

Michigan forum rejects Nixon

The question was not whether Nixon's coattails would have an effect in Michigan, but whether the President had any coattails left at all. It turns out that he doesn't. For political purposes the President might as well have streaked through the state. And the indecent exposures of Nixon and his cohorts began well before the IRS took the shirt from his back.

James M. Sparling, the Republican candidate for congress was the only GOP candidate in the country to include Nixon on his campaign guest-list, although Nicholas Johnson of Iowa has invited the President to campaign for his Republican opponent. Sparling was losing his race anyway, but despite his politeness to the President, the poor candidate was not allowed to get a single word in, edgewise or otherwise. Sparling was officially listed as a "photo-opportunity" and, though unable to make speeches with Nixon, was allowed to appear in several photographs.

As a sidelight, one lady muttered "MCSP 227" and was ushered in to kiss the chief executive. It's surprising Sparling did as well as he did.

J. Bob Traxler was Sparling's Democratic opponent and he won by 53 per cent a district which had only elected one Democrat in the last century.

He ran a strong anti-Nixon campaign which did well in the urban areas of the district, which

Nixon purposely failed to visit. Traxler's supporters chanted, "Impeachment, impeachment!" as the returns were counted.

The race had all the trappings of gladiatorial combat once Nixon became involved. Two unknowns were sparring in the national political arena and Nixon, the emperor, had his favorite in the ring. The actual single combat between Sparling and Traxler makes little difference to anyone, as political observers have rightly warned. But the two candidates were not the only ones in the ring: the emperor's prestige was at stake as well.

The Michigan vote was a referendum on the President, and he lost when Sparling lost. Nixon claims that he is not "dismayed or disheartened" and, just like the good old days, the Vice President is his mouthpiece. Jerry Ford (with a better idea of the situation) says that if the present trend continues there is danger of "legislative dictatorship." We assume he meant totalitarianism since dictatorship usually refers to the actions of one person, usually the chief executive.

Richard Vander Veen, the upset winner of Ford's old House seat correctly predicts that the Michigan results will "hasten the impeachment process." We certainly hope so. Anyone who feels that Nixon has much credibility, or coattails left is either deluded or indulging in idle fancy. Nixon's coattails are as invisible as the emperor's new clothes.

Jean Swallow

You can't pull this one over

The best named judicial reform is no longer a reform movement. With the approval of the student body, the Faculty Council and Chancellor N. Ferebee Taylor, the reform of the student judicial system has been completed. The movement has ended with apparent success.

There is, however, one crucial point that has escaped questioning. The point is so crucial it throws a shadow over the entire illusion of student self-government.

Why have students been denied the right to charge the faculty, in some kind of court, when the faculty has the right to charge students in their own honor court?

Such cases are obvious realities in the University community. They include unfair grading practices, unfair teaching practices or any student complaint against a faculty or staff member. These practices are fairly common: certain faculty members have been known to assign individual students certain grade brackets, in which the student cannot possibly get a higher grade, no matter how hard they work; certain faculty members have been known to single out students for undue class harassment or extra work; certain faculty members have been known to grade completely subjectively; certain male faculty members have been known to proposition female students, with the price of refusal interpreted in terms of grades. It seems incredible that over the five years

judicial reform has been in the workings, no one has successfully raised the question of why one group does not have the elementary right to confront the same group that has the right to confront them.

At present, the only recourse students have against such faculty problems is to speak to Dean of Student Affairs Donald Boulton. Boulton says he can take care of the problems and has done so, to a limited degree, when students come to him. But problems and has done so, to a limited degree, have the right to press charges against the faculty, when the faculty has a similar right? It is a nice bone Dean Boulton has thrown to the students, but it is not enough.

Unfortunately, now that judicial reform has been passed, there seems to be little chance to improve it. The main reason for this is that any change in the system must be approved now by a tri-party system; the student body, the faculty council and the chancellor. There may have been many things wrong with the old judicial system, but at least students had the right to change their own institutions then. Now, it seems the students can only change the system when and if the faculty council or the chancellor see the same need for change that the students see.

The only chance for change lies with the student committee to evaluate the effectiveness of the new judicial system.

Jim Cooper

Terms made perfectly clear

Due to the political turmoil of the past year a number of new terms have become political lingo, and some old ones have acquired new meaning. The following is a sample of a few that commonly cause confusion.

CABINET: a large empty structure near the White House used for storing the President's powerful political advisors. In Andrew Jackson's time it was full and located in the kitchen.

ENERGY CZAR: a position of absolute authority borrowed from Russia in the detente agreement. The official command is "Simon says" and the czar has the power to declare when an energy crisis begins and ends.

ENERGY SHORTAGE: a national condition announced and recalled at will by the energy czar, with the advice and consent of the oil companies.

RECESSION: the same as the above only President Nixon calls and recalls it. Also with the advice of the oil companies.

REFORM: a euphemism for the word "change," applied indiscriminately whether the change is for better or worse.

FISHING EXPEDITION: any organized group of political officials who work to catch something (they're not particular) and then exaggerate what they've hooked. Flounder and red herring are the usual catch. (A Nixon is a big fish.)

PLAY IN PEORIA: a test of the popularity of Nixon's policies. The President always wants to know whether his speeches will "play in Peoria," his favorite American town. Peoria recently sent an impeachment resolution to the President.

THIRD WORLD: a universe of poverty and degradation located on

Gerry Cohen

County Commissioners race viewed

Two weeks from Tuesday, voters go to the polls all across North Carolina to nominate a U.S. Senator and a myriad of local officers.

In Orange County, the County Commissioners race is drawing the most attention, as seven Democrats seek three seats on the five member board.

From any consideration, Norm Gustavson should be elected to the Board. In the campaign, he has taken the time to research issues and take thoughtful positions. He is committed to expanding land use planning in the county where only 25 percent of the land area has any regulations.

As a commissioner, I believe he would work hard to help the County take up the slack of discontinued federal programs that merited support. He will also see that county appointed boards and Commissioners represent all the citizens of the County.

As head of the campus YMCA for the last 10 years, Norm Gustavson has worked constantly with young people. He has been an active worker on social and moral issues that divided the community and nation, and has also put much work into bringing Chapel Hill and UNC through many racial problems, problems which are unfortunately not nearly solved.

There are three other candidates who also deserve consideration, and three more that would also make hardworking commissioners. The candidacies of Jan Pinney, Melvin Whitfield and George Spransy are all interesting. Pinney, an operator of a small country store, and

Whitfield, a dairy farmer who is serving his first term on the Board are among the most conservative candidates in the race, but they are aware of the needs of the entire County community. Pinney has shown good comprehension of the issues, and Whitfield, as commissioner, has shown a concern for people. Spransy, owner of Huggins Hardware, is essentially conservative on fiscal matters, but his attitudes on land use planning are fairly progressive. I don't believe he represents the run of the mill Franklin Street merchant.

While the voter has three votes, some arithmetic is in order to show, for instance, how the difference between casting two votes rather than three could mean the difference in electing Gustavson.

State law sets out a formula for determining the winner. A candidate must receive one sixth of the total of votes cast. If he does not, then a runoff will be held four weeks later, with the seventh finisher eliminated, if no candidate gets a majority.

Let's assume 13,000 voters come out on election day, casting a total of 39,000 votes. A majority is thus 6,501. Let's also say that candidate A has 6,000 votes, while the other six have about 5,500 each. Though A finished first, he must face a runoff. But if the 6,000 people who voted for A cast only two votes, then only 33,000 votes have been cast, lowering the magic number to 5,501.

So A wins with 6,000 and the other candidates, each with 4,500, are eligible for a runoff to choose the remaining two seats on the Board, with the bottom two eliminated,

and not allowed to participate in the runoff. Surprisingly, the Republicans only put up one candidate for the November General Election. It had been expected the GOP would field a full slate of three in the local races. It is now known what may have caused the lack of candidates. The Republicans also are not running candidates for Sheriff, so the primary will decide that election.

North Carolina voters will have a chance to greatly change the complexion of the State Supreme Court. Two fairly liberal candidates are running for the two Associate Justices seats: James Exum, a present Superior Court judge, and Eugene Hafer, a former assistant deputy attorney general. Exum is expected to be in a close race, while Hafer is an underdog unknown. His

opponent, James Copeland, is an experienced and qualified Superior Court Judge.

For Chief Justice, Susie Sharp is unopposed for the Democratic nomination, but the Republicans may run a woman against her. District Judge Elreta Alexander, one of the first black judges in the history of the state, may carry the GOP banner for chief justice, which may lead to an even more interesting general election campaign.

For the third year in a row, I have been providing absentee ballot application cards for student voters. For the third year in a row, a large amount was ripped off from the Union desk, including the instruction sheet. This time, as far as I can tell, they were taken between 10 p.m. and 9 a.m.



Letters to the editors

Who benefits from parking changes?

To the editors:

With respect to the recently reported new parking system, may I ask, "what is it?" It pleases me to know that someone worries about where resident students may leave their cars, but what about other members of the University community?

For those who contribute directly and indirectly to the productivity of the University, as opposed to those who merely attend certain of its classes, I sincerely hope that the new regulations provide for more than the reported student worries.

For example, where is the fringe lot? Will shuttle service be provided as at Duke? What

good is the shuttle service (if there is one) when work requires staying late into the night? How will the system work for those who occasionally leave campus during the day to attend meetings and appointments elsewhere? Will every member of a car pool have to purchase a permit for a single parking space between them per day? Will it cost two times \$72 in order to motorcycle in on nice days?

Frankly, I do not believe that any faculty member, graduate student or employee should have to compete with undergraduates in order to park in the lot nearest his place of work.

Richard C. Wiggins
Child Dev. Center

A question of integrity of office

To the editors:

Imagine this scenario! On July 7, 1973, a young woman is brutally raped. Two days later, police apprehend a 16 year-old boy. Some 45 days thereafter, that same youth remains in jail for the capital offense of rape. At last he is released when family and friends can scrape together the \$5,000 required for posting bond.

The trial still has not taken place seven months after the crime, and it is rumored that the District Attorney plans to try the case roughly a year after the offense is committed. The man arrested indicates that the victim admitted to him that he was not involved; the victim told her lawyer the youth was not he who had raped her.

Contrary to Gerry Cohen's opinion of Wednesday, April 10, the upcoming election for district attorney of the Orange, Alamance and Chatham counties has not been "devoid of issues" and does not "merit an abstention."

In the above example, why were bond and preliminary hearings not held to determine if in fact a felony had been committed by the

youth? Since the D.A. has the power for setting the date of a trial and requisitioning additional court sessions to have the backlog of cases presented, why did the youth have to sit in jail for so long?

Indeed, the issues have been outlined and discussed in over 25 gatherings of community groups at which John Snyder, candidate for district attorney, has spoken. Most of the appearances consisted of intensive questioning of the issues involving the office of the district attorney by concerned and aware members of the Chapel Hill, Burlington, Graham and Hillsborough areas.

John's position on the issues has remained constant throughout the campaign—speedier trials without the sacrifice of justice, increased public information and participation in the administration of the judicial process and consequently the restoration of integrity and accountability in the office of district attorney.

Accountability is an especially important issue in this observer's opinion, for the election of the district attorney is probably the single most essential vote to be cast in the primary due to the power of the D.A., the salary involved, and the effect the position has upon taxpayer, court participant and the assurance of justice itself. The position involves a combined salary of \$83,900/year—\$27,000 for the D.A. and an

average of \$14,000 for each of his four hand-selected assistants. On a man for man basis, the State's Governor makes only \$38,000.

In addition, not all people become law violators, but many spend hours in court sitting on juries or serving as witnesses at the expense of their normal salaries or time missed from class or both. As Mr. Cohen suggests, the district attorney possesses the power to "determine... what kind of drug offense will be tolerated and what kind of treatment and delays defendants will have." The position is far more reaching however. Even a state senator does not exert the immediate power that characterizes the district attorney's daily routine!

Finally, the position of district attorney is probably the one political office of which the public is least informed. For instance, in the recent Democratic rally held on campus, the candidate for D.A. spoke last to only a handful of the dwindling crowd. And ironically, even in Mr. Cohen's "election analysis," the D.A.'s position appeared at the tail end, connoting an almost exasperating and despairing finish.

From my perspective, the office of district attorney merits careful consideration for the above reasons so that voters may not be influenced by insipid and uninformed editorials.

In accord with John Snyder's philosophy and in contrast to the statement that "this kind of opposition is much in need of a better candidate," I suggest that this kind of "election analysis" deserves reconsideration from a better perspective than that recently presented to us. One would expect more from a Chapel Hill Alderman, third-year law student, and DTH commentator. The task of the truly good public servant is to teach, to inform and to represent in the most equitable and wise manner that he knows.

Michael Lee Frazier
Campaign Assistant to
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Support Chest

We encourage students to attend the Alpha Phi Omega carnival tonight from 6-11 p.m. It will be held on the Ehringhaus field and will include everything from parachuting to the UNC Jazz Lab Band to balloon-shaving, all for the benefit of the Campus Chest.

Last year the APO fraternity made about \$4,000 which was distributed to local charities like the YMCA-YWCA, day-care centers, senior centers, and the Chapel Hill public library. The carnival is an enjoyable way of making a much-needed donation, and it's a good opportunity to meet a friend.

The Daily Tar Heel

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