

BOARD EDITORIALS

KINNAIRD FOR SENATE

Despite her faults, Ellie Kinnaird's ability to speak out strongly for her beliefs and her detailed ideas make her deserving of re-election.

The N.C. Senate race for the District 23 seat has presented voters with two candidates, incumbent Ellie Kinnaird and challenger Robert Whitfield, with substantially different philosophies. The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board endorses Kinnaird — with some notable reservations.

Her experience and strong support for education, health care, the environment, a death penalty moratorium and other initiatives help to make her the best candidate for the job.

She is very opinionated, even when compared to her fellow politicians in Raleigh, and she has made almost every effort to back up her views when sponsoring or discussing bills in the state Senate.

Both Kinnaird and Whitfield support the strengthening of the state's community college system to train North Carolinians to adapt to a changing workforce. But on the whole, Kinnaird's education policies have the funding plans to back them up.

Whitfield's fiscal prescription for North Carolina — cutting various taxes and not creating new ones — isn't a good idea for a state that still is trying to find its way out of deep fiscal deficits. Tax cuts at this time could very well create brand new financial problems for state legislators to struggle with, and they could imperil government services on which North Carolinians rely.

Kinnaird's pro-tax mind-set might not be popular, but it is responsible — and her tax proposals are by no means haphazard. For example, she supports a proposed 75-cent cigarette tax.

Seeing as how the U.S. Congress just passed legislation including provisions for a tobacco quota buy-out, it seems to be the most opportune time for N.C. lawmakers to tap into this revenue source.

Also, Whitfield's claim that there are too many environmental regulations in place that hinder businesses is somewhat disquieting, especially as he gives little support for his assertions. Environmental regulations are in place to protect the resources that

North Carolinians need and the land that surrounds them — eliminating or diminishing the power of environmental guidelines isn't the answer.

Kinnaird has shown a much greater tendency to look out for the environment.

But she hasn't displayed as reasonable a stance when it comes to bringing in business. Kinnaird is not a fan of state lawmakers offering tax incentives to companies that are thinking about establishing new operations somewhere in North Carolina. She makes a strong point that improved educational opportunities both will help workers and will attract companies to the state.

But in the short term, the state needs more jobs. Corporate welfare might be disagreeable to some lawmakers, but they should consider it a necessary evil.

If they don't use business-friendly tools to attract companies, certain communities — and the entire state's economy — will suffer because of the lost opportunity for more jobs.

Like Kinnaird, Whitfield stays true to his convictions — he is a passionate conservative with deeply religious beliefs. And he has exhibited a great willingness to listen to people who don't share his views and to compromise.

Kinnaird should be careful to avoid a hometown bias.

Although the residents of Chapel Hill and Carrboro combined make up a large portion of the district's population, there are many thousands of constituents in her district who live outside the two towns. If she is re-elected, Kinnaird should work to show a greater commitment to the people of northern Orange County and Person County.

Both candidates have significant pluses and minuses.

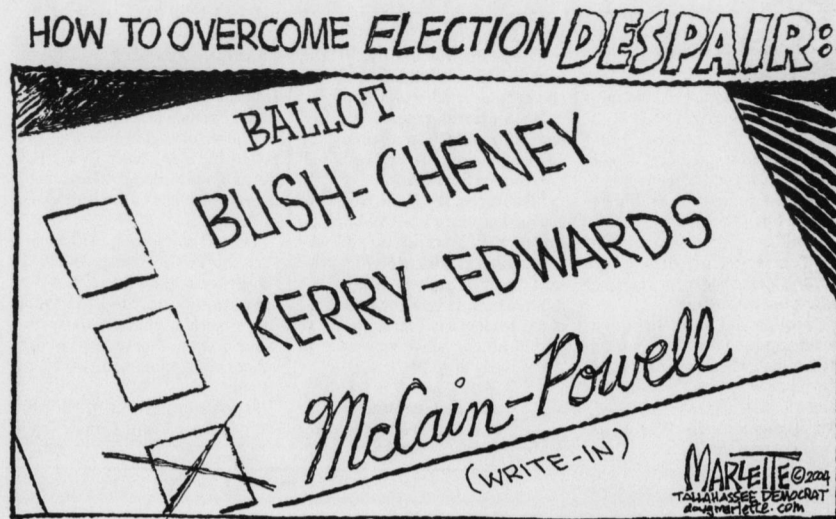
But in the end, Kinnaird's experience and her more detailed plans regarding some of the district's most important issues render her the best choice.

ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"Legislators represent people, not trees or acres. Legislators are elected by voters, not farms or cities or economic interests."

EARL WARREN, FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

EDITORIAL CARTOON



COMMENTARY

Election worries might lead to post-Halloween frights

Today might be the scariest day of the year. It's been 28 years since we had but a single day wedged between Halloween and a presidential election day.

I don't know about you, but I'm a bit frightened. We've been primed to fear quite a lot lately, with campaign attack ads, the latest Bin Laden videotape, and fendish costumes parading on Franklin Street.

In his first inaugural address, President Franklin Roosevelt cast a few famous words in this direction: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Roosevelt meant well. Actually, what he meant to do was to rally Americans to overcome the sorrows of the Great Depression and Herbert Hoover's botched economic policies. Still, I think he got it wrong about fear.

There are some things that we ought to fear. That's why we teach toddlers not to grab red-hot burners on the stove and try to convince these same kids not to drive drunk 15 years later. A healthy dose of fear at times can do some good.

So what am I worried about today? I'm worried about what tricks or treats might lie in store for tomorrow's election. The history of suffrage in the United States once appeared to me to be a veritable march of progress: from a privilege granted to land-holding elites to the post-Civil War extensions to all men voting, regardless of race. The 1920 ratification of the 19th Amendment finally granted women across the country the right to cast their ballots, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 helped defend against continued racial discrimination.

That laudable, if slow, progression stumbled when the rancorous mess spilled across Florida in November 2000. Thousands of ballots were discounted in Florida four years ago, a fact that made



DAVID HAVLICK
OVER THE HILL

George W. Bush's final 537-vote victory margin in that state all the more questionable in the eyes of many observers.

What many of us never heard much about, however, was that Florida was the rule, not the exception. Lewis Pitts, head of North Carolina's Academy of Trial Lawyers' civil rights section, told The (Raleigh) News & Observer that more than 100,000 votes for president in 2000 were thrown out because of voting system problems.

Not surprisingly, battles have been raging in federal courts for months now to determine just whose ballots should count in this year's election. Last week, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals effectively ruled that provisional ballots in Ohio and Michigan marked by voters in the wrong precinct — but cast in the right city by eligible citizens — could not be counted. One person, one vote? Not if you move across town and forget to update your registration.

A spokeswoman for Michigan's secretary of state, a Republican, defended the ruling by noting, "It's a relief that we don't have to implement new procedures just before the election." Regardless of party affiliation, we should find it troubling at the very least to consider that tens of thousands of our fellow U.S. citizens might lose their electoral voice due to what amounts to clerical inconvenience — which has been anticipated for several years. In comparison,

states such as Minnesota and Wisconsin offer election-day voter registration, and North Dakota doesn't even have voter registration. These systems have problems as well, but it shouldn't be that tough to assure that citizens' votes get counted fairly.

Disenfranchisement is but one of a number of concerns that might haunt Election Day 2004. The conversion in many states to paperless, touch-screen voting could wreak havoc if the results are close. In the critical swing state of Ohio, Republicans have challenged 35,000 voters for alleged improprieties with their new registrations.

In other words, this Halloween season could bring plenty more trickery our way. The treats? Anyone who witnessed the surge of early voters to locations across North Carolina couldn't possibly help but feel inspired. Election officials estimate that about 30 percent of the total number of registered voters in both Durham and Orange counties have already voted.

For those who go to the polls Tuesday, there will be more than 1,000 official observers from the U.S. Department of Justice, along with tens of thousands of trained citizen volunteers across the country working to keep the election safe and fair. If you encounter any problems directly, you can call voter hotlines such as 1-866-OURVOTE.

For what it's worth, the last time we had a presidential election this close to Halloween, an incumbent Republican president who had not been duly elected to office went down in defeat. Jimmy Carter ousted Gerald Ford 297 to 240 in the final electoral college tally.

Contact David Havlick
at havlick@email.unc.edu.

FRANKLIN AND CAREY

Moses Carey's experience and Artie Franklin's ideas for restructuring the Orange County Board of Commissioners' makeup fit the county.

Artie Franklin, Libertarian candidate for Orange County commissioner, is a potential ally of students and rural county voters, and he could prove helpful in remedying unnecessary difficulties for student voters.

He's an underdog — but he's also a serious candidate with good ideas, and voters should consider breaking with the straight ticket to support him on the ballot. His knowledge of county issues and the relevant background is extensive and impressive.

The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board endorses Franklin and incumbent Moses Carey for the two open seats on the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

Carey, who has served on the board since 1984, brings an invaluable amount of experience and a strong record to the table. He knows the county and the issues that it is facing.

Although Carey's pursuit of a merger of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City and Orange County schools has been somewhat reckless at times, he has legitimate concerns about the discrepancy of funding between the systems: City schools receive about \$1,100 more funding per pupil than schools in the county system. Furthermore, Carey has softened his rhetoric and has shown that he is willing to work toward a compromise to equalize funding.

Franklin has run a campaign consistent with the theme of bringing in different perspectives, and his two major platform planks reflect that priority. He wants to bring in the views of rural county residents.

He also seeks to hold a referendum on a potential merger to ensure that any decision reflects the interests of residents and not just the perspectives of commissioners.

In order to diversify the perspectives commissioners bring to the board, Franklin also plans to work toward representation reform. Orange County voters

currently elect all five commissioners at large — a setup that can effectively drown out the voices of people who live outside of Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

Because 55 percent of the county's population is composed of Chapel Hill and Carrboro residents, the towns tend to dominate discussion that should relate to the entire county. Franklin promises to work to set up a districting system that would guarantee rural residents control of at least one seat on the board.

And Franklin's plans for reforming representation make him a potential ally for students interested in making voting easier on campus. Although he said he was unaware of efforts to create a consolidated campus precinct, he expressed a willingness to help students reach that goal.

UNC's campus is split into six polling precincts. The different polling sites — most of which are off campus — leave many students confused as to where they should go to cast their ballots.

The precinct setup is a cumbersome system that doesn't make sense — and it's one that Franklin might be able to help fix. He said students make a logical constituency in need of its own polling places.

This election features four strong candidates. Valerie Foushee, who opposes a merger, arguably has the education ideas — she came up through the local school system, further solidifying her perspective.

Jamie Daniel, another merger opponent, has expressed interesting ideas about dealing with prospective companies, increasing broadband support in the county and funding the local rescue squad.

It's because of Franklin's spirit of inclusion that voters should pick him in the election.

He would leave the merger decision up to voters, and he would reach out to all county residents.

At the same time, despite his merger stance, Moses Carey's expertise is too great for voters to ignore.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above editorials are the opinions of solely The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board, and were reached after open debate. The board consists of six board members, the editorial page associate editor, the editorial page editor and the DTH editor. The 2004-05 DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials.

READERS' FORUM

University is threatening AIO's evangelical mission

TO THE EDITOR:

It's true that this great university is a place of diversity and acceptance, and it should and will remain that way in many respects — but the situation surrounding Alpha Iota Omega, the three-member Christian fraternity, should be reconsidered.

Like all fraternities and Christian fellowships, brotherhood is a core characteristic.

With their strong evangelical mission in mind, the brothers of AIO wish to use personal strengths and group strengths to lead others to Christ.

As a group, they wouldn't have the same strength if they were unable to share the same religious foundation.

This type of foundation is new to the variety of fraternities and sororities that currently enrich our campus.

Current foundations, based on a specific interest, range from a particular philanthropy to an ethnic group.

Unlike other areas, I personally believe it is very difficult to share any religion with people of different beliefs unless you are strong in your own faith.

For example, as an Asian-American Christian, I feel that I can bring awareness to the oppressed minority groups in Sudan or the struggles of a single

Hispanic mother, but I would be unable to properly share with another about the intricacies of Buddhism.

In the case of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, UNC's administration allowed the group to choose their leaders, the people responsible for spreading the word.

This case should be an example for the AIO case because all initiated brothers will be sharing God's words on campus, which sets them apart as leaders.

Events held by AIO, like the ones held by InterVarsity, would be open to everyone without any discrimination — in fact, people of all walks of life would be encouraged to attend.

But all members of AIO serve as leaders. Without the freedom of choice in selecting the hosts for these events, Alpha Iota Omega's evangelical mission is severely threatened.

Columnist used a racial slur that is based on stereotype

TO THE EDITOR:

I usually enjoy Meg Austin's columns, but her last column ("Halloween on Franklin Street would be great campaign stop") was shameful. I can't believe The Daily Tar Heel decided to print

such a racial slur — "Bangkok ladies?"

I am from Bangkok — I have lived there for most of my life — so I'm well aware of the Asian stereotypes that some people like Meg Austin just love to roll off their tongues, or in this case, their pen.

I assume that she's talking about the illegal prostitution industry in Bangkok, where young girls are often kidnapped or forced into sexual slavery.

It survives through corruption and powerful crime bosses — the "Bangkok ladies" stereotype is spread through movies and people such as Meg Austin.

Thanks for making me think twice before I can tell people where I'm from.

Thanks for making Thai and international students feel that much more alienated.

Jinda Wedel
Junior
English

Students can do something about land-mine concerns

TO THE EDITOR:

Although broken brick paths make walking around campus a daily hazard, it is not likely that you worry about stepping on a land mine while on your way to class.

For more than 80 countries worldwide — from Angola to Bosnia

to Iraq — the horrible remnants of war are a dangerous reality.

Land mines are relatively cheap to produce — as little as \$3 apiece. But they can cost thousands of dollars to remove, dollars that war-torn countries do not have.

As a result, every 22 minutes an innocent man, woman or child loses a leg, an arm or their life to a land mine.

What can you do? In January, buy a ticket to attend the Night of a Thousand Dinners, an evening of food and entertainment sponsored by Project Landmine, a Campus Y special project.

One hundred percent of ticket sales will go to land-mine clean-up efforts overseas.

But don't wait until January to do something about land mines. You can visit <http://www.banminesusa.org/petition/sign.html>.

The United States is the only industrial country besides Russia that has not yet signed the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty.

Sign your name to the petition that will be presented to the president within the first months of the new term.

Enjoy your walk to class.

Rebecca Rolfe
Member
Project Landmine

Manisha Panjwani
President
Project Landmine

Attention

The Daily Tar Heel is soliciting letters of endorsement for candidates in the local, state and presidential elections. A selection of these letters will be printed Tuesday.

Although the presidential race is garnering the most prominent headlines, readers are advised to contemplate all contests that pertain to local and state residents and UNC students. Submissions concerning local and state races will be given just as much consideration as presidential endorsements.

The same rules that apply to regular letters to the editor will apply to endorsements. Publication won't be guaranteed, and the DTH reserves the right to edit submitted material for space, clarity and vulgarity.

Writers should e-mail their letters to editdesk@unc.edu or deliver them today to the DTH front office in Suite 2409 of the Student Union.

TO SUBMIT A LETTER: The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 300 words and must be typed, double-spaced, dated and signed by no more than two people. Students should include their year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff should include their title, department and phone number. The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Publication is not guaranteed. Bring letters to the DTH office at Suite 2409, Carolina Union, mail them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 or e-mail them to editdesk@unc.edu.

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