



ANNE FAWCETT

N.C. Lottery Foes Make for Unlikely Team

Lottery opponents make for strange bedfellows, but those beds are fertile grounds for the movement.

Although lottery supporters often group the opposition as ultra-religious Bible-beaters, those against a lottery span a broad ideological spectrum.

No matter what your political affiliation or ideology, they're sure to have an argument that appeals to you.

All of their arguments appeal to me. Former UNC-system President Bill Friday is one of the leaders of the anti-lottery movement and himself engaged in a bipartisan effort. A member of the Democratic Party, Friday has formed an alliance with former GOP gubernatorial candidate Chuck Neely to oppose the potential state lottery.

No one denies that a quality education for North Carolina's schoolchildren is an important goal. Lotteries are simply poor public policy, from fiscal reasons to social ones.

Analysis from The John Locke Foundation, a conservative/libertarian think tank, shows a lottery would generate much less revenue than Gov. Mike Easley claims.

John Locke Vice President for Research Roy Cordato said for the lottery to gross the kind of money Easley claims, half of the households in North Carolina (a high proportion) would have to play the lottery and spend \$870 each year.

Depending on the cost of a lottery ticket, that could potentially amount to buying one or more tickets each day for a year.

It's highly improbable that would happen, at least after the lottery's thrill is gone.

Chris Fitzsimon, executive director of the Common Sense Foundation, a liberal think tank, agreed that the governor's predictions are unreasonable.

"There's not a billion dollars that people have stuck in their mattresses that they're waiting to spend on the lottery," he said.

Liberal lottery opponents cite studies showing that those most likely to play the lottery are low-income residents in poor neighborhoods.

Cordato also said he agrees with this assessment of the lottery, although it's not his greatest concern.

A 1999 study by the National Gambling Impact Study Commission showed that people making less than \$10,000 each year spend twice as much money on the lottery as those making more than \$100,000.

In relative terms, the wealthier person spends only one-twentieth the amount of his income that the poorer person spends.

And because the poor are the big spenders, government targets advertisements toward those most desperate to get rich quick, even though their chances of winning are one in millions.

"The lottery would put the state in the position of encouraging, in fact, misleading people into misusing their money for a chance that's one in 10 million," Fitzsimon said.

Increased funding for education seems like a political inevitability, but Fitzsimon and Friday are counting on public discussions of the lottery policy itself to inform voters and their representatives of a lottery's pitfalls.

"Ultimately, when the debate is on the actual policy of the lottery and not what you're going to spend it on, I think it's an easy decision that the lottery is the wrong way to go," Fitzsimon said.

And lottery critics from every ideology agree that a state lottery is the easy way out for lawmakers who don't want to explicitly raise taxes or reallocate funding from other areas.

The diversity of opposition to a lottery gives credibility to the effort. The opposition movement cannot be pigeonholed as liberal or conservative, cold-hearted or paternal.

The movement is logical, practical and in support of sound public policy. Its spokesmen have loud voices that should break through the emotionalism and desperation portrayed by lottery supporters and should appeal to N.C. residents' rationality that a lottery is the wrong choice for this state.

Columnist Anne Fawcett can be reached at fawcetta@hotmail.com.

UNC Plan Provokes Commissioners' Concerns

BY BEN GULLETT
Staff Writer

The Orange County Board of Commissioners voiced concerns Tuesday that University plans to expand could strain schools, the transit system and the environment.

UNC officials presented the board with the plan for the development of the 979-acre Horace Williams land tract, which is expected to include research, commercial and residential facilities.

The commissioners cited county concerns, such as transportation and school growth, as key factors UNC officials should consider when planning the proposed expansion.

Commissioner Stephen Halkiotis said he is concerned that large-scale growth at the University would bring new students to Orange County schools.

"The county commissioners have a legal responsibility to provide schools," Halkiotis said.

"Please keep in mind that what you

do has an impact on what we have a legal mandate to do."

Commissioner Barry Jacobs said he is concerned that the development does not place enough emphasis on mass transit use but instead would allow commuters to use their own vehicles with limited restrictions.

"This still seems like 20th-century thinking about transit," he said.

Jack Evans, a professor in the Kenan-Flagler Business School and special assistant to the chancellor, presented the

proposal to the commissioners and said he recognizes these concerns.

But Evans also said the expansion is still in the early stages of planning and that the impact on schools or transit could not yet be determined.

Evans told the commissioners the University plans to use the tract to develop "bio-tech/human genome research and commercialization."

The expansion would greatly add to the 575-acre main campus. This expected growth has angered some residents

who fear the University's expansion could infringe on the community.

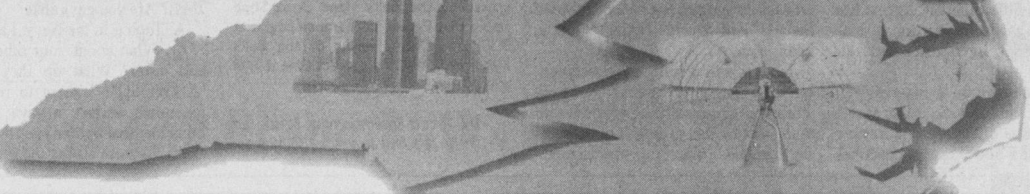
But Evans said environmental implications are being addressed.

"Environmental planning is very much at the heart of things that we're planning out here," he said.

Halkiotis said he is pleased that the University plans to develop the area with minimal disturbance to the existing community.

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Economy



Rural Farmers Left Behind In High-Tech Revolution

BY FAITH RAY
Assistant State & National Editor

For centuries, farming and small businesses shaped North Carolina's economy. As other states boomed, North Carolina's more agrarian focus left it economically stagnant.

But that image is quickly changing to one of rapidly growing businesses, low unemployment and big money associated with high-tech industries.

North Carolina is no longer solely characterized by its once endless tobacco fields, hog farms and reliance on agriculture. It is becoming a mecca for the technologically savvy.

Hundreds of high-tech industries have moved into the state, leaving in their wake agricultural sectors that are struggling to survive and dividing the state along economic lines.

The New Economy

Marchela Roca, spokeswoman for the N.C. Department of Commerce, said the growing technological sector has opened up "a great deal of opportunities in our state to become competitive."

The new economy has been influenced greatly by N.C. universities, which have enticed recent graduates to begin their career paths in Research Triangle Park — one of the country's pre-eminent technological centers.

John Lucy, spokesman for Triangle-area IBM, said the "continual flow" of the state's university graduates provides a large work force for high-tech companies and contributes to the state's low unemployment rate.

Lucy also attributed the success of

the technology industry to the "great partnership fostered by the relationships between the universities, the government and the community."

IBM first moved to Research Triangle Park in the mid-1960s and now has more than 50 buildings and employs more than 15,000 people in the Triangle, making it the largest IBM hub in the world. The impact of the new industries was evident a decade ago when, at the urging of IBM executives, Interstate 40 was routed to run through RTP.

"The advent of a good transportation network was necessary," Lucy said. "IBM suggested extending (I-40) through the park to develop its maximum potential."

"Other companies and industries have followed suit and made North Carolina home, contributing to the birth and expansion of new urban centers. The influx of these businesses has come about because the state sensed a need to remain competitive — nationally and worldwide — as the global economy made a dramatic shift toward modern technology," Roca said.

Struggling to Survive

In the midst of North Carolina's economic boom, the agricultural foundation that once supported the state's economy is being obscured by the shadow of a new technological revolution.

Chris Beacham, research director for the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center, said the growth

of RTP has put a strain on some rural communities. "Half of North Carolinians are not participating in the development of the state," he said.

Beacham said many students from rural communities go on to study at universities and do not return home, resulting in a loss of potential resources for rural areas.

Jim Knight, spokesman for the N.C. Department of Agriculture, said it has become virtually impossible for someone to enter the agricultural field.

Knight said farmland prices have soared as new industries and corporations, needing more land as their businesses grow, have extended their reach into rural areas of the state, making it nearly impossible for individuals to purchase farmland. "Farming is not a viable economic profession," he said.

"(Companies) dangle huge sums of money in front of farmers and pay five, 10, 20 times what farmlands are worth."

Despite the current economic success of technological advances, many North Carolinians still live in poverty. The state has struggled to provide adequate health care and access to education.

Beacham said there are no easy solutions for bridging the economic divide and noted a need to look beyond "just money" for answers.

He said the state is working to attract

businesses to rural areas and added that the educational system will have to be improved to make this a reality.

In the last several years, legislative leaders have unveiled several proposals to attract more teachers to the state, including a plan approved last summer by the General Assembly to increase teacher pay statewide.

Some rural areas have managed to profit from the new economy because of close business relationships with urban cities. "Income generated in RTP brings back money to rural communities," Beacham said.

But many rural towns, especially those built around tobacco and other crops, are striving to find a place in the new economy. Even family-owned hog farms that used to dot the eastern half of the state have been swallowed up by large corporations. "Some communities have been hit hard," Roca said.

Today it is unclear how many North Carolina residents will adjust to the ever-changing economy, but Gov. Mike Easley vowed in his inaugural address to bring economic prosperity to all corners of the state.

"Many communities have strong and robust economies, while others languish," Easley said. "North Carolina values require that we all work together to spread our success — not by taking wealth from any region, but by creating opportunities and expertise in every region until we include every family in every county in North Carolina."

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

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Students' Work Airs On UNC-TV

The first segment of the three-part documentary aired Monday and focused on hog farming pollution.

BY RACHEL CLARKE
Staff Writer

Student producers, cinematographers and writers crammed into UNC-TV studios Tuesday, rushing to edit their air pollution documentary in time for its 7:30 p.m. airing today.

The documentary, which will be shown on UNC-TV during the television newsmagazine "North Carolina Now," is the last segment in a three-part series examining air pollution throughout North Carolina.

The students wrote, filmed and produced the segments for their documentary television class in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

"I'm very excited," said graduate student Tania Zeigler, who produced tonight's segment. "We're having a viewing party for all the students."

The first part of the series, which aired Monday night, focused on the air pollution associated with hog farming in the eastern part of the state.

"It's a controversial issue," said Dan Childs, a graduate student who produced the first segment. "Every hog farmer refused to talk to us."

Childs said he worked around the dilemma by using a written statement from the N.C. Pork Council.

He said solving problems such as these required that all the students involved be very industrious.

"I think that everyone involved put in time above and beyond classtime — even more than we thought would be involved," Childs said.

Although the three segments cover the same topic, they don't need to be watched together, said Tom Linden, Glaxo Wellcome distinguished professor of medical journalism and the instructor for the class. "They each stand alone."

The segment that aired Tuesday covered air pollution in urban areas and was produced by Steve Baragona, a graduate student in medical journalism. Senior journalism major Nora El-Khoury wrote the script.

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Less-Experienced BOG To Take Helm in June

BY KOEN DE VRIES
Staff Writer

As the UNC-system Board of Governors prepares to deal with issues such as re-examining its tuition-setting policy and weathering a state budget shortfall, it soon will experience a personnel transition that will leave more than half its members with little or no BOG experience.

When new BOG members are sworn in during the June meeting, 17 of the 32 voting members will be serving their first terms.

Nine will be only two years into their first four-year term, and eight will be newcomers. The eight new members were elected this month by the N.C. General Assembly.

The BOG consists of 32 voting members, half selected by the N.C. Senate and half selected by the N.C. House. Members are not allowed to serve more than three consecutive terms.

BOG Chairman Ben Ruffin, who is serving his third consecutive term, said he is confident that the inexperience of the board will not hinder its operations.

"They bring a variety of experience with them," Ruffin said. "Most of them have served on a trustee board at a university."

He said that while learning the specific BOG nomenclature will be difficult, the board has a system in place to familiarize new members with the board.

"We have prepared a good orientation," Ruffin said. "And all new members will have to travel around to all 16 schools. We also have our own orientation so that when they start coming to meetings in July, they'll really get involved."

Priscilla Taylor, a second-term BOG member, said it took her a year to get used to serving on the board.

"It takes a while to understand the budget, how campuses operate," Taylor said.

She said in the past the board consisted of more experienced members, partly because of more stability in state politics.

"There's a greater turnover on the board now. ... It will take a while for the newcomers to come up to speed."

PRISCILLA TAYLOR
BOG Member

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Panel Mulls Reparations' Merits

BY ELIZABETH PARROTT
Staff Writer

Five UNC professors with diverse specialties gathered Tuesday night in a forum arranged by the Organization for African Students Interest and Solidarity to discuss reparations as a part of UNC's Africa Week 2001.

The panel forum dealt with many issues raised in David Horowitz's ad, which recently ran nationwide in college newspapers. The ad presents reasons why reparations are unrealistic for blacks in America.

Senior Aduare Achumba, who helped organize Tuesday's event, said Horowitz's ad sparked the forum, which involved a discussion of reparations in African countries for slavery, apartheid and colonialism.

Achumba directed the exchange between professors Harry Watson, David Newbury, Lisa Lindsay, Harry Amana and Perry Hall, as each gave their opinion on reparations to blacks and Africans. The specialization of each professor varied, enabling diverse opinions and solutions on the topic of repayment.

Amana, a journalism professor and acting director of the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center, began the discussion by giving a brief history of the government's role in addressing slavery grievances and his view of the extended legacy of slavery.

"When people say that the remains



Professors David Newbury and Perry Hall listen to Professor Harry Amana speak at a reparations forum held by O.A.S.I.S. for Africa Week.

of slavery are not with us, well, the remains of segregation are still with us and that is a legacy of slavery," he said.

Amana said he opposed giving blacks individual reparations but that he supported a government-established fund for blacks to go to such causes as education.

Watson, a history professor with a focus on the American South, presented a different opinion, finding actions to end inequality among economic classes more feasible. "It is more constructive to argue for measures to eliminate economic inequality without regard to color," he said.

Newbury and Lindsay, both history professors specializing in African history, focused on reparations to Africans from Western countries.

Newbury opened his comments by explaining major flaws in Horowitz's ad. He then discussed a solution to repay Africans by implementing the concept

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