

Foy Snags Chapel Hill Mayoral Post

By JON DOUGHERTY AND JAMIE MCGEE
Staff Writers

NOV. 7 — A large crowd gathered at Pantana Bob's on Tuesday night to celebrate Kevin Foy's victory over opponents Lee Pavao and Cam Hill in the race for Chapel Hill mayor.

As Foy entered the West Rosemary Street bar and restaurant, supporters greeted him with cheering, applause and a long round of "hip-hip hooray." The candidate addressed the crowd, saying,

"Thank you all for being here. Now go back to partying for a while."

Foy defeated Chapel Hill Town Council member Lee Pavao in a race that ended with Foy winning 57 percent of the vote and Pavao 39 percent, according to unofficial returns. Cam Hill, who dropped out of the race Oct. 30 and later endorsed Foy, garnered 1 percent of the vote.

Foy said he considers the defining moment of his campaign to be an Oct. 26 forum sponsored by the Orange-Chatham Sierra Club. The organization

later endorsed Foy's candidacy.

"It was televised and gave me a chance to emphasize my commitment to the natural environment," he said.

All three candidates highlighted the importance of managing growth in an expanding Chapel Hill. Hill, who attended Foy's victory celebration, said he is optimistic about the way in which Foy will regulate development.

"I think (Foy) will be a good voice for the regulated growth — if not no-growth — voters," he said.

In an atmosphere of excitement and

celebration, Foy's volunteer coordinator, Michelle Lewis, spoke about the mayor-elect with confidence. "When you have a great product to sell, it's easy to get people behind a good candidate," Lewis said.

While Foy celebrated to the tune of Kool and the Gang's "Celebrate," the mood was more subdued among Pavao's supporters. They gathered with Pavao around the computer at Pavao's campaign manager's home, watching the screen intently as the poll results were tabulated.

Pavao attributed his defeat to negative campaigning by Foy. But he said he was satisfied with his own campaign.

"I don't think I would have changed the tenor of my campaign," Pavao said. "I think there were things brought up that had no bearing on Chapel Hill or what the campaign was about."

Pavao said he will not be involved in town government for a while but that he intends to stay involved in the community.

"I'm going to continue to be involved in the organizations I have been involved with. I just won't be in town government for a while."

Pavao said he is uncertain as to whether he will run for a town government position again in the future.

"I will make that decision when I get there," he said.

Now that several months of campaigning have drawn to a close, Foy said his first goal as mayor will be to organize the Town Council.

"It is going to require a lot of effort," he said. "There's three new faces there."

Approval of Budget Ends Epic Debate

By JENNIFER HAGIN
Assistant State & National Editor

RALEIGH, SEPT. 24 — Members of the N.C. House of Representatives bolted from the chamber after passing a budget Friday morning, bringing nearly nine months of debate to a close.

The N.C. Senate passed the budget 26-8 in less than 15 minutes, but the House spent more than an hour debating budget-related issues, ending in a 63-53 vote.

Rep. Edward Redwine, D-Brunswick, opened the budget discussion, which ended almost three months after the start of the fiscal year, by reassuring legislators about the budget they were about to pass.

"I really don't think any of us should be bashful or timid when voting for this bill," Redwine said.

"You can say you were here in a watershed time of the state, and you did the right thing."

Many representatives expressed approval of President Bush's Thursday speech before Congress.

But Rep. Joanne Bowie, R-Guilford, expressed concern for what a half-cent sales tax increase included in the budget might mean for citizens in times of war.

"You just don't raise taxes when you have people who are down and may sink lower," she said.

The House vote brought applause from the chamber's members.

Speaker Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, emphasized the magnitude of the event.

"We just finished the most important bill of this session," Black said.

Senate Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Beaufort, also addressed the unique issues surrounding this year's budget debate.

"The condition of our financial position made it a more difficult issue this time," Basnight said.

The budget deliberations came on the heels of a multi-million dollar budget shortfall, largely attributed to lower-than-expected economic growth rates.

Basnight said he expects that the legislature will be in session until late October or early November dealing with other issues, adding even more days to the longest session in state history.

Black said he was pleased with the final version of the budget.

"I can't imagine how anyone couldn't vote for this," he said.

"It took a lot of courage to vote for this budget because some voted based on polls."

Black said the budget protected the state's AAA bond rating — which was called into question during the summer — and continued to improve education.

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