Students not exempt from juries

By LYNDA THOMPSON
Staff Writer

All residents of Orange County who are registered voters or have property in Orange County are eligible to be chosen for jury duty. These people are able to receive a deferment from the district court judge if they wish to serve at another time.

"Many people ask to serve at another time if they cannot get off work or have vacation plans. Students often ask for a deferment because of classes or an exam," said Linda Bean, deputy of register of deeds in Orange County.

But deferments are not always available, as one UNC student found.

Michael Allen, a senior from Canton, N.C., became eligible for jury duty when he registered to vote his freshman year. He was called to jury duty for a week last April, but had an exam that week. He talked to Dorothy Bernholz, Student Legal Services adviser, about his options.

He was told he could write the district court judge for a deferment and if it was denied he could ask the judge again the day of the trial. He was also told he could choose not to show up at his assigned time and be arrested for failure to appear in court.

Allen did write the district court judge, but was denied the deferment.

"I had to be excused from classes and from an exam. At the time I had no transportation and had to borrow my roommate's car to drive to the courthouse in Hillsborough.

"The first day I went, I was questioned by the defense and the prosecutor to see if I had an prejudices or knew anything about the case. They found I didn't, so I was chosen for the jury. I was there from 9:30 until 5:30. It took up a lot of time because the judge could keep us there as long as he wanted.

"The second day the case was dismissed because the judge made a prejudiced remark. The next day I had to go back for another case, but my name wasn't drawn from the possible jurors. My professors were understanding and helped me make up the work. It really messed me up, but I'm glad I did it now. I learned a lot about court procedures," Allen said.

Another student did not receive a deferment, but was excused totally from jury duty.

Martin Case, a senior from Jarvisburg, N.C., has been notified twice to serve on a jury, but has been excused both times.

Case said, "The first time I was notified about jury duty, I wrote the judge and was excused because I had an exam and I didn't have any transportation. I was called for jury duty again in June, but I was going home for the summer so I was excused."

Ron Merritt, a Chapel Hill attorney, said, "I grew up in Chapel Hill and have always been aware of young people and professors as a part of our community. If a student commits a crime, it is only fair that the jury include students. The jury should represent a cross-section of values, values and morals."

Skip Moore, another Chapel Hill attorney, said, "I treat students on the jury like anybody else. There are, however, certain cases that I do not want a student on the jury. If it is a complicated financial matter I would not want a student, but if it were a case involving another young person I think it would be a good idea."

Moore said, "As a ground rule, I never allow law students on the jury. First, there is a risk they may not know as much as they think they know. Secondly, I myself sat on the jury and believe there is a tendency for other jurors to be swayed by lawyers and law students. They accord you a level of knowledgeability."

A master list of jurors is made up every two years from registered voters and land owners in Orange County, Bean said. If the case is held in a regular criminal superior court 85 possible jurors are needed. Cases in civil superior court require 80 potential jurors; civil district court requires 40. These possible jurors are chosen randomly by a computer which contains the master list, currently made up of 15,000 names.

Late requisitions cause freeze on BSM's funding

By CHARLES ELLMAKER
Staff Writer

The Black Student Movement's funds were frozen last week after the organization had incurred more than five late requisitions, most of which were expenditures for the BSM's Coronation Ball, Student Body Treasurer Brent Clark said Tuesday.

The BSM had incurred "more than five, but less than 10" late requisitions by Tuesday, Clark said. At least five requisitions were incurred through the BSM's homecoming dance expenses, he said.

On Wednesday, Oct. 27, the Campus Governing Council Finance Committee granted a transfer of $1,700 from the BSM's Gospel Choir and Black Arts Festival categories to a social expense category with the understanding that the funds would be used for the Coronation Ball. The dance was held on Homecoming weekend.

Expenses for the dance had already been incurred before the transfer was made, so any requisitions made to cover the dance expenses were automatically late, Clark said.

"They couldn't requisition the funds before the transfer was made, so they were automatically late when they (the requisitions) came through," he said.

A requisition is considered to be late if the expense to be covered has been incurred before the requisition is made, according to Student Government Treasury laws.

If an organization incurs five or more late requisitions in one fiscal year, that organization's funds are frozen for a period of time decided by the CGC Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee will decide tonight at its meeting how long the BSM's funds will be frozen, but Finance Committee Chairperson Charlie Madison (District 23) said Tuesday that they would probably be frozen "for a long time."

Madison said the severity of the infraction was compounded because of confusion created when the BSM tried to transfer $200 temporarily from its Gospel Choir category for use toward the dance. The Finance Committee approved the $200 transfer two weeks ago, after BSM members applying for the transfer assured the Finance Committee that the temporary transfer would not affect the Gospel Choir's financial position.

But Clark said the day after the meeting that the funds could not be transferred because the choir did not have $200 left in its category.

"Considering their actions, I think their funds should be frozen for a long time," Madison said Tuesday. "I guess you'd call this pretty serious."

Vandenbergh discusses policies at forums

By LISA PULLEN
Staff Writer

In an effort to gather student opinion on issues and bring them up to date on what Student Government is doing, Student Body President Mike Vandenbergh is attending forums at residence halls to talk with students.

"I'm trying to both find out students' opinions on different programs I'm administering, and I'm also trying to explain the projects that we've done so far," Vandenbergh said.

Vandenbergh plans to visit each dormitory by the end of the semester. So far, he has attended forums in Olde Campus, Granville, South Campus and Henderson Residence College.

Attendance has varied greatly in the various forums, ranging from approximately 200 students at the Morrison forum to about 10 at the Granville one, Vandenbergh said.

"It varies greatly but generally the response is better than I expected," he said.

Questions asked at forums have dealt with a variety of topics, Vandenbergh said.

"The issues I get asked about most frequently are the cooking policy, Chapel Thrill, the academic advising and employment services and food service," he said.

At the forum in Granville cafeteria last week, for instance, students expressed concern about these issues, as well as the contrasting architectural styles on campus, the failure of women to run for student body president, and the seating allotment for students in the new Student Activities Center.

So far, students have seemed interested in what Student Government is doing, Vandenbergh said.

"Generally, I find that students are much less apathetic than people assume," he said.

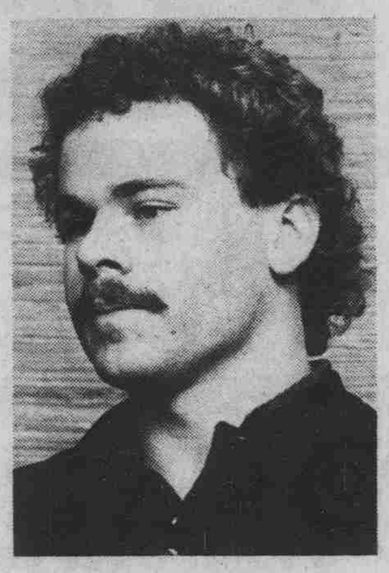
In assessing the attitude of the campus these days, "the mood varies greatly," Vandenbergh said.

"I generally find the audience skeptical at first, but much more enthusiastic after I explain the importance of their place in the University," Vandenbergh said. "I think most students are unaware of how much influence they have in the policies that concern them."

Vandenbergh said he hoped the forums would "let the students know what I've found out in the past year ... that the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees of the University are genuinely concerned with student opinion.

"What I say is that we should question authority but act responsibly," he said.

Vandenbergh will continue his appearances with a forum tonight at 11 in Lewis dormitory.



Mike Vandenbergh

UNC professor Jane H. Pfouts, 61, dies; memorial service scheduled for today

UNC professor of social work, Dr. Jane H. Pfouts, died Sunday. She was 61. A specialist in family interaction, Pfouts had been a member of the UNC faculty since 1963, and a member of the UNC School of Social Work since 1971.

Pfouts, a native of Louisville, Ky., received her undergraduate degree from St. Mary's College in Indiana and her master's degree in personnel administration and social work at UNC. She earned her doctorate at UNC in 1974, and was promoted to professor of social work in 1978.

Survivors include her husband, Dr. Ralph W. Pfouts, an economics professor at the University, and four children.

Memorial services will be held today at 2 p.m. in front of Morehead Planetarium, and burial is scheduled for Friday at 10 a.m.

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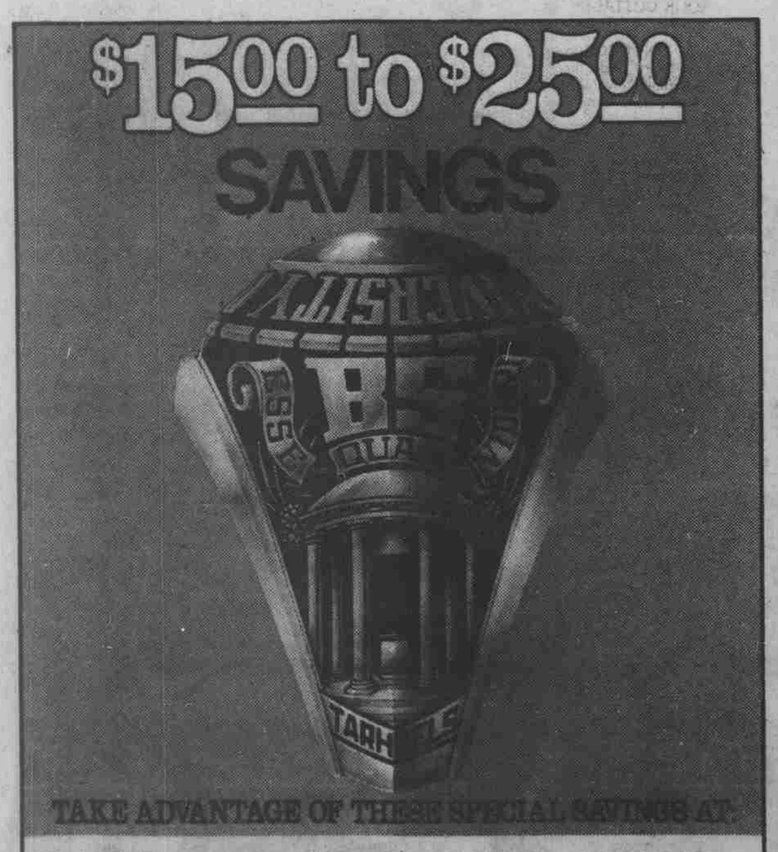
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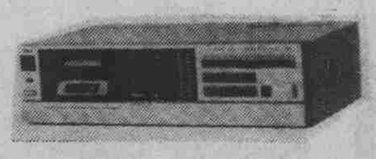
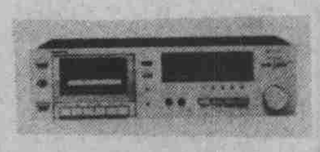
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