

## Voter registration begins Sept. 13

The Orange County Board of Elections will open special voter registration desks beginning Sept. 13 in Chapel Hill and Carrboro in preparation for this year's Nov. 4 municipal elections.

Persons over the age of 18 who claim Orange County as their legal place of residence, have no legal residence elsewhere and will have lived here for at least 30 days prior to Nov. 4 are eligible to register and vote in the 1975 election.

In Chapel Hill, special registration will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday between Sept. 13 and Oct. 4 and from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. each Tuesday at the Municipal Building. Registration will also be held from noon to 8 p.m. each Wednesday between Sept. 24 and Oct. 1 at Woolen Gymnasium.

Carrboro residents may register to vote from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each Saturday between Sept. 13 and Oct. 4 at the Carrboro Town Hall.

Regular voter registration is held each Thursday at the Chapel Hill Municipal Building and every weekday at the Orange County Board of Elections in Hillsborough.

County residents must register before Oct. 6 to be eligible to vote in the election. Area municipal elections are nonpartisan.

Registered voters in Orange County are required to pay personal property taxes at a rate of 96½ cents per \$100 property value. However, new residents may wait until Jan. 1976 to list taxable property.

## Cohen to declare for mayor

by Richard Whittle  
Staff Writer

Gerry Cohen, member of the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen and a May, 1975 graduate of the University of North Carolina Law School, will formally announce Wednesday, Sept. 3, his candidacy for mayor in this fall's municipal elections.

Cohen's opponents in the race will probably include James C. Wallace, a professor at North Carolina State University, and Joe Nassif, a Chapel Hill architect, as well as one or two others.

While neither Wallace nor Nassif has made any formal statement regarding the mayoral race, each has privately indicated he will be a candidate. Both have previously served on the Board of Aldermen.

"I've had a very good response from faculty, very good response from the black community and very good response from students, as well as other groups," Cohen said in a recent interview.

Cohen, 25, said he feels there is a need for more buses in the Chapel Hill system, improved recreational facilities, better housing and careful planning for the town's future growth.

"I'd like to see growth planned so that we have open spaces and green land and Chapel Hill doesn't become just another city," he said.

Since Cohen's term on the Board of Aldermen doesn't expire until 1977, he will retain his seat if unsuccessful in the mayor's



Gerry Cohen

race. This has led to criticism of Cohen by some, including a call for his resignation by Roland Giduz in an editorial column in the *Chapel Hill Newspaper*.

Cohen has said he would have resigned if Board vacancies were filled by special elections, but has decided not to because his seat would be filled through a Board appointment if he were to quit now.

A native of Hartford, Conn., Cohen has lived in Chapel Hill since 1968, when he enrolled as an undergraduate at UNC. He was the second-highest vote-getter out of five candidates for four seats on the Board of Aldermen in 1973.

# The conservatives are restless

A News Analysis  
by Richard Whittle  
Staff Writer

Conservatives are restless in Chapel Hill, and what's more, they aim to translate their unrest into a political uprising in this year's Nov. 4 municipal elections.

Howard N. Lee, the liberal black who has been mayor here for the past six years, is leaving office this fall to seek the North Carolina lieutenant governorship.

Conservative unrest and Lee's departure, combined with events of the past six months, promise to make the 1975 mayor's race one of the most interesting nonpartisan political contests of the year.

The conservative faction began mobilizing early this summer when George Coxhead, a local insurance man, and Roland Giduz, of the *Triangle Pointer* and an unsuccessful opponent of Lee in the 1969 campaign for mayor, organized a group called Citizens for Chapel Hill (CCH).

Ostensibly, Giduz and Coxhead started CCH in the hope of changing the liberal trend Chapel Hill's government has taken under Lee's administration. But the major issue behind the conservative mobilization and CCH's formation centers around a controversy which sprang up last winter and led to the forced resignation of Town Manager Chet Kendzior last May.

Kendzior came under fire from the Board of Aldermen after an administrative foul-up in his office last February which resulted in the improper use of a landfill. Lee and the Board of Aldermen asked for his resignation on May 16.

Only Alderman Sid Rancier objected to the action, saying the mayor and other aldermen "want a town manager who they can use and rule."

Kendzior submitted his resignation on May 27 and gave up his post July 31.

CCH contends that the lines dividing the duties of the mayor and Board of Aldermen from those of the town manager have been blurred under the Lee administration because of growth in governmental programs.

Chapel Hill's charter provides for a town manager form of government in which the mayor and Board of Aldermen are part-time officials who set policies and the town manager is the full-time official who implements them.

But the members of CCH have said Lee and the board have ignored their proper roles, taking a greater hand in day-to-day

decisions, due to the various liberal programs they have instituted here.

Housing programs, sewer and street improvements in the poorer sections of town and the creation of a subsidized bus system are some of the programs local political observers point to as evidence of the liberal trend.

The result of this trend has been a growth of town government, in the form of a larger budget, the hiring of more town employees and an increase in the town debt. This growth, and more importantly, the distorted roles of the mayor, board and town manager in the eyes of the Citizens for Chapel Hill, are the trends the conservatives want to stop.

Charles G. Beemer, CCH chairperson, was invited to the organization's first meeting primarily because of a petition he presented to the Board of Aldermen last May.

The petition protested the board's handling of the Kendzior controversy and asked that the northern Booker Creek area where Beemer lives not be annexed to the town, a move which the Board was considering at the time. (The petition was denied and the area was incorporated into Chapel Hill.)

Beemer, a 1974 graduate of the UNC Law School and an attorney in Chapel Hill for the past year, was urged to become chairperson of CCH by founders Giduz and Coxhead. He was elected to the position this summer.

The Lee faction, which includes board members Shirley Marshall and Alice Welsh as its mainstays, with Gerry Cohen running a close third, according to one student of Chapel Hill politics, sees the increased activity of the mayor and board as necessary and good in the face of the tremendous growth Chapel Hill has undergone in the past few years.

In fact, Lee himself has said he believes the position of mayor should be made full-time. Alderman Gerry Cohen, who will soon announce as a candidate for mayor in this year's election, said in a recent interview, "Chapel Hill has had a full-time mayor for years, though we pretend it's a part-time job."

Although no one has officially announced as a candidate for mayor, the nucleus of conservatives who form Citizens for Chapel Hill have long assumed that Cohen will be a candidate.

Since Cohen is the only probable candidate which CCH members directly identify with Lee and his policies, he is the

particular candidates.

Chairperson Beemer admitted this is a distinct possibility. But neither he nor CCH co-founder Coxhead have any real qualms about this, since Gerry Cohen promises to be their main target.

Beemer added, "I think it would be extremely unfortunate for Chapel Hill if Gerry Cohen, or someone like him who has so often reflected the ideas of the present administration, were to be elected mayor."

Cohen told the *Daily Tar Heel* recently that the issues he would focus on during his campaign would be transportation, recreation, housing and long-range planning.

According to newspaper reports, James Wallace assuming he is a candidate plans to stress environmental issues and, like Cohen, long-range planning.

Joe Nassif, the only other possible candidate who can be counted on to enter the race, has made no statements as to issues he thinks are important.

But no matter what issues the candidates choose, if the mini-rebellion now planned by Chapel Hill conservatives gets off the ground, the real question the voters will be answering when they cast their ballots on Nov. 4 may be: Who runs Chapel Hill, the mayor or the town manager?



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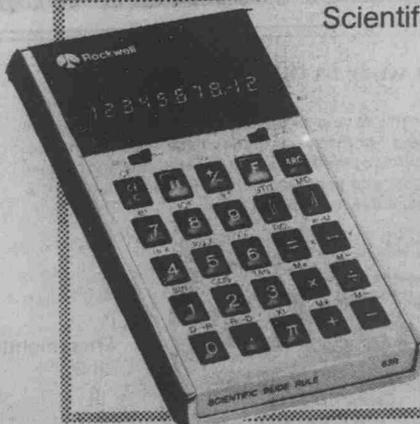
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