

Precautions Overkill on Halloween

You hear it all the time: Chapel Hill is a special town, with a special atmosphere. Local politicians tout the sense of community, and most people would agree that Chapel Hill exhibits a vibrancy you would be hard-pressed to find anywhere else in this state.

That sense of uniqueness is exemplified by Halloween night on Franklin Street. And that sense of uniqueness was squashed this

year by overbearing regulations — making the annual Halloween celebration a disappointment rather than a continuation of tradition.

As the first full moon on a Halloween night in 46 years illuminated police badges, roadblocks were erected in a 1 1/2-mile radius around the downtown area, and police checkpoints were set up along the Franklin Street party route.

Most parking decks on campus were closed off.

Mayor Rosemary Waldorf even declared a state of emergency so that Chapel Hill could become our own tiny police state in the South.

The effect: traffic jams, business losses, overwhelming municipal costs and a severe dampening of a local tradition that has turned into a statewide legend.

A crowd that swelled to 50,000 last year barely reached 25,000 this year.

The entire exercise was an example of security overkill. And instead of alleviating problems, the overbearing "protection" ended up causing the town many more.

There's the tab for all the police protection — 315 officers from 15 different agencies — which officials are still calculating. Last year alone, the town spent \$75,000 on police security and had 200 officers present.

With an extra 100 officers on hand, why wouldn't that price tag increase?

Businesses on Franklin Street, especially bars, suffered from anemic crowds compared to years past. Some even were forced to send the extra workers they had scheduled home due to lackluster sales. Halloween is usually an incredible boom for local eateries and bars, but not this year.

With all the roadblocks, fewer older students who live off campus were inclined to go on a scavenger hunt for parking spaces throughout the town — leaving the underage residence hall-dwellers to stay on the streets instead of filling up barstools.

I'm sure the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce and the Chapel Hill Town Council will hear about the repercussions of the security crackdown as owners tally up sales from last week.

Traffic was chaotic. Funny how a 1 1/2-mile roadblock around the center of town has the effect of screwing up most major roadways in a 10-mile radius. From Airport Road through N.C. 54 and U.S. 15-501, red brake lights gave a nice, bloody glow to the night.

Coming from Raleigh, I waded through an hour's worth of traffic on N.C. 54 to make a trip that ordinarily takes 15 minutes.

But beyond the numbers, the spirit of the celebration was ruined.

At a time when people are paranoid about planes falling out of the sky and anthrax letters coming out of our mailbox, Halloween on Franklin Street should provide a great escape from the pressures of life, both real and imagined. Instead, with decontamination tents, confiscation of any costume accessory not glued to your body, and an avalanche of uniforms, Chapel Hill was another affirmation of national fear.

There's obviously a need for security for mass gatherings such as this — and the town has done a good job of handling it in the past with much larger numbers of revelers and fewer police officers. Perfect, no. But it was much less oppressive and certainly cheaper. The party must go on, after all.

Town leaders should learn from this year's Halloween and make amends next year.

Adequate security can be balanced with an open, diverse crowd from around the state.

If the crowds continue to dwindle in the face of tight restrictions, one of the traditions that typifies Chapel Hill's spirit will die.

And that's what scares me.

Columnist Jonathan Chaney can be reached at jchaney@email.unc.edu.

Voters Pass Largest Bond in County History

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools Voted YES 11,618 votes, 60%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks and Recreation Voted YES 10,864 votes, 55%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizens Voted YES 10,702 votes, 54%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing Voted YES 10,383 votes, 53%

By MAGGIE KAO
Staff Writer

Orange County residents approved all four components of a \$75 million bond package last night, passing the largest bond in the county's history.

The bond was divided into four sections and will fund the county's two school systems, parks and recreation, senior centers and affordable housing.

"I had been optimistic that the bond

would pass, based on general comments and also editorials," Orange County Commissioner Alice Gordon said.

The majority of the \$75 million will go toward education, with \$47 million slated to construct and improve Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City schools.

The school bond will finance the building of two new elementary schools in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and one middle school in Orange

County Schools in an attempt to ease overcrowding.

Gordon added that \$2.9 million has been allotted for school maintenance and improvement.

She said the commissioners plan to have one of the two elementary schools completed by 2003 and expect construction to begin soon.

Along with the schools' funding, another \$20 million is earmarked for the development and maintenance of parks

and recreational facilities in the county. This will be the largest parks bond in Orange County's history.

"The parks bond was something that had extensive input and complexity because it included so many issues," Gordon said.

"People voted to preserve land that is getting more and more scarce, and I think it's a great thing that voters are

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Homecoming Elections Set for Today

While Homecoming queen candidates had tables in the Pit today, Homecoming king candidates spent less time campaigning.

By ELIZABETH MICHALKA
Staff Writer

The day before Homecoming king and queen elections, candidates attempted to put faces with names in last-minute campaigning efforts.

Students can vote for this year's Homecoming king and queen from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. today by logging on to Student Central and clicking on "vote" to cast a ballot.

Each candidate runs on a platform that includes a service project, a point which candidates were trying to make students aware of Tuesday. The three candidates for Homecoming queen set up banners and tables in the Pit from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday.

Candidate Jessica McLean boasted a campaigning committee of about 45 people, mostly close friends. "We are really trying to have more interaction with people," McLean said. "I'm explaining my service project to students."

McLean's campaigning efforts also included speaking to the Delta Zeta, Sigma Sigma Sigma and Kappa Kappa Gamma sororities Tuesday evening. She said she plans to continue her last-minute campaigning today.

Candidate Shayla Higginbotham's campaign committee walked around the Pit holding posters and passing out handbills the day before elections. Higginbotham said she will have a step performance in the Pit today to grab students' attention. "Wednesday is a big day," she said. "I want to present my (service) project to as many people as possible."

But candidate Aidil Polanco said Tuesday's campaigning was not more intense than it had been previously.

"I've been planning and campaigning heavily since the first day," Polanco said. "I've been going to three or four meetings or events every night to talk to students. But the campaigning this week is more visual, with posters and banners."

While the ladies were out in full swing, the men were less visible with their campaigning. No Homecoming king candidates had tables in the Pit on Tuesday. "The girls have gone all out. They're really competitive, but I don't see that much going on with the guys," said candidate Victor Ibrahim.

Ibrahim said he's been too busy for extensive campaigning, and he does not have a campaign committee. "I'm going to try to make some fliers tonight so I can get those out on Wednesday."

Candidate Marcus Harvey said he has decided to take an alternative route with his campaign strategy. "I'm not big on politics, and I think that what I've already done on campus should speak for itself," he said.

Harvey has spoken to some organizations and some class-



Shayla Higginbotham, a candidate for Homecoming queen, tries to win over the vote of fellow senior Bonswa Banks on Tuesday afternoon in the Pit.

Incumbents, New Member Join Board

Nick Didow, Valerie Foushee and Lisa Stuckey won the three seats on the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school board.

By ADRIENNE CLARK AND BRETT GARAMELLA
Staff Writers

Experience prevailed in the race for seats on Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education, as voters returned incumbents Nick Didow and Valerie Foushee.

Newcomer Lisa Stuckey also gained a spot on the board.

The three newly elected Board of Education members significantly surpassed defeated candidates Joel Dunn and Chon Shoaf in Tuesday's election, according to unofficial returns.

Didow said he is pleased to have the opportunity to continue as a member of the school board.

"I'm also pleased that my fellow incumbent is returning to the board," Didow added. "She and I have worked particularly close this past year as I have served as (chairman) of the board and (Foushee) as vice (chairwoman)."

Foushee could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Stuckey said campaigning was a positive but daunting experience.

"I was trying really hard not to have expectations," Stuckey said. "I worked really hard in my campaign, and I'm grateful for the support and confidence that voters showed for me."

Despite not being elected, Joel Dunn said he would continue to interact with the board on certain policies.

"The school district is in good hands," Dunn said. "I'm looking forward to working with (the board members) as a member of the Strategic Planning Task Force. The real winner is the school district as a whole," Dunn added.

Shoaf also expressed regard for the winners.

"I think the winners are excellent," he said. "My purpose was to make sure good candidates were on the platform."

The newly elected members also said they were pleased that voters approved

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nick Didow 8,476 votes 28%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Stuckey 8,304 votes 27%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valerie Foushee 7,971 votes 26%
Joel Dunn 2,972 votes 10%
Chon Shoaf 2,874 votes 9%

Officials Voice Support for Qatar Program

By KRISTA FARON
Staff Writer

UNC officials who traveled to Qatar this weekend expressed overwhelming support for establishing an undergraduate business degree program in the Middle Eastern nation, Chancellor James Moeser said Tuesday.

Moeser, who participated in the trip, said he conducted an informal survey on the plane among faculty members who traveled to Doha, Qatar's capital.

"Among the group that made the trip, the reactions were overwhelmingly positive," he said.

Moeser, several administrators, three Board of Trustees members, two Board of Governors members and about 40

faculty members from the Kenan-Flagler Business School and the College of Arts and Sciences went on the trip, which aimed to teach participants more about Qatar and the possibility of a UNC satellite campus there.

Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences would teach Qatari freshmen and sophomores, and business school faculty would teach upper-level courses.

"My primary goal was to give faculty the opportunity to see the country for themselves and to ask all necessary questions, and I think we accomplished that goal," Moeser said.

UNC officials arrived in Qatar on Saturday evening and returned to Chapel Hill early Tuesday morning. During the intensive trip, the group

toured the proposed site for the campus and met with Qatari educational officials and American ambassadors.

The group also visited the al-Jazeera satellite TV channel, the Arab network that captured recent international attention for its broadcast of Osama bin Laden's video messages.

The sheikha of Qatar, Mozah bint Nasser Al-Misnad, who financed the trip, hosted the UNC officials for dinner Sunday night at Al Wajabala Palace.

James Peacock, anthropology professor and director of the University Center for International Studies, said the sheikha delivered a powerful speech expressing her desire for UNC to enrich Qatar's academic community.

"She was very forceful and progres-

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Vinroot Drops Bid For U.S. Senate Seat

Vinroot says he was advised that a loss in the Republican primary might later hurt his chances to win N.C. governmental offices.

By ALEX KAPLUN
State & National Editor

Former Charlotte Mayor Richard Vinroot announced Wednesday that he will no longer seek the Republican nomination for a U.S. Senate seat in 2002.

Vinroot, a former Morehead Scholar and UNC basketball player, was joined for his announcement in Charlotte by fellow candidate Elizabeth Dole, whom he said he will support in her bid to claim the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Jesse Helms.

Vinroot's withdrawal from the race leaves Dole as the only well-known candidate seeking the Republican nomination.

In an interview with The Daily Tar Heel after his announcement, Vinroot said he decided to leave the race after realizing how difficult it would be for him to defeat Dole.

"I'm realistic. I can see how incredibly popular (Dole) is," Vinroot said. "Every poll I've seen has her beating everyone — Democrat or

Republican — not just me."

Vinroot said he would have a hard time raising enough money to compete with Dole, especially with the nation's declining economic situation.

Vinroot also said his withdrawal from the race leaves the door open for Dole to seize the Republican nomination.

Dole's only remaining competitors on the Republican side are four lesser-known candidates — Lexington lawyer Jim Snyder, Rowan County Board of Education member Ada Fisher, Lumberton radiologist Jim Parker and Salisbury insurance agent Douglas Sellers.

Democrats who have expressed interest in seeking the post include N.C. Rep. Dan Blue, D-Wake, former White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles, Durham council member Cynthia Brown and N.C. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall.

Vinroot said that while he was not nudged to step aside by members of the Republican Party — as some media outlets have reported — he has had several conversations in recent weeks with Republican National Committee chairman and Virginia Governor Jim Gillmore about his

chances of beating Dole.

Vinroot said Gillmore told him it would be difficult for him to beat Dole without resorting to personal attacks, which Vinroot said he was unwilling to do against Dole, whom he considers a longtime friend.

He added that Gillmore didn't want him to lose another election, fearing it could hinder his political career.

"We don't want to lose you — we want you to come back to fight another day," Vinroot said he was told by Gillmore.

Vinroot's bid for a statewide office ended in defeat twice before. Vinroot lost the Republican nomination for governor in 1996 to Robin Hayes, and just a year ago, Vinroot lost a narrow gubernatorial election to Democrat Mike Easley.

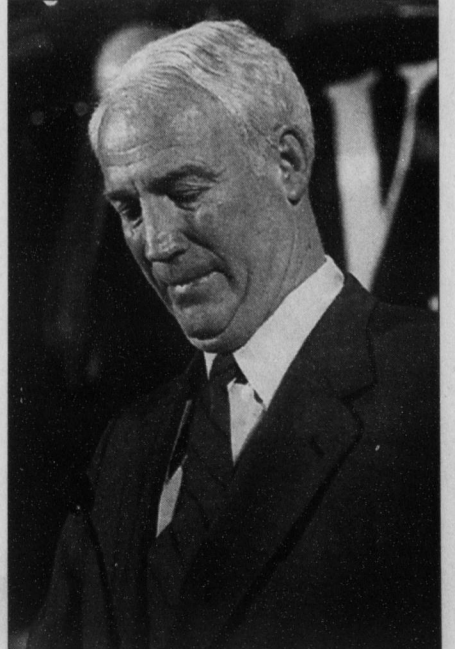
But Vinroot said he might consider another bid for a statewide office in the future.

He said, "I have not given up my ambition to be the governor of this state."

"I'm realistic. I can see how incredibly popular (Dole) is. Every poll I've seen has her beating everyone."

RICHARD VINROOT
Former Charlotte Mayor

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Richard Vinroot lost in the N.C. gubernatorial race in 2000 and has withdrawn from the U.S. Senate race.