

# Ballantine, Easley keep sniping

*Spar over issues during last debate*

BY ERIN GIBSON  
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

RALEIGH — The bickering continued Friday during the final debate before Election Day between Democratic Gov. Mike Easley and his Republican challenger, former state Sen. Patrick Ballantine.

Kerry takes a slight hint of momentum after debate PAGE 5

The two candidates and moderator David Crabtree. Crabtree asked a series of questions on the budget, taxes and immigration, as well as some suggested by voters.

Both candidates said they were more effective in balancing the budget than the other, citing examples from their terms in office.

Easley said he worked to reduce the state's large deficits while Ballantine spent his time in the legislature voting against many of those plans.

"It's hard balancing a budget after someone like Patrick blew a hole in it," Easley said.

But Ballantine said he and his party were responsible for the budgets and actually balanced them

while voting to raise teacher salaries to the national level.

Ballantine and Easley also differed on the topic of taxes. The governor said he decreased income taxes for people and temporarily raised the sales tax to recover from the deficit, but Ballantine disagreed.

"Look at Easley's record," he said. "Easley raised taxes three times."

Both candidates agreed about the need to halt the state's surge in illegal immigration.

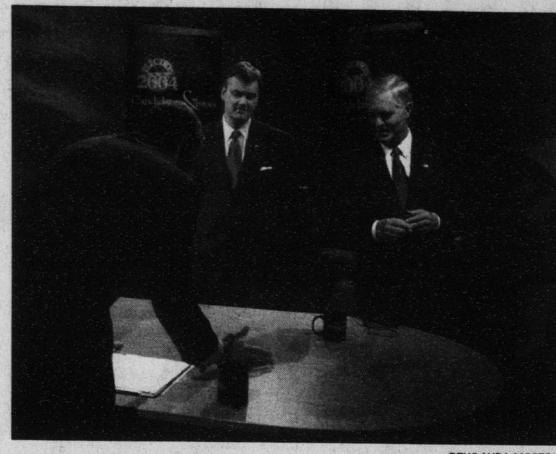
But Ballantine said Easley has not done enough to make sure illegal immigrants are not coming to North Carolina and getting identification.

He said the state should require more documentation, including a Social Security card, before issuing an identification card — especially in light of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"He blames me for 9-11 now," Easley retorted, adding that he is limited by federal regulations in taking action against illegal immigration.

While the first debate was devoted solely to education, the topic did come up again during the second debate. Easley again plugged for a state education lottery, and Ballantine again said it's not a good plan.

"He wants a lottery trust fund, but you can't trust him," Ballantine said, adding that Easley wiped out trust funds and used the money in areas



David Crabtree shows the results of a coin toss deciding who will start Friday's debate between Gov. Mike Easley and challenger Patrick Ballantine.

for which it was not designated.

But the governor denied the misuse of funds and said he did not clear out any trust funds. "You can go to the budget office Web site ... to get the state's tax rates and see mine are right, his are wrong," he said after the debate.

Since some voters expressed concern about the candidates' behavior after the first debate earlier this month, Crabtree asked both men to say two nice things about each other.

After almost a full hour of neg-

ativity, the pair was hard-pressed to come up with two positive comments.

But finally, Ballantine commended Easley on his clemency decisions, and Easley thanked Ballantine for his support concerning teacher pay several years ago.

And both men, following the example set by presidential candidates during debates, said they like each other's wives.

Contact the State & National Editor at [stndesk@unc.edu](mailto:stndesk@unc.edu).

# Tilley, 58, Union finance manager

BY JOHN RAMSEY

STAFF WRITER

Glenda Sykes Tilley, finance and personnel manager at the Student Union, died Tuesday at Duke University Medical Center. She was 58.

Tilley worked in the Union for 30 years. Before becoming manager, Tilley worked in the Student Activities Fund Office.

"Glenda gave her whole career to UNC because she loved it," said Deborah Horne, director of the office. "Carolina was her family."

Tilley continued to work even after she became eligible for retirement, and she seemed to be friends with everyone, Horne said.

"You could not walk across cam-



Friends said UNC employee Glenda Sykes Tilley had a unique dedication to the University.

pus with her without being stopped by everyone," said Don Luse, director of the Union. "And if you ever needed anything, Glenda knew who to talk to."

Tilley was known to take Saturday shopping trips from sunrise to sunset.

"She always looked like she stepped out of a page in Cosmopolitan," Horne said.

Family and co-workers lauded Tilley's reliability and her sense of humor.

"I think if you could sum Glenda up in one sentence, you'd never met her," said Michael Vollmer, accounting technician at the office.

Tilley was never above having

some fun and always wore a costume to work on Halloween.

"Every year, students would come to the office to see what she dressed as," Horne said. "And she would always have trick-or-treat candy for them."

Tilley's colleagues also remembered one story in particular that exemplified her fun-loving nature.

"We had a lengthy meeting and pretended to have an argument," Horne said. "I stormed into my office and slammed the door, and she followed me in like she was going to chew me out. Everyone in the office thought she was mad, but I couldn't keep a straight face."

Tilley graduated from Chapel Hill High School in 1963.

The funeral was held Friday morning at Antioch Baptist Church. Union offices closed Friday afternoon in memory of Tilley.

Tilley is survived by her husband of 40 years, Mack Tilley; her son, Greg, 39; and two grandchildren.

After the speeches, participants attended two of many smaller sessions. The sessions focused on a variety of topics, ranging from parent-teacher conferences to bullying and gangs to school nutrition.

# School board takes aim at inequities

*Sessions focus on minority success*

BY TED STRONG

STAFF WRITER

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education sponsored its third annual Summit on Equity and Excellence on Saturday.

The summit addressed the differences in academic performance among ethnic groups.

This year's report's differences in the number of minorities having to re-test on end-of-grade tests and in performance on the Scholastic Aptitude Test are recent signs that have called attention to an achievement gap.

Neil Pedersen, district superintendent, gave a speech Saturday on problems in today's school system and outlined the district's approaches to dealing with them.

Problems included "re-segregation" — a situation in which students socialize only with others of their own race — unequal access to period zero early morning classes and an overabundance of white students in upper-level classes.

"Students can't learn when they're feeling racially isolated," he said.

The district's solutions have included creating equity teams in each school and clustering non-white students into classes together, rather than randomly dispersing them through all available sections of the course.

Many theories exist about the origins of the achievement gap. Pedersen said it is the product of a multitude of factors.

"I think no one really knows the cause of the gap," said Marny Ruben, assistant principal at Seawell Elementary School. "In our school, I think the gap is closing, but I still think we have a lot of work to do."

After the speeches, participants attended two of many smaller sessions. The sessions focused on a variety of topics, ranging from parent-teacher conferences to bullying and gangs to school nutrition.

Presenters included a police offi-

cer, a pastor, administrators, teachers and parents.

There were also booths from various local organizations providing information throughout the forum. The groups included Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina, the YMCA, the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Pines of North Carolina Girl Scout Council, the Orange County Health Department and the Orange County Rape Crisis Center.

Parent Carleton Hilliard, who has four boys enrolled in the district, said he came for a variety of reasons and felt he had accomplished a lot in coming.

Hilliard said he especially liked the session on involving adult men in the education process.

Parent Froyd Nonaseo said he went by to get information on the school. He said that if there were another summit next year, he would attend.

Another parent, Adrianna Herrera, was at the school looking for information on the academically gifted program and for ideas for emphasizing math to her child.

Although Saturday was considered a success, most said there was still much to do.

"I believe we've made significant progress over the last 10 years but that we can't rest until the gap is completely closed," Pedersen said. "It really is a community effort that will help us achieve our goals."

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