

N.C. A&T Celebrates New Sponsor Board Says Increase In Taxes Last Resort

BY CHASE FOSTER
AND JULIA LAMM
Staff Writers

N.C. Agricultural & Technical University was renamed Jordan University for the day Sept. 10 to celebrate the university's new contract with the Nike-owned Jordan brand.

But some university professors expressed concern about the company's presence on a college campus.

The contract will provide athletic clothing and shoes for many of the school's athletic programs.

The school is one of six nationwide being sponsored by the Jordan brand line, which is named after basketball superstar Michael Jordan.

Almost 2,000 students congregated on campus streets, which were lined with Michael Jordan silhouettes.

A member of Team Jordan, a group of celebrity athletes who promote the Jordan brand, will also speak at the university once a semester.

School colors temporarily were changed from the usual blue and gold to maroon, gray and black - the official colors of the Jordan brand. The univer-

sity's motto was changed to "Much respect for Aggie Pride" - a fusion of the brand and the school's motto.

Jordan University Day's events included guest lecturers, a fashion show and free Jordan brand products.

N.C. A&T Student Body President Gregory Drumwright said he thought the day was a success.

Drumwright added that he did not think many students opposed the day's events or the university's association with Nike, a company some have accused of utilizing unfair working conditions.

N.C. A&T political science Professor

Samuel Moseley said there was some concern about what the event represented. "It did not go across well with many alumni, because they did not graduate from Jordan University," he said. "One has to wonder about the impact of finance on some decisions," he said.

But N.C. A&T history Professor Peter Meyers said the event was all in fun and that he knew of no real discontent. "There are bigger problems to deal with now."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

BY ADRIENNE CLARK
Staff Writer

The Orange County Board of Education wants to raise the county property tax by 9 percent to help fund school renovations and build a new high school.

At a meeting Monday night in Hillsborough, board members said they will need \$3 million more than they expect to receive from their portion of the \$47 million bond if it passes. Residents will vote on the total \$75 million package Nov. 6.

Board member David Kolbinsky said Orange County Schools are entitled to a large amount of funds from the proposed bond referendum. They also are guaranteed 49 percent of the total county budget.

Kolbinsky said a property tax increase to fund the school system is a last resort for the board. "The tax increase is the only other means for raising funds."

The board is attempting to establish a tax similar to the one already existing in Chapel Hill. "Twenty cents per hundred property tax is set aside for education in Chapel Hill," Kolbinsky said. "North Orange County should receive half of

that amount (from its tax increase)."

If the requested amount is attained, the board will use the money to make additions to old schools and to build a new high school. "We held some money from the current (high) school to start up the new Cedar Ridge High School," said board member Delores Simpson. "We want to repay the schools that haven't been given as much funds as they should have."

The Fund Task Force, a group of northern Orange County residents that aims to find new funding methods for Orange County schools, will soon inform the board about whether a tax increase is possible. Board members will meet with the Orange County Commissioners on Sept. 24 to discuss the funding measure.

If the tax increase is not feasible, Kolbinsky said taxpayers might vote on borrowing money from the community.

Simpson said the task force held their final meeting to study the tax option. "They are scheduled to report their decision very soon. Our committee will meet with the commissioners next week if the tax can be part of our funding."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Resolution Aims to Prevent Seniors From Switching Schools

BY COLIN SUTKER
Staff Writer

The Orange County Board of Education passed a resolution Monday that will allow rising seniors who would otherwise be redistricted to the new Cedar Ridge High School to remain at Orange High School.

The proposal, authored by Superintendent Randy Bridges, comes one year before the opening of Cedar Ridge High, which is expected to have a capacity of 900 students. Officials hope

the new high school will alleviate overcrowding at Orange High.

The proposal will not allow siblings of rising Orange High seniors redistricted to Cedar Ridge High to attend Orange High. This policy contradicts a previous policy for elementary schools that allowed siblings of grandfathered students to remain in their current school for one year.

But board member David Kolbinsky expressed concern about failing to grandfather in siblings of rising seniors at OHS. Kolbinsky voted against the proposal

because it would inconvenience parents who might have a rising senior at Orange High and younger children at Cedar Ridge High. "(I voted against the proposal) to prevent the parents from being involved in too many schools," he said.

But board member Delores Simpson said Kolbinsky's concerns would not override the problem of overcrowding.

"Some people are opposed to certain rules, but for the most they had the cooperation of the parents (of children) of the school," Simpson said.

Simpson added that the proposal

passed despite fears from Orange High officials that grandfathering would result in an inordinate amount of transfer applications. "This resolution will be carried out as long as it doesn't affect the population (of the two schools)," she said.

Simpson said the passing of the resolution is an important step in solving overcrowding concerns in Orange County Schools. "The resolution and the new high school will handle all current students."

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