tell how long these things will take."

Walker discusses trials of censorship

BY JAMIE GRISWOLD
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Internationally recognized poet, novelist and essayist Alice Walker spoke about her experiences with censorship to a sold out crowd at Memorial Hall on Tuesday night.

Walker, who joked about having to stand on a step to peer over the podium, said censorship often occurred where it was least expected.

"When we think about censorship and banning books, we often think about other countries," Walker said. "But people's books are banned, and books are burned here."

Walker, whose novel "The Color Purple" is often banned for its discussion about incest and spousal abuse, spoke about the removal of two of her short stories from a 10th-grade English test in California. One of the stories was banned for being anti-religious, and the other, "Am I Blue?" for being "anti-meateating," because at the conclusion of that story, the narrator spits out a piece of steak.

"They said if children from farming communities went to school and they had to read this story, it would make them really unhappy about their parents and farming," Walker said. "In other words, they might start to question their own meat eating."

Ironically, in the same week the stories were banned, California Gov. Pete Wilson wanted to give Walker an award for being a state treasure.

"On one hand, I was about to be named a treasure of the state, and on the other hand my work was being denied to 10th-graders," she said. "So of course I wasn't interested in being a treasure."

Walker is best known for the Pulitzer

Prize-winning "The Color Purple," which was made into a major motion picture. She is also the author of four other novels, two collections of short stories, four volumes of poetry, two collections of essays and two children's books. Her most recent work, "Banned," is a nonfiction account of the experience of having her work banned.

Walker said it was important for young writers to recognize that practices such as book burning and censorship exist.

"One of the things that I like to tell people, especially the youth, is to always remind them that all kinds of opposition may occur toward their talent," she said. "Your gift may be denied, even thrown back at you. But if it's a true gift, one that truly benefits the people, it's all right."

Walker also spoke about her work against female genital mutilation. She said she first learned about the practice as an 18-year-old student in Kenya.

"As someone from here, I couldn't even imagine it," she said. "I really wrestled with this for about 20 years, trying to think about how I could write about it."

Walker said she asked herself many questions about the physical and emotional effects of genital mutilation on women and children and came to the realization that educated people needed to help victims of the practice become free. Walker first introduced her readers to the practice in "The Color Purple" and again in "The Temple of My Familiar."

"As black people, we have been the recipient of so much assistance and struggle," Walker said. "As a duty and as a token of appreciation, you have to extend freedom to people who need it. And the person who needs it most, who has the most to fear, is the African female child, who is the least of all in this world."



World-renowned author Alice Walker autographs copies of her work in the Carolina Union Gallery on Monday night after speaking at Memorial Hall.

Politicos mobilize students

Partisan groups push UNC students to the polls through voter awareness.

BY JASON MORRELL
STAFF WRITER

While baby boomers place college students firmly in the "slacker generation," many UNC political groups have mobilized to dispel this view by encouraging student activism and knowledge in the field of politics.

With 1996 as a pivotal election year, campus political organizations have been working in full force to increase voter registration, as well as to inform the apathetic voters on election issues.

"Students must realize that the things that go on in Washington do have an effect on them," said Shannon Stamey, co-president of the Young Democrats.

"We stand to lose the most. We can't keep quiet."

Stamey, a junior from Cherokee, said the group had registered several hundred voters through the Carolina Vote Project.

Winston McMillan, chair-

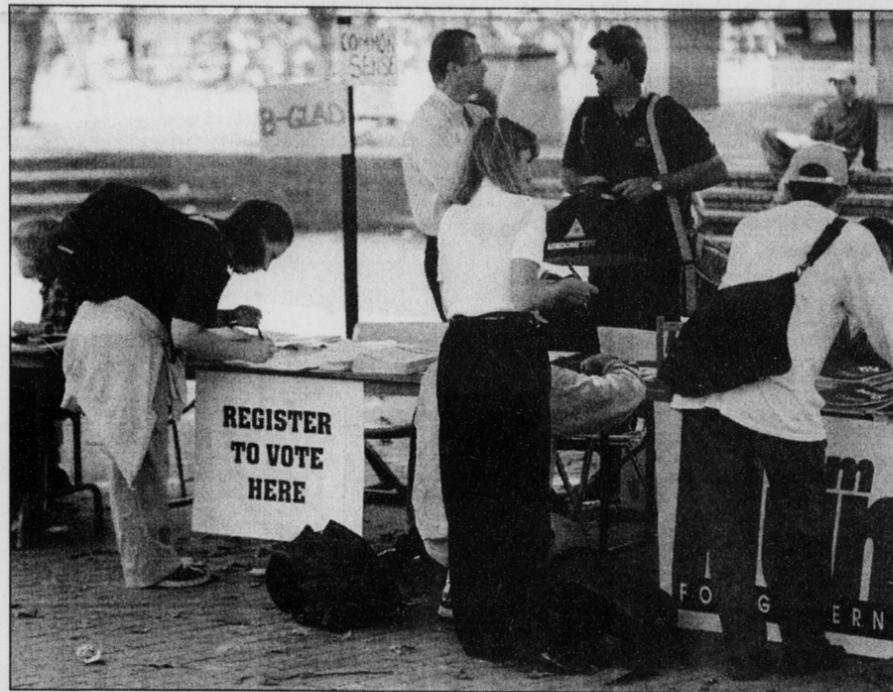
man of the Young Republicans, said this political action had drawn attention from other area schools.

"When I talk about the political groups on campus with students at other schools, they always tell me that their school is not politically active to the extent of UNC," McMillan said.

Typically, the partisan groups have worked on political thought and issues in abstract manners. But this semester has been a bit different.

"This semester, we actually apply those ideas to the campaign," said McMillan, a junior from Laurinburg.

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Campus groups encourage students to actively participate in politics. Many organizations sponsored voter registration drives in the Pit during October.

Voter turnout linked to state of union

BY WHITNEY MOORE
STAFF WRITER

The percentage of Americans who turn out to vote in elections has declined in recent years, a trend some analysts say might continue next Tuesday.

"The economy is in good shape, and people are sufficiently happy with (President) Bill Clinton and (Gov.) Jim Hunt," said Thad Beyle, UNC professor of political science. "(People) don't feel the need to change it."

Michelle Wyatt, director of voter registration at the N.C. Board of Elections, said that in North Carolina only about 65 percent of registered voters came to the polls in recent elections, and only 74 percent of eligible voters bother to register.

Low voter turnout can be blamed on a variety of things. However, political ob-

servers most often say voters are pleased with the nation's course and don't want to instigate change.

"The contentment of citizens, whether or not they think they need a change, helps determine whether or not they vote," Wyatt said. "Discontent usually prompts people to vote."

Since 1992, the number of registered voters in North Carolina has increased from 3.8 million to 4.3 million, something Wyatt attributes to the National Voter Registration Act, which made it easy for people to register.

But Wyatt said North Carolina was still behind where it could be.

"Looking at voter turnout across the country, North Carolina is 44th or 46th

out of the 50 states, and that's pretty bad," she said.

Beyle pointed to voter apathy as a factor in low turnouts.

"It looks like there's a lot of apathy and a lack of energy in politics this year," he said. "If there's a lack of energy, people probably aren't interested in the outcome."

But Dan Gurley, director of field operations for the N.C. Republican Party, said he was optimistic that a large number of people would vote this year. "I think there will be a good turnout," he said. "Both parties are doing a lot to excite their people."

Gurley said a high turnout was essential to the system. "Democracy as a whole is better served by a large number of people voting," he said.

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N.C. legislative races affect UNC students

BY EMILY HOWELL
STAFF WRITER

UNC-system students should pay close attention to who they vote for in N.C. General Assembly races this fall, two 24th District House candidates stressed.

The N.C. House and Senate directly control University funding, incumbent Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, and Democratic candidate Verla Insko of Chapel Hill said.

Republican candidate Dan Buedel of Chatham County agreed that University funding was important, but said that too much attention had been paid to it.

"I think it is important for people to go to college, but if they are 14 or 16 and know they aren't going to go to college, then there should be trade and apprentice schools that they can go to," he said.

He favors school vouchers that would enable students to go to college for at least a couple of years, he said.

Tracy Fowler, the other Republican candidate, also said he found funding important, but officials should weigh the costs of new programs against their benefits before funding them.

"Of course we need funding and grants, but we have to ask how are we going to pay for it," he said.

Both Democratic candidates emphasized the power associated with having a majority in the House.

"The party that controls the House really controls the agenda, including the funding for education," Insko said.

"The University's budget was decimated by the Republican House last year and restored by the Democratic Senate," she said.

Hackney agreed about the importance of the majority party in securing funds. "It's critical to get control of the House and maintain Democratic control of the Senate," Hackney said.

But Fowler pointed to North Carolina's educational rating within the nation as an example of the Democrats' failures. "I think that if people would stop and realize that their representative has been saying he's doing so much for education, yet we're still 48th in the nation, I'd have a shot at it," he said.

Fowler said he wanted to end all teachers' tenure. He supports pay raises for

teachers but added that they should be merit-based and not across the board.

"We should base raises on teacher evaluations and classroom test scores on statewide exams," he said.

Chatham and Orange counties' seats have long been Democratic strongholds. Hackney and Rep. Anne Barnes, D-Orange, have held the seats since the early 1980s.

Barnes withdrew from her re-election bid in August, and Insko was selected to replace her.

The effects of her withdrawal are unknown, but Insko and Hackney were optimistic about retaining the seats.

Buedel said the liberal background of the area had its drawbacks.

"I think this area has a problem voting for anybody who doesn't have a 'D' behind their name," he said. "I think if I were running for the other party my chances of winning would be greatly increased."

Fowler said he had studied the issues in the campaign carefully and believed he had a good chance at being elected.

Hackney and Insko are campaigning together and have included mailings, newspaper ads and public appearances. The two are sending mailings to all newly registered voters and Democrats who have voted in the last two elections.

Fowler and Buedel are not campaigning together. Buedel said their strategies had taken different routes. Fowler said the Republican Party had sent out a number of mailings that had included both candidates for the 24th District race.

He has also begun running radio ads and some newspaper ads. Buedel said he has not been campaigning in the media.

"I don't think signs are going to help me," he said. "I know that gimmicks are what win an election, but I'm focusing on talking to people individually."

Editor's note

Because of a mechanical problem with the press on which The Daily Tar Heel is printed, Tuesday's paper was not available before early classes yesterday.

If you missed Tuesday's paper, copies can be obtained at the DTH office.

If you drink like a fish, swim, don't drive.

Bumper sticker