

4 Democrats Vie for Lt. Gov. 5 Seats Vacant on County Boards

By RACHEL LEONARD
Staff Writer

Four Democrats will go head-to-head Tuesday for the N.C. lieutenant governor nomination and the right to show-down with the Republican contender in November.

Ronnie Ansley, Joel Harbinson, Beverly Perdue and Ed Wilson are competing for the Democratic nomination. Although each candidate has different plans for the office, issues like education and a state lottery are hot topics.

Here is a brief breakdown of each candidate's platform:

■ **Ronnie Ansley**, a political newcomer and lawyer from Angier, wants to close the educational gap between white and minority students and create child-senior citizen interaction programs.

Affordable health care and more efficient government budgeting are two of Ansley's other main prerogatives. On the issue of a state lottery, Ansley said state residents should decide.

Stressing community involvement, he said, "We've lost our sense of neighborhood - we've got to get that back."

■ **Alexander County Commissioner**

and lawyer Joel Harbinson plans to give N.C. counties the option to levy a 1-cent sales tax to raise revenue for local needs.

Harbinson wants to eliminate hog lagoons (exposed waste at hog farms). He also supports a state lottery to fund the public education system.

Bringing government to the local level is important, Harbinson said. "What the state government needs is a little less Raleigh and a little more Mayberry," he said.

■ **Beverly Perdue** of New Bern, serving her 10th year as a state senator, could not be reached for comment. Campaign spokesman Cecil Kahoon outlined her platform.

Perdue wants to establish special scholarships for students with high grade point averages, eliminate hog lagoons and a state lottery.

Kahoon said N.C. residents already spend millions in other state lotteries. "They are building brick and mortar schools in Virginia while we're packing our kids into trailers," he explained.

■ **Candidate Ed Wilson**, who practices law in Winston-Salem, said he wanted to give teachers the authority to remove disruptive students.

N.C. should also remove hog lagoons, Wilson said, and special interest groups should play a smaller role in the political process.

Unlike the other Democratic hopefuls, Wilson does not support a lottery. "We don't need to build our schools with gambling," he said. "It's not right, and it's not a reliable source of income."

UNC journalism lecturer Paul O'Connor, who covers state politics for The Winston-Salem Journal, said that although the office of lieutenant governor was not the most powerful, the job entailed presiding over the state Senate, requiring a mature, fair person with non-partisan concerns.

Education also plays a role, he said, because the lieutenant governor sits on both the N.C. Board of Education and the N.C. Board of Community Colleges.

O'Connor said state senators Perdue and Betsy Cochrane, a Republican candidate, were likely to emerge victorious.

"Clearly, the two senators are favorites."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

By TRICIA BARRIOS
Staff Writer

Voters will decide on Tuesday who will fill three open seats for the Orange County Board of Education and who will go on to the November election for two county commissioner spots.

Teacher retention and better programs have taken center stage in the school board race, while the county commissioners' primary has been focused on issues of growth and fiscal needs.

School board candidate David Hunt said the board had to weigh fiscal responsibilities with the needs of students to achieve excellence in the system.

"The issues should be what students need to succeed," Hunt said. "We need to do the best we can for the students with the resources we have."

However, Marcia Compton, another school board candidate, said an increase in teachers' salaries would improve retention. "We need to give them incentive to stay in Orange County," she said. "We want to give them stability."

Incumbent candidate Keith Cook said smaller class size would do the most to improve school excellence. "My whole stance is that we need to focus on student achievement by closing the gap between African-American kids and white kids and poor kids by reducing class size," he said.

School board candidate Dana Thompson agreed that more teacher incentives were necessary. "I want to explore partnerships with businesses in

the community to offer low-cost loans for teachers and other incentives," she said.

Incumbent candidate Delores Simpson said qualified teachers were important in providing students with a well-rounded curriculum. She added that keeping parents involved was pivotal in student motivation. "I've always tried to do what's best for youth of the county," she said.

Candidate Richard Hathaway said his primary goal was to raise all students' performances to meet or exceed minimum grade-level expectations in three years. "To do this, we need to provide the proper level of education," he said.

Gary Home, school board candidate, said the focus of the race was providing the best resources for schools. "It's a matter of being fiscally responsible."

While school board members examined issues of teacher retention and better school programs, county commissioner candidates stressed the importance of keeping growth in check.

Democratic incumbent Margaret Brown said growth touched issues of education and land use. "I'm very much

interested in environment, planning and supporting good schools," she said.

However, Republican candidate David Herman said the commissioners were not concerned with providing enough private sector jobs for the county, claiming there was no diverse economic structure in Orange County. "We're not going to attract businesses with a higher tax rate than other counties," he said. "We need to attract development to bring jobs to Orange County."

School board candidate Lee Fowler and commissioner candidates Moses Carey, John Felten and Judy Anderson could not be reached for comment.

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

GOP Rivals Contend for Post

By ALICIA GADDDY
Staff Writer

Two Republican hopefuls are vying for the lieutenant governor's seat as current Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker pursues the governor's office.

The lieutenant governor presides over the state senate and sits on the state Board of Education.

N.C. Sen. Betsy Cochrane, R-Forsyth, and Winston-Salem businessman Andy Nilsson are in the race for the Republican nomination.

While the candidates' platforms vary, friends of both Republicans said each had the qualities necessary to assume the lieutenant governor post.

Cochrane said her main goal was to improve North Carolina's primary education system. "As a former teacher and a mother, education is a No. 1 priority."

Cochrane also said she hoped to better teacher preparation and improve North Carolina's 52 community col-

leges. "I think the community colleges need to be technically current."

She said 20 years as an N.C. legislator and her role as the state's first female senate majority leader made her the best candidate. "I think I'm the candidate for the primary, because I have experience," she said. "My opponent does not have a voting record."

But Pat Pine, spokeswoman for Nilsson, said the 33-year-old Winston-Salem native would put young blood in North Carolina's GOP.

Pine said she had worked closely with Nilsson in the Republican Leadership Council of North Carolina, an organization Nilsson founded, that aims to return N.C. Republicans to traditional values.

"Nilsson knows as much as his opponent about what's going on, but he also brings to the job new energy and ideas."

Pines said Nilsson's platform strongly focused on taxation and education. Nilsson's "Tax Menu" would allow tax payers to pick a state agency that would

receive 10 percent of their tax dollars.

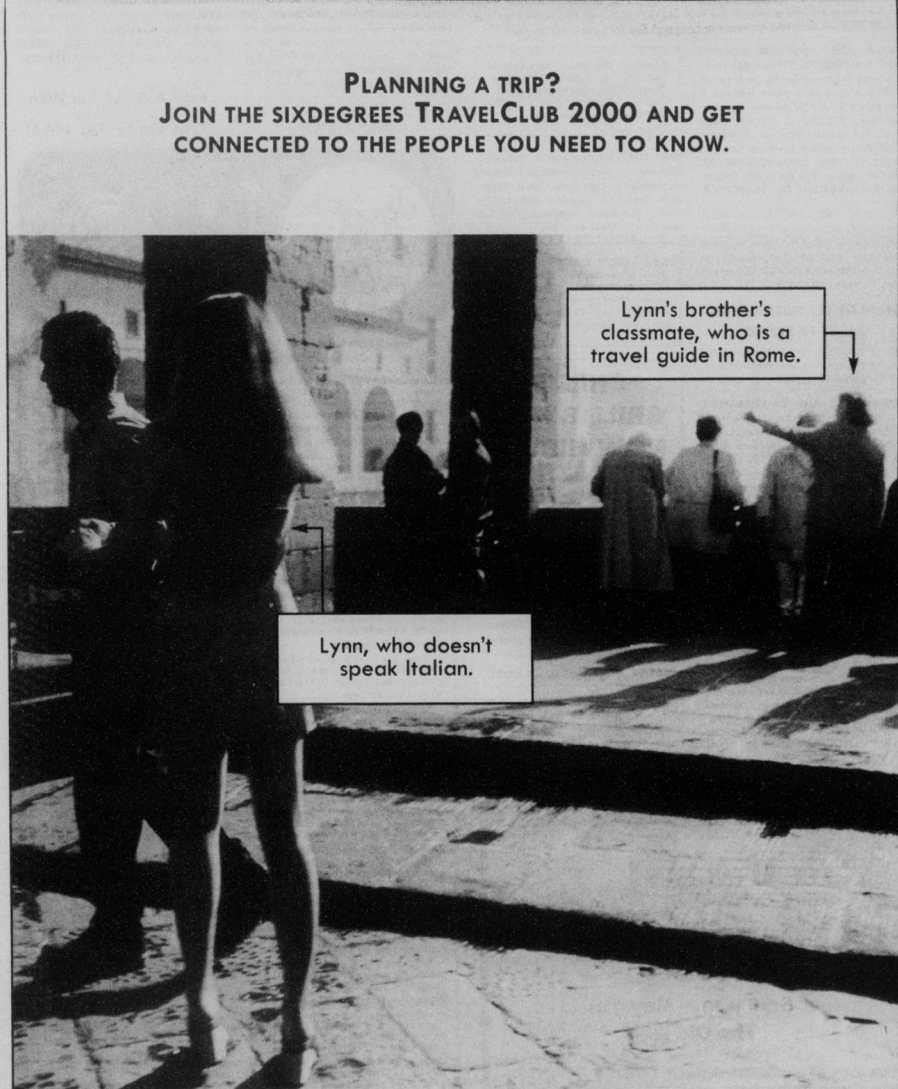
The second point of Nilsson's platform would extend North Carolina's vocational education programs, allowing high school students to participate in technical apprenticeship work.

But Cochrane supporters said she had the experience needed to become lieutenant governor. John Garwood, R-Avery, said he worked with Cochrane for three years in the Senate, where she served as a Republican role model.

He said Cochrane had played an important role in the state government since 1981. "Betsy's a leader, and she knows the rules of the Senate and how to handle that position," Garwood said.

UNC political science Professor Thad Beyle said Cochrane could win the nomination. "It's a little hard to say, but the person who is better known is the most likely to be the winner."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

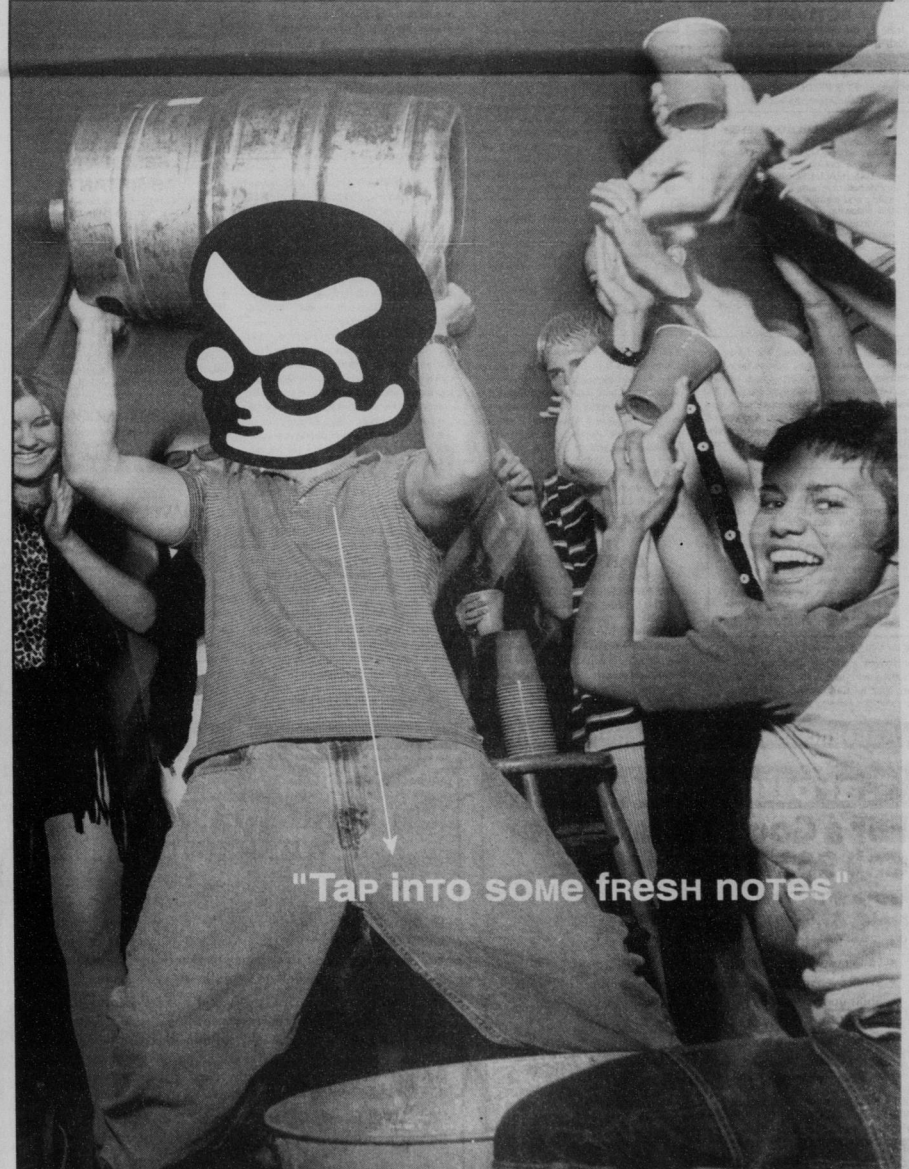


PLANNING A TRIP?
JOIN THE SIXDEGREES TRAVELCLUB 2000 AND GET
CONNECTED TO THE PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW.

Lynn's brother's classmate, who is a travel guide in Rome.

Lynn, who doesn't speak Italian.

Make foreign places seem a little less foreign. Join sixdegrees, where you can meet people in the places you will be traveling and stay in touch with those you know, while you're there. And to help you in your travels, the first 1,000 members who join the sixdegrees TravelClub 2000 will receive a free Fodor's upCLOSE travel guide. You'll also be entered to win one of two free trips from TripHub.com. Go to www.sixdegrees.com and get connected.



"Tap into some fresh notes"

Quench your thirst for knowledge online at Versity.com
Lecture notes . Novel notes . Exam preparation
among other mouth watering academic treats
-always (1440.365) open-



VERSITY
.com

Where to go when you need to know.™