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Weather: partly cloudy

SG referenda approved in scant turnout

Students voted by a 5-1 margin to adopt the two proposed Campus Governing Council constitutional amendments in Wednesday's campus referendum.

Voters also indicated their approval of the new lottery registration system.

Write-in balloting for the Off-campus District 1 CGC representative will be determined by Monday, Brooke Bynum, Elections Board chairperson said. The tally shows that Bill Ripley received 11 votes, Don Baer eight, and ten other write-in candidates received one vote each.

An amendment prohibiting co-representation in CGC seats was approved, 520-128. A second amendment clarifying constitutional language in regard to graduate district apportionment passed, 435-176.

Voters approved of the lottery registration system, 475-195.

Turnout was heaviest in James dormitory, which has co-representatives in CGC. James voted 121-47 in favor of co-representation.

James Co-rep. Brad Lamb said, "I'm in favor of co-representation. I think George and I have done a good job, or tried to."

The other James co-representative, George Bacso, said, "I don't care how the vote turns out because I want absolutely positively, completely and totally nothing to do with CGC ever again in my life."

"At least without co-representatives not more than one person will have to waste their time with CGC—and this will also keep the number of fools on CGC to a minimum."



Beswick may boycott future 'chaotic' meetings

by Merton Vance
Staff Writer

Carrboro Alderman George Beswick has threatened to boycott future board meetings if they do not become better organized.

"I will go to one more meeting and if it is not handled with some dignity and order I will not go back," he said Wednesday.

Beswick said he is upset over the handling of a Jan. 14 public hearing on the proposed Carr Mill which resulted in confusion and flaring tempers. The hearing was called to hear public comments on the proposal to turn the town's old textile mill into a shopping mall.

Beswick said he is not complaining about the issues before the board but rather about the way in which the board conducted the meeting. He blamed procedural problems for the confusion at the meeting, at which testimony was frequently interrupted and some citizens became angered.

"Personally and professionally I don't want to be associated with that kind of conduct," Beswick said.

Beswick recently began his law practice in Carrboro and said his association with what he termed chaotic actions on the board could

be damaging to his career.

He has served on the Carrboro board since 1973. He is one of four aldermen sympathetic to the liberally oriented Carrboro Coalition.

Alderman Ernie Patterson said Wednesday he thinks Beswick is frustrated by some procedural and organizational problems that have accompanied the installment of three recently elected aldermen.

Patterson said such problems can be expected with any newly-elected governing body but hopes most of the board's procedural difficulties will be resolved at a Friday work session meeting of the aldermen and Carrboro Mayor Ruth West.

Alderman Bob Drakeford said it would be "very disturbing personally" if Beswick follows through with his boycott. Drakeford said Beswick's legal expertise could be valuable to the board.

The board heard complaints from citizens at the Jan. 14 meeting that the Carr Mill construction requests did not comply with town ordinances.

Beswick complained that there was no

reason for a large number of people to bring this issue before the board. "Twenty-five people saying the same thing is not productive," Beswick said.

Most town citizens appear to favor the mall project with certain conditions imposed on it, Beswick said.

He said he fears that if the project is further delayed, the developer may become frustrated and pull out of the project. The developer, a Charlotte real estate agent, needs to find out what kinds of conditions the town wants to place on the proposed mall's construction.

There was apparently some misunderstanding about the nature of the public hearing, Patterson said. Such a hearing should allow the public to present evidence for the aldermen to review. The board will then vote on the issue, he said.

This process should define the terms of a conditional use permit for the mall project, Patterson said.

He said that the public apparently misunderstood the purpose of such a hearing and thought the board would decide the matter at the Jan. 14 meeting.

Southern Bell

Employees dissatisfied with proposed contract

by Laura Scism
Staff Writer

University telephone employees are not satisfied with a Southern Bell contract recommended to the UNC Board of Trustees in October, an employee spokesperson said Wednesday.

The employees' two major complaints concern the pay scale and retirement program they will be offered by Southern Bell if the sale of the University telephone system is approved, said Berry Roberson, a telephone service supervisor and a member of the now dissolved Committee of Concerned Employees, which originated in opposition to the utilities sale.

Although University Utilities Director Grey Culbreth said the telephone workers will receive benefits from Bell equal to or better than those they now receive from the University, Roberson said some people, particularly long-term employees of the University, would be better off remaining with the University.

Southern Bell requires 15 years of

service before retirement, and Roberson said that means some University employees would have to wait until age 62 to retire.

Roberson estimated that of the 170 telephone employees, approximately 10 have had between 20 and 30 years of service with the University, while approximately 20 have had 15 to 20 years and two or three have had almost 27 years of service. He emphasized, however, that these were rough estimates.

John Temple, UNC assistant vice chancellor in charge of business, said that University employees would not lose anything by going with Bell because the money they have contributed to their state retirement fund will be returned.

In addition, Temple noted that Bell has agreed to waive its requirement for 15 years of service before retirement in cases where age so necessitates.

State employees contribute six percent of their salaries to their retirement fund, and Roberson suggested the state legislature enact a law allowing telephone workers to continue this input and receive state retirement benefits

even after the utility sale.

But Temple said the state does not allow an employee not working for the state to maintain a state retirement fund, and added that, "It's unrealistic to think that the legislature would change (this policy). It would set a precedent that would be hard to manage in the future."

With regard to other seniority benefits, however, Bell has agreed to recognize years of service accumulated with the University, Temple said.

For example, a University employee with six years of service will receive the same vacation received by a Bell employee with six years of service. Sick leave policy will also work this way, he said.

Although Southern Bell has agreed to pay University telephone workers more than they will be receiving at the time of the sale, Roberson said that some University employees with 10 years experience will be paid less than Bell workers with only five years of service.

He explained that this is because a Bell employee with five years of experience is in a higher pay classification than a University

employee with 10 years of service.

However, he said that if the University telephone workers' salaries are re-evaluated and raised again before the sale, the pay problem would be alleviated.

University telephone workers will also forfeit accumulated sick leave if they become Bell employees, Roberson said. He also noted that Southern Bell does not allow its employees to accumulate sick leave over a period of years at the University does.

"There were some bad feelings about this (loss of an accumulated leave), but we're going to lose it so we might as well forget it," he said.

"Most employees wish the University would just do something one way or the other (about the sale) and get it over with," Roberson said, noting that the sale has been discussed for the past six or seven years.

Temple said Wednesday that the earliest the sale could be approved is nine months from now. It must be approved by the Board of Trustees, the N.C. Council of State, the State Utilities Commission and the Federal Communications Commission.



To find out why all these people are gathered together and what they are watching, see page 4.

Poole named planning board chairperson

In a surprise move by Carrboro Mayor Ruth West, Mack Poole has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Carrboro Planning Board. Poole replaces Don Willhoit, who has held the post for the past two years.

West made the appointment Friday after stating that Willhoit's term had expired.

But Willhoit said his replacement came as a surprise to him and that he did not learn of the move until he received a letter from West Saturday.

Willhoit will remain a member of the board.

Poole, a former alderman, was already a member of the Planning Board before being appointed chairperson.

West said she appointed a new chairperson because she thinks the position should be rotated among board members. Alderman Bob Drakeford said the move was untimely since the Planning Board is currently discussing plans to build a new shopping mall on the site of the town's old textile mill.

"This is a bad time to change horses," Drakeford said.

Willhoit, however, said he does not think the board's work on the mall project will be drastically disrupted by the change.

Poole could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Candidates and officials criticize election laws

A News Analysis
by Nancy Mattox
and Chris Fuller
Staff Writers

Within several weeks, campus-wide campaigns for Student Body President, Daily Tar Heel editor and Campus Governing Council representatives will begin.

As in past years, the campaigning will take place under the auspices of an elections law many Student Government officials and former candidates called vague and largely unenforceable.

The election laws "only keep honest people within the realm of the law," Elliot Warnock, former candidate for DTH editor, told the Campus Governing Council Rules and Judiciary Committee at a public hearing Sunday. Warnock added that dishonest candidates can get around it.

Brooke Bynum, Elections Board chairperson, said Wednesday, "They (CGC) really need to scrap the present election laws and start all over."

The laws as they stand now are full of loopholes and inconsistencies.

A major complaint voiced by Attorney General Andromeda Monroe is that the number of polling places (21) is too many for the elections board to efficiently manage.

With the present established polling places, the Elections Board would need approximately 250 poll tenders to be stationed throughout Election Day at designated positions, Bynum said. Bynum also said a present law which requires the Elections Board chairperson to visit each polling place every hour is a "physical

impossibility."

Student Body President Bill Bates said, however, that he would like to see the addition of at least one more polling place. This new poll, Bates suggested, could possibly be established in the public health or pharmacy buildings.

Under the present election laws, the only qualification for a poll tender is that the tender cannot be a candidate in the district in which he is working. Thus candidates for one CGC district may tend polls in another district. In addition candidates' campaign workers as well as individuals who have publicly supported or endorsed a candidate may also tend polls or count ballots for the election. Several CGC members, for example, have often counted ballots at elections held this year.

Monroe believes this law should be changed. Poll tenders should have no political affiliation, should not have campaigned for any candidate, and should not be either supporting a candidate publicly or be candidates themselves, she said.

Bates said that in last year's election he provided informational bulletins to all his campaign workers informing them of the duties of a poll tender. But at least some poll tenders remained confused about their duties. Bates cited an incident in which one student voted three times in three different districts because poll tenders did not mark the students I.D. card, as required.

Monroe also cited several cases in which elections were appealed because polls were closed too early, giving what she called a "possible disadvantage to one candidate."

Under Student Government law, the polls must be open from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. The

polling hours may be extended only with the approval of the Attorney General and the Chief Justice of the Student Supreme Court. Though many court suits have been filed in the last few elections charging violations of this provision, Monroe said she has never



Also difficult to enforce is a provision requiring that signatures on the petition of a candidate filing for office must come from persons living in the area he wishes to represent. Because of the short time between the filing date and the election, it is

"They (CGC) really need to scrap the present election laws and start all over."

--Brooke Bynum
Elections Board
Chairperson

been consulted and would like to see the law more strictly enforced.

The election laws appear to be largely unenforceable. According to the law, "It shall be an honor code offense for anyone to deface, destroy, alter or otherwise change any candidate's campaign materials before the election."

Unless a person is caught in the act of destroying materials, prosecution is highly unlikely.

Although the law prohibits the use of Student Government funds on behalf of a candidate, this section of the law is also unenforceable. For example, it would be hard to prove if someone used Student Government typewriters, Bynum said.

impossible to check every signature. Bynum said.

Another aspect of election laws equally hard to enforce involves the campaign spending limits.

Act 3, Sec. 4 of the spending laws read, "If goods or services are given gratuitously or excessively below normal cost, the Elections Board Chairman shall go to at least three firms that make like products and services and get estimates. The average cost shall be deemed the actual cost."

This section of the law raises several questions concerning the law's interpretation.

Monroe called this provision unfair, saying, "If candidates can get more for less,

that should be their right." She explained that many candidates are not financially independent enough to be able to afford an even average price, and said candidates should have the right to find bargains.

Harriet Sugar and Don Baer, candidates for co-editor of the DTH last year, were accused of violating this section of the law by printing a pamphlet at an out-of-town press owned by a family friend. Sugar said they had received nothing gratuitously, and that even though the price of the pamphlet was far below those of local printers, any candidate could have received the same price.

Cole Campbell, DTH editor, said at the public hearing that technical ability of individuals must also be considered when considering this section of the law.

Campbell pointed out that several candidates saved money through the use of personal skills or the skills of friends. He cited as examples expertise in such areas as art and photography (campaign pictures) and composition techniques (putting together pamphlets).

A campaign spending report, including receipts over \$5 must, by law, be filed a week after the election. This law does not have much effect, however, because the penalty for exceeding the campaign spending limit is simply a fine amounting to half the excess over the limit.

The receipts likewise are insignificant since, Campbell said at the public hearing, dishonest printers can forge receipts.

In fact, the effectiveness of the campaign spending limits is also being questioned. Warnock said at the public hearing that he had little respect for the campaign spending

law, and accused the judiciary of being lax in its investigation of violations.

Warnock also said that if a person has a lot of money to spend he can spend it by paying the rather low fine. It is an almost legal way to circumvent the law, he said.

The number of signatures required on a petition and the necessity of a petition are also major points of contention in the election laws.

Warnock said the petition is nothing but an irritant because he believes it decreases the number of people running. Baer agreed saying the petition should be eliminated.

Campbell is in favor of keeping the petition. He said the petition proves some desire on the part of the candidates to run for the office, and at the same time, limits the number of people in the race.

Although the date of the runoff election was recently changed, the former date caused considerable dispute. Under the old law, the runoff was held the second Wednesday after the initial election unless that day fell during a vacation. The law was recently changed so that the election is now held the first Wednesday of the first full week of classes following the initial election.

Under the old law campaigns for runoff elections could last longer than the initial election campaign. Sugar said the time span for the election is entirely too long since it makes a two-month campaign possible.

However, Bynum said that moving up the runoff creates a hardship in getting the ballots printed. It also places pressure on the courts since candidates frequently file court suits in attempts to get into the runoff.