

Ballard garners 1st backing

Responsibility, organics win out

BY GREG STEEN
STAFF WRITER

Pledging to regulate energy consumption and increase the availability of organic food on campus, student body president candidate Seke Ballard brought home his first endorsement of the 2005 election Tuesday night.

The Student Environmental Action Coalition threw its support behind Ballard after questioning the four candidates about campus environmental policies.

Candidates discussed their most pressing concerns, their experiences with environmental issues and the possibility of including environmental positions in their administrations. They also gave their opinions about campus eateries such as Subway and Burger King.

Questions swung back and forth like a pendulum, with Ballard and Seth Dearmin fielding questions first.

"At the risk of losing popularity, I want to make students accountable for the resources they use," Ballard said during introductory remarks.

He said he will accomplish this feat by installing power meters in every residence hall so students can be charged for the power they

consume. His plans also call for connecting computer labs to the Pharos system — a computer program used to tally the amount of printer paper used by an individual. After users exceeded the allowed number of free pages, they would be charged a fee.

He also said his plans would need to be taken up by future administrations.

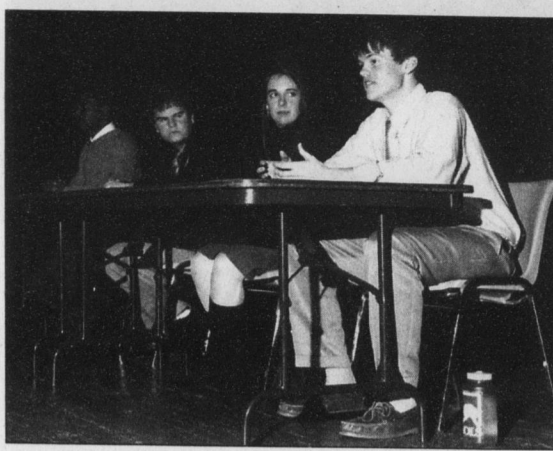
Tom Jensen, who served as chairman of Students for a Progressive Chapel Hill, said his main concerns focus on the availability of organic foods on campus and on plans for Carolina North, the University's proposed mixed-use research park.

Jensen said the 20,000 parking spaces planned for Carolina North would be "abominable." He said there are other transportation options for the University community, such as biking or using public transportation, that would reduce the number of parking spaces needed.

"Environmental responsibility is being willing to sacrifice comfort for the good of your environment," Jensen said.

Dearmin launched full force into a catalogue of his credentials as an environmentally friendly candidate. These include becoming an Eagle Scout, taking a conservation trip to Alaska and participating in numerous other outdoor activities.

Dearmin said his primary



DTH/MIKE RAABE
Seke Ballard (left) listens to Seth Dearmin (right) debate a point at a student body president candidates' environmental forum Tuesday.

concerns included the declining amount of green space on campus. To attack this problem, Dearmin helped create an initiative called "Pick-up Trash."

Candidate Leigha Blackwell said that despite her lack of prior environmental experience, she has worked to educate herself. She proposed an addition of bike lanes on campus, where congestion is often aggravated by cyclists.

Audience members drilled the candidates and asked questions,

such as "How do you define environmental responsibility?" and "What will you do about lights being left on at night all over campus?"

Dearmin got the only laugh of the night when, after the others had given long responses to the question regarding light usage at night, he said, "We just have to cut the freaking lights off."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

POLICE LOG

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ A UNC graduate student was the victim of breaking and entering at 8:09 p.m. Monday at her home on North Columbia Street, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, an unknown suspect entered the house by pulling an air conditioning unit out from the outer house window and stole more than \$15,000 in property.

The items taken included a \$9,500 18-karat gold engagement ring, a \$3,300 Sony VAIO laptop and a \$600 camera.

Other items taken from the home include a camera case, 20 rolls of film, a bicycle, a combination radio and CD player, a pair of pearl earrings, a pair of diamond earrings, three watches and an undisclosed amount of cash, reports state.

■ The Kangaroo Express convenience store, located at 1501 E. Franklin St., was the victim of larceny at 12:33 a.m. Monday, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, an unknown suspect entered the store and stole three cartons of Newport cigarettes, valued together at \$75.

The suspect was driving a white 1999 Plymouth Breeze, reports state.

■ Three restricted complainants were the victims of larceny at 6:25 a.m. Sunday, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, three

restricted victims had more than \$550 in property stolen from their residence on Chesley Lane in Chapel Hill while having a party.

Computer hardware and software, the movie "Friday Night Lights," an air mattress, a Swiss Army knife, camera and optical equipment and \$100 in cash were items taken from the home, according to reports.

There was no forcible entry, reports state.

■ William Andrew Taylor, also known as "Polar Bear," was arrested Monday on one misdemeanor count of littering, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, Taylor was arrested at 4:36 p.m. after throwing a trash bag at a police car.

Taylor later was brought before the magistrate and was released on a written promise to appear March 28 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ An 18-year-old Carrboro man was the victim of larceny from a vehicle at 2:42 a.m. Monday, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, an unknown suspect took three tires, valued together at \$75, from a blue 1993 Ford Escort GT in the Eubanks Road park-and-ride lot.

Reports state that the suspect left the car sitting on cement blocks.

Aldermen OK planning changes

BY MEGHAN DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Following the lead of Chapel Hill, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen approved two resolutions Tuesday that will change the course of town development by increasing the board's involvement.

The first resolution aims to ensure that 15 percent of each new housing development proposal will be designated for affordable housing units.

If developers do not meet this goal, they must attend a quarterly meeting with the board for discussion. "This is a carrot-and-stick proposal," said Mayor Mike Nelson.

The second resolution will give the aldermen authority of optional

review before the submission of formal development applications.

The affordable housing resolution garnered significantly more discussion Tuesday.

Alderman Diana McDuffee compared the system to one currently used in Chapel Hill. "I think that everyone on this board right now wants to see more affordable housing," she said.

Carrboro Vision 2020, the town's plan for development, stipulates that 15 percent of residential units in each housing development should meet affordability standards.

Households earning below 80 percent of the median county

income — \$69,800 for a family of four during 2004 — are eligible for affordable housing, according to the Orange Community Housing and Land Trust.

The new resolution was designed by town staff after a November proposal by Alderman Alex Zaffron.

The aldermen expressed several concerns with the process Zaffron first proposed. Members said his two-list system, which gives priority to all affordable housing before considering other units, raises legal and practical issues.

"You would create a de facto dock from which these projects may never leave," said Town Attorney Mike Brough.

Zaffron is pleased with the staff proposal for handling developers who don't meet the affordability quota. "I think you guys have come up with an innovative way to skin this cat."

The second resolution passed Tuesday formalizes a seldom-used step in development planning: asking the aldermen to review projects before they are formally submitted.

Alderman Jackie Gist said that such meetings could eliminate the need for affordable housing meetings and end public misconception about the development process.

"This does away with public perception of any behind the scenes, 'good old boy' meetings with developers," Gist said.

After Main Street Properties LLC submitted a tentative plan for renovating 300 E. Main St. to the aldermen for informal feedback in January, the board asked that the step be added to the official permit application process.

The aldermen will further discuss affordable housing at this month's retreat.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Author schools campus on effects of oil spills

BY ARLEY WOLBER
STAFF WRITER

For those who think they know everything about the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Riki Ott would beg to differ.

Ott, who has a doctorate degree in marine toxicology and is a long-time resident of Cordova, Ala., delivered a highly detailed speech promoting her new book Tuesday evening in Murphey Hall.

Ott said the book, "Sound Truth & Corporate Myth: The Legacy of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill" is a departure from previous works in that it attempts to appeal both to the average reader and to those trying to use the information scientifically.

The presentation was coordinated by the Carolina Union Activities Board through its Forum Committee Chairman Thompson Paine.

Paine said CUAB had not sponsored a speaker like Ott so far this year and wanted to provide the student body with a little more variety.

Ott used an elaborate PowerPoint presentation peppered with personal photos to elucidate her main points about the oil spill and its aftermath.

The presentation highlighted many points regarding the oil spill of which the majority of the public is not aware.

Ott said that more than half of Exxon workers involved with the

cleanup developed respiratory problems and that Exxon paid workers to sign waivers freeing the oil giant of liability for subsequent health problems.

Ott also pointed out that animals are still dying in Alaska's Prince William Sound today, more than 15 years after the initial spill.

Ott concluded the presentation with a diagram showing the average person what he or she could do to help decrease the nation's dependency on nonrenewable resources such as oil.

"The most important thing is to become energy literate," she said.

Ott said that the first thing people should realize is what type of energy they are using and from where it is coming.

She then said people need to think about the costs of their actions.

She reminded audience members that they must think about the wastes inherent in their everyday routines and that they should find out what their alternatives are.

Freshman Kian Kamyab said much of the information in the session was not surprising, but it was interesting.

"It was good to hear from someone with a local tie to the area."

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

Dining Days Giveaway

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR WINNERS!

Jacklyn Gilstrap
100 FLEX DOLLARS

Bo Caudill
FREE MEAL PLAN

Blair Wrangham
100 FLEX DOLLARS

Every student that signed up for a spring semester meal plan was entered to win one of five prizes. Four students won 100 FLEX DOLLARS and one student was awarded with a grand prize FREE MEAL PLAN!

Not Pictured: Eisha Wolf and Laura Trompack

THE DINING STYLES SURVEY

WITH AmericanAirlines

Every university community member that filled out an online customer survey in the fall was entered to win a FREE ROUNDTRIP TICKET on American Airlines anywhere within the domestic United States. Congratulations to Brandon Mitchell!

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