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Candidates face off on STV debate

Runoff candidates asked each other about platform goals and campus issues.

BY CHRIS HOSTETLER
STAFF WRITER

Student body president candidates and senior class president candidates went head-to-head Sunday in a runoff debate sponsored by Student Television and the Elections Board.

The debates will be televised today at 6:30 p.m. on Cable Channel 11.

Student body president candidate Lacey Hawthorne emphasized improvement of student life as the foundation of her campaign.

Opponent Reyna Walters said her experience and her relationships with students were reasons to vote for her.

Moderator Brad Frederick asked the candidates about the new requirement for freshmen in 2000 to own laptop computers.

Both candidates agreed the idea was a good one but that more student input was needed. They also said the need to update computers and the cost of the requirement to students were problems.

Each candidate also commented on her opponent's campaigns.

Walters criticized Hawthorne's tuition-freeze program, which would prevent tuition from being raised for students during their stays at UNC, as unrealistic.

She claimed the initiative would create tension between classes, but Hawthorne defended the idea's feasibility.

Hawthorne asked Walters how she planned to fund such proposals as keeping campus libraries open later. Walters answered that state funding and private funding were available to the University if its leaders looked in the right places.

On the subject of private contracts with the University, Hawthorne and Walters agreed it was important to use the University's resources but that students deserved more input.

Senior class president candidates Jeremy Cohen and Carrie Heise also debated each other.

Cohen said his goals as senior class president would be to get the class involved in service projects and give the class more voice in student government.

Heise said her administration would benefit the senior class through closer relationships with the General Alumni Association and University Career Services.

Cohen said he and his running mate,

SEE DEBATE, PAGE 2

Gold still potential witness in Swain lawsuit

BY SHARIF DURHAMS
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Don Gold's resignation will not end his involvement in the largest controversy the department faced in his two years as chief.

Attorneys still plan to depose Gold and several other University administrators to find out if they know whether someone at UNC tried to fix a ticket written by University Police Lt. C.E. Swain.

Gold announced Friday that he would retire from his 14-year career at University Police on Feb. 28, four months after he took a leave of absence.

Gold took his leave after weeks of debate about how supervisors in his department handled a ticket Swain wrote Sept. 27 to Caroline Hancock, the daughter of Board of Trustees member

Billy Armfield. "We intend to depose him," Swain's attorney Alan McSurely said Sunday.

"He certainly is a key witness as to what happened in terms of the handling of Armfield's daughter's ticket."

McSurely said his office has also sent out subpoenas to depose Assistant Athletic Director of Operations Willie Scroggs; Ned Collett, managing director of the athletic association; and Ellen Culler, assistant direc-



Former Police Chief DON GOLD served as a key witness in another case against the University about 10 years ago.

tor of games operations. He said he wanted to interview the three in early March.

McSurely has already interviewed Auxiliary Services Director Carolyn Elfland and acting Police Chief Jeff McCracken.

The depositions should paint a clearer picture of what decisions were made in the police department, the athletic department and within University administration during the week after Swain wrote the ticket. They should also spell out whether administrators retaliated against Swain for talking about his case with local newspapers.

"It is true every time we take one, we get a lot more evidence," McSurely's law partner Ashley Osment said.

Gold served as a strong witness in a case years ago involving complaints that hiring practices at the police department

"He certainly is a key witness as to what happened in terms of the handling of Armfield's daughter's ticket."

ALAN MCSURELY
Attorney for Lt. C.E. Swain

were unfair and involved racist practices.

Gold, who first got a promotion under a 1987 department restructuring and then lost his promotion when the University first tried to correct its changes, testified on Edwards' behalf, McSurely said.

"All of us who knew Don in that period know Don is a man of principle," McSurely said. "He fought back but in a

correct way."

And because Gold plans to take a job in the private sector, he would not have to worry about any testimony that could make his superiors look bad, McSurely said.

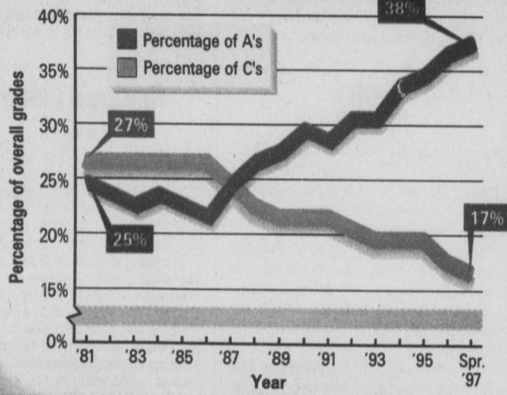
"Don, now that he's gone, won't have that hanging over him," McSurely said. "Don will always tell the truth about what happened."

After Swain filed a complaint against his superiors for allegedly fixing the ticket, Gold made the initial decision that his department handled the ticket correctly. Since then, Swain fled a lawsuit in court, and two other internal University panels have found Swain has not proven his claim. "I'm looking forward to talking to him about what happened in front of the (Smith Center) that afternoon."

Gold was out of town Sunday and could not be reached.

Percentage of A's on the rise

In the last 10 years, the percentage of A's awarded has surged while C's have declined. Now, three-quarters of all grades given are A's and B's.



SOURCE: REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

Easiest, hardest classes?

Below is a list of the highest and lowest average GPA's by department for lower-division classes in the 1996-1997 academic year.

Top 5	
Department	Average GPA
1. Arabic	3.957
2. Health Education	3.9
3. Child Development	3.851
4. Physical Activities	3.799
5. Religious Studies	3.796

Bottom 5	
Department	Average GPA
1. Pharmacology	2.212
2. Math	2.461
3. Latin	2.484
4. Astronomy	2.562
5. Statistics	2.581

A = 4.0-3.5, B = 2.5-3.5, C = 1.5-2.5, D = 0.5-1.5
Higher than average grades don't necessarily mean easier classes. Other factors, such as the number of lower-division classes offered by the department, the number of students in each class and grading policies also affect average GPA's.

DTH/JAKE ZARNIGAR

A is for 'average'

How hard is it to earn a 4.0 at UNC? Dave Moricca, a senior from Cherry Hill, N.J., attributes his 3.99 grade point average to good strategy.

"It's knowing how to work hard and also when to work hard," said Moricca, who was named to USA Today's All-USA Academic Team last week.

Others say that as impressive as Moricca's near-flawless academic record is, it would have been unheard of years ago, when C's were the rule and A's the exception. An exam-

ination of records from the University Registrar shows that times have changed.

Nowadays, three-quarters of all grades given in undergraduate classes are A's or B's, according to the registrar.

Last spring, in classes numbered below 100, 38 percent of all grades were A's, 37 percent were B's and only 17 percent were C's. Eight percent were D's or F's.

Beginning in 1981, the records show that about 25 percent of grades in such classes were A's and 27 percent were C's.

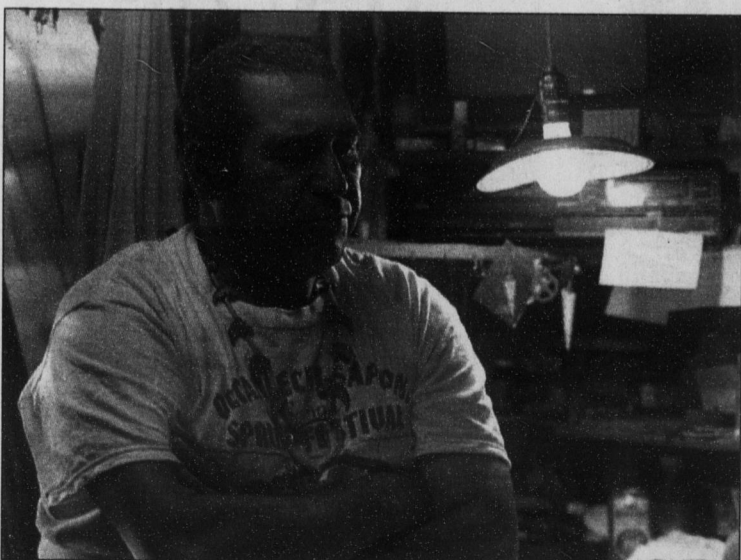
Those figures held steady until 1987, when A's began to surpass C's increasing at an average of more than 1 percentage point per year.

UNC is not the only school to see the average grades in many of its classes go up, causing some to ask whether students were working harder and achieving more.

Some professors say grades given these days are inflated — that grades are higher than student performance warrants. Others say today's students are brighter.

SEE GRADES, PAGE 2

Local tribe reconstructs village, struggles for official status



John Blackfeather Jeffries, a member of the Occaneechi Native Americans, sits in his workshop in Hillsborough. Jeffries is helping to build a re-creation of a traditional Occaneechi village.

BY AMANDA GREENE
STAFF WRITER

"Waneni Hene" — A Sipiwi winter prayer. "Great Chief of all the Land, the Skies, the Waters ... Give us the Sweet Fruits of Winter ... Make our paths this winter good."

For John Blackfeather Jeffries, chief of the Occaneechi Band of the Sipiwi Nation in Hillsborough, his "sweet fruit of winter" could come in the form of a piece of paper.

Jeffries' wish for tribal recognition for "his people" seems but a distant dream for now.

The Occaneechi Band of the Sipiwi Nation was denied official state recognition Dec. 17., but Jeffries said the tribe has plans to spring back.

What Blackfeather's tribe does want, however, is a working reminder of its ancestry in its own town. So the tribe is making the dream a reality.

Once completed, the tribe will have an authentic, functional Occaneechi village on the banks of the Eno River, with huts and a sweat lodge.

For the present, progress on the 15th-century huts and the brush arbor meeting site has slowed because of the less-than-fruitful winter weather. The palisade, authenticated by sharpening the tops with fire, forms the boundary of the village and gives portents of the village to come.

Jeffries said building an officially recognized archaeological village site might enhance his tribe's fight for recognition, but the reasons for the dig go

beyond tribal papers.

"This village we're reconstructing is about my people," he said. "We're still living. It documents our history within."

Grants from the National Geographic Society funded the village project, and the Department of Archaeology wrote three letters in support.

Jeffries said, "My God, if officials need more for recognition than that National Geographic and the National Science Foundation endorse us, I guess they want to dig up a bone with my name on it to prove I'm an Indian."

At its completion — in June or July — the Occaneechi Village in Hillsborough will be the second reconstruction of an Indian village in the state.

However, Jeffries said the village had nothing to do with getting tribal recognition originally.

Although Jeffries spoke vehemently about his tribe's fight for recognition and its obstacles, he spoke little about his own background, linking his history with that of his Native-American identity.

"I've been searching the roots of my people all my life, he said.

"My grandmother always told me I was Indian, but she didn't know what tribe because they had been scattered."

Jeffries linked most of his identity as a Native American to his hardships, as he recounted a conversation he had with a white friend.

SEE VILLAGE, PAGE 2

INSIDE Monday

A new twist on an old play

With innovative touches by the director, Studio 3's "Orestes" turns an old story into an original tale. Page 4

Area transportation ideas

A proposed plan to build a regional rail network has met with controversy over funding and necessity. Page 9

Equalizing the Net

County officials are working with IBM to wire public housing to the Internet in Oakland, Calif. Page 2

Today's weather

Cloudy, rainy, windy;
low 40s
Tuesday: Rainy;
low 50s

You can get much further with a kind word and a gun than you can with a kind word alone.

Al Capone