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This week's torrential rains forced evacuation of a Raleigh motel. Flash floods occurred throughout the South, including the eastern Piedmont of North Carolina

Ervin: ERA 'unnecessary'

Addresses amendments committee

by Tim Pittman
Staff Writer

RALEIGH — Former U.S. Sen. Sam J. Ervin attacked the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) Wednesday before the House Constitutional Amendments committee, spicing his arguments with rich down-home humor.

Addressing an overflow legislative auditorium crowd, Ervin called the ERA a "totally unnecessary amendment."

"If I thought it was a good amendment I would support it," Ervin said, "because I have two daughters and three granddaughters."

The danger of the ERA, he said, exists because no one knows how the law would affect men and women.

Ervin said many legal scholars feel the ERA will have little or no effect in the area of sex discrimination. But he warned that it could turn every legal difference between men and women into a Supreme Court case.

"It could go either way," Ervin said. "No differences or drastic changes."

"But one thing is certain — all the lawmaking power concerning men and women will be transferred from the 50 states to the federal government," Ervin said. "And I don't think you want to do that with the mess this country is in today."

To become law, the Equal Rights Amendment must be ratified by 38 state legislatures before March 1979. Although 34 states have ratified the ERA thus far, only one state legislature has passed it this year.

Ervin said the ERA has the potential to force women into combat activity, disrupt American family life, and invade the privacy of men and women.

On the subject of drafting women, Ervin said, "I came to the conclusion that maybe I was wrong about the drafting of women for combat service, because I'll give you my word — if the women who were lobbying for this bill would enter service . . . and if they could scare the enemy half as much as they did the male members of Congress, the enemy would hoist a white flag without them ever having to fire a single shot."

Only 16 members of the House voted against the ERA.

"I not only think this is a harmful amendment to our women but also to our state governments," Ervin concluded.

Provost's report shows uneven grading practices

by Bruce Henderson
Staff Writer

A recent provost's office report has underlined uneven grading practices at the University.

The faculty report, released to the press last week, included grading statistics in 58 undergraduate subject areas, taken from fall semester averages from 1969-73.

About 64 per cent of the undergraduate grades assigned during this period — not counting failures, absent and incomplete grades — were A's and B's.

In a cover letter to the report, Provost J. Charles Morrow said he hoped the data would provide information for faculty consideration of "grade inflation," a national trend of spiraling college grades.

Twelve of the 58 subject areas showed predominance of A's in grading. Seven of the 12 — Arabic, Chinese, Czech, Portuguese, Russian, Greek and Swahili — were language courses.

The other course areas highest in "A" frequency were computer science, ecology, linguistics, music and physical education.

A high correlation was evident between

curriculum size and high grade percentages. All the 12 except computer science, music and physical education gave fewer than 1000 grades in the five-term period.

Business administration, economics, geography, mathematics and zoology had the highest frequency of "C" grades. For the five-semester study period, the geography curriculum had the highest incidence of C's (40.5 per cent) and the lowest of A's (11.3 per cent).

The split is widest in terms of "A" and "B" frequency percentages. For example, in the fall of 1973, 97.3 per cent of the students taking an Afro-American studies course and 80.6 per cent taking a botany course made an "A" or "B."

In the same period, 44.6 per cent of those taking a geography course and 48.7 per cent taking a business administration course made A's or B's.

The growth of high grades in some subject areas was evident in the report's figures.

From 1969 to 1973, the percentage of "A" and "B" grades climbed 32.1 per cent in botany, 27.3 per cent in geology, 52 per cent in city and regional planning, and 33.9 per cent in Spanish.

Syracuse:

by Grant Voesburg
Staff Writer

It was once football that made the Orange in Syracuse bright — Ernie Davis, Jimmy Brown, Floyd Little, Larry Csonka. But for the last five years, Orange has become the color of Syracuse basketball.

Tonight the Tar Heels of UNC will get a taste of the Syracuse Orange as the two nationally-ranked teams face off in the semifinal round of the Eastern Regionals in Providence, R.I.

The Orangemen have been in the NCAA playoffs for the past three seasons, and in 1970 and '71 they received NIT invitations.

Unlike the Syracuse team that played in the 1973 Eastern Regionals, this Orangemen edition has sufficient height and rebounding potential. And like all the other Syracuse teams — this one can score, too.

Senior Rudy Hackett leads the attack as Syracuse's third all-time scorer and second all-time rebounder. At 6-9, the

second team AP All-America forward scores 23 points and pulls down 13 rebounds each game, while shooting 58.9 per cent from the floor.

The other forward is 6-5 junior Chris Sease, who averages just under 13 points and eight rebounds a game. Syracuse head coach Roy Danforth attributes the late-season improved play of his team to the maturation of Sease.

Earnie Siebert, 6-9, starts at the center position. Although weighing 230 pounds, he is considered more of a finesse player than a physical one. A fine defensive player, Siebert averages five rebounds and five points a game.

The backcourt consists of senior quarterback Jimmy Lee and freshman Jim Williams. The 6-1 Lee is a pure shooter and able ballhandler while Williams, only 5-7, is a good assist man and according to UNC's John Kuester, challenges Wake Forest's Skip Brown as the quickest guard to face the Tar Heels this year.

Although a pressing and zoning defense has been the usual play of past Syracuse teams, Danforth may try some man-to-man since his club matches up almost perfectly with the

Heels. But despite this closeness in size, the jovial Danforth said in a telephone interview that he is wary of Carolina's big men.

"The front line will probably be the thing that will give us the most trouble. If we can rebound and handle the pressure defenses, we'll be in the game."

Concerning Carolina's four-corners offense, which has been unstoppable in the late stages of the season, Danforth admits he has no solution yet to stop it.

"Jokingly last night, I said I was not going to worry about that because Dean (Smith) can't use it unless he gets ahead. But it does pose a problem to us — it's a problem for everybody."

He also noted that UNC's balanced offense is similar to his and attributes much of the Tar Heel success to Dean Smith's brilliant coaching. "Once again, he has pulled a Houdini and pulled something out of the hat."

But then again Danforth should know. His Syracuse team has been weaving some of that old Orange magic this year . . . as usual.

University tax battle moves to state level

by Henry Farber
Staff Writer

Private negotiations between a North Carolina Justice Department attorney and Orange County tax officials moved the battleground for the University's property tax fight from the county to the state level Tuesday night.

In order to avoid "a long, dull, hearing," Myron Banks, the University's Justice Department attorney on the case, arranged with county officials not to go into extensive argument before the county commissioners.

Since it was assumed the University would not agree to pay the *ad valorem* taxes on some 55 parcels of UNC land assessed by the county, public debate on the issue was deferred to the state Property Tax Commission. A date for that hearing has not been set.

As expected, the commissioners approved tax officials' assessments of a list of properties whose appraisals were revealed at the meeting, plus another list delivered last Dec. 31.

County officials are currently trying to tax UNC properties for the first time, based on 1973 changes in state statutes. In past years, the University has been exempt, but the rewritten statutes suggest that only properties used for educational purposes should remain tax free.

Banks said he disputes both the county's right to tax the University and the valuations of certain properties. "Since 1798," he said, "it has been the will of the General Assembly, by statute, that property of the University of North Carolina not be subject to taxation."

Reaffirming an opinion issued by the Attorney General's office in January, Banks said the county does not have the authority to levy the tax.

Tax officials have said they want to tax all University properties not used explicitly for educational purposes, and that they are listing all properties for which an argument can be made.

The Dec. 31 list includes the University's electric system, valued at \$14.9 million for each of the past five years, and the telephone system, valued at \$13.3 million for the same period.

State law enables local and county governments to tax previously untaxed properties for the five years preceding the most recent appraisal period.

County Manager Sam Gattis said in

December if the University is billed back to 1969, the total tax bill, including fines, could reach into the millions of dollars.

Tax experts outside the case remain skeptical that the tax collectors will ever get that much, however.

Dr. Joseph S. Ferrell of the Institute of Government said the county's prospects of collecting on everything it has appraised range "from shaky to questionable."

The Property Tax Commission is only one in a series of appeal steps the University can take to change the statutes or question the appraisals. The case is expected to go to the state Supreme Court and could drag on for

years.

Other appraisals released Tuesday for the first time were assessed at one value for 1973 and 1974 and at one-half that value for 1969 through 1972. Such properties and their 1973-74 valuations, include: Horace Williams Airport, \$1.27 million; Finley Golf Course, \$1.32 million; and 601 acres of undeveloped land on the Mason Farm site, \$2.1 million.

Properties valued in December at over \$1 million include: the former Blue Cross - Blue Shield Building, \$1.1 million; Carolina Inn, \$2.2 million; and part of the airport land, \$1.36 million.

Parking applications available Monday

by Tim Pittman
Staff Writer

After a year of using zoned parking lots, handing out parking tickets, and charging \$54 for permits, Administrator of Traffic and Parking William D. Locke feels the new system has matured and has been accepted.

Application forms for students planning to park cars on campus next academic year will be available Monday, March 24, through Friday, March 28 in dorms, in the Union and the office of the Assistant Dean of Student Life.

University employees should get their applications from their department representatives.

Locke has set a temporary deadline of April 11 for submitting the applications to the traffic office. Students should bring their applications by the traffic office. Department representatives should pick up employees' applications and bring them to the traffic office.

Locke said prices for permits and tickets will remain the same. A car parking space will cost \$54.

"Last year everybody panicked," he

said. "They were worried about not being able to get a sticker. This year it will be different."

Locke thinks this year's method of applying for permits will eliminate lines. "The earlier students bring their applications by the office, the earlier we can begin working on them," Locke said. "I don't expect any lines."

Locke said he will probably extend the deadline for permit application to the end of school. But he urges students and employees to get the applications back as soon as possible.

Because of problems with lost and counterfeited parking stickers this year, students who sell lost stickers and students who buy them can be fined \$50.

Locke said the parking deck behind the hospital will increase the availability of parking spaces. Also, a new lot will open behind the pharmacy and public health schools for people who work in those areas. More metered spaces will be available which can be used the entire day for \$1.

"There will be 500 more spaces for cars on campus next year," Locke said, "and 50 per cent of those will be for students."

Route changes begin Saturday

The Chapel Hill Transportation Department has announced a free day of bus rides Saturday to familiarize townspeople and students with route and schedule changes.

The B route has been revised to offer direct service to University Mall for residents of North Lakeshore Drive, Curtis Road and Estes Drive. The buses on this route will run at half-hour intervals.

The new L route will be expanded to include service to the Knolls, Lincoln Center, Kingswood and Westwood areas.

Buses on the revised N route will offer service to the Mall from Village West, Northside, campus, Odum Village, Morgan Creek, Highland Woods and Greenwood.

Bus system spokesman Robert Tallo said the route changes were implemented to increase the operation's efficiency. The changes were approved by the Board of Aldermen last month.

The bus system will also initiate an evening service reduction throughout the spring. From 7 to 9 p.m., buses will operate only once each hour.

Tallo said that as of Saturday buses on the U route will begin scheduling their three minute layovers at Chase Cafeteria instead of downtown. Tallo said service on this route will remain about the same.

