

Phillips ending drive with plans for budget reform

Opposes parking deck, supports fringe lots

By JACI HUGHES
Staff Writer

With the runoff election for student body president drawing near, Jim Phillips outlined his plans for student government in the coming year in an interview Monday.

Phillips has campaigned on a platform of improving the Campus Governing Council budgetary process while opposing construction of the proposed South Campus parking deck.

Phillips outlined three major areas for improvement in the Campus Governing Council budgetary process. "A major change that should be made would switch the fiscal year from one based on the school year and base it on the period from January to December. This would put the budgetary hearings in the fall."

Phillips said that under the present system, with hearings held in the spring just after a new president and new CGC representatives are elected, those who must make the decisions are not familiar enough with the organizations and the budgetary process to make fair decisions.

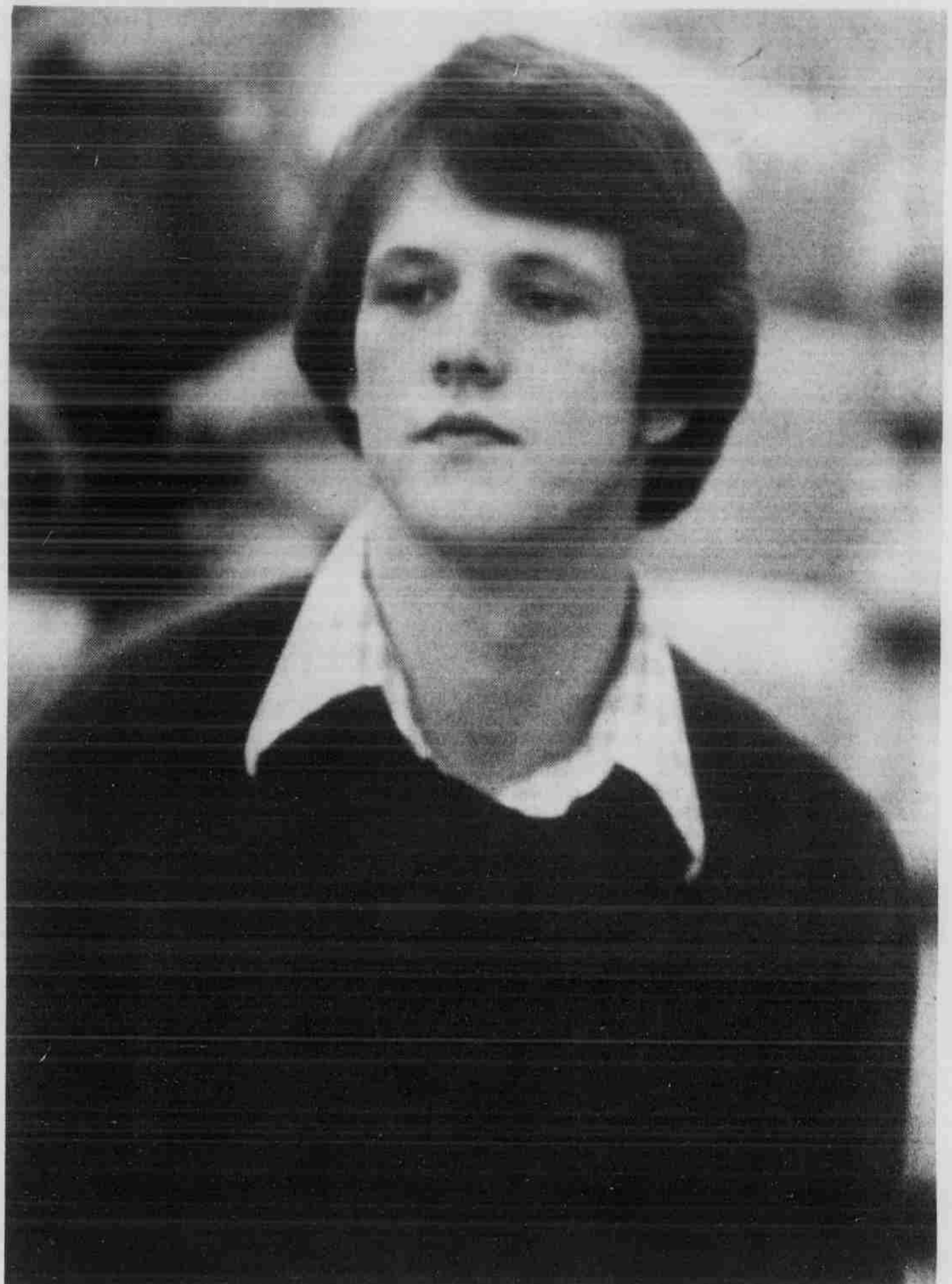
"This change would also allow the president of the student body to recommend a budget to the committee," he said.

Phillips also favors the proposal of the CGC budget committee to remove the president from the CGC Finance Committee. That proposal, which passed the CGC, would place the student body treasurer on the finance committee as a non-voting member.

"It goes against any system of checks and balances I've ever heard of to have a president able to vote on overriding his own veto," Phillips said.

"I also think the hearings should be held in random order instead of alphabetically. That would allow all groups to be treated more fairly."

Concerning transportation and parking, Phillips said he was opposed to construction of the



Jim Phillips faces Gordon Cureton in a runoff in the race for student body president on Wednesday. His campaign platform

consists of CGC improvements and opposition to the South Campus parking deck.

proposed South Campus parking deck and was in favor of the construction of fringe parking lots around the U.S. 15-501 area.

"I think the University should invest in some property on South Campus for parking as well as channel more money into the bus system," he said. "The money it would take to build the parking deck would be better spent on improving the bus system, adding more trips and routes, including a shuttle from the fringe parking lot to the center of campus."

Phillips also has called for a voting student member on the Faculty Council Educational Policy Committee. In the past year, EPC has made recommendations to the

council on the drop period, proposed changes in the Honor Code and the pass/fail option.

"I've talked to the secretary of the faculty and he thinks it (putting a student on the committee) could be done," Phillips said. "He suggested several committees I should go through, such as EPC and the Faculty Council Ad-hoc Committee on Committees and the council itself."

"The students deserve a greater voice in making the decisions which guide their educational processes," he said.

Phillips also said there should be a student on the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen. "Students need to feel

they have a voice in local affairs which affect them," he said.

He also has called for a longer drop period. Last semester, a student government effort to convince the Faculty Council to lengthen the drop period from four to six weeks failed.

Phillips said the key to convincing the council to lengthen the drop period is to convince it that students care about the issue. He criticized SG's effort to involve students in the issue last semester. "They went door to door to get the fee increase, but they didn't do anything like that for the drop period," he said.

Phillips said he also supports continued funding for the Residence Unit Grant and Loan Fund.

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