

Coalition claims Carter abandoned solar pledges

By CAM JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Ralph Nader and consumer and environmental leaders Monday claimed President Carter abandoned campaign pledges to give top priority to solar energy and conservation.

A coalition of 12 groups — the heart of the environmental movement that helped Carter win election — said many administration actions have been the opposite of what candidate Carter promised in 1976.

"We have waited patiently and silently for most of this past year...for this administration to fulfill — or begin to fulfill — their oft repeated promises," the groups said in a joint statement.

"Instead, we have watched in surprise and with growing discouragement as the president abandoned one campaign commitment after another."

Anthony Roisman of the Natural Resources Defense Council said getting "people enthusiastic about Carter," would be "an impossible task if he were running for office today on these issues."

David Orr, a member of the steering committee of the Southeast Environmental Coalition and a UNC assistant professor of political science, disagreed saying Carter's record on environmental issues is good.

The 12-group coalition also was sharply critical of administration proposals to speed up atomic plant construction, spend federal funds for synthetic fuel subsidies and cut federal spending on solar energy.

Coalition members also disputed statements by White House aide Robert Strauss that environmental standards add to inflation and should be relaxed.

Orr, who teaches a political science course Environment — Population and Politics, said more money should be spent on solar energy. "Carter has his priorities flipped (on the nuclear-solar priorities)," Orr said. Orr said the real energy crisis in the United States is not in electricity generation but in the shortage of liquid fuels. Nuclear plants only can generate electricity. Liquid fuels, Orr said, are needed to power industrial machines.

Orr said Strauss' contention that environmental standards increase inflation doesn't stand to reason. Orr said environmental cleanup contributes one-quarter of 1 percent to the rate of inflation.

Joseph Straley, chairperson of the Energy Committee of the North Carolina Academy of Sciences and UNC professor of physics, said a cut in spending on solar energy would be yielding to the pressures of expediency. Straley said development of solar energy is a long-term project that would yield no benefits during Carter's administration. "No matter how much he spends on solar energy, he won't have anything to show for it," Straley said.

Straley said, however, the United States must develop nuclear energy and that the likelihood of a major nuclear accident is extremely small. According to a professor of nuclear engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the chance of a major mishap is about one in two million, Straley said.

Louise Dunlap of the Environmental Policy Center said Energy Secretary James Schlesinger's plan to speed atomic plant construction would reduce citizen



Jimmy Carter

participation.

The coalition included the National Resources Defense Council, Friends of the Earth, the Environmental Policy Center, the Environmental Action Foundation, Environmentalists for Full Employment, the Wilderness Society, Consumer Action Now, the Sierra Club, Nader and his Critical Mass Energy Project, the Environmental Defense Fund, the National Parks and Conservation Association and the National Consumers League.

Supreme Court to rule on similar law Breathalyzer test not required here

By KATHA TREANOR
Staff Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to rule on the constitutionality of a Massachusetts drunk-driver law that North Carolina officials say is similar to the Tar Heel statute governing use of the state breathalyzer test.

The high tribunal will rule next term on the Bay State's appeal of a three-judge U.S. District Court decision to strike down the Massachusetts law because it does not provide a hearing before suspension of a drunken driver's operator's license.

When the federal appeal was filed last year, Massachusetts officials said 12 other states enforce similar statutes, which require implied consent for chemical breath analysis by citizens arrested for drunken driving.

N.C. Assistant Attorney General Bill Ray said North Carolina law differs from the

Massachusetts version in that Tar Heel statutes specifically provide for a hearing before the driver's license is revoked.

If a suspected drunken driver in North Carolina refuses the breathalyzer test, his operator's license is not automatically suspended pending a hearing.

The Massachusetts law mandates a 90-day suspension for persons who are arrested for drunken driving and refuse to take the test. Police officers must fill out a report setting down the grounds for their beliefs that the suspect was intoxicated.

No hearing is required prior to the suspension in Massachusetts, but the driver may have one after surrendering his license to a registrar.

If a driver on a North Carolina highway chooses to ask for a hearing within three days of official notification of the charges against him, revocation of his license will be suspended until the hearing ruling is announced. If the suspect fails to ask for a

hearing, his license could be revoked for up to six months.

Ray said the hearing provided for under North Carolina law is to determine if the suspected drunken driver willfully refused to take the breathalyzer test or not.

The hearing officer in North Carolina also determines if the arresting officer had reasonable grounds to believe the driver was operating his car while under the influence of intoxicating substances, if the breathalyzer operator informed the suspect of his rights under the law and if the driver understood his rights.

If the driver agrees to take the breathalyzer test, he must do so within 30 minutes of the time he is informed of his rights.

In North Carolina, the suspect is allowed to request an administrative hearing and can appeal to the N.C. Supreme Court if he is dissatisfied with the hearing decision, Ray said.

Individual Events Team makes semifinals

Two members of the individual events speech team made the semifinals in two separate national speech tournaments held this month. Team spokesperson Rosalind Fuse said that she hopes the team will place in the top 20 in the nation when the national rankings are released in a few weeks.

Ralph Thompson placed in the top 12 in the prose interpretation category last weekend at the National Forensic Association tournament in Monmouth, N.J. UNC's individual events team sent 15 members to the tournament, Fuse said.

Placing in the top 12 in the American Forensic Association tournament held earlier in April was Ralph Weeks, who was entered in the dramatic interpretation category. Three team members attended the tournament at Normal, Ill.

Fuse said team members qualified for the NFA tournament by making the finals of

any previous tournament, and qualified for the AFA by capturing one of the top three places in a district tournament.

In the annual North Carolina Forensic Association tournament held in Chapel Hill April 1, five UNC team members took first place positions. They were Jan Huffman for

after-dinner speaking, Larry Carpenter for persuasive speaking, Ralph Kennedy for informative speaking and Ralph Thompson and Maureen Maney for duo-interpretation of drama.

— BEN ESTES

No ticket letup during exam period

Parking monitors will be on duty and will be handing out parking tickets during the entire exam period, said Abbott Mason, coordinator of the parking monitor program.

"Many students are under the improper impression that we don't enforce parking regulations during exams," Mason said. "It's always a madhouse the first few days and we usually slack off after that as fewer people are in town, but this year with the 9:30

Tuesday-Thursday exam on the last day, the town should remain crowded and the parking situation busy right until the end of exams. And we will be out there ticketing cars until the end."

"Faculty and staff still have to come to work and have some place to park and students with parking stickers will be coming on campus to use the library. We just want to warn people that parking regulations will be enforced."

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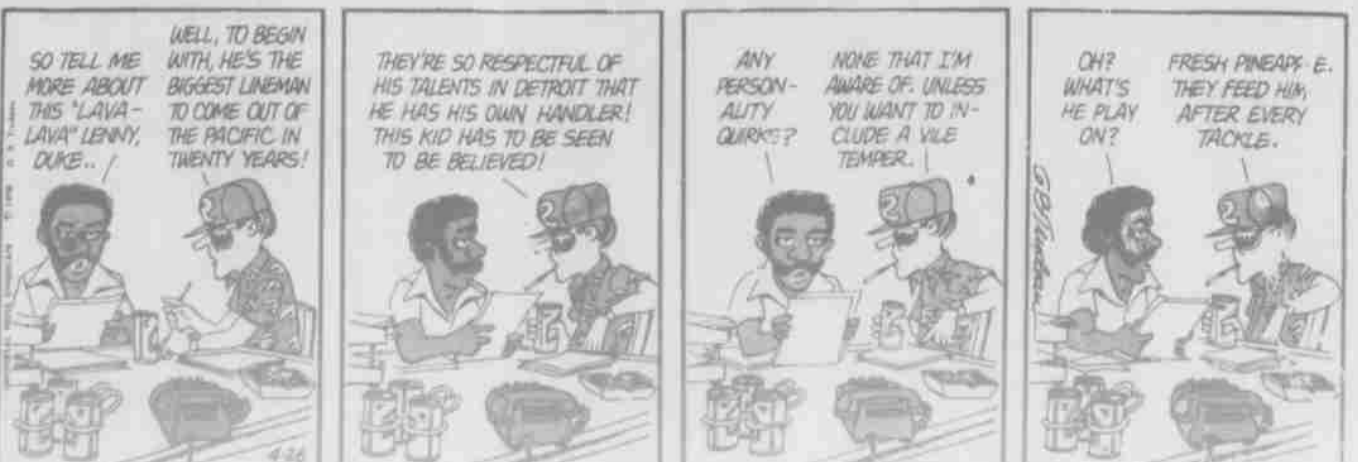
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