

Maybe too early to decide

N.C. voters uncertain on Senate race

By AMY McRARY
Staff Writer

The vast majority of North Carolinians are still in the dark about who they want elected in the U.S. Senate race next year, according to a recently released survey.

The Carolina Poll, a statewide survey conducted by the UNC School of Journalism, revealed that 73 percent of the respondents either did not know or did not answer when asked who they would like to see elected to the U.S. Senate.

The poll, which questioned 477 adults 18 or older, was conducted Oct. 16 to 21. The results of the random telephone survey accurately reflect North Carolina public opinion 95 times out of 100 with a margin of error of plus or minus 4.49 percent, according to journalism professors who helped conduct the survey.

Sen. Jesse Helms, the conservative Republican who will be defending his seat, was favored by 14 percent of the respondents. The remaining 13 percent of those polled were divided among several declared and potential candidates.

Announced Democratic candidates are State Sen. E. Lawrence Davis, D-Forsyth; State Sen. McNeill Smith, D-Guilford; Luther H. Hodges Jr., a Charlotte banker; David P. McKnight, a former editorial writer for the *Fayetteville Observer*; and Joe Felmet, a former copy editor for the *Winston-Salem Journal*.

Of the Democratic candidates, Hodges was named most often, receiving 2 percent of the support. Davis and Smith each received support from less than 1 percent of the respondents.

Another 2 percent of those interviewed said they

wanted anyone but Helms elected, while 4 percent supported N.C. Attorney General Rufus Edmisten, who said Wednesday that he will not enter the race. Potential candidate John Ingram, N.C. commissioner of insurance, was not mentioned by respondents.

The percentages for support of individual candidates may be low because respondents were asked to name whom they would like elected. Many political polls give a list of names to choose from, allowing respondents to pick a candidate.

Even so, the survey's results may indicate that it is too early for voters to form an opinion about the race. Many respondents said they were unaware of who the candidates for the seat are. The state primary is set for May, while the election will be in November 1978.

Those adults saying it was too early to form an opinion had views similar to a 42-year-old corporation vice president from High Point who said, "It's too premature to choose."

Others said they did not have enough information about the candidates to make a decision. "I just don't know who's running," a 19-year-old grocery clerk from Craven County said.

While neither Democrats nor Republicans showed overwhelming support for any candidate, a greater percentage of Republicans favored Helms than did Democrats.

The poll was conducted by telephone using a process called "random digit dialing" to allow interviewers to reach unlisted numbers and new installations. Homes without telephones were excluded, tending to under-represent the poor.

The survey's finding that 73 percent of the

respondents don't know who they'd like elected drew varying responses from aides to four of the candidates.

"It's a little surprising," said Clint Fuller, a spokesperson for Sen. Helms in Washington. "My reaction is you'd think a much smaller number of people would respond in that way."

Bill Patterson, an aide to Davis, said, "I'm personally not a campaign veteran, but I wouldn't be surprised. It is relatively early. I understand that most people don't think about the election until two months before."

Paul Bernish, a spokesperson for Hodges, said the 73 percent of "don't knows" was "too high a figure and would mean apathy." He said polls done in March and September by their campaign pollster, Richard Dresner, showed "less than 50 percent of the sample was undecided."

June Miiby, Smith's press secretary, said converting the "don't knows" into Smith supporters is the basic purpose for the state senator's campaign.

No one in the McKnight or Felmet campaigns could be reached for comment.

Almost half (47 percent) of those supporting Helms said they agreed with his performance on issues. "He (Helms) stands up for what he thinks is right," a retired Craven County textile worker said. "He don't mind standing up against things he thinks are wrong."

"He's a down-to-earth man who's for the people," a 30-year-old Rutherford County radio announcer said. "I like his stand on the Panama Canal."

Panel discussion on canal treaty today

David Wagner, a member of the Panama Canal treaty negotiating team is one of three guest lecturers who will join three UNC faculty members in a discussion of "The Panama Canal: Myths and Realities," at 8 p.m. today in 100 Hamilton Hall.

Wagner, who is bilateral affairs officer in the Office of Panamanian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, will meet with James P. Lucier, chief legislative assistant to Sen. Helms and a strong opponent to the treaty's ratification, and Professor Riordan Roett from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. They will join UNC professors Joseph Tulchin, department of history in Latin American

Studies; Samuel R. Williamson, department of history and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and Federico Gil, department of political science and director of the Institute of Latin American Studies at UNC.

The format of the program will include 10-minute presentations by each of the panelists followed by a 50-minute discussion among them with a question-and-answer period from the audience. Professor Gil will serve as moderator for the panel.

The program is sponsored by the Curriculum in Peace, War and Defense and the Institute of Latin American Studies at UNC. It is open to the public.



Sandra Blake suffered through the summer with dirty windows and the water shortage, brought out the window-washer in her. Staff photo by Fred Barbour.

Fire financial loss triples that of 1976

By AMY McRARY
Staff Writer

Financial losses from Chapel Hill fires this year are three times as high as losses during the same period in 1976.

According to Chapel Hill Fire Department records, reported fires from January to September resulted in \$161,570 in damages. Only \$54,049 in property losses were reported from January to September 1976.

Building fires accounted for 79 percent, or \$128,000, of the total loss this year.

However, less than one-fifth (15 percent) of the 249 reported fires involved buildings. "It's not hard for a fire in a building to do \$30,000 damage in minutes," R. B. Williams, assistant Chapel Hill

fire chief, said recently.

More than two-thirds of the building losses this year resulted from a single fire that destroyed a UNC fraternity house. The Pi Kappa Phi fraternity house, located on Finley Road, suffered more than \$90,000 damage when it burned Jan. 5.

"That really didn't start our year off very well," Williams said.

Approximately \$30,000 has been lost in several residential fires in August and September, Williams said. Fires on the UNC campus caused nearly \$2,000 in damages. An Old West dormitory room had \$1,200 fire damage, while \$500 was lost in a fire in Venable Hall.

Though damage in terms of dollars is high, no lives have been lost this year or in recent years

because of fires. "Buildings, especially the old ones, can burn and be destroyed quickly," Williams said, "especially if there's a delayed call of the stations. But the last life lost from a fire was three or four years ago."

The financial losses listed by the department may be lower than the actual insurance payment to the owner, the assistant fire chief said. "When we make an estimate of how much fire damage was done to a car or a building, we can only estimate."

Although almost 30 percent of the fires this year involved automobiles, actual dollar damage in this category is slight. Automobile fires account for \$11,055, or six percent, of the total financial loss listed by the department so far this year.

Damage from automobile fires is small because not all the vehicles are totally damaged, Williams said. He said what is reported to be an automobile fire may not be a fire at all. "What we record as a vehicle fire may be only a busted radiator or smoke from a cigarette."

When there is an actual fire in a car, it usually is caused by a leaking gasoline line or a short circuit, the assistant fire chief said.

Williams said the number of vehicle fires fluctuates less than the number of other types of fires because "there's always going to be a lot of cars here."

SHOWS
3:00
5:00
7:00
9:00

"Oh, God!"
GEORGE BURNS
JOHN DENVER

SHOWS
3:15
5:15
7:15
9:15

ACAPULCO GOLD
A MAR VISTA Presentation
Starring MARJOE GORTNER
ROBERT LANSING ED NELSON

SHOWS
3:00
6:00
9:00

WDBS Classic Series presents
William Holden,
Alec Guinness
"Bridge Over River Kwai"

RAM TRIPLE

"UNFORGETTABLE IMAGES."
—Boston Globe

CATHERINE DENEUVE
GIANNINI
LA GRANDE BOURGEOISE

"ENGROSSING ENTERTAINMENT."
—Judith Crist, N.Y. Post

abc Carolina Twin
CHAPEL HILL

"The Big Sleep"
Humphrey Bogart
Lauren Bacall

2:40
4:55
7:10
9:30

Plaza 1 HELD OVER 3rd WEEK
ELIOT RD. AT E. FRANKLIN

Bobby Deerefield PG

SHOWS
2:30
4:50
7:10
9:30

Plaza 2 HELD OVER 2nd BIG WEEK
ELIOT RD. AT E. FRANKLIN

NUREYEV IS VALENTINO United Artists R

SHOWS
2:10
4:30
6:50
9:10

Plaza 3 HELD OVER 5th BIG WEEK
ELIOT RD. AT E. FRANKLIN

POTTER COBBY
A PIECE OF THE ACTION PG

SHOWS
2:00
4:30
7:00
9:30

Varsity STARTS TOMORROW

We know they are here. PG
What do they want?
STARSHIP INVASIONS

SHOWS
2:15
4:00
5:45
7:30
9:15

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