

GOP Candidate Touts Platform

By BRENT KINKER
Staff Writer

Richard Vinroot, a former Charlotte mayor now seeking the GOP nomination for governor, made a campaign stop in Chapel Hill on Tuesday to raise funds for his gubernatorial bid.

The 6-foot-7-inch UNC graduate mingled with a small group of supporters during a reception at the Governor's Club.

Between sips of champagne, Vinroot touted his service to the community and the country.

The former Eagle Scout and current Scout Master received the Bronze Star for service in Vietnam.

Vinroot also played basketball under Dean Smith before graduating from UNC in 1963. He remained to pursue a law degree, which he obtained in 1966.

Vinroot said his plans for the state include reducing government spending and changing the education system.

"Being safe and educating children" are keys to a successful community, he said.

He wanted to see a limit put on gov-

ernment spending.

As a Charlotte council member, he helped adopt the "Taxpayer Protection Act," which strictly controlled the tax increase based on the city's population and rate of inflation.

He would like to install a similar plan for the state.

"If we had used this system for the past eight or nine years, we would have plenty of money for 'rainy days' like we're having out East," Vinroot said. "God help those people."

He said the program would force the government to prioritize its spending in a more efficient manner.

He said education, roads, future spending and the criminal justice system should be the priorities of a community.

Vinroot said he strongly supported public education and a change in teachers' salaries. "There is nothing more important than public education."

"I'm a product of public education."

He said an increase in teachers' pay would improve quality.

"Teachers need to be paid a lot and

according to their performance."

Vinroot said he did not think enough funding for education was used on teachers' salaries.

"Forty-eight percent (of our education money) never reaches the teachers," Vinroot said. "It goes to other administrative staff."

As a founder of the state's largest charter school, which recently opened in Charlotte, Vinroot said he had a few ideas to improve the education system.

"We ought to have competition in our schools," Vinroot said. "And we ought to have choice."

He said this change would force schools to compete with each other for students, encouraging schools to improve the quality of education offered.

He said he also agreed with the decision to end busing to promote racial integration in Charlotte schools.

"They (students) don't want a bus ride" he said. "They want an education."

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Center Welcomes New Director

By AMANDA COOK
Staff Writer

UNC and town representatives welcomed the new executive director of the Orange County Rape Crisis Center at an open house Tuesday night.

Margaret Barrett left her post as associate dean of students at UNC to start work at the center Sept. 1.

In her first month as executive director, Barrett said she had tried to learn more about what the agency did by sitting in on training sessions for the volunteers and meeting with people in the community.

"I work with the Board of Directors, staff and the volunteers to work toward ending sexual violence within Orange County, by providing community education to end sexual violence and providing support to survivors of sexual violence," Barrett said.

The open house was followed by the center's annual general meeting, which included officer elections for the upcoming year.

Eliza DuBose, a member of the rape crisis center's Board of Directors, said Barrett's addition to the center was a positive experience. "It's been a wonderful first month and we are excited about working with Margaret," she said.

Angeline Baker, a member of the rape crisis center board, said Barrett was adjusting well to her new position.

"She is very dedicated and has done a lot to get to know the center and what it stands for," she said.

Matt Ezzell, administrative services coordinator for the crisis center, said Barrett's transition to her new job was easy.

"She's done a really good job entering the (center's) atmosphere and has brought her own strengths," he said.

Fran Finney, rape crisis center board member and volunteer, also said Barrett's strengths prompted the board to unanimously vote her into the top post.

"(Barrett) is a very personable spokesman and very capable administrator," she said.

Barrett said the crisis center helped survivors by running a 24-hour crisis line where an on-call companion could provide the survivors with support or information.

The companions receive intensive training and all services are free and confidential, she said.

Ezzell said the crisis center also aided sexual violence survivors through support groups. The groups are separated for people with varying experiences, like a group for survivors' relatives.

Community education is also stressed by the center, which reaches residents through schools and church and community groups.

Walter Cason, a volunteer at the center, said he was glad Barrett was added to the staff. "Margaret works by listening first, thinks carefully, makes good decisions and has a good background," he said. "She's just right for being in touch with the community."

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Deloitte Consulting would also like to congratulate the most recent additions to our Atlanta office: Marcy Bergman, Gerry Andrady, Kristy Huffman, and Sean Shelby.

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