

Jim Holshouser discusses Republican Party, Helms, Hunt and succession

Even though North Carolina politics fit the classic textbook description of a one-party system, the state's only Republican governor in this century says two-party politics are alive and kicking.

"People's political attitudes have changed," said former Gov. Jim Holshouser, chief executive from 1973 until earlier this year. "People are no longer voting for parties; they're voting for candidates. It's pretty definitely a two-party state."

A product of the state's Republican stronghold around Boone, Holshouser's first elective post was in the N.C. House of Representatives in 1963. He became minority leader of 13 other House Republicans in 1965 and held the party's state chair from 1966-1971. After missing the 1967 General Assembly session, Holshouser returned to his House seat in 1969. He stayed there until he ran for governor in 1972.

The former governor concedes that the state's mountainous western sections are traditionally the strongest Republican areas, but he discounts the claim that Republican power is limited to the west. Climbing party membership in the Piedmont and Republican victories in legislative elections in Wilmington, Morehead City and Kinston indicate a rise in Republican strength across the state, Holshouser says.

"The Democrats outnumber us three to one statewide," Holshouser said. "But a consistent number of Democrats vote Republican every time. The eastern part of the state is still Democrat, but that's beginning to change."

Of the 170 members of the N.C. General Assembly, only nine are Republicans. One other assembly member, Sen. Carolyn Mathis of Charlotte, was elected as a Republican in 1976 but later changed to a Democrat.

Even though he is a Republican, Holshouser has become the champion for what has been dubbed a Democratic program: the proposed constitutional amendment to allow the state's governors and lieutenant governors to seek second terms. Holshouser and former Democratic Gov. Terry Sanford are founders of the pro-succession Committee for the Right to Reject or Re-elect.

Holshouser first proposed gubernatorial succession in 1973 when he advocated a measure that would

apply to whoever became governor in 1977 instead of the incumbent in 1973. The Democratic General Assembly killed the 1973 plan.

The succession measure approved by the 1977 General Assembly is different from Holshouser's original version because it does allow the incumbent to run again. For that reason, political observers have called the proposal a power play by incumbent Gov. Jim Hunt.

Holshouser disagrees with the Hunt power grab theory, even though succession probably would not have passed in the legislature without heavy lobbying from Hunt.

"IN QUOTES"

By DAVID STACKS

"If the legislature had passed my bill in 1973, it would have applied to Hunt anyway," Holshouser said. "I guess it was inevitable that people today would tie the issue to him (Hunt). But I had hoped people would look at it in terms of the next century instead of the next four years."

The former governor says succession could help defeat the sitting governor if Hunt can and does decide to run for re-election in 1980.

"When a candidate knocks on the door of a house on an unpaved road, he can promise to pave that road. That's how he gets into office," Holshouser said. "But in four years, he's got to go back to that same door on that same unpaved road and tell why that road didn't get paved. That's how he gets out of office."

"A challenger running against an incumbent's record has the advantage. If you've never run for an office before, you can promise and promise but not have to worry about it on election day. But it's another story four years later."

Holshouser says he is glad Hunt and the Democratic legislature support succession. But he wonders why they didn't support it in 1973.

"You don't know how frustrating it is to say, 'Let's

just make license plates every five years,' for example, and have it knocked down just because it was a Republican who suggested it."

North Carolina is one of only seven states that do not allow their governors to succeed themselves. The Tar Heel state is also one of the few whose governor does not have veto power over the legislature.

"I wish the veto were on the ballot along with succession," Holshouser said. "But I doubt the legislature will consent to giving up that much power."

"Veto is a double-edged sword. You (a governor) can veto it, or you have to put your John Hancock on it. You may say those rascals in the legislature did it, but your name is still on that bill saying you approved it."

Holshouser and Republican U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms both were swept into office on the coattails of Richard Nixon in 1972. After the Republicans came to power in state government, a rift developed between followers of Holshouser and the more conservative Helms.

Helms forces became so powerful that many Holshouser people, including the governor himself, were shut out of the 1976 Republican National Convention. Holshouser went to the convention anyway as a floor leader for President Ford but was not allowed to vote as one of the state's delegates.

Little more than a year after the Helms-Holshouser feud, the former governor says the state Republican Party is re-uniting itself and becoming a cohesive political group.

"As Republicans on the local level get their candidates for local offices, I think the party will pull itself together. The signal I'm getting is that people (Republicans) are rallying 'round the flag,'" Holshouser said.

The former governor says he won't have time to do much campaigning for Helms when the senator runs for re-election next year, even though he supports Helms.

"I have to be involved in a law practice in Boone and Southern Pines and can't do too much barnstorming," Holshouser said. "But I don't see him (Helms) getting beaten. I don't even see a Republican primary."

While advocating succession, Holshouser is still a strong critic of Hunt. "The governor is elected to take control of state government. But Hunt as governor has not been consistent with what he did as lieutenant governor in 1973."

After Holshouser and Hunt went to Raleigh in 1973, the governor fired 100 employees of the state Department of Transportation. As the ranking Democrat in Raleigh, Hunt appointed a committee to investigate political hirings and firings in state government.

"I thought it was a cheap shot," Holshouser said. "We forced resignations from fewer employees than any of the past four Democratic administrations. The people who jumped on Hunt's bandwagon in 1973 were trying to protect political hacks on the public payroll who weren't working for the public."

"We had some rough times in 1973. But we were real amateurs compared with the present folks. Very systematically, the legislature this session has gone through and changed the law to get rid of people."

The 1977 General Assembly passed a bill that allows Hunt to dismiss any employee who has been with state government less than five years. All of Holshouser's appointees fall under jurisdiction of the new law.

"The worst thing is that it's so blatant and obvious," Holshouser said. "If we had done in 1973 what Hunt is doing now, everybody would have come at us both barrels."

The former governor says Hunt has made progress by proposing merit selection of judges, but Hunt has hurt state government with en masse hirings and firings, such as wildlife commission and parole board members.

"The manner in which this thing has been is pretty savage," Holshouser said. "People who are doing their jobs should not be sitting up nights worrying about their jobs."

"If someone in government disagrees with the captain, he'd best get off the ship before he says anything," Holshouser said. "That's the proper position people should take. But the governor can't afford to have a bunch of yes-men around him." He



Jim Holshouser

needs opinion from all sides before he makes a decision.

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The Daily Tar Heel

85th year of editorial freedom

letters to the editor

North Campus males respond to McIver's plea

To the editor:

In response to complaints of a lack of enthusiasm on the part of North Campus males ("Jock raid repulsed," Letters, Oct. 20), I am pleased to announce that the first Old Well Invitational Party Raid was an overwhelming success.

Starting out as a somewhat hopelessly small movement in the Old West TV lounge, we were soon able to gain much needed support from the raiding reserves of Old East and Grimes. From this point, we proceeded to a number of North Campus women's dorms where we soon found that their enthusiasm is far from lacking.

Although we were unable to gain any truly active participation, we were able to capture over 50 panties and other assorted "unmentionables" from the fair maidens of Melver, Kenan, Cobb, Aycock and Ruffin. We are especially pleased to announce that McIver, whose letter prompted our Thursday night march, was by far the most generous and hospitable dorm and was awarded the first Old Well Large Jock Award.

We hope the girls will not give up their raids with only one failure and assure them we'll be back.

Richard D. Klmkiewicz Jr.
8 Old West

your chants; and we will "support" you 100 percent. Come to Grimes because we measure up!

Signed by 36 residents of Grimes

To the editor:

As residents of the Upper Quad, we were saddened to witness the lethargy and lack of thoroughness exhibited by the Melver women on their jock raid of Oct. 18. We of Grimes, as you were passing by, implored you to stop and sing to us to break the drudgery of studying for mid-terms. One of our number even threw his "support" towards you as you ambled past. Did you stop and yield to the call of nature? No! Women of North Campus respond! Do not judge the Upper Quad by the actions (or lack thereof) of a few people. Remember tradition; remember the mutual raids between Melver and Grimes during exams last spring, and how well everything came off during those escapades. Put more spirit into

To the editor:

Dear Melver: After reading your letter concerning jock raids, we at Manly can sympathize with your disappointment at the lack of participation of the men's dorms of Upper Quad. We are, however, not at all surprised that the other male dorms, being of an inferior nature, failed to accommodate you. Our men were a trifle shocked at being by-passed by your entourage, having always been avid "supporters" of North Campus women's activities. In conclusion, we suggest that to avoid future disappointment in your late night ventures, come to where the name implies all — MANLY. (We're proud of our "boys").

S.O.M.P.
The Manly Zero Association

Take time to vote

To the editor:

I have followed the intellectual debate on the succession amendment in the DTH with interest, but I feel that it is time to focus on the reality of the situation and what our role as the educated and informed electorate is.

First, we must realize that this issue is indeed a constitutional amendment. Citizens of North Carolina cannot avoid this issue with the apathy that is currently being encountered. We will have to live with the result of the November election even if we choose not to vote on the issue. Therefore, an uncast vote is a vote for the group that can get the vote out.

It is easy to let Jim Hunt become the center of the question. We must, however, have the foresight to look past Jim Hunt to the time when our classmates will be the leaders of North Carolina. We must take the time to assess the role of the governor's office and how this amendment will affect the office instead of how it will affect Jim Hunt. And most especially, we must be willing to participate, through our vote, in the future direction of our state.

Opinions voiced in the DTH are worthless unless they are voiced on the November ballot. I appeal to the University community to take the time to vote. Apathy in the majority leads to rule by the minority.

Catherine Morton
421 Granville East

'Well-fed dogs'

To the editor:

It galls me to hear Rick Kania, et al., equate affirmative action with classic historical discrimination. In the past blacks were systematically excluded from all but the lowest rungs of the economic ladder. To be black was to be out — period. Now, under "discriminatory" affirmative action, white students still garner 80-90 percent of spaces in graduate and professional schools. To be white is not to be out. Whites still receive the vast majority of places available.

Gentlemen, you are like well-fed dogs fighting over scraps thrown to strays. How dare you claim you're being starved out.

Lee Kessler
709-A Hubbard Drive

Happiness in bondage?

To the editor:

I was one of the persons attending the Oct. 11 meeting concerning the four week drop period. I was at first informed that Faculty Council members would be present — this was not the case. The CGC committee members said that our arguments would be presented at the Oct. 21 meeting of the Faculty Council. Apparently this is also untrue.

The CGC appears to be caught unprepared, first with no proposal to submit, and now with no faculty member to submit the proposal. I must conclude from this that the CGC does not care about the issue of the four week drop any more than the majority of the students, who may be angered but not enough to do anything about it.

It looks as if the students have been railroaded again. The mistake of the four week drop has been forced on us by the administration and faculty in their conviction that academic freedom is the freedom to do as they please without listening to the largest voice in academia. Perhaps, as Pauline Reage has said in *The Story of O*, there is happiness in bondage.

Rodney A. Craven
27 Spring Garden

Proposed noise ordinance needs more study, flexibility

A number of unanswered questions concerning the proposed noise ordinance for Chapel Hill should prompt the Board of Aldermen to put off a decision on it until all the ramifications of the ordinance are known.

Alderman Marvin Silver will propose a new noise ordinance at tonight's board meeting which, though basically sound, could lead to considerable problems if it is adopted hastily. The ordinance would put a limit of 75 decibels on sound from a continuous source, i.e. bands and jukeboxes. City police would enforce this level with a noise meter 75 feet from the source of sound.

A jukebox at full blast registered about 75 decibels in a test conducted by Silver last week, while most bands registered from 77 to 80 decibels. The ordinance includes a provision for permits to exceed the prescribed sound levels for a given time of day by 10 decibels.

Though supporters of the proposed ordinance say it is not as subject to discretion as the present one, we're not sure Silver's proposal is free from subjectivity. Under the present ordinance, one complaint to police makes them warn the noisemaker and two complaints usually prompts police to shut the party down. The new ordinance is good because complaints would no longer end a party if the noise is under the legal limit, but what will prompt police to measure bands now?

It should not be solely up to the discretion of police to measure bands, though Silver said he does not expect police to make rounds of every party. The police should receive at least one complaint before they measure the source, not simply ride past various parties they feel may be loud and pull out their noise meter.

Moreover, though the level of sound is fairly flexible in the proposed ordinance, the distance from which the sound is measured is not. Silver proposes that the source of sound be measured from 75 feet. It seems rather silly, however, to impose the same standard of 75 feet on fraternities in residential areas and those in isolated areas like the ones on Finley Golf Course. Noise that might rattle the windows of residential homes would just fade into a starry night down at Finley.

It's clear that more testing should be done before any specific sound and distance levels are established in the ordinance. Silver himself has said the ordinance should be phrased simply so that it can be amended later without undue difficulty.

If the ordinance does not leave enough leeway, students may find the ensuing sound of silence deafening.

First kiss tonight

Good grief, Charlie Brown

Hold on to your security blankets. Grab your Beethoven records. Tonight, Charlie Brown gets his first kiss.

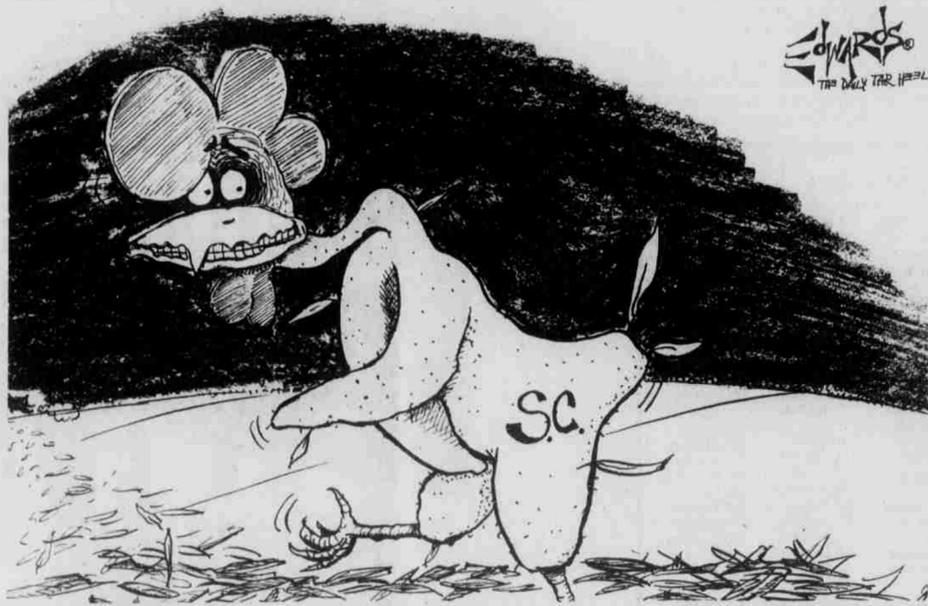
Charlie Brown, the bald-headed, wishy-washy kid in the "Peanuts" comic strip, finally gets it on with the little red-haired girl whom he has admired for years. And on national television, even.

Mustering up all his courage, Charlie Brown finally approaches Heather, as cartoonist Charles Schultz calls her, on an animated CBS-TV special tonight called "It's Your First Kiss, Charlie Brown."

The hero of the strip, it seems, is growing up. Charlie Brown probably will begin dating, getting pimples and wondering where babies come from.

Lucy will give up her psychiatric booth for a kissing booth, and Linus will lose all interest in thumb-sucking. Instead of trying to write the Great American Novel, Snoopy will turn out romantic dime-store paperbacks. Schroeder will become gay.

Life gets more complicated every day, doesn't it?



Green comments 'absurd'

To the editor:

Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green has been making some interesting comments in opposition to the succession amendment. Mr. Green contends that the right to succession would give the governor "awesome" power and make the legislature but "a pawn in the hands of the governor." That these comments are absurd is obvious when one remembers two points that Mr. Green has conveniently forgotten: (1) that the governor of North Carolina is the only state governor without veto power and this significantly adds to the legislature's power because there is no check over them and (2) the succession amendment only allows the governor to try for re-election. The voters may turn him out of office if they feel his programs are not worth continuing.

Obviously, Mr. Green does not put much faith in the people of North Carolina if he does not think they are intelligent enough to know whether their leaders are doing a good job. The current system makes the governor a lame-duck almost from the day that he enters the office. Mr. Green should disregard his personal antipathy toward Gov. Hunt and realize that the succession amendment will benefit the people by giving them a choice.

Harrison Kaplan
303 Stacy

Reevaluate admissions policies

To the editor:

Although much has been said concerning the Bakke dilemma, the dialogue should continue because of this issue's importance to society. Therefore, I will contribute yet another opinion for consideration.

Many comments have been made concerning whether or not the minority students admitted to the University of California at Davis Medical School were "qualified" or "unqualified." Was Bakke more qualified than the applicants chosen under the school's minority admissions plan? How should we decide if an applicant is a high-potential (qualified) student or a low-potential one?

Currently the usual basis of judgment seems to be the applicant's MCAT scores and undergraduate quality point average. But do such indicators really measure an applicant's potential as a doctor (or any other professional)? Does one's QPA indicate one's "qualifications" or one's ability to beat the undergraduate system? Do MCAT scores indicate one's potential or one's talent for taking standardized tests? How, then, should we judge?

The Bakke case points out the need to re-evaluate traditional graduate (and undergraduate) admission policies. Traditionally, the question we have asked has been, "Which applicants have made and

probably will make the highest grades?" However, the more important question is, "Which applicants offer the greatest potential contributions to society after graduation?" Obviously this question is a more difficult one to answer, but it is more socially responsible.

The time has come for society and its institutions of higher education to ask some hard questions. No longer can society, and that means you and I, rest comfortably on the ways of the past.

Rick Reams
312 Lewis

letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes contributions and letters to the editor. Letters must be signed, typed on a 60-space line, double-spaced and must be accompanied by a return address. Letters chosen for publication are subject to editing.