

# Laws Frustrate 3rd Party Officials

**State Board of Elections members say laws do not treat North Carolina's third party candidates unfairly.**

**By CHERI MELI**  
Assistant State & National Editor

Some third party organizers contend that N.C. elections laws make it nearly impossible for their candidates to enter races, but state officials say the standards are equal for all parties.

Andy Nilsson, an organizer of the Centrist Party of North Carolina, said the state's policies keeps third party candidates off the ballot.

"North Carolina has one of the most, if not the most, restrictive ballots in the country," Nilsson said.

"The system is really rigged against political parties besides Republicans and Democrats."

Third parties are kept off the ballot because they do not provide the state with as much money as the Republican and Democratic parties, he said.

"When it comes down to fundamental policy differences, (the state board of

elections) doesn't care too much," Nilsson said.

"But (the state) does care about financial contributors."

Johnnie McLean, deputy director for N.C. State Board of Elections, said the regulations for becoming a candidate are the same for all parties that are recognized by the state elections board.

A petition is required to become a third party candidate for a party that is not already established in North Carolina, McLean said.

She said the number of signatures must be equal to at least 2 percent of the total number of votes that North Carolinians cast in the most recent gubernatorial election.

This year, it would require 51,324 signatures to become a candidate, she said.

But the criteria a party must meet to remain a recognized party is even more stringent.

"To remain a recognized party, the candidate must gather 10 percent of the

entire vote in the state for gubernatorial or presidential elections (from the previous election)," McLean said.

If the party is already in existence, the candidate must file a notice of candidacy during the filing period in January and must pay a fee of one percent of that office's salary.

"One other requirement is, if they are running for a district office such as state senate or state house, they must meet the residency requirements for that district," she said.

Presidential candidate Pat Buchanan clinched a spot on the N.C. ballot Thursday. He will represent the Reform Party.

The state board of elections voted 3-1 to recognize Buchanan instead of nuclear physicist John Hagelin as the party's official candidate.

The issue of which of the party's two candidates should appear on the November ballot is gaining attention in states nationwide.

John Bauman, a Libertarian candidate for N.C. House Dist. 24, said that while he does think it is more difficult for a third party candidate to get on the ballot, he does not feel that he was at a disadvantage because of it.

He said he thinks the number of signatures needed to become a recognized party is a little high but is fair because it is the same for every party.

"They've made it hard, but the rules are clear, and the State Board of Elections, as far as I know, has been fair," Bauman said. "I don't think I have a chance to win, but I am not really running for me - I am running for a Libertarian down the road."

But Nilsson said the high number of required signatures creates a catch-22 for third-party candidates who want to enter the race.

"Here's the analogy: if only one team showed up for a football game, that team would win," he said. "That team would win because they were the only ones who showed up. But if they never let anyone else play, no one else can ever win."

*"I don't think I have a chance ... but I am not really running for me - I am running for a Libertarian down the road."*

**JOHN BAUMAN**  
Libertarian Candidate for the N.C. House

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## PARKING

From Page 1

get their money back but had the option to sublet the space.

He said the conditions were only temporary and students should wait before giving up on the lot.

"The demolition has made it look like heck here, but we've almost got it all out of there, and we've explained it to

anyone who has called," he said.

But Powell said he has learned his lesson. He dropped another \$100 for a new parking place and said he is done dealing with Tar Heel Parking.

"I know it's hard to park out here, especially for freshmen," he said. "I didn't know any better, so I just jumped for it."

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## COPYTRON

From Page 1

Boston.

Encarnacao remained apologetic about the situation. "We're appalled and pained. It was a pretty grim situation," he said. "We're in the service business and in it for the long haul, so we did what we could to fix it."

But senior Stephanie Knight said she

was frustrated because she was not able to complete assignments for her African and Afro-American studies class.

"I just got (the course pack) today after I went up there three times," said Knight, a communication studies major from Winston-Salem. "I called them every day, two to three times a day. 'I'm already a whole unit behind.'"

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## MASTER PLAN

From Page 1

will replace the current lot and will be topped by a grassy quad area.

The structure will create 250 to 300 hourly parking spaces in addition to the permit parking already in the area.

Various student services, a new dining facility, a student recreational center, retail-type stores and a police substation will also be incorporated into the new design, she said.

And students tired of price gouging at the South Campus Mini Mart will be relieved to hear that a small grocery store has also been penciled into the plans. "It will be so much better for students on South Campus to have amenities of daily life there instead of always coming to North Campus," Elfland said. "I think it's a great project."

Although Ramshead parking lot is currently located in a small valley surrounded by Kenan Stadium, Morrison Residence Hall and the George Watts Hill Alumni Center, Elfland said the lot should create a flatter landscape more conducive to pedestrians.

Elfland said the actual planning of the new facilities will begin once the state approves a contract with the archi-

tect approved by the Board of Trustees last week. She said student input would be welcomed in the design process.

"We're talking about having different groups with different expertise help with the concept design," Elfland said. "We want students that are interested in particular facilities to be involved."

Pending recommendations made by two environmental firms, the creek now running beneath Kenan Stadium and Ehringhaus Fields might be raised to run over the new parking structure.

Master Plan coordinators hired the environmental firms Andropogon Associates and Cahill Associates this summer to assess the environmental risks of the proposal.

Elfland said plans for the improved Ramshead parking lot would contribute to South Campus' new look. "It should help connect North and South campuses," she said. "I think there are a lot of benefits."

Bresciani said the South Campus phase of the Master Plan is exciting.

"By the end of (its) realization most student life and student activities will focus on Middle and South campuses," he said. "We think everyone will be pleased when it's done."

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## TOWN COUNCIL

From Page 1

Aaron Nelson, who acts as a liaison between University and town officials, agreed that a public hearing would be beneficial for both UNC and the town.

"The University would love to participate in a forum," he told the council. "The Chancellor (James Moers) committed to (Mayor) Rosemary Waldorf when they met (last week) that they would have such a forum."

Nelson said the tentative date for the forum has been set for Sept. 27.

The council supported plans for a public hearing on that date and also addressed the importance of public knowledge of the event. Information on the hearing will be posted on both the town and UNC Web sites, but the coun-

cil agreed that other forms of advertisement would be beneficial.

Council member Jim Ward said he would like notification to extend beyond the three neighborhoods to include other areas of the community adjacent to University land. "If there is a way that we can do a more thorough job and notify the community that this forum is taking place, we should," he said.

Council member Pat Evans encouraged neighborhood residents to also advertise the upcoming hearing.

"The petitioners certainly did a great job getting the petition signed," she said. "I would like to see those people put the same effort in getting the word out about the meeting."

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## ARRESTS

From Page 1

session with intent to sell and deliver.

Warren, 22, of 500 S. Greensboro St., Lot 13, was arrested on two counts of marijuana possession, growing and maintaining marijuana plants and for the possession of drug paraphernalia.

Hooker and Hamilton tried to flee the scene, which is known as a high drug-trafficking area, but were caught after a foot chase, Ligo said.

"We were not tracking them in particular," Ligo said. "It was more of an investigation of high-level complaints from that area."

Ligo said a probable cause hearing will be the next step for the suspects unless a plea arrangement is reached.

The Chapel Hill Police Department also helped with the bust because they fielded complaints about drug activity in the area.

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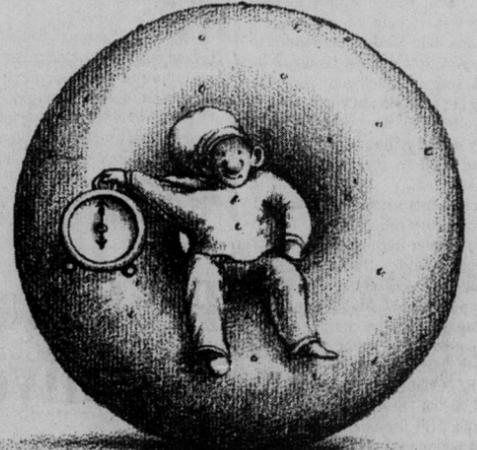
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