

Fox: Popular politics often not best

By TOM CONLON
Staff Writer

Politicians and individuals must make decisions based on what is right and not on what is popular, Orange-Chatham County District Attorney Carl Fox told 35 students Tuesday night.

Appointed three weeks ago by former Gov. Jim Hunt to be North Carolina's first black district attorney, Fox was the guest speaker at UNC's Young Democrats' meeting in the Student Union.

Fox, who received his undergraduate and law degrees from UNC in the 1970s, said many young people were discouraged from entering politics because they felt they had to give up their principles.

"I let my record speak for itself," he said, citing his experience and hard work as assistant district attorney for the district. "I didn't want this appointment because I was black . . . young . . . or because I gave so much to somebody's campaign . . . but for the work I did." Fox said. "There is nothing more satisfying than to have done that and not have 10,000 people say 'you owe me.' Everybody wants something from you when you run for public office."

Criticizing arguments that Democrats are "too liberal, left-wing and too radical," Fox said a liberal was defined as one who is open to new ideas. "There is nothing wrong with being open to new ideas . . . even though each of us in this room has something conservative about us. We must dare to be different."

"Those who say the Democratic party is the party of liberals, blacks, gays, the ERA . . . that spells to me that the Democratic party is open to all people," Fox said. "The Republican party is a party

of haves — or you're following on the tail end of policy-making if you're not. Those same people saying the Democratic party is so liberal do not realize that people they view as patriots from 200 years ago — Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin . . . were viewed as liberals because they wanted something different from the mainstream."

Fox warned that acceptance of "movements to return to the past" through complacency would win if people did not become involved and take a stand. "It hasn't been but 60-odd years that the mainstream idea was that women could not vote . . . it hasn't been some 30-odd years where it was OK to be separate but equal — but some people departed from those ideas," he said. "We'd be a country far, far behind from where we are now if people had not taken a stand for what was right."

Social justice has been largely ignored by the Reagan administration, Fox said, adding that it was more popular to cut taxes for large corporations than to feed the hungry in America. "That is something we should be ashamed of," he said. "The concern is what is best for me, not what is best for us."

Following his speech, Fox answered questions on the death penalty, mandatory school busing, search and seizure rules and his future ambitions. Fox said that while an across-the-board, rational approach was necessary to prevent death sentences being given only to the poor and blacks, he supported the death penalty.

"Every time we murder someone we are essentially murderers," he said. "But there are some people who are so bad that it is essentially dangerous to do anything else to them — no prison is escape-proof."



District Attorney Carl Fox addressed YDs Tuesday.

Searches of students ruled legal

From wire reports

The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that public school teachers and officials may search students as long as "reasonable grounds" exist for believing the search will produce evidence of a violation of the law or school rules.

The 6-3 decision came from a case involving a New Jersey high school official's search of the pocketbook of a student, Justice Byron White wrote the majority opinion.

Missile mishap discussed

BONN, West Germany — The West German Parliament's Defense Committee met yesterday to discuss the Pershing missile accident that killed three Americans and prompted new opposition to U.S. medium-range missiles.

The opposition Social Democratic Party, which opposes NATO's deployment of the U.S. Pershing 2 nuclear missiles, Tuesday presented two questions to Parliament demanding more information on last Friday's mishap.

Jamaican fuel riots continue

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Demonstrators prepared for a second day of protests yesterday, replacing roadblocks dismantled by security forces after rioting over fuel price hikes killed at least three people, official Jamaica Radio reported.

Witnesses said security forces remained on patrol in the streets of Kingston, the capital, and helicopters of the Jamaican Defense Force hovered over the Caribbean island.

Volcker urges spending cuts

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker and a group of business

News in Brief

leaders are urging both Congress and President Reagan to take sharp steps to cut spending and reduce the federal deficit this year and in the future.

Volcker predicts interest rates will fall if the deficit, estimated at \$225 billion in fiscal 1986, is cut, and business leaders forecast bad times if it is not slashed.

Neves plans Brazilian future

BRASILIA, Brazil — Tancredo Neves, whose election as Brazil's first civilian president in 21 years triggered carnival-like celebrations across the nation, faced a meeting yesterday with outgoing President Joao Figueiredo.

Neves, 74, was to discuss Brazil's transition to civilian rule with Figueiredo, who is the last of five military rulers to govern the world's sixth largest country since a 1964 coup. Neves will take office on March 15.

Jury rules article defamatory

NEW YORK — The jury in Israel's Ariel Sharon's \$50 million libel suit returned a partial verdict yesterday, claiming *Time* magazine defamed the Israeli general.

The four women and two men on the panel returned the first of three parts of its verdict about 10 a.m., saying the *Time* article suggesting Sharon was responsible for the deaths of Palestinian refugees in 1982 was defamatory.

Hunt

than just so many special interests. The special interests, the caucuses and all of that, have begun to appear to a lot of people as if they're running the Democratic Party.

But fourth, and critically important, the party must also continue to be committed to human beings — to

investments in education and human development, programs that give farmers and working people a fair chance in life. Those are the things the party has traditionally been for.

On Monday, an analysis of Jim Hunt's governorship and his future role in politics.

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For the record

In yesterday's *DTH* the article "JV cheerleader injured in fall" incorrectly identified junior varsity cheerleader Robin Davidson. The *DTH* regrets the error.

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