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SBP Candidates Say Partisan Ties Avoided

Student Body President Candidate Nic Heinke says endorsements can make elections more partisan.

By ANGELA MERS
 Staff Writer

Although the two remaining student body president candidates said they did not represent political parties, this year's endorsements from student groups have given the election a partisan flavor.

Bisexuals, Gay men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity and the Black Student Movement, both progressive groups, endorsed candidate Nic Heinke while the conservative Carolina Review endorsed candidate Brad Morrison.

Heinke said elections were now more about political ideologies than in the past but only because of the nature of endorsements.

"The race of myself versus Brad is not

necessarily having liberalism versus conservatism," he said. "But, when you throw the endorsements in, it gives (the election) more of a liberal versus conservative slant."

Heinke said some issues on his platform could be considered liberal, such as his support of affirmative action.

But Morrison said student politics were non-partisan and students must not categorize the candidates into political parties. He said he concentrated on students and not on any political aspects.

"I tried to come up with a platform that unifies the students and lets student

government truly involve the students." Morrison said he did not know how influential the endorsements would be. "In the end, the (endorsements) obviously help, but I do think they are just one factor (in deciding the winner)."

Associate Publisher of the Carolina Review Scott Rubush said the endorsements of the student body president candidates did not necessarily reflect the candidates' political ideologies.

"Brad was endorsed by The Daily Tar Heel - a moderately liberal publication, Blue Ink - a middle of the road publication, and the Carolina Review - a

conservative publication," he said.

But B-GLAD member Kurt Davies, from Whispering Pines, said the candidates' political views were a factor in B-GLAD's endorsement.

"It is inevitable because our issues concerning gay rights are interpreted as leftist issues," he said. "It is rare that a right-wing politician would support our rights."

John Sanders, retired professor of the Institute of Government and former student body president from 1950-51, said

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25-cent Fee On Ballot Criticized

Executive Branch cabinet members say they do not feel the N.C. Renaissance program should get fees.

By CARRIE CALLAGHAN
 Staff Writer

Student government leaders are opposing an initiative on today's ballot that asks for a 25 cent per semester increase in student fees to support the N.C. Renaissance program.

Representatives from the executive branch and Student Congress said the outreach program would not benefit UNC students enough to receive student fees.

The program, which relies on private donations to remain free for participants, brings rural high school students to UNC during the summer to encourage them to attend college, NCR Director Ellen Greer said.

Ten percent of the student body signed a petition requesting that the matter be put to a student vote. Greer and executive branch members briefly discussed the issue at the Feb. 6 meeting of the Student Fee Audit Committee.

Greer said the program deserved student funding as a way for UNC to fulfill its mission to serve the state.

But Student Body President Reyna Walters maintained that a program paid for with student fees should benefit more UNC students. "(Funding) preference should be given to organizations that would benefit a large percentage of the student body."

Student Congress Finance Committee Chairman Ryan Schlitt said

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Expansion Could Cost Hefty Sum

Updated and expanded research space are pressing needs say officials who back \$500 million in changes.

By BRIAN BEDSWORTH
 Staff Writer

Needs for the future of the College of Arts and Sciences include at least eight new buildings and renovations to old ones at a cost of \$500 million, University officials said.

And although plans are in the works, the University does not have funding for them.

Chairman of Faculty Pete Andrews cited poor conditions of many campus buildings, a lack of space and the expected enrollment increase as reasons for new building proposals.

"Venable Hall is an ancient place to teach modern science," he said, describing a building notorious for its winding, narrow hallways and aged auditorium and classrooms.

Andrews said consultants who studied the UNC system's needs during the past year found a 900,000 square-foot space deficit at UNC-Chapel Hill, mostly in research space.

He also said the expected 6,000 student increase by 2008 made the need for space more urgent. The increase was called for by Chancellor Michael Hooker's Enrollment Task Force.

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Risa Palm said the proposals also stemmed from UNC's need to stay competitive with peer universities.

"We're looking at future trends in sciences, the arts and social sciences," Palm said.

She said money for the buildings would probably come from several sources including bonds, private gifts, tuition revenue and state funding.

Chairman of Communication Studies William Balthrop said the College of Arts and Sciences would work with the University's Master Plan, which is the blueprint for campus growth, to suggest locations of new buildings. "Lord only knows (where the buildings will be)," he said.

Palm said the earliest start date for the construction would be in 2000.

According to "Carolina in the 21st Century" - a report by Thomas Meyer, vice provost for Research and Graduate Studies - the project would probably take five years to complete. "There will be a re-invigoration of the historic campus and new construction for interdisciplinary programs," the report stated.

A proposed structure, the Interdisciplinary Physical Sciences and Information Technology Building, would house the Department of Chemistry, the Curriculum in Applied Sciences and Materials Science. Construction of the building would cost \$60 million, the report states.

The \$80 million Genomic Sciences

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Past Races Feature Prank Platforms

A canine candidate and "El Libre" played roles in strange student campaigns during the past 30 years.

By BEN BRAZIL
 Staff Writer

Candidates for student body president would never disgrace the office by proposing absurdities like building a weatherproof dome over campus, bringing Marxist revolution to Suite C or nominating a dog for vice president.

Well, not this year anyway. But during the last 30 years, some candidates for student body president have used their campaigns as campus-sized stages to entertain the electorate.

"The time has come to kick the ass of the ruling class and return the government to the people," said a student

calling himself "El Libre" - Spanish for "The Free One" - when he announced his candidacy in 1974.

He said the greatest problem facing UNC was "the enslavement of the student proletariat by the whips and chains of the fascist bourgeoisie administration."

El Libre's answer? Revolution. Sporting a beret and toting an Uzi in his 1974 photo in The Daily Tar Heel, El Libre pledged to nationalize Student Stores, throw weekly tequila parties in the Pit, promote streaking and raise the minimum grade from "F" to "B."

The revolution, however, would face opposition. One day after El Libre announced his candidacy, a student hidden behind a black mask adorned with a giant white question mark entered the race. "The Mystery Politico" immediately lashed out at other candidates.

"The only thing El Libre has in common with Marx is that he looks like Harpo," the Mystery Politico said in a 1974 interview.



DTH FILE PHOTO

In 1983, a joke candidate named Hugh G. Reckshun (right) made it to the runoff election before being defeated by Kevin Monroe.

The Mystery Politico also promised to reveal his identity only if elected, when he would also retire his mask in a ceremony in Carmichael Auditorium. It never happened.

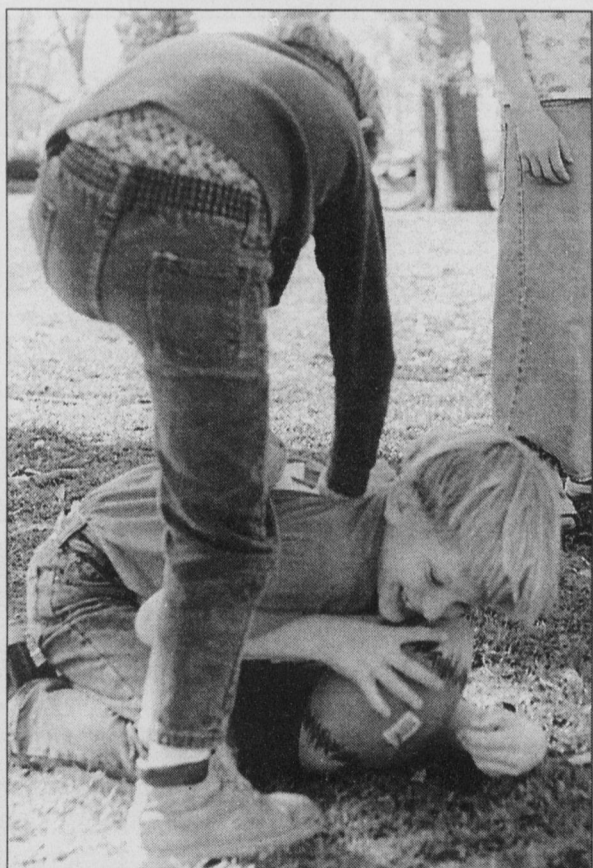
Instead, it was El Libre who broke out of the seven-candidate field and qualified for the runoff against "real" candidate Marcus Williams. But before the final votes were cast, El Libre, whose real name was Bill Schooley, withdrew from the election.

The revolution went with him, and

the Mystery Politico never got to retire his mask. Even 25 years after his defeat, the Mystery Politico's identity remains a secret, said a member of his campaign team Thursday. "We've made a promise that we'd take the answer to our grave," said Geoff Hulse, now a 43-year-old Goldsboro lawyer. "I'll tell you this: due to the fact that the Mystery Politico wore a cape and a mask, there might have been more

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TAR HEEL TACKLE



DTH/CASEY QUILLEN

Fletcher O'Neil tackles his big brother Conor during a friendly game of football in McCorkle Place. They were enjoying the weather with their dad, Glenn O'Neil, and Chris Smith, a visitor from Maine.

N.C. Officials Brace For Y2K Meltdown

The director of the state's Y2K project office says North Carolina should be 95 percent ready by June.

By COURTNEY HATHAWAY
 Staff Writer

With the end of the millennium rapidly approaching and bringing with it the potential for major problems with computer networks, officials say the state and the UNC system are on their way to bypassing any potential problems.

North Carolina should be 95 percent ready by June to combat any malfunctions caused when the clock strikes midnight on Jan. 1, 2000, said Debra Jones, director of N.C.'s Y2K project office.

"I feel confident that we'll have our application systems ready in time," Jones said. "We've prioritized the ones that will have the largest impact."

Jones said state agencies were focusing on four different areas, comprising application systems, hardware readiness, facilities and supplies.

She said one of the institutions it has investigated was UNC Hospitals. She said out of the 178,000 pieces of medical equipment tested, only 168 were not prepared for the Y2K bug.

She said there should not be a disruption to governmental services.

"Our biggest concern is making sure there are no shortages of parts that are needed," she said. "We're doing a strong outreach to make sure we bring everyone up to Y2K readiness. It's a big problem, but manageable."

UNC has taken several Y2K initiatives, which include work on administrative data, UNC Hospitals, physical plants and academic issues, said Jeanne Smythe, UNC Academic Technology & Networks computing policy director. But the initiatives' main focus at this point is to establish where problems might arise.

Smythe said many areas on UNC's campus would be affected by Y2K, including the majority of the individual departments and schools.

"There are over 30,000 computers and imbedded devices on campus," Smythe said. "Every place has desktop PCs, and the lab equipment needs to work for education and research."

Other areas Smythe said they had inventoried included the payroll system, purchasing system, hot water, heat, building maintenance, security and air conditioning.

Smythe said UNC's emphasis was on walk-throughs, outreach awareness and inventory. "Every school must fix its own equipment, but we will help," she said. "We're trying to cover the critical (systems), and I think we're doing a very good job."

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INSIDE Tuesday

A Feminine Touch



"Through Women's Eyes, By Women's Hands" the Women's Center's 15th Annual Juried Art Show and Sale, features the work of female artists of all different races, classes, religions and sexual orientations. See Page 7.

The Iraqi Challenge

Iraqi officials warned American and British armed forces in Turkey that Iraq would retaliate if they continued to patrol the 'no-fly' zones surrounding the country. See Page 4.

Today's Weather

Sunny:
 Mid 60s.
 Wednesday: Cloudy,
 chance of rain; mid 60s.

Deadline's Here

Story proposals for the Joanna Howell Fund are due at 5 p.m. today in Union 104.

The fund awards a \$250 grant to a student to report an in-depth story for publication in the DTH.

The Joanna Howell Fund Award honors a former editorial writer who died in the 1996 Phi Gamma Delta fire.

When things come to the worst, they generally mend.

Susanna Moodie