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Susan Miller, Editor

March 4, 1974

Politics crucial on medical issue

The UNC Board of Governors, the body with authority over all 16 state-supported institutions of higher learning in North Carolina including East Carolina University, apparently has little or no influence upon the crucial issue of medical education in North Carolina.

Politics is now the name of the game on the medical education issue and it seems that the legislature has completely ignored the decision and reasons for the decision of the Board of Governors not to expand in the East Carolina med school.

The ECU med school issue is the first controversial issue that has faced the board as well as the first issue in which all power and authority has been transplanted from the hands of the board into the hands of the political state legislature.

While the board carefully commissioned an out-of-state body of medical experts to study and make recommendations on the problem of increasing the number of doctors in North Carolina and improving N.C. health care, legislators govern their decisions under the threat of the purse strings of the Joint Appropriations Committee. In turn for assurances that

pet projects be kept in or added to the state budget, legislators one by one join the proponents of ECU medical school expansion.

The "compromise" proposal on the East Carolina medical school issue is really not a compromise with the Board of Governors or with those against immediate expansion of the ECU med school. The bill goes directly against the decision of the Board of Governors not to expand the med school, as it calls for increasing the number of students at the one-year program now at ECU, adding a second-year class and constructing a \$15 million basic science building. The only leeway given the board in this "compromise" is setting the dates for this expansion.

It is difficult to tell whether UNC could have done more to safeguard its position on expansion of the ECU med school and the improvement of medical care in North Carolina. Perhaps it could have done more, but it is apparent that the "compromise" of the Joint Appropriations Committee was reached only to have the appearance of compromise.

ECU proponents did not have to compromise because the board has had no power to wield in preserving its stand.

The issue of how best to improve health care and increase the number of doctors in all parts of the state, including rural eastern North Carolina, has fallen by the wayside. The Board of Governors' study outlined the least expensive and the fastest ways to solve this problem yet its recommendations have been ignored.

Meanwhile the role of the Board of Governors as a body to make decisions on higher education in North Carolina is in serious jeopardy.

But worse, because politics has taken over educational decision-making, the improvement of health care all over North Carolina is also in serious jeopardy.

(Editor's note: Tuesday's editorial will compare the Board of Governors' plan with the ECU med school plan.)



by Lana Starnes and Dr. Takey Crist

(Editor's Note: seventh in a series on contraception.)

There are a number of new methods of birth control now available to women in North Carolina. Among these are:

Pills. Low dosage estrogen pills, containing only 20 to 30 milligrams of estrogen, and the "mini pills" containing no estrogen, are now being prescribed.

The low dosage and no estrogen pills cause none of the side effects associated with the higher estrogen pills—headaches, nausea, vomiting, weight gain and mastalgia. Many women who could not take the higher dosage pills will find that they can take the newer ones.

On the other hand, as the estrogen dosage is decreased or eliminated altogether, certain other side effects appear in some women. The higher estrogen pills helped control a woman's menstrual cycle making periods quite predictable. With the new pills new problems may appear: Breakthrough

bleeding, amenorrhea and heavier menstrual flow.

These side effects are only minor and may eventually disappear after several months. In a small number of women, they are bothersome enough that resort to the higher estrogen pills is advised.

The failure rate of the higher dosage pills is less than one percent. The low dosage estrogen pills show only a slight increase in pregnancy rates. With the mini pills, however, the pregnancy rate is two to four percent, equivalent to the IUD's effectiveness.

Deprovera. Another method which holds promise for the future is the injection of hormones. Recently the Food and Drug Administration approved deprovera, a progesterone preparation, for limited prescription use.

Deprovera is given as an injection about every three months or so. It works much like the pill in making the muscuos unresponsive to sperm. Some uncertainty exist however, in the fact that we do not

know how long it lasts.

Menstrual cycles tend to be irregular if not totally unpredictable with this method, but again there are none of the estrogen related side effects.

Deprovera is not entirely new method by the way. It has been used very successfully in the past as a temporary means of birth control, especially on women for a short period after delivery.

Research is still being done to perfect an injection that would act over a period of six months, a year or even longer but at present the three month injection is available for women who can not use other methods.

Morning after pill. The Food and Drug Administration in 1973 approved the use of estrogen diethylstilbestrol (DES) as a "morning after" pill. There are, however, very strict limitations as to its use. It is not a means of contraception and should be used only as an emergency measure. It must be taken in high dosages within 72 (preferably 24) hours after exposure and then taken for five days.

The "morning after" pill is very effective, but should not be used repeatedly. It is not recommended for women with a family history of breast or genital cancer, or a personal history of certain heart diseases, blood clots, hepatitis or migraine headaches.

The only reported side effects to the "morning after" pill include vomiting and nausea.

Menstrual extraction. A new and promising method of birth control somewhere between "foresight contraception" and "hindsight abortion" is menstrual extraction, also known as menstrual planning, menstrual regulation or menstrual induction.

This procedure involves the vacuum aspiration of the uterine lining with a few weeks after a late menstrual period. (Up to 50 days of amenorrhea.)

This procedure itself is similar to the insertion of an IUD. The physician pushes a small tube through the cervix into the uterus, applies a vacuum at the proximal end of the tube and pulls out or aspirates the lining of the uterus which is normally shed in menstruation.

The menstrual extraction is simple and safe. A paracervical block is used and the whole procedure takes about two hours. Determination of pregnancy is not necessary and there are no complications. Side effects are minimal or non-existent.

Menstrual extractions are done at N.C. Memorial Hospital in the Menstrual Regulation Clinic on Monday afternoons. Appointments are made through the hospital by calling 966-2135. Cost is \$75.

Prostaglandins. The use of prostaglandins for abortion has become widespread. Eventually it may replace the saline injection entirely. It is a safe and reliable abortion technique performed during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

The prostaglandins work by causing uterine contractions which are strong enough to expel the pregnancy tissue. There are only a few side effects, including nausea and vomiting.

NEXT: Future methods of birth control, including the male pill, the plug, releasing hormones, and others.

(A special thanks to Dr. James R. Dingfelder for his help in the preparation of this column.) COPYRIGHT (C) 1974 by Lana Starnes and Dr. Takey Crist. All rights reserved.



'NOW YOU KNOW WHAT THE PEASANTS THINK OF YOUR DAYLIGHT SAVING AT THIS HOUR OF MORNING!'

The Daily Tar Heel

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- Cathy Farrell, Managing Editor; Bill Welch, News Editor; David Eskridge, Associate Editor; Nancy Pate, Associate Editor; Kevin McCarthy, Features Editor; Elliott Warnock, Sports Editor; Tom Randolph, Photo Editor; Ernie Pitt, Night Editor

Gerry Cohen

Local race offers interest

The filing deadline for local and state offices in the May 7 Democratic and Republican primaries has passed, and the Democratic race for Orange County Commissioner will draw the most interest. Seven Democrats are in the race for three seats on the five member board.

In 1972, Flo Garrett, a 29 year old housewife, and Richard Whitted, a 27 year old black accountant led a narrow liberal victory in the primary, Whitted winning by 43 votes out of 12,000. The two then swept a two-to-one victory over the GOP candidates.

The County Commissioners have responsibility for health and welfare, in the entire county, and police, water, sewer, and zoning outside of Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

So far, only one progressive candidate has emerged in the race, UNC YMCA director Norm Gustavson. Gustavson will center his campaign around better planning and zoning, and better fiscal control over the county budget. Voters can use up to three votes in the race, although they can use one or two if they feel there are less than three candidates they can vote for.

Several other candidates have some promise. Melvin Whitfield, a conservative dairy farmer and an incumbent is no intellectual, but he is fair and open minded. Jan Pinney, owner of a country store, is also fairly conservative, but will probably be able to work well on the Board.

Two other Chapel Hill candidates are running besides Gustavson. George Spransy, co-owner of Huggins Hardware on Franklin Street, has been good on planning issues in his 10 years on the Chapel Hill Planning Board, but conservative on most other issues.

Sam Holton, a member of the Chapel Hill School board, is regarded by many as fairly moderate, but it is not known how much support he will be able to get.

Board Chairman Norman Walker has

opposed much legislation on the County Board that Garrett and Whitted have been pushing for, but he has supported Orange County bidding on the UNC utilities.

Tom Bacon is a plumbing contractor from Hillsborough who ran unsuccessful races for the County Board in 1970 and 1972. His only chance is probably in a runoff a month later.

With seven candidates running for three seats, there is the possibility of no candidate getting a majority, or only one or two getting the magic one sixth of all the votes cast.

Another factor is the student vote. The primary is on May 7, the next to last day of exams, and many students may have already left town. A big absentee ballot drive may have to be undertaken.

Voter registration for the primary, which also includes the important U.S. Senate race will end April 8. Those already registered don't have to re-register unless they have moved out of their precinct.

Norm Gustavson has been a friend to young people since he came to Chapel Hill. He was active in many progressive causes, from Civil Rights, Vietnam, Food Worker's Strike, Cambodia, Vietnam, etc. Norm has on many occasions bailed young people out of jail who were charged with serious crimes.

At the "Y" he has been a constant counselor to many "generations" of UNC students, and a friend to all.

I hope students who are voting in Orange County will pay attention to the election campaign for County Commissioner. It is an important race for the future of the County.

In the next few months, I will try to discuss the issues in depth, and try to comment on other primary races such as State Senate and U.S. Senate. (the only Republican primaries are for State Senate and State Supreme Court).

Brent McKnight

Class officers clarify work

A student government office which contributes nothing to the well-being of students does not, in my opinion, deserve to exist. It is a rather common allegation that class officers contribute nothing to student life. If valid, such an allegation justifies the discontinuation of these offices.

The charge is not valid in the case of Senior Class officers (President, Brent McKnight; Vice President, Ellanor Graves; Secretary, Carol Ripley; and Treasurer, Fred Kiger), and we feel the

time has arrived for clarification of our work. With this in mind, we outline the projects with which we have been most concerned.

In response to a desire expressed by many students, we, along with the Student Union, the Alumni Association, and the Music Department, have organized a spring festival for the final two weeks before exams. Known as Springfest, the celebration will include concerts by Shan-Na-Na, Mission Mountain Wood Band, the Fiori Baroque Ensemble of Boston, the University Symphony and Choir, and other groups to be announced. Springfest will provide an opportunity to relax and enjoy Carolina before exams.

Work on Springfest exemplifies the type of contribution class officers can make. We have exerted every effort to voice the desire for a spring festival and to stir the support of organizations which could make it a reality.

Our second major negotiating effort has involved graduation. Seniors expressed the need for re-evaluation of various aspects of the traditional ceremony. We, in turn, took these suggestions to Administration officials.

Letters to the editor

Letter misrepresented facts

To the editor: In response to Bob Hupman's letter concerning amnesty:

I believe that a few facts must be corrected that were presented in your letter. First, you put the total of those in need of amnesty at 1/4 million and criticized the editorial for greatly exaggerating. The government put its figures like this: 52,000-plus draft resisters known, 100,000-plus never registered, 32,557 AWOL or "deserted", 20,000 draft age men admitted to Canada, and 450,000 Vietnam Veterans discharged with less than Honorable Discharge. That makes over 534,700-plus, which means that the editorial didn't exaggerate as much as you understated.

In your next paragraph you said, "they had that chance back home when they could have secured a C.O. status, fled to Canada or gone to jail for any lofty principals." The fact is, Bob, that many local draft boards reject many claims without even giving consideration or reason. Many did not attempt to gain C.O. status simply because they thought it hopeless and did not wish to submit to it's harassments. Still others did not possess the education or accessibility that is necessary when asking for a C.O. status. Years ago, it was near impossible for anyone to gain a C.O. status, and those people are still suffering.

You wish to have punishment, Bob, for

Our discussion dealt with changes in music and robe color, although we also sought input into the choice of a speaker. The results: additions to the music program at graduation are under evaluation by the Music Department and the Administration. The color of the robes has been changed from black to Carolina blue. And the Administration has expressed willingness to consider future speaker choices.

We have attempted to encourage communication among Seniors by publishing a newsletter outlining our projects and news items of common interest. Funds allowed the printing of only 300 copies per edition, and we found the circulation to be inadequate. We sought the help of the Alumni Association, and Alumni officials agreed to devote the first page of the Alumni Newsletter to the articles we would normally have printed in our own newsletter and to mail a copy to each Senior. This edition has been printed and is being mailed. As the end of the year approaches, we plan to publish another edition in this manner.

A fourth major project we have organized is a series of debates on the Energy Crisis. In the first debate, the

nation's second ranked debate team—Tom Dillard and Cole Campbell—met Jeff Allred and Walker Smith—ranked by at least one expert at the fourth best team nationwide. In the second debate, on Feb. 27, coaches Robert Cox and Robert Branham faced Allred and Smith in a discussion of strip mining. By sponsoring these events we hope to provide an opportunity to hear excellent debating and thus to contribute to the intellectual life of Carolina students.

Our work has not been limited to these projects. We have sponsored a forum for discussion of drop-add problems, presented the movie, "Raisin in the Sun," helped publicize the work of the YMCA tutoring program, considered proposals for restructuring class offices, explored the possibilities of obtaining blocks of tickets to sports events for Seniors, and begun preparation for the Senior class gift.

In these efforts we have tried to contribute to the betterment of student life for Seniors, as well as students of other classes. We are confident our work has not been in vain, and we hope the newly-elected Senior Class officers will carry forward and expand upon the projects we have organized.

I do not claim to know the answer to this difficult question. But it is important that we understand the facts.

Douglas Schuch Granville Towers

Extend hours for Woollen gym

To the editor: Bravo Miss Boyce! I heartily agree with your suggestion that squash courts be reserved on a first come, first serve basis. The women squash players I've seen need all the practice that they can get! But I would like to go even further since I also have spent many mornings calling from 7:45 to 8:00 only to be told that all courts are full.

Woollen gym should also abolish reserved faculty courts as well. And since virtually all of the facilities in the gym are in constant use, I propose that it be kept open until 11:00. I'm sure that many students would make use of the extended hours.

The plans for a new gymnasium complex is good news for those planning to come to UNC in 1977, but corrective action should be taken now to alleviate this critical shortage of space.

Robert L. Kunka Bolinwood Apts