

Virginia voters may elect nation's 1st black governor

By HELLE NIELSEN
Staff Writer

In a high-profile gubernatorial race still too close to call, Virginia could elect the country's first black governor Nov. 7.

Recent polls indicate a dead heat between Democratic nominee, Lt. Gov. Douglas Wilder, who is black, and his Republican opponent, Marshall Coleman, who is white. A Washington Post poll showed Wilder ahead by 3 percentage points. Another poll, taken by Mason-Dixon Opinion Research of Maryland, showed Coleman leading by 5 percent. Both leads, though, were within the poll's margin of error.

"Some of the support is too soft," said Brad Coker, president of Mason-Dixon. "It shifts from week to week. (Voters) could be moved one way or the other with the right messaging."

A recently launched offensive on the issue of abortion seems to be paying off for Wilder.

Wilder, who is pro-choice, has begun to hit hard on Coleman in televi-

sion commercials for opposing abortion rights under almost all circumstances. The slight Coleman lead in the Mason-Dixon poll made a turnaround when respondents were informed about the candidate's stands on abortion.

"The abortion (commercials) definitely helped Wilder," Coker said. "It moved the race into a dead heat. But it's not going to win it for Wilder."

Coleman, a lawyer, was the first Republican to be elected attorney general in Virginia in 1977 and served one term before he ran for governor in 1981. He lost to Charles Robb, now a U.S. senator.

Wilder, also a lawyer and a former state senator, has served as lieutenant governor since 1985.

In a campaign mirroring last year's presidential campaign, law and order issues have dominated the agenda with Coleman trying to depict his opponent as soft on crime.

"Coleman is running very much the same campaign against Wilder as Bush did against Dukakis," said Thomas

Morris, a professor of political science at the University of Richmond.

Unlike Michael Dukakis, Wilder has been quick to respond, underscoring his support for the death penalty and harsh punishment for those convicted of drug-related crimes, Morris said.

Wilder is running as the natural successor to his two Democratic predecessors, Robb and Gerald Baliles, both moderate-conservative Democrats. Each served one term this decade, as Virginia does not allow its governor to run for re-election.

"I think it's fair to say that if it came down to a referendum about the approach to government of the previous two Democratic administrations, Wilder would win," Morris said.

Both candidates have moved to the right, Sabato said.

"I think it (is) a fair description of Doug Wilder as a very liberal Democratic state senator, who became a

moderate conservative lieutenant governor; and Coleman as a liberal Republican, who became a conservative candidate for governor."

Like most other political hopefuls for major offices, both candidates have addressed the drug problem extensively.

Coleman advocates holding drug users more accountable for their end of the problem, said Dennis Peterson, Coleman's communications director. He suggests stiffer penalties for small-time offenders, including community service, fines and publishing of their names, Peterson said.

"If there's not a market, there's not a problem," he said.

Coleman also favors sending drug offenders to a rigorous boot camp rather than prison "to set them straight," he said.

Seeing law and order as one of the most important challenges the governor will have to deal with, Coleman

also proposes abolishing the parole system for prisoners, Peterson said.

Scuffing at Coleman's depicting Wilder as soft on crime, Wilder's deputy press secretary B.J. Northington said Wilder sponsored Virginia's first anti-drug paraphernalia law as early 1971.

But stricter laws and law enforcement alone will not solve the drug problem, Northington said. Getting rid of drugs requires a comprehensive program, including dealing with social problems, she said.

Wilder's program is "pooping all the resources to fight the problem," she said.

Wilder also addresses drug problems in a comprehensive education plan, aiming to fight what he calls the three D's: Drop-out, drugs and disparity.

He would set up regional academic rehabilitation centers for students caught with drugs or alcohol in the

schools, said Marie Kirk, also a deputy press secretary.

"That would remove the kids from our schools who are using drugs. But instead of just expelling them from school and turning them back on the street, we would continue to give them academic work and drug counseling."

In a state where the battle to integrate schools was unusually bitter, everybody seems to agree that race plays a role, albeit a subtle one, even though Wilder already beat the odds when he was elected lieutenant governor.

"There is general consensus that race is an issue, which Wilder has to clear once again," Morris said.

But changing demographics in the South from rural toward more urban societies are lowering the barriers for blacks in politics, Sabato said.

"The South gives a very mixed political message if you look beyond presidential elections."

Dean Jicha gives students highest priority

By BEVIN WEEKS
Staff Writer

Maybe it's the excitement he feels when students enter UNC as freshmen in the fall, or the joy he feels when they leave as graduates in May. In any case, Donald Jicha has made students his top priority during his 29 years at Carolina.

A professor of inorganic chemistry and associate dean of the General College, Jicha maintains that "students are my favorite group of people."

He especially enjoys working with students in their early college years as they try to find majors, think about career choices and discover all the possibilities of life, he said. "It's a lot of fun to work with the students who are exploring."

He sees his job as helping students make what he calls the difficult transition from teenager to young adult. "Giving them (students) direction, or some options to consider ... is something from which any teacher would get a great deal of satisfaction," he said.

It is obvious that students also see him as a mentor, as he sometimes writes more than 200 medical school recommendations a year. Many of Jicha's former students still keep in contact with him. He spoke of one student who had just called him because he had received his medical degree and needed a recommendation for an internship.

Current students also have great respect for Jicha. Junior Tracey Langhorne, an assistant in the General Chemistry office, described him as dynamic. "He has so much to do and so little time to work with. He gets everything ac-

complished."

Although it may come as a surprise to this generation, there are a lot of similarities between the students of 1960 and those of 1989, according to Jicha. "I think there's a real commitment that students had to the University then, and I think there's still that same commitment now."

Jicha's allegiance to UNC keeps him busy, even after almost 30 years.

He described himself as being "happiest when I have a variety of things to do, like teaching and course development," but said that if he had to pick one thing as a favorite, it would be teaching.

This is no surprise to the students of a man who won the Tanner Award for excellence in teaching at the undergraduate level at UNC.

A native of Chicago, Jicha received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois in 1955 and his Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1960. He came to UNC, an institution he describes as having "a lot of tradition and a lot of pride," the same year. Since then he has become a fixture in undergraduate education in Chapel Hill.

Yet there is more to this man than just academics. He is also the father of two sons, one of whom just graduated from college. The other is now a freshman at UNC.

Jicha also led a Boy Scout troop for 13 years. He gave up being a scoutmaster this year, but he continues to work with scouts on achieving merit badges.

For a man who likes "the diversity of working both in administration and working in academia directly," Jicha certainly has all bases covered.



General College Dean Donald Jicha in the lab at Venable

Disaster aid approved for 5th N.C. county

By WAGNER DOTTO
Staff Writer

Brunswick is the fifth N.C. county cleared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to receive emergency disaster aid in the wake of Hurricane Hugo, said Bill Cannell, public information official at the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety in Raleigh.

The announcement was made Thursday morning in Charlotte by Tom Credle, FEMA coordinating official, Cannell said. FEMA coordinates the assessment of hurricane-related damage.

"Damages in Brunswick County are calculated in \$75 million, the second worst in North Carolina," Cannell said. Hundreds of Brunswick coastal homes were damaged or destroyed in last week's storm.

Union was the most damaged North Carolina county; officials estimate that it has had more than \$80 million in losses. Total damage for North Carolina is now estimated at \$248 million, Cannell said.

Mecklenburg, Gaston and Lincoln counties were also cleared for federal aid.

FEMA's assessment will continue in North Carolina and more counties may be cleared to receive federal aid,

Cannell said. Gov. Jim Martin has sent a letter to President Bush asking for disaster relief for 51 counties.

Application centers for claims will be open tomorrow in at least three locations, Cannell said. The locations are not yet definite. Cannell recommends that people bring insurance forms, pictures of damage, income statements and credit records.

"In general, it will take from one week to two months for the money to be released," he said. "Past experiences have shown that relief checks in North Carolina are quicker to be released than in other states."

About 170,000 people are still without power in North and South Carolina, said Mary Kathryn Scarborough, a Duke Power Co. official.

"The damages were very extensive, and as we got in the field we found more than we had anticipated."

She said there were about 8,000 people working to restore electricity in several areas where Duke Power operates. Many of Duke Power's workers were borrowed from power companies in 14 states. Electricity has been restored to 330,000 people, she said.

"We can't be sure to say that, but in one week the service will be restored in most areas."

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Police from page 1

swering machines and two telephones, together valued at \$535.69. On Sept. 4, one answering machine, valued at \$184.80, was stolen.

Edwards was released under \$2,000 unsecured bond.

University police officers became suspects Sept. 6, when Edwards and two other officers were removed from active duty in connection with the investigation of about \$4,000 worth of missing property.

The SBI answered the University police's request for assistance Sept. 5 when it assigned an agent to the case for investigative field work.

One of the officers removed from duty, police dispatcher Michael P. Curtis, and his wife Nancy were found dead of shotgun wounds the evening of Sept. 6. The bodies were found in a wooded area behind their mobile home at the Crawford Trailer Park on N.C. Highway 54.

Two shotguns were found at the scene and the couple's will and testament was found on a tabletop in their home, Orange County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Royce Tripp said.

No note referring to the deaths was found in what police believe was a double suicide.

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