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Abernathy: Americans complacent

by Jim Roberts
Staff Writer

"If the government is not responsive to the governed, it is incumbent upon the governed to change the government. But the American people aren't exercising this individual right. Americans are too complacent," Rev. Ralph David Abernathy said Wednesday night.

Speaking at a less than full Memorial Hall, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference President urged students to take part in what he called the greatest form of government in the world.

Abernathy recalled a recent visit to Congress where he said he noticed a great number of old congressmen. "No wonder the country won't work," he said. "We have got to distribute political power with the young, the blacks and the females. Our individual rights give us the right to have a voice in our government."

Abernathy's speech, co-sponsored by Student Government and the Carolina Forum as a part of the Colloquium on Individual Rights and Liberties, centered more on the problems of the country and the state than on individual rights.

"North Carolina has enjoyed the reputation of being the most liberal southern state, but North Carolina is not living up to its reputation," he said. "This state is repressive. There are more prisoners in North Carolina than in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Virginia and Maryland all lumped together."

Discussing the inequities of the penal system, Abernathy gave forceful readings of portions of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and the United States Constitution.

He also said the whole idea for the free nation began in Boston and for that reason the recent responses of Bostonians to the court-ordered busing is "one of the most shameful and disgraceful acts on the American scene."

"People in Boston are behaving like the people of the Deep South because they are as bad or worse than the people of the Deep South," he said. "The ugly head of racism lifts itself in every part of the country."

Former President Nixon and the economy also brought disdain from Abernathy. "Nixon kept only one promise while he was in office and that was taking crime out of the streets. He took it out of the streets and brought it into the suites. In fact, he took it into the White House."

"Nixon and I do have one thing in common," he admitted. "Nixon has phlebitis and I have phlebitis, but I'm not going around trying to die from phlebitis."

The entire country is on welfare, Abernathy said. But for the big industries like GM, ITT, Ford and Eastern Airlines, welfare is called federal subsidies. There is free enterprise for the poor but subsidized socialism for the rich.

The United States space program was a wasted expense, Abernathy said. "The President shouldn't be passing out moon rocks. He should be passing out loaves of bread in the South."

"In order to deal with inflation, what you've got to do is to stop prices from going so high. There has to be jobs in the private and public sector."

Abernathy, who assumed the presidency of SCLC after the assassination of Martin Luther King, was at times soft spoken as he told warm anecdotes about his family and friends, but his voice roared as he spoke of racism and his fight for racial equality.

Abernathy achieved notoriety in 1968 when he led the Poor People's March on Washington and the construction of shantytown Resurrection City near the Lincoln Memorial.

"I'm an integrationist. I don't believe in black supremacy just as I don't believe in white supremacy. Color is black and white together," he said. "I want my liberties and I want my individual rights, but I also want them for every American."



Staff photo by Toni Hutto

The Reverend Ralph Abernathy, suffering from the flu, speaks in Memorial Hall

Labor party files campaign protest

by Henry Farber
Staff Writer

The Charlotte Labor Party Committee filed an official protest with the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections Wednesday, charging that Democratic campaign workers intimidated voters near a Charlotte polling place Tuesday.

The protest also alleges 1) there was an incident near the poll, at St. Mark's Methodist Church on Clanton Road, where Labor workers said Rudy Nesmith, North Carolina Labor candidate for U.S. Senate, was assaulted by one of the Democratic workers, 2) election officials observed the intimidation and failed to take action; and 3) there were general election irregularities throughout the city.

Labor party officials said D.J. Grier, a campaign worker for victorious state house candidate Fred Alexander, came to the polling place with a bullwhip on election day afternoon, intimidated voters and tried to take campaign literature from Labor workers with the assistance of young helpers.

Two hours later, Grier pushed Nesmith during an argument, a Labor spokesman said.

William Culp, county board of elections executive director, with whom the protest was filed, said none of the allegations could be verified. But a hearing is scheduled for Nov. 21 to air the protest, he said.

Culp said the disruptions began when Labor workers handed out campaign literature on church property. According to reports, the precinct registrar asked them to leave the property.

Political parties are under a gentleman's

agreement which discourages campaigning on 15 church properties used as polling places at election time, Culp said. He said the agreement has been honored for the five years he has been director of the elections board, and the Labor workers are the first to take issue.

"They (Labor workers) just wanted to prove they could break the rules," Culp said. "They're an irrational bunch. Their whole purpose seems to be publicity."

Stan Ezrol, Labor party candidate for Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court, said Thursday the church property agreement is illegal. It was instituted to prevent the Labor party from politicking, he said, since the major parties do not really conduct politics.

"It's obvious that politics has nothing to do with the 'Democrat' or 'Republican' parties," Ezrol said.

No police charges were filed concerning the alleged assault by Grier, a Labor spokesman said because the police filed the report.

A spokesman for Alexander Funeral Home, of which Alexander is co-owner and Grier an employee, said he knew nothing of Grier's political affiliations. Grier's only official responsibility to Alexander is as an employee, he said.

Grier tended polls on election day, another funeral home representative said Tuesday.

Grier and Alexander were unavailable for comment.

Ezrol said a full report on the matter was also filed with a federal attorney, but "every indication is that he doesn't want to take action."

Besse might appeal PIRG's losing vote

by Art Eisenstadt
Staff Writer

After two years, two referendums, one UNC Board of Trustees ruling and one court injunction, the efforts to start a North Carolina Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) chapter on this campus appear to have finally failed.

But not by much. The move to establish a PIRG chapter here was defeated Wednesday in a campus-wide referendum by a vote of 859 against to 852 for.

Out of a total vote of 1,714, the "no," votes amounted to 50.1 per cent of the ballots cast. Three ballots were turned in blank.

The 1,714 voters represented nine per cent of the student body. Campus Governing Council (CGC) representative Dan Besse, PIRG's strongest supporter on the council, said Thursday, "PIRG has no immediate intent to try again in the near future."

But Besse contends many students—enough to overcome a seven-vote deficit—were influenced by a series of anti-PIRG posters which appeared around campus starting Monday evening. He said he might appeal the election because of these posters.

"I think the election was representative of the student voice to an extent, but that the reason many students voted as they did is because of the misinformation on the anti-PIRG posters," Besse said. "Those posters were very crucial."

Besse also cited a proposed funding system of PIRG and the concomitant \$3 annual fee increase as reasons the referendum failed.

N.C. PIRG is a statewide non-profit corporation which specializes in researching and lobbying for pro-consumer legislation. Had the referendum passed, and the results been ratified by the UNC Board of Trustees, PIRG would have absorbed the programs and resources of the existing campus consumer organization, Student Consumers Action Union (SCAU).

Pro-PIRG forces and literature maintained PIRG would have strengthened SCAU by providing the pooled resources of five North Carolina universities, professional legal advisors and year-round working capacity.

J-school to hold speech, panels

The 50th anniversary of the UNC School of Journalism will be highlighted by two panel discussions and a speech by Tom Wicker, associate editor of the New York Times.

Nine panelists, all UNC alumni, will discuss "Journalism and the Real World" 10 a.m. Saturday in 104 Howell Hall. Panelists will include Bill Woestendiek, Colorado Springs *Sun* editor and publisher; Jack Childs, G. Holshouser's press secretary; Ken Byerly, a Lewistown, Mont., editor and publisher; Kays Gary, a Charlotte *Observer* columnist; Linda Grimsley, a Raleigh novelist; John L. Green, a Richmond broadcaster; Roy Thompson, a Winston-Salem reporter; Bob Pittman, a St. Petersburg editor; and Ivan Hardesty, a Raleigh advertising executive.

The subject of the second panel discussion will be "Back When I was in J-School..." scheduled at 2 p.m. in 104 Howell. Graduation years of the 13 participants range from 1926 to 1975.

Tom Wicker will speak at the banquet at 7 Saturday evening.

The panel discussions are open to everyone. Tickets for the banquet may be purchased at the journalism school.

SCAU chairman Janie Clark said Thursday SCAU would simply continue with its current programs and resources.

Some PIRG proponents have said the negative vote seemed not as much a vote against consumerism as it did a protest over the proposed funding and control of PIRG.

Blake Beam, a spokesman for an anti-PIRG organization called Students for Better Campus Government, said Thursday, "We felt there wasn't enough time allowed for a proper educational campaign."

Beam said his organization, which was founded only last week, thought students did not know enough about the controversial aspects of PIRG.

The organization printed and distributed the anti-PIRG posters Monday.

Beam said the posters were printed so close to the election because the *Daily Tar Heel* told him it would print no partisan PIRG material the week of the election.

However, *DTH* co-editor Greg Turosak said Beam was told no pro or con material would be printed about PIRG the day of the election. "He simply misunderstood us," Turosak said. "We were waiting for his column but he never came back into the office."

The balloting was close, and five recounts were required by the Student Government Elections Board Wednesday night before the final results were ratified. The first count showed PIRG winning by eight votes, and subsequent counts showed it losing by margins ranging from two votes to 17.

Finally, all ballots were accounted for, and PIRG advocates Besse and Kay House said they would accept the results.

But Besse later said he might appeal "on the assumption that the student supreme court can invalidate an election when the results are apparently affected by an alleged Honor Code violation."

Besse said he considered several of the poster's allegations unfair. "I'm upset about the whole approach they took of making misleading charges."

Besse would not charge any one statement with being specifically false, but was upset about inferences that:

- Students would have no direct control over the money that went to PIRG.

- PIRG was a non-student organization.

- The referendum had been "railroaded through CGC by PIRG advocates who wished to take advantage of the expected low voter turnout Wednesday."

However, Student Attorney General Nita Mitchell, who studied the poster at Besse's request, said she did not find any Student Conduct Code violation in the material.

Most of the charges in both the poster, and the PIRG rebuttal printed on Tuesday, had much to do with semantics and interpretation.

A controversial aspect of PIRG—one which seemed to upset many students—was its funding system.

Student Activity Fees would have risen \$3 per year if the referendum had passed, but any student who did not want his money to go to PIRG could indicate so when registering.

In those cases, the student would pay \$3 anyway, but the money would go to the CGC General Revenues.

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Title IX guidelines will not work—Rice

by Don Baer
Staff Writer

"HEW has proposed guidelines that will simply not work in intercollegiate athletics," UNC Director of Athletics Homer Rice said in a recent letter to North Carolina congressmen.

The letter urged congressmen to alter portions of the Sex Discrimination Act (Title IX) calling for equal opportunity in funding and facilities for college women's sports programs. Rice said athletic officials throughout the country are writing similar pleas.

One HEW interpretation, as explained by Rice, calls for women to be able to try out for previously all-male varsity sports. If females do not make the regular teams, then teams would have to be provided for them.

Rice said "the big danger is the cutting back of our football and basketball programs" so money can be given to women's sports. Since football and basketball are the most profitable programs, a cutback would result in less money for all athletics, including women's.

Rice's department now serves only as a funding agency for the women's sports program in the physical education department. He stressed that UNC is an advocate of women's sports, but said, "if we are forced to cut back our own programs to help them, then both will suffer in the long run."



Homer Rice

"HEW just doesn't understand the funding of most athletic programs," he said. The athletic department receives no direct federal financial support. Its income comes from gate receipts, student fees and contributions.

Rice said HEW Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger was vague when he said the government wanted "not equal, but comparable dollars" for women's sports. HEW, he said, has far too much latitude in the matter.

So far, he has received some support from congressmen.

UNC receives bid to play Sun Bowl

United Press International

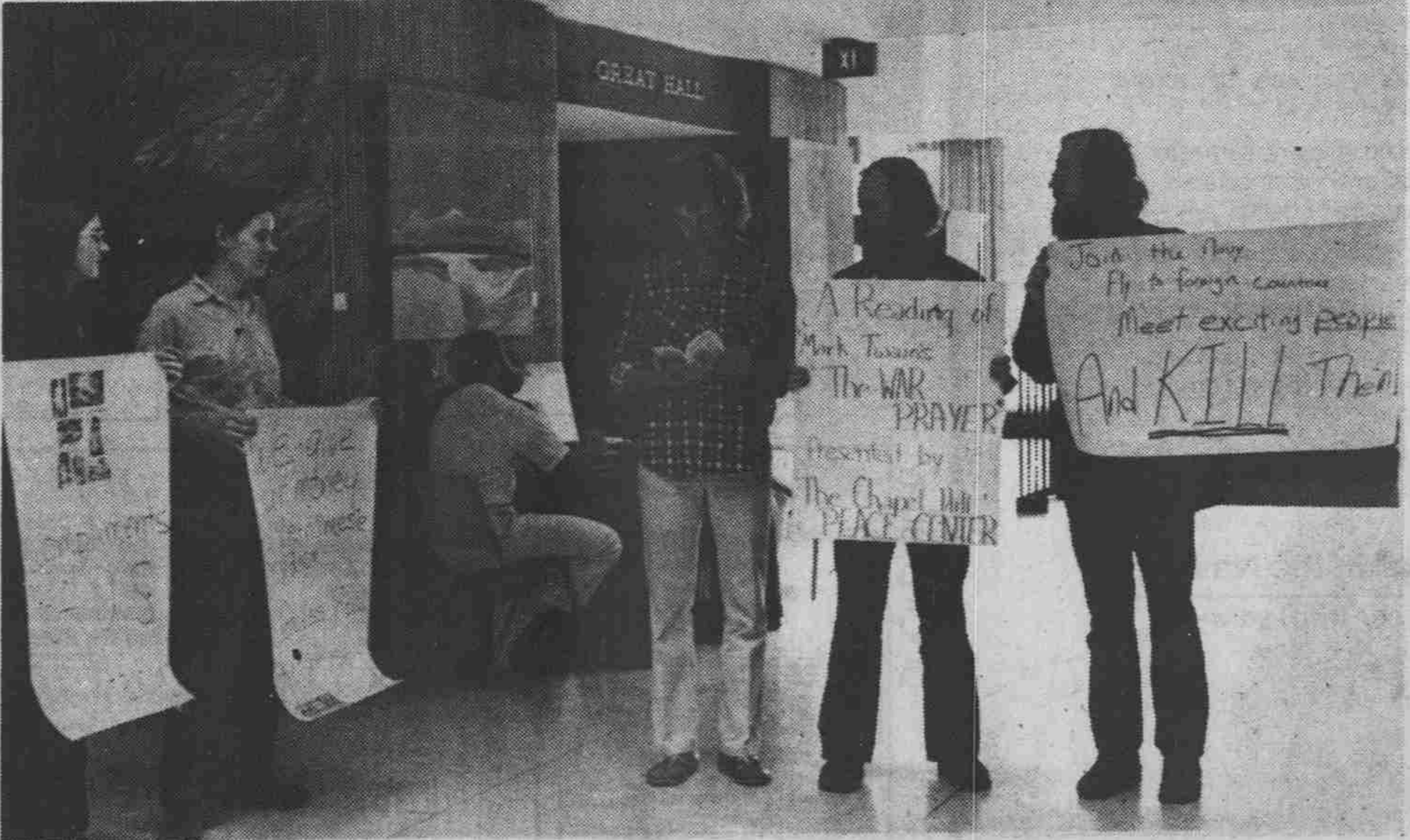
EL PASO, Tex.—Sun Bowl officials Thursday invited the University of North Carolina to meet Mississippi State in the Dec. 28 football game.

Sonny Yates, spokesman for the sponsoring Sun Carnival Association, said the selection committee met Thursday morning, and quickly selected UNC from among a group including the University of Pittsburgh, Baylor, Texas Tech and Missouri. "We have extended an invitation to the University of North Carolina, and we have every reason to believe they will accept," Yates said. "They could accept at anytime, maybe even next week."

There was no immediate comment from officials here. Mississippi State Wednesday accepted an invitation to play and Yates said Thursday the Sun Carnival Association "is very pleased. They are a fine team and we didn't think we could get them."

Yates said Mississippi State should finish no worse than 7-4, and have an outstanding offensive team. Bulldog Athletic Director Charles N. Shiara confirmed acceptance of the team's third bowl bid since 1937.

State is 6-2 after a 35-0 loss to 2nd ranked Alabama last weekend. The Bulldogs meet 9th ranked Auburn Saturday in Jackson



Staff photo by Toni Hutto

Five members of the Chapel Hill Peace Center held a 30-minute demonstration at noon Thursday before a U.S. Navy recruiting table in the Union.

A union information desk employee said the demonstration had not been cleared with Union officials, and he was prepared to call campus police when the demonstration ended.

Scott Jackson, leader of the demonstration, stood on a chair and read aloud "The War Prayer" by Mark Twain, a satire of a prayer said before entering battle. Other group members held placards denouncing military bombing and killing.

Navy recruiter Lt. Gary Hein said that although he respected and protected the demonstrators' rights, he thought the demonstration was biased. "They didn't show any pictures of army and navy medics helping injured civilians," he said.

The recruiters, who have been on campus all week, said this was the first demonstration since they arrived.