

CAMPUS AND CITY

Report says UNC environment 'chilly' for campus minorities

By JoAnn Rodak
Staff Writer

The University's environment is "chilly" toward women, minorities, homosexuals and disabled people, according to a report released Friday.

The report contains the results of an 11-month study conducted by the Chancellor's Committee on Community and Diversity.

The 45-page report recommends future actions to improve diversity within the University community. But its suggestions for solving campus problems will take time to implement, some committee members said Tuesday.

Chancellor Paul Hardin formed the 22-member committee in November 1990 after campus incidents of racial slurs, sexual harassment and employee grievances.

Hardin said he was eager to work on implementing some of the recommendations. "There's no way of doing it all at once," he said. "(We can) study the report and learn all we can ... and pick out what seems the most promising and go to work on it."

The committee is composed of students, faculty and administrators. Committee members contacted campus groups and officials during the report's compilation but formed their own opinions about the data collected.

Esa Davis, co-chairwoman of Students for the Advancement of Race Relations, said she wondered why the study was not publicized while it was conducted.

"I wasn't even made aware of this report," Davis said. "I'm surprised it was never brought to my attention."

"Why was it so secretive? Why didn't

the undergraduate (committee members) bring back information to other student groups to ask their opinions?" she asked.

Hardin said the expense of reproducing the 45-page report had slowed the dissemination of the information. But summaries have been sent to the Board of Trustees, the Administrative Council and the Faculty Council.

"There is no possibility of getting it to all students or to student government," Hardin said. "We're gradually getting it out to student leaders."

Felits Lewis, one of three undergraduates on the committee, said he wasn't sure what impact the study would have on the University environment.

"We may see positive results in years to come, but there probably won't be any sudden impact on the issues we discussed," Lewis said. "For example, the housing situation — it's going to take some time to get feedback from residents and get through the red tape of the department of housing."

Lewis said the suggestions were helpful, but the problems would not disappear overnight.

"It's not fair to say what we've done will alleviate the problems of racism and sexual harassment and (dormitory) segregation," he said.

Donald Boulton, vice chancellor for students affairs, said he was pleased with the report's depth. "The committee did a thorough job of pulling together and highlighting the areas we must act upon."

The report details 24 recommendations for improving the University community's understanding of diversity, including:

- Increasing campuswide awareness

of minority recruitment efforts by creating a network of student and faculty advisers to contact potential students.

- Intensifying efforts to recruit Native-American students by a similar advisory network of professionals, faculty members and students.

- Increasing resources available for financial aid to attract more minorities who usually attend schools offering more competitive financial resources.

- Improving academic advising as a way to retain students and to develop a strong pool of diverse candidates for graduate and professional schools.

- Developing a unified strategy for hiring black and Native-American faculty members by reassessing the success of past recruitment methods.

- Helping minority and female faculty members find needed research support by encouraging them to apply for grants.

- Addressing problems of faculty retention before they arise by interviewing junior faculty members who might be lured away to other schools.

- Encouraging faculty members to offer more diverse courses and students to take these classes by implementing a multicultural General College perspective.

- Addressing the "chilly classroom climate" by training faculty members and teaching assistants to monitor their classrooms for uncomfortable situations in which women and minorities become "invisible" or singled out.

- Addressing patterns of segregation within University housing by discussing race-related tensions and creating favorable living environments by changing the method of assigning freshman residence-hall housing.

Incumbents victorious in Carrboro Bond referendum for center dumped

By Jennifer Brett
Staff Writer

Incumbent candidates Jay Bryan, Randy Marshall and Frances Shetley were re-elected to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen Tuesday night, and Mayor Eleanor Kinnaird, who ran unopposed, said she was eager to continue working with the aldermen.

Bryan received 1,065 votes, while Shetley received 1,011 and Marshall pulled in 815.

Carrboro voters also defeated a bond referendum that would have funded the construction of a community recreation center. The final vote was 921-629 against the referendum.

Bryan, a 16-year Carrboro resident and an alderman since 1987, said he was excited to tackle issues facing the town.

"There are many ongoing issues I'd like to continue to work on," Bryan said. "The town's business district is one of my particular areas of concern."

Bryan, originally from Long Island, N.Y., said he was pleased with voter turnout and the campaign in general. "Everyone worked hard and ran a good campaign," he said. "I'm glad it's over. I'm really tired."

Randy Marshall, a 20-year resident of Carrboro and an alderman since 1985, said he was pleased to be re-elected and was eager to continue serving the town.

"I've been trying to promote better communication between real estate developers and area residents," Marshall said. "I'm very glad I'll have the opportunity to keep working on this issue."

Marshall said he also was interested in attracting new businesses to downtown Carrboro.

Frances Shetley, a Carrboro native and an alderman since 1987, said she was glad the campaign was over and was looking forward to serving Carrboro in the future.

"Transportation and land use are big interests of mine," Shetley said. "I know there are many improvements to be made in town, and I'm pleased to be able to continue my involvement."

Shetley said she would work to increase town sensitivity of small business needs and to improve the public transportation system.

Kinnaird said she was disappointed that the proposal to construct a town community center did not win voter approval.

"The center is something we need, something the children need," she said. "It's unfortunate voters choose not to spend their tax dollars on their children because it's the children who will be most hurt by this."

Carrboro Town Manager Bob Morgan, who proposed to the board of aldermen that the proposal not be put to a referendum, said he thought the vote was appropriate.

"There is a need for a community center, but our present economic situation does not warrant its immediate construction," Morgan said. "Hopefully in a couple of years we'll be able to consider a similar project."



Singing to high heaven

Jasme Kelly, a freshman from Durham, sings the gospel tune "Watch Me, Lord" with the Black Student Movement Gospel Choir at noon Tuesday in the Pit.

DTH/Erin Randall

Student turnout key factor in Chilton's council victory

By Peter Wallsten
City Editor

Students pushed Mark Chilton over the top in his bid for a seat on the Chapel Hill Town Council, defying those who said students would not have an effect on this year's election, Chilton's campaign staff workers said Tuesday night.

"Students made the crucial difference for Mark," said Erik Ose, a voter registrar and Chilton campaign volunteer. "It seems pretty clear that students put him over the top."

"Thanks has to go out to students who defied the cynics, all of whom said that students are apathetic and don't vote in town elections."

Chilton said there was "no question" student turnout at the polls was important but said it was only part of the reason he won a council seat.

At the five precincts for on-campus students — Country Club, East Franklin, Greenwood, Lincoln and Mason Farm — voter turnout was about 19 percent, with 1,669 of 8,831 registered people voting.

Ose, who was involved with registering students to vote in the election, said more than 3,000 students registered last year, and about 1,200 registered in the last several months to vote in local elections.

Helen Wertach, registrar for the Greenwood District, which includes most of the North Campus residence halls, said that turnout for Tuesday's

election was fairly heavy and that she was surprised by the number of students who voted.

Wertach said she thought students took advantage of the free transportation offered by Mark Chilton's campaign. "We've gotten a number of students in batches," Wertach said.

Chilton's campaign supporters ran shuttles from three different locations on campus for students whose poll sites were located off-campus.

Don Higgs, Republican judge of the Country Club polling site, said that despite the loss of two residence halls from his precinct, the number of voters increased.

"It was high compared to the municipal elections in 1989," he said. "And they moved two dorms, Hinton James and Craige, out of our precinct."

The Country Club polling site includes 1,839 voters from about 80 houses, which may include more than one voter per household, and five residence halls.

Higgs estimated that about two-thirds of the 314 citizens who voted at his site were students, explaining his site's results did not necessarily reflect those of the entire election.

"I wouldn't say they're typical," he said. "We're skewed by the student vote particularly because of a certain town council candidate. Many students came in just to vote for him."

Amber Nimocks and Kelly Ryan contributed to this report.

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