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PIRG loses by close vote in referendum

by Art Eisenstadt
Staff Writer

Student voters rejected the formation of a North Carolina Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) chapter here Wednesday by a razor-thin margin.

With all precincts reporting, unofficial totals from the Student Government Elections Board show that the proposal to bring PIRG to UNC failed, 859 against to 852 for. The 7-vote rejection represents less than one quarter of one per cent of the votes cast.

At press time, ballots were being recounted for the fifth time. The first count showed the proposal passed by 8 votes. Subsequent counts showed the proposal failed by various margins.

The primary reason for the recounts was a discrepancy between the number of ballots counted and the number of student signatures on registration sheets.

CGC representative and author of the bill authorizing the referendum Dan Besse said PIRG advocates accepted the 859-852 vote, but may appeal the election on other grounds.

If an appeal is entered, it will probably be taken to the student attorney general's office.

Other grounds for an appeal might include the distribution of an anti-PIRG poster which some PIRG supporters believe purposely misrepresented the effect of the PIRG proposal. The poster appeared the day before the election, and Besse distributed a rebuttal poster that night.

The election loss was "a serious setback for the current chances of establishing a PIRG chapter on campus," Besse said.

Blake Beam, a member of Students for Better Campus Government, claimed his organizations printed the anti-PIRG posters.

"We thought we should allow students a more representative education about PIRG," Beam said.

The poster listed several objections to PIRG. These included:

- Students would have no direct control of over 90 per cent of PIRG funds.
- Passage of the referendum would set a precedent for other non-campus organizations coming on campus.
- There was not sufficient time to educate the student body adequately concerning PIRG.

Besse's poster rebutted all these charges.

Besse emphasized that PIRG is student controlled through local campus boards of directors who in turn elect a student state board.

"The only non-students involved are a small professional staff which provides expertise in matters of law and science. This staff is hired, fired and directed by the student board of directors," the poster read.

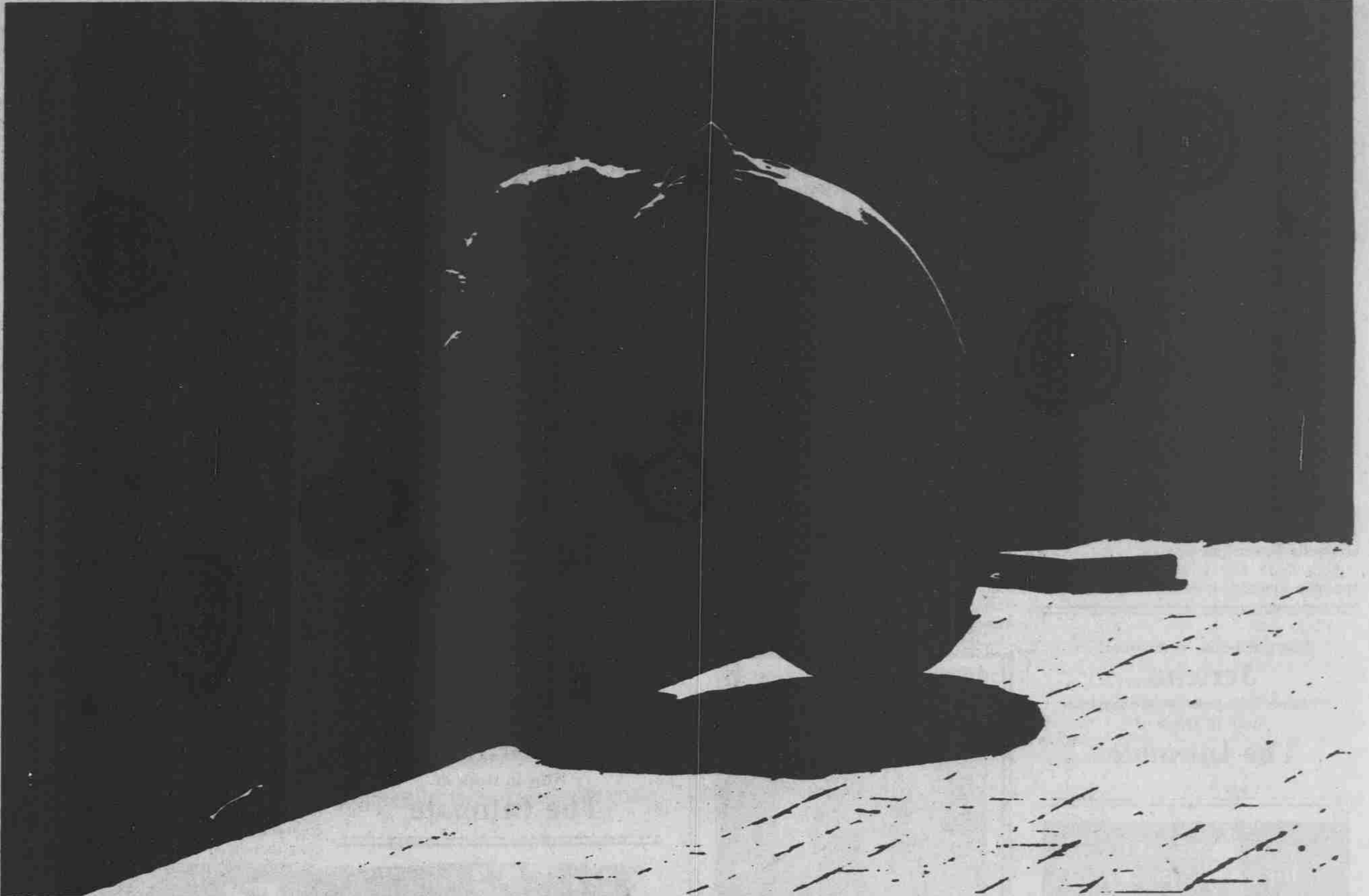
Besse was particularly upset over the charge that he rushed the bill through CGC in order to take advantage of an expected small turnout.

"I very much resent the allegations here as to my motives," Besse said Wednesday night. "They are absolutely untrue."

A total of 1714 ballots were cast in the referendum. This figure represents about 9 per cent of the student body, and is higher than the number of students who voted in last month's campus-wide vacancy and runoff elections.

PIRG is a statewide non-profit corporation which provides research for and lobbies for consumer-oriented legislation.

Had the referendum passed, it would have eventually absorbed many of the programs now offered by the Student Consumer Action Union.



Light and form create a sense of depression as a tired student takes time for a quiet rest on the steps of the Pit

Staff photo by Bill Wrenn

UNC to pursue late traffic fines

by Don Baer
Staff Writer

Students and University employees who ignore parking tickets may be in for an unpleasant and expensive surprise. The University is discussing whether to withhold grades and spring schedules from students and pay from employees who have not paid their tickets.

A traffic department employee said students shouldn't take tickets lightly. You can bet, he said, "that the traffic office doesn't consider it a joke, and they are going to do what they feel they have to get the money in."

Traffic Director William Locke, Security Director Ted Marvin and Assistant Chancellor of Business John Temple are now discussing how to handle 16,000 outstanding parking tickets. Since the new parking controls went into effect in July, about 20,000 tickets have been issued. Only 4,000 have been paid.

Carolyn Taylor of the traffic office said students will either be kept from re-registering or the amount owed will be charged to their University account.

In either case, students will be notified by mail of the amount of money they owe and given 10 days to pay their bill. After this period fines will be charged to accounts or

re-registration will be prohibited, depending upon which plan is chosen.

Taylor said authority for the University to take such action is included in the mandate from the UNC Board of Trustees to set up the parking system. The state attorney general's office has approved the system.

A traffic department employee urged students to pay outstanding fines as soon as possible. "As far as officials are concerned," he said, "the tickets will be paid. You can pay now and not have to wait in long lines, or you can wait in lines for hours and hours just to dole out enough money to pay for a semester's worth of parking tickets."

The traffic office is able to track down the owners of cars not registered with the University. With help from the Chapel Hill police and the state licensing bureau, owners of in-and out-of-state cars can be determined.

Withholding of employees' pay is "not a garnishing of wages which is normally only legal for tax purposes," Taylor said. "Some employees have more than 25 tickets and no intentions of paying them."

She estimated 500 tickets are given out daily by approximately 30 student monitors. Fines are used to run the parking system and improve parking lots.

Federal law gives students access to personal records

by Bruce Henderson
Staff Writer

College students for the first time will have access to their own confidential academic records, due to a recently-enacted federal law.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, part of the General Education Provisions Act, was signed into law Aug. 21. It will become effective 90 days later, Nov. 19.

The act was introduced into the House Jan. 3, 1973, by Rep. Carl D. Perkins of Kentucky. Confidentiality of school records is its prime concern: achievement test scores, attendance data, intelligence test scores, family background and course evaluations.

The law allows access to parents of

students, authorized school and government officials, and, for the first time, access for students themselves.

Persons requesting such access are required to sign a written form. Applicants must allow 45 days for compliance with requests.

UNC administrators met Oct. 2 to discuss possible problems associated with the new bill, according to UNC Assistant Provost Carl Smith.

One problem anticipated by University administrators, Smith said Wednesday, is that former employers writing letters of recommendation may be inhibited and fail to write with their usual candor. Thus student evaluations will be impaired.

Whether the new law creates any other problems will depend on the student, Smith said.

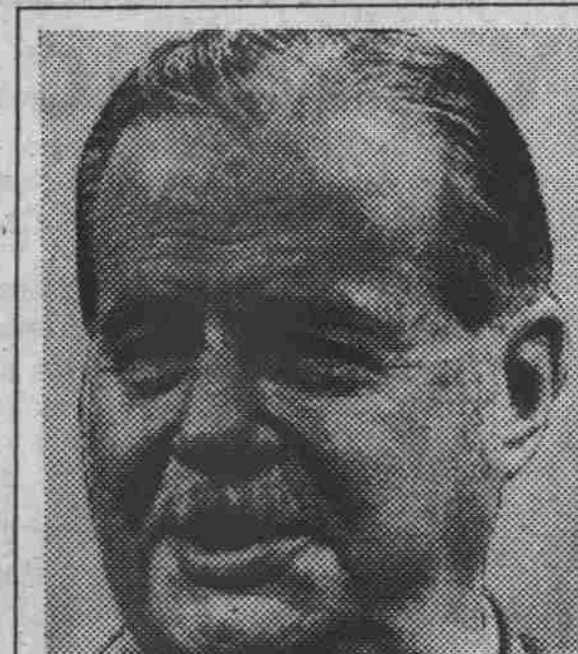
"I personally don't think this will create the bug-a-boo some people think."

Smith felt the American public, especially after the injustices of Watergate, deserves the new guarantees of confidentiality.

"I think the public is ready for this type of thing. They should have this right."

An amendment introduced by Sen. James Buckley of California would limit the access only to records made after the law becomes effective, Nov. 19. That amendment has not yet been voted on.

The original bill also requires an office and review board to be established within the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to investigate violations and complaints.



Scott to speak

U.S. Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott will speak at 8 tonight in Memorial Hall as part of the student government-sponsored individual liberties colloquium.

The Pennsylvania Republican was instrumental in effecting the transfer of power from the Nixon administration during its last days.

Symphony movement scored for Raleigh

by George Bacso
Staff Writer

The North Carolina Symphony Society's executive board approved a recommendation Tuesday to move the symphony to Raleigh by July 1, 1975.

"We're very grateful to UNC and Chapel Hill for all they've done for us," symphony general manager L. Guilford Daugherty said Wednesday, "but we're looking down the road to the future of the symphony."

Daugherty said the move was precipitated by a need for space and economics.

"Our task has been difficult the last five or six years because we've had our offices in Chapel Hill but have been rehearsing in Durham," he said.

Seeking an end to this troublesome situation, the society established a committee to find a suitable, more permanent home for the symphony last year.

The committee received offers from Raleigh and Durham, and Chapel Hill countered with a new offer of their own.

"Chapel Hill had no buildings available, so they offered us 11 acres of land with a long

lease, on which we could construct our own building," Daugherty said.

Durham offered use of the facilities of Duke University, including Baldwin Auditorium.

The permanent home committee accepted an offer, however, from Raleigh by an 8-to-3 vote earlier Tuesday.

"Raleigh will give us half of the Memorial Auditorium basement for our offices—they'll fix it up and pay all costs—and when the new civic center is built, the entire basement will be available to us," Daugherty said.

Raleigh's offer also calls for the renovation of Memorial Auditorium as a concert hall and gives the symphony top priority for auditorium scheduling.

Economical considerations were also a factor, he said. Raleigh is underwriting all renovation expenses, and the society believes the city will provide more economic support for the orchestra.

Next year's change will be the first move for the symphony, which has been based in Chapel Hill since its inception in 1932.

Is there a Republican in the House? Only 7

by Dollie L. Smith
United Press International

RALEIGH—Tar Heel Republicans suffered their greatest defeat in the North Carolina General Assembly since 1933 Tuesday, losing all but one seat in the senate and saving about seven in the house.

Among the newly elected Democrats are North Carolina's first black state senators.

With returns almost complete, GOP Sen. Donald R. Kincaid of Lenoir appeared to be the lone survivor among incumbent Republicans in the senate. The Democratic majority in the upper house increased from 35-15 to 49-1.

In the house races, where Democrats held an 85-35 margin going into the

elections, 13 Republican incumbents went down to defeat and five others were in nip-and-tuck battles for survival as votes continued to trickle in from across the state mid Wednesday.

The overwhelming Democratic wins in the legislature leaves Republican Gov. James E. Holshouser's legislative proposals subject to the whim and wishes of the Democrats under house leadership of Rep. James Green, the next speaker, and Lieutenant Governor James Hunt, president of the senate.

But even in the face of such political disaster, Holshouser told newsmen Wednesday he expected the Republican party to bounce back.

"I said in the 1972 campaign I would be able to work with the general assembly and I still feel that way," the

governor said, admitting however, the effect of the election outcome on his administration was pretty bad.

Democrats took all three 14th District senate seats as well as six house seats. Incumbent Democrats Sens. William W. Staton and Bobby L. Barker were re-elected without difficulty.

A black Raleigh businessman, John Winters, captured the GOP seat being vacated by Rep. Robert Barker who resigned from the race following the primary. Winters and Democrat Fred D. Alexander of Mecklenburg County are the first blacks ever elected to the state senate.

Vote totals were incomplete for the senate's 27th District where voting

machine failure caused a new vote to be called for Wednesday in Transylvania County. However, with totals complete for the district's seven other counties, Republican minority leader Charles Taylor and incumbent Bette Ann Wilke were trailing their Democratic opponents.

In the 34th District house race where three GOP seats were at stake, incumbent John Walter Brown lost but GOP nominee George Holmes managed to retain one seat for the party. Two Democratic challengers won.

The only two house incumbents to survive the Democratic landslide were Fred R. Dorsey in the 42nd District and Thomas Rhodes in the 12th.

Other Republican senate incumbents

who failed to mount the Democratic wave were George Roundtree of Wilmington; Jack Blanchard of Salembury; Coolege Murrow of High Point; Harry Bagnal of Winston Salem; J. Reid Poovey of Hickory; Kennedy H. Sharpe of Mooresville; Jim Hughes of Linville; and Robert Vance Somers of Salisbury.

Richmond County election officials Wednesday notified the state election board that the name of GOP Sen. Candidate Elton S. Hudson was left off the ballots in that county. Incomplete returns from that district showed Hudson trailing Democrats by about four-to-one.

Green, who retained his Bladen County seat despite an all-out effort by

Holshouser forces to unseat him, said the election outcome didn't surprise him.

"I just thought that based on performance people weren't going to put up with the national or the state administration," he said. "I think Watergate just really shook people up. It just embarrassed people to learn that people in such high places would engage in the chicanery they did."

Asked about the working relationship between the Democratic-controlled legislature and the Republican administration, Green said he felt certain "the legislature will assert itself and quite adequately take care of its business quite irrespective of what any other branch of government will do."