

# THE REPORTER

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President, Kevin Bailey; Vice-President, Alan Hall  
The Reporter is designed to provide periodic information on Guild activities.

## VOTE ON DECEMBER 13

On December 13, 1983, voters in North Harris County will be asked to vote to allow the College to sell over \$52 million in bonds to finance future construction projects. Included in the proposal for expansion is a third campus and the building of an administrative complex. The union urges all residents of the district to vote in this election.

The executive board of the NHCC-UF met sometime ago to discuss our position on this issue. Much of the sentiment was either in favor of the bond issue or for neutrality, although a number of points in opposition were raised. The board decided to do a straw poll of faculty opinions on the matter and after the results make a final decision to either support or oppose the bond issue.

In the meantime Dr. Airola asked to meet with union president Kevin Bailey to discuss the election. Airola explained the board and administration's reasons for backing the expansion projects. Bailey raised some concerns that the union has, specifically mentioning the possibility of budget cuts or "belt-tightening" due to operating a second and third campus without "start-up funds" from the state. Airola responded by stating that he sees any future cuts as "minimal". He does not envision any rollbacks in recent salary and benefit gains. Present funding levels, population and business expansion in the district, and growing enrollments should enable us to continue without any significant cutbacks.

The NHCC-United Faculty executive board, after reviewing the results of the faculty straw poll (Faculty support for the bond issue was 50-5 with 2 for neutrality) and discussing the Bailey-Airola meeting, has voted unanimously to ENDORSE THE BOND ISSUE and work for its passage. While we have some strong reservations about some of the specific proposals in the overall expansion plan, we believe that the building of a Northwest campus is justified given the population in that area and because of their isolation from any college.

As mentioned we do have some reservations. We strongly question the need for an administrative complex that will increase administrative overhead unnecessarily. We question starting a third campus before the second one is operational. We wonder if a Northwest campus would be more successful if first we worked for the addition of Klein and/or Cypress Fairbanks into the district. Finally, while we are willing to take Dr. Airola at his word, that any cutbacks will be minimal, we fear that unexpected costs or less than projected enrollments would cause his position to change. This latter point requires the faculty to maintain a watchful eye on budgetary matters and spending in the coming years.

The union executive board, along with Dr. Airola, recognizes that voter apathy is the greatest obstacle to passage of the bond issue. Therefore, we will be organizing a phone bank prior to the election to urge our supporters to vote and support the College on this issue. Again the union executive board SUPPORTS PASSAGE OF THE BOND ISSUE and urges all citizens to vote on December 13, 1983.