



Campaign consultant Gary Drinnen, volunteers Linda Conner and Linda Freeman, and mayoral candidate Eddie Mannis relax after putting some finishing touches on the Mannis Campaign's Downtown/East Knoxville office. Stop by and visit 900 East Hill Ave Suite 110!

Circling Wagons

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

In what began as a routine meeting of the Knox County Retirement and Pension Board stopped abruptly ten minutes into the session when pension board attorney John Owings stood and declared the board was going into executive. Anyone not a member of the board or an authorized county official was told to leave the meeting.

Like Old West settlers the Knox County Pension Board, Mayor and County Commission have begun circling their wagons in preparation of an attack.

The private session between the board, the attorney, and county administration last Monday lasted almost an hour. During the executive session Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs entered the meet-

doors until invited back in. The pension board reconvened its meeting and Owings addressed the members. It became obvious that his remarks had already been heard during the private session. He said the new class action lawsuit against the county was related to the pension board's allowing vacation pay to be included in sheriff department employee's retirement. It became obvious that a decision was made in the executive session but had to be "public" with a request and vote by the board members in an open session.

Owings called the suit "unnecessary" and said it "lacks merit," adding that he feels the matter was settled in a former lawsuit.

He then asked the board to authorize him to "intervene" as their representa-

UGO holds children's hospital benefit