

GOP Gains Could Lead To Gridlock

The myth that midterm elections matter very little was dispelled Tuesday.

More sitzkrieg than blitzkrieg, the GOP machine maneuvered to gain senatorships, governorships, judge-ships and the like, surprisingly with a minimum of pre-tense.

The final tally: The elephants gave the jackasses one fierce noogie.

Most have heard of the consequences and repercussions of the Republican coup de grace in the U.S. Senate, but that donkey

has been beaten to death. If a true to form "power shift" is either what you desired or feared, look no farther than Raleigh.

Monday evening, the Democrats held a 35-15 majority in the N.C. Senate and a 62-58 advantage in the House. As of Thursday, the Senate was split 26-22, although final tallies are not in and - sound the trumpets of Jericho - the House is barreling toward a 60-60 split.

Recounts are sure to come in the three still-unofficial races. Each side is dying for the coveted 61, but there is another, possibly even more pressing concern with the 60-60 House: No one knows how anything will work.

The N.C. Constitution offers no advice, let alone a course of action, for next year's House. And next year's chamber will spearhead some mighty weighty discussions and litigation, the greatest of which are the revenue crisis and the never-say-never state lottery hoopla.

But who is going to run the show? OK, forget running the show, who will determine which representatives fall into the power positions, like speaker of the house or minority leader? Without 61, who gets to appoint committee chairmen or decide who gets first dibs on the microphone?

Immediately after the elections, current Speaker of the House Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, established that he would like to keep his job. Real surprise.

House Minority Leader Leo Daughtry, R-Johnston, maintains, "It's all speculation at this point. Sure, we'd like to have 61, but it doesn't look like we're going to get it."

Seemingly frustrated with the incessant carousel of questions regarding the impending 60-60 split, Daughtry pointed back to the lone truth - that no one knows anything.

"We'd like to think that we can put aside our differences and govern North Carolina," Daughtry said. "But we don't know. It's sort of like kissing your sister."

Translation: The 60-60 split isn't necessarily a bad thing, it's just something both parties would rather avoid.

If the Republicans are kissing their sisters then, one has to assume, the Democrats are kissing their labradors.

About 46 percent of voters turned out for Tuesday's elections, an above-average turnout for a midterm election. Those voters decreed that there shall be one Republican U.S. senator, that there shall be Republican domination of the appellate courts and that there shall be increased parity in the General Assembly.

Pundits claim that low voter turnout is a detriment to the Democratic Party, but research shows that Republicans gain the most when voters flock to their voting cubicles. Since it's not the fault of the voters, whose fault is it?

The exaggerated 35-15 majority in the N.C. Senate was bound to be hacked up, the House only teetered from 62-58 to 60-60, and North Carolina now has one Democratic senator and one Republican senator.

I also have tried to blame the North Carolina Democratic Party, but no dice. In hindsight, it's crystal-clear - the voters, furious with the drawn-out session and angered with the General Assembly's impotency, decided they wouldn't oblige by voting either party to a majority.

Moreover, the voters systematically removed every single last appropriations chairman. Those in charge of next year's money will not have touched this year's.

So after months of clandestine committee meetings, the voters Tuesday instituted their diabolical plan to frustrate the General Assembly. They chose one Democrat for every one Republican.

The title of the wily scheme, "The People's Guide to Parity and Payback: How to Make North Carolina Legislators Kiss Their Sisters."

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Ill. Governor Condemns Capital Punishment

Ryan put a stop to executions in 2000

By JOHN LIPPS
Staff Writer

Illinois Gov. George Ryan spoke passionately Thursday to a large and diverse audience about his personal experiences and his disillusionment with capital punishment.

The speech, which took place in Van Hecke-Wettach Hall, was hosted by the School of Law.

Ryan, a Republican who received national media attention in January 2000 when he issued a moratorium on the death penalty in Illinois, was received warmly by students and faculty from several N.C. universities and by leaders from across the state, including N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice I. Beverly Lake.

Ryan briefly mentioned his three-year review of capital punishment in Illinois, which is aimed at reviewing the cases of 140 out of the 160 prisoners on death row who have chosen to appear before the review board.

Ryan ordered the review after finding that 13 times since 1977, death row inmates have been exonerated and only 12 inmates have been executed. "It's like flipping a coin - heads or tails; life or death," he said.

One prisoner, Ryan said, came within two days of his execution before being released. In April, the review board issued a report to the Illinois legislature recommending more than 80 changes to the state's capital punishment system.

Ryan revealed that his dealing with the death penalty is personal and complicated. "I never planned on being involved in the debate on capital punishment," he said. "Not in my wildest dreams."

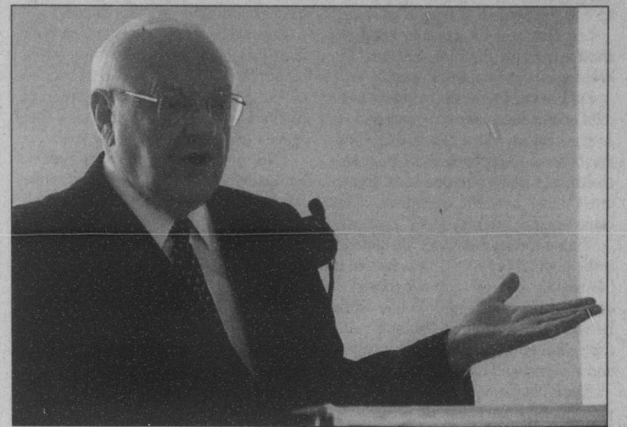
He said that at one time he believed firmly in capital punishment, including the use of the electric chair. He added that as an Illinois legislator, he voted to reinstate the death penalty.

Ryan recalled the first time as governor of Illinois that he had to decide whether to execute a man sentenced to lethal injection. "His life was in my hands," Ryan said. "It was an awesome responsibility. This was a misery that nobody should have to go through."

Although Ryan said he believes that the death penalty is justified in some cases, he added that he does not believe in the current system. "With each passing day, I have more nagging doubt about our entire criminal justice system," he said. "If we can't repair it, we should repeal it."

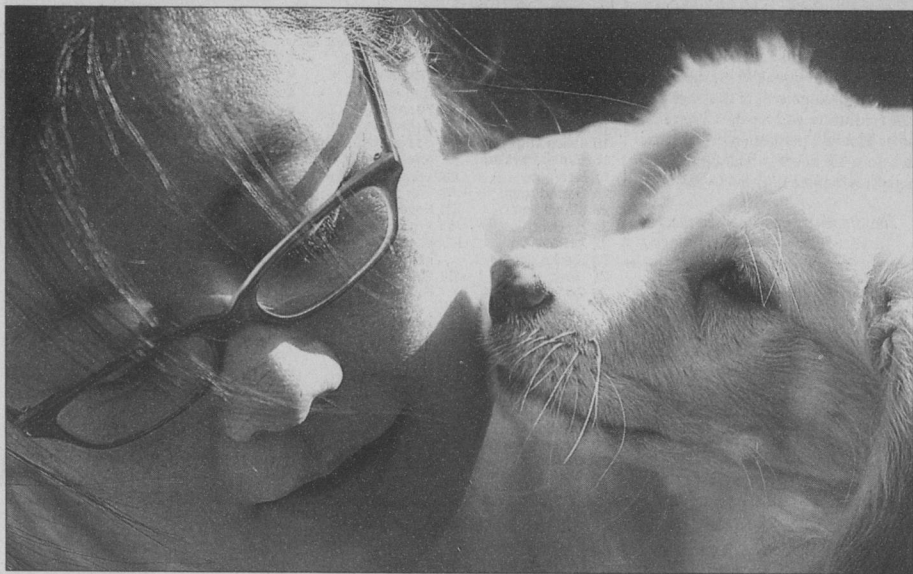
Tyson Baber, a first-year law student and a participant in the school's Innocence Program, said he admired

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Illinois Gov. George Ryan addresses a UNC School of Law audience Thursday afternoon about capital punishment and fairness.

PUPPY LOVE



Melody Ko, a second-year graduate student in journalism, gets a kiss from her dog, Omo, on Thursday. Omo, who Ko believes is a border collie and retriever mix, is between 12 weeks and 14 weeks old and came from the Wake County Animal Shelter. A WRAL TV program about pet adoption featured Omo's sister.

Safe Escort Funding in Jeopardy

By VANESSA CAPOBIANCO
Staff Writer

Students wait up to 30 minutes for a ride. Unpaid bills sit in the student government office. And an unapproved golf cart sits in the middle of the courtyard.

SAFE Escort, an organization that gives students rides across campus at night, has been under scrutiny for several months because of corruption in former leaders and inefficient bookkeeping.

SAFE Escort has removed those leaders, but their effects have put SAFE Escort's funding and future in jeopardy.

Of the problems SAFE Escort faced last semester, the most controversial involved leaders who used the organization's funding to fill their personal vehicles with gas.

Assistant Student Body Treasurer Alexa Kleysteuber said SAFE Escort has several outstanding bills that have yet to be paid. Also, a new golf cart was purchased without approval, and funding will not be given to pay for it, she said.

That cart sits unused while another doesn't run, leaving SAFE Escort with one usable cart.

But now, backed by new officers, SAFE Escort has been pleading its case to the Student Safety and Security Committee of student government, which will ultimately decide its fate.

"With the new officers of our organization, we have established a far more stable group, withstanding obstacles and promoting safety on this campus," said Emily Crespo, a student driver for SAFE Escort.

But recent misunderstandings between SAFE Escort and student government about future funding have led to several heated exchanges during committee meetings.

SAFE Escort officers say they have been under the impres-



SAFE Escort driver Mark Postlethwaite (left) drives sophomore Emily Hooper home Wednesday.

sion that their funding could be eliminated, but student government officers say they want to reallocate funding the program receives from the safety and security fee and to clarify accounting discrepancies.

SAFE Escort has been receiving funding this semester, but the committee is looking into freezing allocations or reworking the allotment of money it receives for the spring semester.

Funding for SAFE Escort comes from the safety and security fee that all University students pay. The fee is completely separate from the Student Activities Funds Office.

Seventy-six percent of the fee, which equals about \$30,000, goes to SAFE Escort. The money is used to fill up the carts with gas, pay officers and drivers and maintain the carts.

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Special Election Slated to Fill Seats

By BRIAN HUDSON
Staff Writer

With five empty seats remaining in Student Congress, some students on campus still are left without a legislative voice.

A special election will be held Nov. 19 to fill District 5, a graduate student seat, and districts 17, 18, 20 and 21, which are all off-campus seats.

Student Body President Jen Daum said the districts became empty for different reasons.

"People move out of the districts, resign due to personal reasons, or they decide not to take the seat (after being elected)," she said.

The last special election, held Sept. 24, left two seats vacant. Last month, Matt O'Brien, the former speaker pro tem, resigned after moving out of his district.

Student government officials said they have been working hard to advertise the open positions to attract poten-

tial leaders. Speaker Tony Larson e-mailed more than 100 student leaders to inform them of the open seats.

"We've done what we can," Daum said. "I believe all seats will be filled in the next special election."

Larson said Congress still is doing a good job of representing the student body, even with the empty seats. "Right now, we're not having trouble functioning with just five districts open," he said.

Daum said she is looking forward to the empty seats being filled.

"A full Congress is representative of the student body as a whole, so hopefully we'll fill the seats," she said.

Daum said that although Congress has been working hard, she thinks that a full legislature carries more weight. "Our decisions don't have as much voice as they would if we had a full Congress."

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Broadway Great to Perform For Memorial Hall Campaign

Composer, alumnus to return for benefit

By CAROLINE LINDSEY
Staff Writer

When Richard Adler graduated from UNC in 1943, the campus lost a gifted writer who generously donated his time and talent to the arts.

Now, with decades of Broadway success under his belt, Adler has found a way to give back to the University he still loves.

He will present "An Evening With Richard Adler" at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Morehead Building banquet hall. The show is a fund-raiser for the Memorial Hall Transformation Campaign.

Adler, 81, said he will perform popular songs from his musicals and talk about the composing processes through storytelling, audio and video.

He is famous for co-writing the 1954 Broadway musical "Pajama Game" with the late Jerry Ross. Well-known songs Adler wrote include "Rags to Riches," "Hey There" and "Whatever Lola Wants."

During the 1960s, Adler was an arts consultant to the White House - he arranged Marilyn Monroe's iconic performance of "Happy Birthday" for President Kennedy in 1962.

This year, Adler received the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers' Richard Rodgers Award for lifetime achievement.

Though his work on Broadway has led him far and wide, Adler said returning to his alma mater is always exciting. "I love coming back to Chapel Hill, and I come as often as I can," he said.

His interest in attending UNC was first sparked when he read Thomas Wolfe's "Look Homeward, Angel" as a teenager.

Adler said that as a student, he participated in theater and wrote a column for The Daily Tar Heel. He also wrote a letter to then-U.S. poet laureate Robert Frost and single-handedly recruited him to visit the University to recite his poems.

Today, Adler still is trying to make the University a better place. Adler, who is the honorary co-chairman of the transformation campaign, said he was

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Raising a Department at UNC

Crowe in at birth of policy department

By LAUREN RIPPEY
Senior Writer

Despite all of her hard work and her successes, Asta Crowe would be quick to argue with anyone who praised her. "I do what I do because I enjoy it," she said.

"I have plenty to keep me busy."

As the student services and administrative manager for the Department of Public Policy, Crowe manages the daily operations of the department.

Colleagues consider Crowe, who has been with the department from the beginning, invaluable for her dedication and her expertise.

Crowe said her responsibilities, among other duties, include maintaining student records, managing gradu-

ate applications to doctoral programs, supervising the administration of faculty searches, advising undergraduates and helping with the Public Policy Majors Union.

After graduating from a business college in Oxford, Crowe came to visit UNC - where she met her future husband - and has been involved in the campus community ever since.

While she was raising her children, Crowe said, she worked part-time as a research assistant in Chapel Hill.

She then spent five years working with students as the assistant coordinator for the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program.

"I was able to help international students learn the campus, deal with housing and even show them how to grocery shop," Crowe said.

"When you try to take a male from Bangladesh - who has never even been in a kitchen - to an American grocery store, it's an interesting experience."

In 1991, Crowe began her job with the public policy department, and she has been an integral part of its development and growth.

"It's been very exciting to see us grow," she said.

"We started with 32 students in the undergraduate program, and now we have approximately 120 undergraduates and 20 graduate students."

Crowe humbly credits the department's success to all of her co-workers. "We have a wonderful staff who are tremendously supportive," she said. "I would have to give them kudos."

But Crowe's co-workers are quick to compliment her.

Krista Perreira, professor of public policy, said Crowe is particularly helpful in aiding new faculty.

"I've only been in the department for one year, but Asta has been tremendous," Perreira said.

"She helped make this program accessible to faculty by showing us

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Asta Crowe, who joined the University's Department of Public Policy in 1991, has been an integral part of its development and growth.