

# Change proposed for judicial elections

By NEIL WATSON  
Staff Writer

A bill that would require non-partisan election of judges in North Carolina was introduced in the N.C. General Assembly last week.

If the bill passes, the current system of statewide elections would be replaced with elections held by judicial districts. No party affiliation would be shown on the ballot, said Sen. Larry Cobb, R-Meck., the bill's sponsor.

The change would bring the system more in line with the U.S. Constitution, Cobb said, adding that

a federal court trial now pending could result in last year's judicial elections being invalidated.

The method of statewide elections has led voters to make uninformed decisions, Cobb said.

The Democratic Party has used the system to ensure the election of Democratic judges, said Paul Shumaker, the state Republican Party press secretary. People often have no idea who most of the candidates are and know little about their credentials. And because the overwhelming majority of voters in the state are

registered Democratic, they simply vote for the Democratic candidate, he said.

This bill would force the public to become more informed about who the candidates are, Shumaker said. It would also ensure that people in Winston-Salem aren't electing Wake County judges and vice versa, he said.

But Ken Eudy, the state Democratic Party press secretary, said the issue needed more study.

"We think something as fundamental as changing the way justice is handled in the state deserves a

pretty in-depth look," he said.

The argument that the voters are making uninformed choices can be carried to "ridiculous degrees," Eudy said. "Very few people know who the state auditor-general is, but he's elected statewide."

Eudy said he thought that the Democratic Party would not support the bill and that it would not pass.

But Shumaker and Cobb disagreed. "Given the pressure put on (the legislature) by the governor and the public, I think it stands a good chance of passage," Shumaker said.

# Father wins custody rights in landmark Baby M case

From Associated Press reports

HACKENSACK, N.J. — A judge awarded custody of Baby M to her father Tuesday and stripped surrogate mother Mary Beth Whitehead of all parental rights to the child she bore under a \$10,000 contract.

In the nation's first judicial ruling on surrogate parenting, a Superior Court judge said the contract was valid because just as men have a constitutional right to sell their sperm, women can decide what to do with their wombs.

**Guerrilla attack kills American**

SAN SALVADOR, EL Salvador — Leftist rebels raided a major army base Tuesday, killing at least 43 soldiers and a U.S. military adviser, the first American to die during battle in the 7-year-old civil war.

El Salvador's military commander said Staff Sgt. Gregory Fronius, 27, was killed by mortar fire near a command post.

Officials said seven guerrillas died in the attack on the 4th Infantry Brigade garrison at El Paraiso in Chalatenango province, a rebel stronghold.

**Marine scandal continues**

WASHINGTON — A third man has been arrested in a burgeoning sex-and-spy scandal in the ranks of the Marine Corps' security guard force at the U.S. embassy in Moscow, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

Staff Sgt. Robert Stanley Stufflebeam, 24, of Bloomington, Ill., was taken into custody on suspicion of failing to report contacts with Soviet women while working in Moscow from May 1985 to May 1986. He was arrested Sunday at Camp Pendleton, Calif., but has not been accused of

## News in Brief

espionage.

**House overrides highway veto**

WASHINGTON — The Democratic-controlled House voted 350-73 Tuesday to override President Reagan's veto of an \$88 billion highway bill, while administration officials scrambled for support to sustain the veto in a coming Senate showdown.

Senate Republican sources said the president was still shy of the votes needed to sustain the veto in the Senate, and Democratic majority leader Robert Byrd refused to say when he would call for the vote.

The bill includes a provision to raise the speed limit from 55 mph to 65, which Reagan said he supported, but called the \$88 billion spending "pork barrel politics."

**Bird causes car mishap**

MIDLAND, Mich. — It started when Auburn Donald Hudson noticed his morning paper was moving. It seems that a bird had nestled into Hudson's paper before he picked it up from his lawn and put it on the car seat beside him. So he stopped his car and put it in neutral to let the bird go.

He had one leg in the car and one leg out when the gear slipped and the car began to move. Hudson tried hopping down the road to keep up with the car because his foot was stuck under the seat.

Then his pants fell down, and so did he when his foot came loose. He hit his head on cement, but the car kept going onto a neighbor's lawn.

The bird got away.

# Volunteers launch cleanup campaign

By PAUL CORY  
Staff Writer

"Clean Sweep," a statewide anti-litter campaign, begins today with special emphasis on Orange, Vance, Wake, Durham and Guilford counties.

More volunteers and N.C. Department of Transportation maintenance crews will work in these counties because of the upcoming U.S. Olympic Festival, said Jean Dodd of the Keep North Carolina Clean and Beautiful branch of the

DOT.

The month-long campaign involves recruiting volunteers to help with litter collection. Almost 15,000 volunteers participated in the program last spring, Dodd said.

Dodd said the campaign is designed to help educate people about litter by getting them to pick it up.

"We believe that if we get volunteers out there, they will realize we have a littering problem," Dodd said.

"People will think twice about littering after they have had to work to pick it up."

Dodd said that while North Carolina's litter problem is less severe than that of other states, there is still more litter than maintenance crews can possibly pick up. North Carolina spent \$2 million on litter collection last year, she said.

Gov. Jim Martin supports the effort and has declared April "The Month of the Clean Sweep," said Tim Pittman, Martin's press secre-

tary. Martin has also designated April 26 to May 2 as "Keep America Beautiful Week in North Carolina."

Dodd said that Martin's wife, Dottie, has also supported the "Clean Sweep" program by writing letters and speaking to committees and groups across the state. "She (Mrs. Martin) is very concerned with how the state looks."

On April 16, Mrs. Martin will take a plane trip across North Carolina to support the "Clean Sweep" program, Dodd said.

# N.C. Senate approves ban on phosphates

By SHARON KEBSCHULL  
Staff Writer

The N.C. Senate voted to ban the use of phosphates in laundry detergents after only 15 minutes of debate Monday. The bill goes next to the N.C. House of Representatives.

The House passed two phosphate bills before, but both died in Senate committees.

The Senate debated seven amendments to the bill for 90 minutes Friday. This is the third bill of its type to go before the Senate. The most recent one was voted down in

1985, and environmental groups criticized the Senate for not supporting environmental causes.

"We feel like the bill won't do any good for the environment," said Lawrence Davis, an attorney and legislative counsel for Proctor and Gamble. "It will cost consumers lots of money."

Only 6 percent of the phosphates in water come from detergents, Davis said.

Sen. Russell Walker, D-Randolph, who sponsored the bill, used a parliamentary move to cut

off debate Monday night before more amendments could be proposed.

Sen. William Barker, D-Pamlico, withdrew a final amendment after Walker told him debate on the amendment would hurt chances of passing the bill.

Barker said he planned to introduce the amendment again as a separate bill, which would apply stricter anti-pollution standards to the lower Neuse River in the Piedmont.

Cost to remove three-fourths of

the phosphorous would be \$9.35 per household of four per year, Davis said, while with the ban, the cost to the detergent industry would be passed on to consumers, costing them an extra \$42 per year.

He said lobbyists were "rather amazed" at how fast the bill was passed. They said that if amendments had been allowed, proponents of the bill may have turned against it.

Associated Press contributed to this story.

# Tenants fear loss of homes with town takeover of public housing

By HUNTER LAMBETH  
Staff Writer

Public housing tenants at a public hearing March 23 told Chapel Hill Town Council members that they feared a proposed town takeover of the Housing Authority would mean they would be forced from their homes.

Annie Freeman said she and her family have been public housing tenants for 15 years.

"We believe we will be evicted because they (the town) don't have anything to show us differently," she

said.

The Housing Authority has been independent of the town since 1962 but is now seeking financial assistance. Rosemarie Waldorf, a Housing Authority board member, said the town has given the Authority a gift of about \$63,000, but more funds are still needed. The bulk of Housing Authority funding comes from rental income, she said.

Tenants at the public hearing said they feared that if the town takes over public housing, it will renovate the Housing Authority's 312 apart-

ments in Chapel Hill and Carrboro and sell them in the private market. Council member R.D. Smith told them that federal regulations would prohibit the town from selling public housing.

Town manager David Taylor agreed. "There's no truth to that. It does not matter who manages (the public housing units), tenants would not be evicted," he said.

Tina Vaughn, Chapel Hill human services coordinator, also said the tenants have not been told they

would be evicted.

The nine Housing Authority board members, who are appointed by Mayor Jim Wallace, agreed that public housing needs financial assistance, but they disagreed on whether public housing should remain independent or become a town agency.

The board voted 5-4 in favor of becoming dependent on the town March 23.

Taylor said the proposal is an "alternative," not a takeover. He said the Authority requested a joint study with the town in October 1986. The study was to find alternatives to the

independent Housing Authority.

A report of the study was presented to the council March 9, and the proposal to make public housing a dependent town agency was suggested as an alternative. The council will probably make a decision in its April 13 meeting, Taylor said.

# Tornado blast damages homes, injures 4 on N.C. Outer Banks

From Associated Press reports

Four people were injured and mobile homes and boats were flattened when a tornado hit without warning and "blindsided" two Outer Bank communities Tuesday, but officials said it could have been worse if the tourist season was in full force.

"There's just total devastation on Buxton Harbor," said Wally DeMaurice, head of the National Weather Service office in Buxton, about 50 miles south of Manteo on Hatteras Island.

A Buxton mobile home housing a couple and their daughter "was literally destroyed, completely flattened," when the twister touched down around 6:30 a.m., DeMaurice said. "It looks like a bomb went off in it. It literally just blew it apart."

Michael Rak, 31, was treated for a shoulder injury, and Pam Rak, 27, was treated at Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City for a hip injury, officials said. Their daughter, whose

name and age were not available, was unhurt.

At least two other people were treated at the scene in Buxton for cuts and bruises.

Four mobile homes in Buxton were destroyed, DeMaurice said. A total of about 15 homes were damaged in the community, said Bryan Meekins, communications director for Dare County.

The tornado destroyed or damaged about 17 boats in Scott's Marina in Buxton, Meekins said. DeMaurice estimated the damage to boats in the harbor area ranged from \$200,000 to \$1 million.

"About two-thirds of those boats down there belong to fishermen who normally cannot afford insurance," said Vance Kee of the state division of emergency management.

In Avon, five miles north of Buxton, three mobile homes were destroyed and one home was lifted off its foundation when the tornado touched down eight minutes later.

DeMaurice said. A total of seven to 15 houses were damaged, Meekins said.

"I've never heard nothing come up like that. My God, it was terrible," said George Gray of Avon. He said his home was damaged but his family was unhurt.

## For the Record

In Tuesday's article, "Koala Week" focuses on substance abuse," the Daily Tar Heel incorrectly reported that the event was being sponsored in part by WGNC/G105, and that G105 would broadcast live from the Pit Thursday.

The radio stations WDCG and WDCG 105 are helping to sponsor the event. WDCG 105 will broadcast Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and WDCG will broadcast from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the reporting errors.



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