

Secession change met with conflict

By PAM DUNCAN
Assistant University Editor

A proposal by a volunteer committee of the Residence Hall Association Governing Board to extend the time required for a dormitory to leave a confederation met with argument from residents of Grimes Residence Hall Monday at a meeting of the RHA Governing Board.

The proposal would change the time required for a dormitory to petition to secede from a confederation from 30 days to three semesters prior to completion of the actual withdrawal.

The proposed changes, which were scheduled to be voted on at Monday's meeting, stemmed from RHA's concern about allowing independent dormitory governors to vote on the Governing Board, said Terri Blackwood, governor of the Olde Campus Confederation.

Four of the five parts of the proposal, however, only deal with the petitioning process for dormitories wishing to withdraw from a confederation. The RHA Governing Board voted to refer the proposal back to committee for further discussion.

Mike Murray, president of Grimes dormitory, said the presidents of Olde Campus Confederation dormitories had not been informed of the contents of the proposal until Sunday night, 24 hours before RHA was scheduled to vote on the proposal.

"The reason we're doing this is because we weren't informed until last night," Murray said.

"This new procedure (which also would allow secession to begin only during a fall semester) is questionable in and of itself, but the true issue at stake is the fact that the process of government could be changed, thus changing the destiny of Grimes Hall with less than 24 hours notice," Murray's petition to secede stated. "This in effect... negates the true democratic process."

Blackwood said the main issue was how to regulate independent dormitories.

"The whole idea of this is to make sure that when a dormitory goes independent, they do so for the right reasons. It had nothing whatsoever to do with Grimes dormitory."

Blackwood said the proposal would serve three purposes: to keep dormitories from making rash decisions, to keep down disputes between area and dormitory governments and to give confederations enough time to provide better programming for dormitories that have legitimate complaints in order to prevent secession.

If dormitories are forced to wait until fall semester to withdraw, the officers of their confederation would have no incentive to improve programming for dormitories before they are replaced by new officers, Murray said, arguing against the three-semester plan.

"They put our backs to the wall and the only thing we could do to gain time for argument's sake was threaten to secede," he added.

See RHA on page 4



No offers

The owner of this Volkswagen apparently changed his mind about getting rid of his vehicle. Or of selling it, at least. Now overgrown with weeds and vines, the chances of this car, located off Highway 54, seeing another road trip isn't too likely.

DTH/Al Steele

Bess Truman dead at age 97 of heart failure

The Associated Press

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. — Bess Truman, the childhood sweetheart and closest confidante of President Harry S. Truman, died Monday at age 97.

"The old engine just ran out," said Dr. Wallace Graham, the Truman family physician since the mid-1940s. "We've known for a while that the end was near."

The public knew her as Bess, but Truman called her "Boss" and looked to her as his closest adviser.

Graham said Mrs. Truman died of congestive heart failure at the Truman home in Independence, where she was under constant care of a private nurse. She was pronounced dead at 4:38 a.m. in the emergency room of Research Medical Center in Kansas City.

Mrs. Truman, who lived longer than any other first lady, will be buried beside her husband on the grounds of the Truman Library in Independence.

Benedict Zobrist, director of the library, said funeral services were tentatively set for 11 a.m. Thursday at Trinity Episcopal Church in Independence. Attendance will be by invitation from the family, he said.

Mrs. Truman is survived by her only child, Margaret Truman Daniel, the wife of *New York Times* executive Clifton Daniel, and four grandsons.

Flags in Independence and Kansas City were at half-staff as news of Mrs. Truman's death spread.

"The people of Independence and the country will be grieved, but they're all richer for having had her," said Rufus Burrus, the Truman family lawyer.

First lady was not a role Mrs. Truman sought. When Truman was nominated as Franklin Roosevelt's running mate in 1944, she said she didn't want her husband to be vice president but was "reconciled" to the idea. The Democrats won and within a few months Roosevelt was dead and Truman was the nation's 33rd chief executive.

"I've had several moments of great joy... but the greatest joy of them all was when my sweetheart from 6 years old consented to become Mrs. Truman." Truman wrote in a 1958 letter to Arkansas Superior Court Justice Edward McFaddin, published in *Off the Record, the Private Papers of Harry S. Truman*.

Truman wrote that Mrs. Truman had been willing to marry before the end of World War I, "but I thought that I might be legless, eyeless or under some other handicap and we put it off..." They were wed June 28, 1919, after he returned from wartime service in Europe.

By the time Truman died at age 88 on Dec. 26, 1972, arthritis in Mrs. Truman's right leg had advanced to the point where she had curtailed her activities.

Born on Feb. 13, 1885, Mrs. Truman was the eldest of four children and the only girl in a socially prominent Independence family. She was born in the family mansion where she died.

Giving credit may be hazardous to wallet

By KYLE MARSHALL
Staff Writer

Money management can be as important to a college student as an academic career. In many respects the two aspects of college life are dependent upon each other — you can't stay in school if you can't afford it.

One way students pay for college expenses is through the use of credit, but local business people, professors and students don't all agree that college students should try to establish credit while in school.

"Once a student gets started in the credit market, the rest of it is easier," said Mike Woody of North Carolina National Bank in Chapel Hill. "It's not easy for students to get credit in many cases, especially if they don't have a regular job, but those who do are generally serious about it."

NCNB has a student Visa Card program to help people establish a credit rating while still in school, Woody said. The questions on the application are school-related, and are designed to get in-

formation on the student's academic standing, he said.

"Regular bank card facilities are a little more difficult for students to obtain, so the student card is designed to give them their first entry into the credit market," Woody said. "But credit in general is more difficult for all consumers, because of the present state of the economy."

Alan Matthews, a counselor with Consumer Credit Counseling in Raleigh, said the problem with credit cards is that students often don't realize how deep they can get in using credit.

"Students live on a lower budget than families, so there's not as much access to credit," he said. "The problems arise by not planning ahead when paying for expenses such as apartments and utilities."

"The main thing about a card is that you must pay it off at the end of the month."

Matthews said parents usually let their children use their credit cards while in school, instead of co-signing for the students' own cards.

In addition to credit cards, students often receive either student loans or

regular consumer loans.

"Students should be cautious with student loans," Matthews said. "I've had many clients who have had student loans and were unable to repay them."

"They don't realize how hard it can be to pay back loans, so it's very important to plan ahead when receiving a student loan," Matthews said. Students were not aware of how much money they might make after graduation, and that the problem was compounded because of the ease in obtaining student loans.

One thing to remember is that each student's financial situation is different. Off-campus students, for example, have additional housing, utility and transportation expenses.

"A student considering obtaining credit should sit down with a bank representative to discuss it, because it's all based on an individual situation," Woody said. "If there is someone in there to counsel the student, he or she is better off."

Another type of credit available to students is the department store credit card. Becky Holmes, a credit authorization ex-

ecutive for Belk-Leggett in Chapel Hill, said students filled out a normal Belk-Leggett credit application. The application asks for information such as other credit references and checking and savings and loan accounts.

"The main Belk office in Charlotte screens applicants and sees if the student can make the payments," Holmes said. "But students can also use their parents' card, if their parents authorize permission."

Holmes, a recent UNC graduate, said it was better for students to have credit while in school in order to establish a credit reference. "There's generally not a big problem with students paying their accounts, so I highly recommend using credit in college."

Woody also said there were not many problems with student credit. "Students who qualify are normally very good credit risks," he said. And Matthews agreed, saying he currently had only one student client.

UNC professor of banking Robert Eisenbeis said establishing credit while in college was a good idea if the student felt



he could meet his credit responsibilities. "Presumably, it's difficult for students without jobs to obtain credit," he said. "But as a general matter, it's a good idea for any individual, including the college student, to establish a credit record early."

See CREDIT on page 4

On file

Archivist stays busy cataloging UNC's past

By CHARLOTTE HOLMES
Staff Writer

If anyone ever has the urge to read the minutes of a Dialectic Society meeting from 1795, to browse through transcripts of speeches by such UNC notables as Edward Kidder Graham and Frances P. Venable, or just to dig up the exact date of the Davie Poplar's christening, Michael Martin is the man to see.

As University archivist, Martin is one of the few people at the University who has authorized access to all its records, documents and correspondence.

He organized the archives in 1970, after working in the Southern Historical Collection since 1966. The information housed in archives in Wilson Library, is stored on microfilm and in cardboard boxes downstairs in a locked cage.

Researching answers to random inquiries from UNC officials and the public is the most interesting aspect of Martin's work, he said.

"We spend most of our time researching administrative questions. They often need personnel records or dates of the enactment of certain policies — things like that. Twenty-five percent of our work is dealing with the public's inquiries. People call to ask me when something might have happened pertaining to the University — but they have no idea who the event deals with or a slight notion of what time period it may have taken place.

"Or they call and ask me to bring them the file on 'liberalism at UNC' when no such file exists," he said with a laugh. "But all that makes the work interesting.

You never know what questions will pop up from one day to the next.

For 40 hours a week plus additional time on weekends, Martin's life revolves around the University of North Carolina — in the past tense.

Poring over records written with a quill pen, filing University correspondence or answering questions from South Building, Martin is well-versed in the history of UNC and is trusted by authorities to retrieve the correct information.

"I've always been interested in the University," he said. "But I sort of fell into this position. The library started to get flooded with records and correspondence so they asked me to see what I could do with it. That could have been a great mistake," he added with a smile.

Martin admitted that knowing a good deal about the history of North Carolina and UNC history has made his job much easier.

University Archives files and processes all official records from University agencies, with files ranging from the Board of Governor's and Board of Trustees' minutes to files on the International Fertility Program and its relation to the University. The department contains more than 1 million "items" — an item being a paper, book or record, he said.

The archives office is adjacent to the Southern Historical Collection while its stacks of painstakingly arranged files are downstairs in cardboard boxes in a locked cage.

After having to unlock two gates before finally reaching the archives, it becomes obvious that the in-

formation stored within is not meant to be accessible to just anyone.

"By and large, when requests are made, my assistant Frances Weaver and myself are the only people who look at the records or documents," Martin said, standing in the locked room he calls his "tiny little cage." "Before we organized the archives department, you could just check out anything, anytime."

Martin said some records, like personnel files and personal correspondence, were restricted to authorized use only. Keeping tight security with the locked doors helps Martin maintain order in the filing, he said.

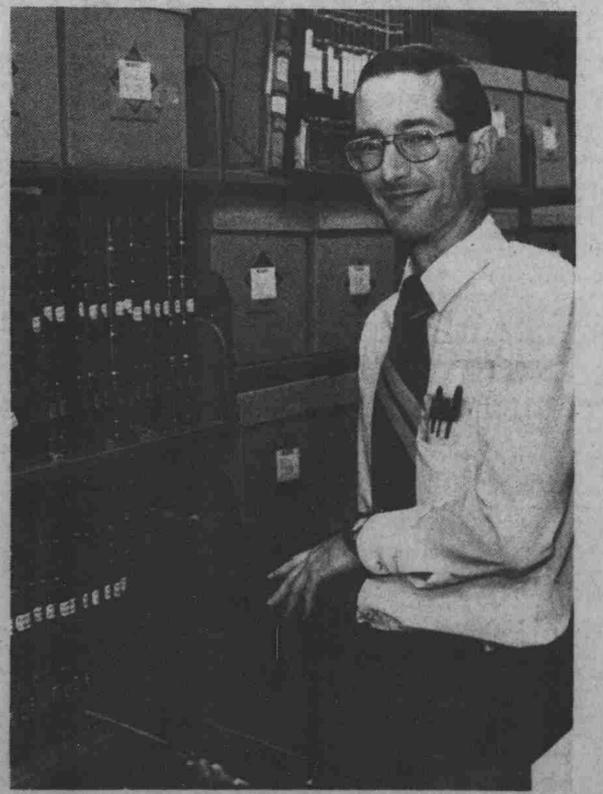
The process of organizing archives information is orderly but time-consuming. "We first get records or correspondence sent to us from departments, professors or the public, then reorganize the information in temporary files until we can figure out which permanent file it should go in," Martin said.

Martin said 50 percent of his time is spent making additions to the existing files.

Martin is worried about the low profile of University Archives.

"Lots of students as well as departments don't even know we exist," he said. "If people don't use the records, there is no reason for us to be here."

Martin said he was satisfied with his office and his tiny little cage downstairs, but he is anxious to move to the third floor stacks when the Walter B. Davis Library is completed next year. "We need more space," Martin said. "On (the) third floor, we'll have better storage conditions and more space. It will be better for quicker reference work."



Michael Martin files old documents in Wilson cage... UNC archivist gives valuable service to school