

About ballots, staff at polls

# Jacobson receives proposals on elections

By KEN MINGIS  
DTH Staff Writer

Newly appointed Elections Board Chairman Mark Jacobson received several proposals Wednesday designed to eliminate problems that have arisen in past elections. Senior board member Thomas Sharpe met with Jacobson and proposed changes in the balloting procedure, the rule of paper ballots and the staffing of polling places. Jacobson said he wanted to take a new look at the proposals. "Essentially, little has been done so far," he said. "I think that these proposals will have to be re-evaluated by the new board."

One proposal calls for replacing the paper ballots now used with automated machines. "This type of system would be far superior. Instead of taking days to count the ballots, we could have it all finished the same night," Sharpe said.

"I'm talking about results that would be in by 9:30 p.m. or so, not 1 a.m. At times it's taken four days for people to know that they've won, and eight days to completely finish counting," he said.

Sharpe also suggested that the number of students who man the polls be reduced. "This is where the major problems occur," he said. "We had times when poll tenders did not arrive to open the polls."

"Usually they work in hourlong shifts, between classes. When their replacement is late, they go on to class, leaving the polls unattended for a few minutes. You've got an open poll then, right at the rush (to vote) between classes."

Sharpe suggested that the number of poll tenders be cut, and that the hours they work be lengthened. "The number of staffers could be cut by two-thirds," he said.

He proposed that each polling area be placed under one supervisor, who would be responsible for the poll. "This supervisor would be in charge of the entire operation of the polling place."

The balloting procedure itself needs changes as well, Sharpe said. Different election races are now printed on separate paper ballots. "An enormous amount of time is

used simply separating the ballots. It took eight people almost two hours just to divide up the ballots from one box. And then they had to count them," he said.

One idea would be to consolidate some of the major races on one ballot, he said. "But, the races would still have to be separated."

"We've also had a problem with different places running out of ballots," Sharpe said. "There have been times when a poll tender would run out of ballots and not tell anyone. People would come back later in the day to vote, and find that they still couldn't."

Distribution of the ballots was also a problem, he said. "Morrison dorm was constantly running out of ballots. It's just a matter of where people vote."

To cut down on problems with campaign literature, Sharpe also proposed that each candidate submit his material to the Elections Board on a set date before the election. "With campaign material, we had a mess," he said. "Every 15 minutes we had people calling with complaints about violations."

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## 'Carolina Quarterly' is given short-fiction award

The Carolina Quarterly recently received an O. Henry Award for short fiction, Media Board Chairman Dodd Haynes announced at a board meeting this week.

"The O. Henry is the most prestigious award for short fiction given in this country," Editor Dave March said Wednesday. "Last year, 1980, was the best year the Quarterly has had," he said.

The award-winning story, "The Greatest Slump of All Time," included in the Fall 1980 edition, was written by Univer-

sity of Missouri linguistics instructor David Carkeet. Lee Smith's story, "Between the Lines," also won an O. Henry, while "Winter: 1978," by Ann Beatti was included in the Best American Short Stories.

Both were in the Winter 1980 edition of the Quarterly.

Haynes also announced that the Media Board was accepting applications for an at-large seat recently vacated by Haynes. Haynes said interested persons should submit a resume and a letter of intent to

Box 13 in the Carolina Union. The board will also accept applications and letters from anyone interested in becoming business manager for *The Alchemist*.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. Sept. 13, and applicants will be interviewed at the 5 p.m. regular board meeting Sept. 14 in 400 New East.

The Media Board, which oversees the budgets and finances of six campus publications, was recently appointed a new faculty advisor, Townsend Ludington, an associate professor in the English depart-

ment.

"We try to help financially and make publications aware of what they can and cannot do," Haynes said.

— FRANCES SILVA

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## NCNB warns holders of cards

North Carolina National Bank officials are warning customers to be aware of people fraudulently obtaining NCNB 24 card code numbers.

Jim Walters, an NCNB vice president, said there had been recent instances of cards being intercepted in the mail and one instance of a person passing himself off as a police officer to obtain a code number by phone.

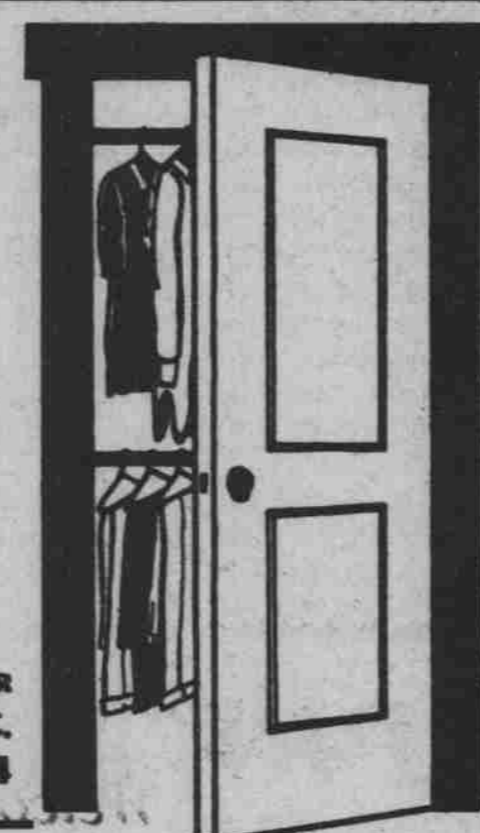
The cards, used with the proper code number, can be used to obtain money from 24-hour banking machines.

Walters said no person should give his code number to anyone. Anyone who has done so should report it to the bank.

He also said that anyone who has ordered one of the cards and has not received it through the mail after two weeks should inform the bank.

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