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Lottery bill narrowly passes House

"We're probably worse off. For us to pretend we're doing this for the little children, it's just fooling ourselves."



BY ERIN FRANCE
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — House Speaker Jim Black fell short of guessing the winning numbers for Wednesday's vote on a lottery to support education.

"I told (U.S. Rep.) David Price yesterday — 62 to 58," Black said during a press conference after the vote.

The bill actually passed 61-59. But despite his unlucky numbers, Black said he was pleased with the outcome.

"It was a major victory," he said.

The money from the lottery will help decrease class sizes in public schools by constructing more buildings, a move Gov. Mike Easley has been pushing for since his election in 2000.

Black said funds from the lottery would go toward improvements in all North Carolina counties.

"The counties will not have to raise taxes to build schools," he said.

School construction would constitute 50 percent of the lottery revenue, while 25 percent would fund need-based scholar-

ships for higher education and 25 percent would fund programs including Easley's More at Four pre-kindergarten initiative.

But the bill does not do much to relieve the pressure of the state's \$1.3 billion deficit this year, Black said.

No one is quite sure how long it will take for lottery revenue to start coming in, but Black estimated that the lottery could be in place six months after the bill becomes law.

The much-contested bill now will head to the Senate, where a lottery was

met favorably when it was up for a vote more than 12 years ago.

Sen. Julia Boseman, D-New Hanover, already has sponsored a Senate lottery bill. "It's something my constituents want," she said.

Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand has come out in favor of a lottery, though Marc Basnight, the powerful president pro temp, has been more hesitant to rubber-stamp the House's bill.

SEE LOTTERY, PAGE 4

HUGH WEBSTER, SENATOR

GOP fumes over ballots for board

Last-minute removal of 4 candidates sparks hostility

BY ERIC JOHNSON
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

A controversy erupted in the state Senate late Wednesday evening as Republican lawmakers accused the chamber's Democratic leadership of subverting an election for members of the UNC system's governing body.

A number of senators decried the last-minute removal of four candidates, including Luther Hodges Jr., the only Republican among the nominees, from the 12-person ballot for eight seats on the Board of Governors.

"They disappeared," said Sen. Neal Hunt, R-Wake. "I'm just astounded, frankly."

Senate Democrats said the four candidates had withdrawn from the process but did not indicate why.

Hodges, when reached for comment in Florida where he is vacationing, said he was surprised to learn of his withdrawal. He had not removed his name from consideration, he said, and had not been contacted about any changes to the ballot.

His candidacy was sponsored by Hunt and Sen. Bob Atwater, D-Chatham.

Hunt said he was caught completely off guard by the announcement of Hodges' supposed withdrawal.

"When I walked into the Senate chamber this evening, I heard about it for the time," Hunt said Wednesday night. "We're going to try to get to the bottom of it. At this point, I'm just amazed."

Hunt said he does not believe Atwater, as a co-sponsor of Hodges' candidacy, would have the authority to withdraw Hodges from consideration. Atwater did not return calls for comment by press time.

Democratic lawmakers said the vote was proper, with Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand, D-Cumberland, calling the Republican objections "unfortunate politics."

"It was just kind of the everyday, run-of-the-mill haggling we do some of the time," Rand said. "The rules were followed."

Sen. Andrew Brock, R-Davie, said the rules have become part of the problem. Republicans objected to the balloting guidelines, which grant each lawmaker eight votes that had to be cast for eight different candidates. With only eight nominees still eligible, legislators had no choice but to support every candidate in order to cast a valid ballot.

"They objected to the process," said Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange.

But Sen. Hugh Webster, R-Alamance, said the

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DTH/BRANDON SMITH

Molly Broad, president of the UNC system, pauses and prepares to respond to a question about her retirement from the post. In a press conference held at the General Administration building in Chapel Hill, Broad announced her plan to retire at the end of the 2005-06 academic year or as soon as a replacement appears.

PRESIDENT PICKS A DATE

MOLLY BROAD ANNOUNCES INTENT TO RELINQUISH POST

"North Carolina will look back on ... what President Broad has done and ... how pivotal it was."

HANNAH GAGE,
BOG MEMBER

BY STEPHEN MOORE
STAFF WRITER

UNC-system President Molly Broad announced Wednesday her plan to retire from the helm of the nation's oldest public university system in the next year.

During a press conference at the General Administration building in Chapel Hill, Broad said her decision comes at a moment of strength for the system.

"I thought very carefully about what was the time when the University of North Carolina could position itself for healthy, strong transition in leadership," she said. "The university is in strong and healthy shape."

In a letter to Brad Wilson, chairman of the system's Board of Governors, Broad said she will step down at the end of the 2005-

06 academic year or as soon as the system chooses her replacement.

The move came as no surprise to BOG members, including Hannah Gage. "She's been very open about moving in this direction for a while," Gage said.

Gage commended Broad for greatly improving the system during her time in office.

"There is no question the North Carolina system is stronger and better and more prepared for the future than we were eight years ago," she said.

"I think that decades from now North Carolina will look back on what happened in higher education, what President Broad has done, and be overwhelmed by how pivotal it was."

Broad, who was appointed president in 1997 by the BOG, will leave behind a legacy

of tireless effort and tremendous labor for the UNC system.

During her tenure, she said, the system increased funding for financial aid, extended affordable access across the state and worked to diversify the student body.

Her biggest victory came in 2000, when the system got state voters to approve a \$3.1 billion bond package for higher education by a margin of almost 3-to-1.

But Broad said her greatest gratification came from watching students graduate.

"It is seeing the results in the eyes of the students and of their moms and dads at commencement," she said.

The system's governing body will begin the process of replacing Broad soon, with

SEE BROAD, PAGE 4

New officials test their sea legs

Dearmin, others, dig in their heels for the obstacles this year may bring



DTH FILE PHOTO/LAURA MORTON

Seth Dearmin (left) and Adrian Johnston celebrate Dearmin's SBP victory in February. Wednesday was the pair's first day as student body leaders.

BY JACKI SPIES
STAFF WRITER

Up until Tuesday night's inauguration ceremony, elected student officials anxiously awaited the moment when their predecessors would hand over the reins.

Now, the moment has arrived and passed. Newly inducted leaders have started to immerse themselves in campus issues, and the excitement of beginning their terms seems trivial in light of all the issues that require their attention.

"That's the beauty of the transition period," said Student Body President Seth Dearmin.

"I've had from after the election on Feb. 15 until now to become acquainted with the office ... and make these first few days as effective as possible."

The new officials filled the vacant offices of student government Wednesday and began to address the promises they made to the student body throughout the campaign season.

During his first day on the job,

Dearmin met with members of the Carolina Athletic Association, acquainted himself with his new office space and met with the Commencement Speaker Advisory Committee to discuss possible candidates to give next year's Commencement speech.

He said that, despite his busy schedule, he even found the time to hang out in the Pit and to make himself available to students who he said seemed eager to see what his administration's plans.

The new leaders said they aren't wasting any time in taking on hot topics. They said they were swamped Wednesday with various meetings that began early in the morning and continued into the evening.

"I had to start out with an 8 a.m. meeting this morning, so I don't know if that's what I want to do every day," joked CAA President Justin Johnson.

Johnson, who hopes to continue improving relations with student

SEE LEADERS, PAGE 4

Pope Foundation rejects curriculum

Requests information including list of instructors and potential classes

BY KATIE HOFFMANN
STAFF WRITER

The John William Pope Foundation rejected Wednesday the University's revised proposal for the highly scrutinized Studies in Western Cultures program.

The conservative philanthropic organization said the proposal was incomplete and asked UNC to fill in the holes by providing information including a complete list of potential courses and instructors.

Such specific requirements provoked concern from some faculty members, who have long worried that the foundation will exert influence over the proposed curriculum.

The Pope Foundation helps fund the John William Pope Center for Higher Education Policy, which has



Bernadette Gray-Little, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said the Popes' requests are fairly standard.

an office on Franklin Street. The center has openly criticized women's studies programs across the UNC system, and UNC-Chapel Hill's cultural diversity requirement.

"It's a zone of concern for things to be that detailed, especially at such an early stage in the game," said Sue Estroff, a professor of social medicine.

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■ Less Than Jake brings back memories of high school
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