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Petitions Push Referendum Back on Ballot

By KATIE ABEL
University Editor

A three-week debate over a controversial student referendum ended Wednesday after its biggest proponents managed to get it back on next week's election ballot.

Following a successful petition drive by students, Student Body President Nic Heinke ordered Elections Board Chairwoman Catherine Yates on Wednesday night to place the referendum on the Feb. 15 ballot for the second time.

Students spent three days circulating

campus to collect more than 2,800 student signatures to get the referendum on next week's ballot.

The Student Constitution mandates that any UNC student can get a referendum on the ballot by obtaining the signatures of more than 10 percent of UNC's student body.

The student signatures garnered by United States Student Association sup-

porters constitute more than the 10 percent of the UNC's 23,376 member student body.

The Student Supreme Court upheld Sunday the removal of the referendum that would ask students to pay \$3 more in student fees to join USSA, a higher education lobbying group.

Congress Speaker Mark Kleinschmidt removed the referendum Jan. 21 after the Student Code's provision for a two-thirds majority vote was brought to his attention.

The 12-10 congressional vote did not constitute the required majority to place the referendum on the ballot.

After Sunday's Supreme Court decision, the plaintiffs vowed to get the referendum back on the ballot and have lobbied students across campus to collect the necessary signatures.

"It was definitely a challenge and very time-consuming," said freshman Sandi Chapman, a USSA advocate. "But we vowed to fight for this."

The code says a referendum must be submitted for consideration six calendar days before the election.

Wednesday marked the last day students could submit signatures before the election.

The constitution mandates that any

student-initiated referendum must be approved by two-thirds of the students who vote in campus elections.

There are two other referenda on the ballot, but because they were passed through Congress, they only require a simple majority vote.

USSA supporters said they were confident the referendum could gain the required student vote.

Senior Corye Barbour said USSA proponents would lobby support from campus student organizations and set up information tables in the Pit until elec-

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President Postpones Fee Debate

The Board of Governors will discuss a proposed \$200 tuition increase at UNC-CH today at The Carolina Inn.

By JONATHAN MOSELEY
Staff Writer

The Board of Governors plans to discuss several amendments to UNC-system President Molly Broad's tuition proposal at a meeting today and Friday, but Broad said a decision on a student fee increase would be put off to a later date.

In January, Broad set forth a \$275 systemwide student fee increase for capital improvements to UNC-system campuses and a \$200 tuition increase for raising faculty salaries at UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University.

Broad said Wednesday she would delay making a decision on the capital improvements fee today, pending review by the N.C. Citizens for Business and Industry, a conglomerate of N.C. business leaders and Chamber of Commerce members.

The fee increase would mark the first time ever students would be asked to support academic facilities — the portion of the plan that has raised the most concern among officials and students.

"(The citizens group) has agreed to help N.C.'s universities and community colleges respond to our capital needs," she said. "We're going to put off addressing that issue so that we can analyze the problem the way a business would."

But even with the postponing of a definite decision on the fees, board members have also questioned other facets of the proposal.

Suggestions include eliminating the capital improvements fee, lowering proposed tuition increases and allowing East Carolina University, UNC-Charlotte, and UNC-Wilmington to

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Committee Presents Rental Plan

GPSF President Lee Conner presented the Chapel Hill Town Council with a plan to ease housing tensions.

By KATE HARTIG
Staff Writer

In light of a proposal that could limit the number of nonrelated residents who can live together, a committee presented a plan to the Chapel Hill Town Council on Wednesday calling for compromise between students and locals.

The committee, which is composed of student leaders and local landlords, proposed a plan called the Residential Rental Responsibility Program, which proponents say would facilitate better communication and improved relations between the two factions.

The concerns and the plan stem from an ongoing struggle between residents and students living off campus. Complaints of noise and suburban decay by students prompted residents to ask the council to help them improve neighborhoods' conditions.

Residents have asked for stricter enforcement of existing housing ordinances, including a possible reduction of the number of nonrelated people who can live together.

Lee Conner, Graduate and Professional Student Federation president and committee member, presented the plan on behalf of the students.

"We have worked out a comprehensive plan involving landowners and students that doesn't go to the extremes."

The extremes Conner referred to dealt with the proposal to lower the minimum housing occupancy to fewer than four unrelated individuals, which could apply to groups of students who live in residential areas. Currently there is no limitation on the amount of students who can live together.

"Reducing the number ... in a house is not going to stop the parties," he said. "It's just going to raise the rents."

Under the committee's plan, each property manager would be required to obtain a \$10 privilege license before entering their property to tenants, much like the license a business must have before it opens its doors.

After obtaining the license, landlords would then include two addenda to leases — one that spells out the landlord's responsibilities and the other pelling out the tenants' responsibilities.

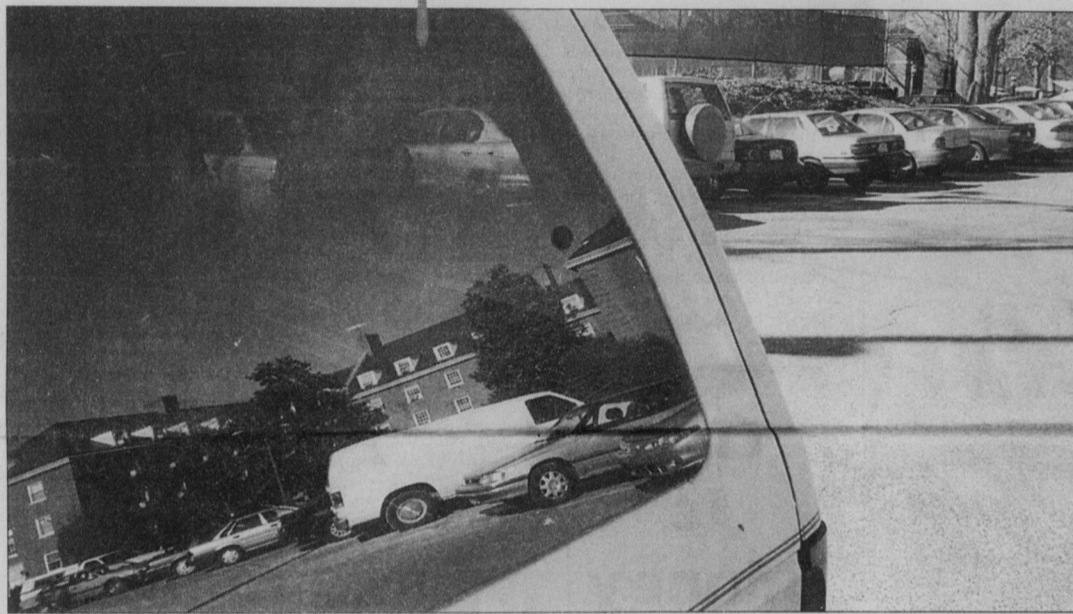
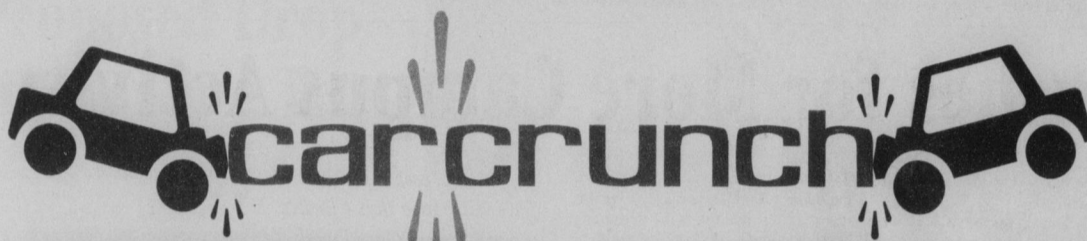
These two additions include specific information regarding tenant's rights.

"This program solves problems like garbage, parking and noise — these are some of the complaints that students are getting blamed for in some neighborhoods," said Steve Mills, committee member and proprietor of Steve Mills Rental Properties.

Mills said the license fee would pay for a database including tenant and owner information that would be accessible to the public on the town's Web site. That way, when neighbors had complaints, they could address their problems directly with the right person.

Carole Capper, a Davie Circle resident, said that having the tenant and

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DTH/MEREDITH LEE

Parking hassles on campus seem to be a perpetual gripe of UNC students, once again leaving this year's crop of student body president candidates suggesting ways to improve the system.

As part of our student elections coverage, the DTH will examine the top five student issues based upon the paper's survey of 300 students.

MONDAY:
Dining services

TUESDAY:
The accessibility of student government

WEDNESDAY:
Race relations

TODAY: Parking

FRIDAY: Tuition

By MATTHEW SMITH
Staff Writer

For many students, campus parking spaces are even more coveted than tickets to the UNC-Duke basketball game.

The lack of adequate student parking has prompted student government leaders to examine dozens of solutions to the problem over the past few years.

But as student frustration continues to heighten, this year's student body president candidates are under more pressure to lobby for additional student spaces.

Students are doled out only about 2,440 of the 17,249 campus spaces, leav-

ing more than 3,500 students who apply for a space without a place to park.

Most campus parking lots have waiting lists of 200 to 300 students.

Fighting proposals that would remove student spaces, providing more public transportation and maintaining unrestricted nighttime parking are some of this year's largest campaign trail promises.

Student body president candidate Michael Harris said he would work to provide free busing from the PR lot for commuters and off-campus students.

He said he also wanted to set up more efficient student parking on campus. "We have to stop the bleeding of spaces," Harris said. "We can't give up anymore."

Harris said he opposed night permits, which would require students and faculty to pay for campus parking from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Discussion of campus night-parking

permits came after faculty expressed concern that there were not adequate spaces for professors who wanted to return to campus in the evening for research.

A University parking committee is now mulling night-parking fees, but a final decision has not yet been made.

"That argument doesn't fly with me," Harris said. "Students have to come back to use the libraries, too."

To maximize efficient use of resources, Harris said free shuttles from the PR lot would help students who had to utilize off-campus parking.

Candidate Brad Matthews, who is also opposed to night permits, said students should not lose any more spaces.

With the University's plan to increase enrollment figures by as much as 5,000 students during the next 10 years, he said the problem was likely to get worse.

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BSM Endorses Smiley, Bell for Campus Posts

By KATY NELSON
Staff Writer

The Black Student Movement issued its coveted endorsements last night in a forum which had candidates scrambling to prove their commitment to diversity.

The BSM endorsed Erica Smiley for student body president, Jason Cowley and Sherilynn Black for senior class president and vice president and Corey Bell for president of the Carolina Athletic Association.

The BSM did not issue an endorse-

ment for Residence Hall Association president, voting not to endorse Gaffney Gunter, the only candidate who attended the forum.

For four consecutive years, the candidate endorsed by the BSM for student

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DTH/LAURA GIOVANELLI

Erica Smiley addresses the crowd Wednesday during the Black Student Movement's candidate forum. The group later endorsed Smiley for SBP.

I still can't see why democracy means everybody but me.

Langston Hughes