

City and State

Students eligible to fill vacant seat on town board

KATHERINE SNOW
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Commission is looking to fill a vacant board seat, which is open to all residents of Chapel Hill, including students.

Town Clerk Peter Richardson said there were students on several town boards, and he encouraged more student participation in local government.

"We'd be delighted to have a student be a part of that board."

The Parks and Recreation Commission will accept applications for the available position through Nov. 13 and will make a recommendation to the town council. The council makes the final decision as to who fills the position, Richardson said.

Applications are available at the town clerk's office at 306 N. Columbia St.

Bill Hildebolt, external affairs director for student government, said he thought all the board seats had been filled this summer.

"I'm surprised to hear about this seat. I'll announce it at the External Affairs meeting on Sunday, and I'll tell anyone who's interested to go fill out an application on Monday."

Hildebolt serves as UNC student

liaison to town council, where he spends time on Chapel Hill boards such as the board of transportation.

Getting students more involved was also a concern of the candidates for Chapel Hill Town Council. Julie Andresen, who was elected to her second term Tuesday night, said she was pleased with the student involvement over the past few years but would still like to see more.

"Students I've talked to seem more knowledgeable about what's going on in their town," Andresen said. Students should want to know what is going on and be a part of it, she said.

Matthew Heyd, a sophomore from Charlotte, has held a seat on Chapel Hill's Historic District Commission since last August. He said even though he is a student, he has as much influence as any other member on the board.

"It is interesting to see the difference between myself and other people on the board who have lived in Chapel Hill for 40 years or more."

The Historic District Commission will soon decide if Fraternity Court will be recognized as a historic district. Heyd will represent the students and will have an important say in the decision.

Anonymous AIDS test option to continue

By ROBERT BERRY
Staff Writer

N.C. health officials decided Thursday to continue giving North Carolinians access to anonymous AIDS testing in spite of a new law calling for reporting of test results.

Although the law recommends that results of tests for the HIV virus, the virus which causes AIDS, be reported to health officials, the N.C. Commission for Public Health voted Thursday to continue allowing anonymous testing in every county rather than adopt a "confidential" system in which names of patients would be kept in government files.

"Obviously, the state health commission did not believe (mandatory reporting) was the legislation's intent," Don Follmer, director of public affairs for the N.C. Division of Health Services, said soon after the decision.

The N.C. Commission for Health Services had been considering several

options in implementing the law, passed this year by the General Assembly. Follmer said one was to reduce the number of centers where anonymous testing would be available. Instead, the commission decided to allow at least one center in each county, which is "exactly the same as it is now," he said.

Follmer said the issue of AIDS testing was complicated by fears about discrimination.

"The problem with this issue is that there is a group on one end of the spectrum who see it as a civil rights issue rather than a medical issue.

"It's impossible to track an epidemic if you don't know who's sick. If we had an outbreak of bubonic plague, do you think we'd have anonymous testing?"

Concerns about AIDS discrimination were addressed in the 1989 law, which included anti-discrimination provisions. Follmer dismissed arguments made by opponents who think the law is inadequate.

"I'm not sure what they want on that. It's a good piece of anti-discrimination legislation."

Jim Shields, executive director of the N.C. Civil Liberties Union, disagreed.

"Many people are suspicious that government won't be effective or even make good faith efforts to enforce it," he said in a telephone interview Wednesday. He added that the law had several "truck-sized" loopholes, such as the exemption given to the restaurant industry regarding hiring decisions based on AIDS tests.

Shields said the anti-discrimination law was "a step in the right direction symbolically. It's nothing else."

Shields said a reporting requirement would damage not only civil liberties but also the public health concerns it tried to help.

"People who are most in need of testing have the most to fear from a breakdown in anonymity." If any-

mous testing is available, people tend to come in for testing sooner, he said.

Shields said a reduction in the number of anonymous centers would be dangerous because those most vulnerable to AIDS are also the least able to travel to a distant center for testing.

He also disagreed that reporting was necessary for "contact tracing," identifying those who have come into contact with those who test positive. Even with mandatory reporting, scientists still depend on patients to identify others voluntarily, he said.

"People who are comfortable will give more names of people to be contact-traced."

Shields could not be reached for comment after the commission's decision was announced Thursday.

As of July 1989, 28 states had laws requiring reporting of HIV infections, according to Gayle Lloyd, public affairs specialist for the national Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta.

Governor visits European business leaders

By SANDY WALL
Staff Writer

Gov. Jim Martin is now in Europe in an effort to land new businesses for North Carolina, stimulate existing markets for N.C. products and encourage new investment in the state.

Martin left Wednesday for London with a delegation of state officials and private business leaders and will be in Europe for 11 days, said Tim Pittman, director of communications for the governor, in a telephone interview. While overseas, Martin will visit Eng-

land, West Germany, Denmark and Sweden.

"It's an economic development mission," Pittman said. While on the trip, Martin will be meeting with the executives of companies that already have subsidiaries in North Carolina as well as with executives who are considering moving some of their operations here.

"There are always direct links between these trips and new business," he said.

Martin said in a press release that

similar trips had been fruitful for the state in the past.

"We've been very successful in attracting firms that bring good jobs to North Carolina," he said in the statement. "Previous missions have helped us find new markets and enhance our traditional markets."

These trips are nothing new for Martin. "This is his third recruiting trip this year," Pittman said, adding the governor has already visited California and the Far East this year in an effort to land new business for the state.

N.C. Secretary of Economic and Community Development Jim Broyhill is traveling with Martin on this trip, as are 10 private N.C. business people, Pittman said. The business people are traveling on their own resources.

Business recruiting trips, although potentially fruitful for North Carolina, are very competitive, Pittman said. Other states also try to recruit new business with recruiting trips.

"If you don't get out there and (recruit), you're going to lose ground," Pittman said.

Hazardous waste plans mulled

By GLENN O'NEAL
Staff Writer

North Carolina's proposal for the management of hazardous waste may not be satisfactory to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), said Alvis Turner, professor of environmental sciences and engineering at UNC and chairman of the N.C. Hazardous Waste Management Commission.

The commission is responsible for locating a site in North Carolina for a hazardous waste facility and for designing, constructing and operating the facility by means of a private company or by the commission, he said.

North Carolina, along with the rest of the nation, had to submit a proposal to the EPA by Oct. 17 on how the state planned to manage the hazardous waste generated in the state.

North Carolina submitted a draft of an eight-state agreement among the states in EPA Region Four that was signed by only North Carolina, he said.

It shows the EPA that North Carolina is serious about managing hazardous waste, but it does not certify North Carolina's capacity to handle that waste, he said. North Carolina does not have the capacity for treating hazardous waste at this time, he said.

By EPA's own admission, it will take months to evaluate the proposals from all 50 states, Turner said. There probably will be no immediate response from the EPA to any state.

The penalty for not having an acceptable plan for the management of hazardous waste is the loss of EPA Superfund clean-up money, which could mean a loss to North Carolina of \$28 million for two clean-up sites, he said.

David Prather, deputy director of communications for Gov. Jim Martin, said the governor was still involved in negotiations with the other states to include North Carolina in a multi-state agreement. North Carolina has increased its offer on the size of the incinerator the state would build in such an agreement from 40,000 tons a year to 50,000 tons a year, he said.

The state has explored other possibilities for hazardous waste facilities such as solvent recovery, but no final agreement has been made, he said.

South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky, who share EPA Region Four with North Carolina, reached an agreement to share the responsibility for treating hazardous waste. Mississippi, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida were left out of the agreement.

The eight-state agreement fell through one week before the deadline, because South Carolina and Alabama, the two states with landfill capacity, decided that states without a hazardous waste facility in place could not be in an agreement, Turner said. The two states were receiving hazardous waste from

all over the country, he said. "They feel like they have become a waste dump for the whole country."

A hazardous waste incinerator, chosen by North Carolina as the preferred facility in a multi-state agreement, is the "safest way to go," Turner said. An incinerator keeps everything above ground; thus a possible leak can easily be contained, he said.

Doug Rader, senior scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund, said the group preferred the idea of source reduction but added that the group was concerned with the handling of the ash generated by incineration. The ash could be classified as hazardous material, he said.

Turner said incineration could reduce 100 pounds of hazardous waste to five to 10 pounds of waste, a reduction of 85 percent to 90 percent. "No other technology will come close to this."

The commission will try to select a site by May 1990 and have a facility operating by December 1991, he said.

"Certainly, the greatest opposition in finding a site has come from the general public. The General Assembly has been supportive of the process until you consider a site that is in their backyard."

If North Carolina had a site selected by the Oct. 17 deadline, it would have been helpful in reaching a multi-state agreement but it may not have been sufficient, Turner said.

Study suggests greater prevalence of Alzheimer's

From Associated Press reports

CHICAGO — More than one in 10 people over age 65 may have Alzheimer's disease, shows a study suggesting that the number of Americans with the devastating illness may be 1.5 million higher than previously

estimated.

A study of 3,626 elderly people in East Boston, Mass., revealed that rates of Alzheimer's grew rapidly higher with advancing age, soaring to nearly half of those over age 85, said researchers at Harvard Medical School.

Of people ages 65 to 74, 3 percent had "probable" Alzheimer's disease, compared with 18.7 percent of those 75 to 84 and 47.2 percent of those over 85.

All told, 10.3 percent of those over age 65 had "probable" Alzheimer's disease, the researchers said.

The study was funded in part by the National Institute on Aging, and its finding prompted the institute to revise its estimate of U.S. citizens suffering from Alzheimer's — which robs people of their memories and their ability to function — from 2.5 million to 4 million.

A statement said the study was important because it studied large numbers of people, including those living in their own homes or with families and those with few memory problems.

"As a result, these estimates might

lay the groundwork for developing the most accurate picture of Alzheimer's disease in the U.S. population to date," said Zaven Khachaturian, NIA associate director for neuroscience and neuropsychology of aging.

Minors

Scott said. Dartmouth also offers double majors for its students.

The University of Chicago does not allow its students to minor in a subject or to declare a double major, said Robert

Ball, associate director of undergraduate admissions.

Students can fulfill two degree requirements for two separate degrees, but only one area of study appears on the diploma. The other area of study appears on the transcript, Ball said.

"The intellectual climate here is such that we don't need to have this additional structure of a minor to ensure the breadth of general education or the ability to do disciplinary work. It doesn't serve the education mission here."

The University of Tennessee (UT) offers a minor to its students, said Linda Tober, reporter of curriculum in academic programs. Every department in the College of Liberal Arts, which is similar to UNC's Arts and Sciences, offers a minor including English, math and political science, she said.

"Requirements vary from department to department, but the professional schools such as architecture, nursing, social work and communications do not offer a minor."

Tober said that there were no restrictions on the minor for students, but that the minor was only listed on the transcripts and not on the diploma.

Middlebury College, a small school in Vermont, requires students to take a concentration. According to Geoffrey Smith, assistant director of admissions, Middlebury divides its curriculum into four divisions of humanities, math/science, social science and foreign language. Each student is required to choose a concentration outside the division of his/her major, Smith said.

"It's all part of that liberal arts rationale, that students should have a

broadly based background."

Middlebury offers 100 different concentrations, Smith said.

"We have 40 different departments, and each one offers more than one concentration. So if a student wants to concentrate in English, he could concentrate in Victorian literature or romantic poetry."

Lloyd Hall, associate director of admissions at Cornell University, said that the school allowed its students to concentrate in various subjects, but that it did not have an actual minor.

"Most of the basic courses offer a concentration, and the professional schools allow students to concentrate only within the school."

Cornell has many students who double major instead of using the concentration, Hall said.

"We also let students pursue a double degree, but only between certain schools such as engineering and arts and sciences."

The University of Maryland allows students to concentrate in various subjects, said Barbara Gill, assistant director of freshman admissions. Many of Maryland's different colleges encourage students to concentrate in a subject.

"There are a number of academic colleges on this campus that require students to take what they call a minor. It's more like a program of emphasis outside the major."

The College of Journalism requires a concentration in its curriculum, as does the American Studies program, Gill said.


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