

# Superconducting super collider

## States continue in quest to be host; Illinois top contender

By **AMY WINSLOW**  
Assistant State and National Editor

Although local opposition to a \$4.4 billion atom smasher has been cropping up recently in North Carolina, lawmakers from the states in contention for the project continue to support bringing the project to their home state and maintain that the majority of the constituency support them.

Environmental concerns, the availability of funding and the displacement of many homes to allow for the construction of the superconducting super collider (SSC) have been major issues expressed by opposition.

"We think the benefits far outweigh any drawbacks there may be," said Ed McDonald, administrative assistant and press secretary for Rep. Howard Coble, R-N.C.

The project will be federally funded, but the chosen state will be required to provide the land needed at no cost to the federal government, said Michael Bushman, press secretary for Rep. Terry Bruce, D-Ill., a member of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee.

The seven finalists are Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, Texas and Tennessee.

Illinois is viewed as the front-runner mainly because a power accelerator already exists on its proposed site for the SSC. Simply adding on to this plant would save millions of dollars in construction costs.

"If there is a groundswell of opposition from the community, that may have a bearing on

whether Illinois receives the project," said Howard Woodson, legislative director for Rep. Charles Hayes, D-Ill.

But there have been virtually no negative reactions to the project in Illinois, Bushman said.

Rep. Carl Pursell, R-Mich., has voiced concerns recently about the availability of funding for the project but remains one of the strongest supporters of the project, said Gary Cates, Pursell's press secretary.

The SSC would bring jobs that are desperately needed in Michigan and would increase revenues for the state, Cates said.

"By and large, the majority of people affected are in favor of it," he said.

To defray part of the costs, there are hopes to get other countries

involved in an international cost-sharing plan, where foreign countries would be allowed to use the plant in return for helping to finance the project, Bushman said.

But foreign competition is one of the main reasons for the necessity of the SSC, said Karen Roberts, director of a lobbying organization in Washington that works to attract the project to North Carolina.

"If we don't have the foresight (to build the SSC), one of our foreign countries is going to pick it up, and we may lose our competitive edge," Roberts said. "We'll be exporting our scientists and our expertise."

Department of Energy Secretary John Herrington is expected to announce a tentative choice for the site in November and confirm the selection in January 1989.

## Voices of opposition to project grow louder in N.C. counties

By **HELLE NIELSEN**  
Staff Writer

Opposition to locating the superconducting super collider (SSC) in North Carolina is growing among residents and elected officials in the three counties that would host the \$4.4 billion research project.

During the last week, state legislators including Rep. H. Mickey Michaux, D-Durham; Rep. Sharon Thompson, D-Durham; Rep. William Watkins, D-Granville; and tentatively, Sen. Ralph Hunt, D-13th, said they oppose the project, as the Durham County Board of Commissioners voted last week not to support the project.

In addition, the group Citizens Against The Collider Here (CATCH) has collected 6,800 signatures on an opposition petition and has recruited 200 members in a week, according to CATCH

President Joseph Haenn.

"When this project was first put to action it seemed to be a very juicy plum," said Hunt. "Now some additional information doesn't make the juice in the plum appear as sweet as it did to begin with."

North Carolina is among the final seven contenders for the SSC, a research project in which subatomic particles would be smashed into smaller particles to research matter in a 53-mile underground tunnel.

Should North Carolina get the 25-year project, the tunnel would be located under the ground in Durham, Granville and Person counties.

Hunt previously supported the SSC but said his position on the issue would be determined by the sentiment among his constituents. Hunt's senatorial district includes

the three counties affected.

Opponents are concerned about the impact the project would have on the communities in the area and on the environment. They also say the money could be better spent on long-term development of the counties.

"We could probably develop Durham into something a bit more permanent than 25 years," Michaux said. "And the \$600 million (to be spent by the state) can be put into much better use, such as basic education."

Michaux said the state administration "sold" the project on the estimated 3,000-4,000 jobs it would entail. But those jobs may not go to local residents and would last only 25 years, he said.

"The majority of people (getting those jobs) are not going to be North

Carolina state people," he said.

Haenn said the project would displace too many families and affect the water quality in the area.

"There are three major watersheds in this area," Haenn said. "The state government has done very little in looking at the environmental impact."

Legislators said the opposition might affect the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) decision about the location of the SSC.

"It sounds like the DOT takes into account the local opposition," Thompson said. "If one state has more opposition, they would probably look at other states which have no opposition."

Staff members for Gov. Jim Martin, who supports the project, did not return repeated phone messages.

# Under-18 dropouts should not receive licenses, Jordan says

By **ERIC GRIBBIN**  
Staff Writer

North Carolina should deny driver's licenses to students under 18 who drop out of school, according to a proposal issued Tuesday by Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan, said Phil Wells, press secretary for the Jordan for Governor campaign.

The license provision is just one part of a comprehensive program Jordan says will cut the dropout rate in half as early as 1992, Wells said. The program also involves a \$7.6 million appropriation to provide at least one counselor for every 40 potential dropouts, Wells said.

"We think it would be a very good program because it is a preventative measure, not a Band-Aid solution. The lieutenant governor feels that the situation is out of hand, and he feels that something must be done, even if it's a controversial issue," Wells said.

A bill to deny driver's licenses to dropouts failed during the 1987 N.C. legislative session.

Jordan has been concerned about the 100,000 dropouts during Republican Gov. Jim Martin's term, Wells said, citing this as Martin's most serious educational problem.

"The dropout rate needs more extensive attention than what Jordan proposed," said Lee Monroe, Martin's assistant for education. "The dropout problem is longitudinal. There is sort of a pipeline from the time a child enters the school system. A longitudinal approach would be more effective than the approach which Mr. Jordan has proposed, which concentrates on the end of the pipeline."

But education officials disagreed.

"I think (Jordan's) timing was perfect. If he could get this plan instituted, it would cut the dropout rate in half immediately," said Dennis Davis, director of the division of

support programs of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. "This plan shows that the state is serious about keeping kids in school."

"I see some problems with the proposal, but I also see some merit," said John Rudder, assistant principal and former guidance counselor at Broughton High School in Raleigh.

"Sometimes, quitting school is not a negative thing. Some young people drop out due to feelings of failure — they need to seek some sort of success outside of school. Sometimes, work is a priority — the youth wants to earn enough money to buy a car, and the license is a source of good feeling, and I don't know if denying that would help or not."

Once dropouts turn 18, they would be able to obtain a driver's license under the proposal, Wells said.

"However, if a student under 18 who has already obtained a license quits school, their license will be revoked. Enrolling in a (general equivalency degree) program and staying in good standing for at least four months or re-enrolling in school would be the only ways to regain one's license before age 18," he said.

Vernon Morton, special assistant to the commissioner of the N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), had doubts as to the constitutionality of Jordan's proposal.

"I don't know if a person who is qualified to operate a motor vehicle in this state can be denied a license. There certainly is no law currently existing in N.C. that would allow such a thing," he said. "I believe this involves a constitutional right. The DMV certainly encourages all students to get a diploma and to go as far educationally as they can beyond high school, but I don't know if you can deny a person a license for any other reason other than ability or inability to operate a motor vehicle," Morton said.

## Rape

most useful for police because blind reports are simply an alert for officers to patrol an area more closely.

The areas are often hard to track or monitor when blind reports name a rape site that is not easily accessible to police, such as a car or dormitory room, he said.

Although police assume that every report was an actual rape, blind reports are unproved rumors from a legal standpoint, he said.

Comar said Chapel Hill and University police have been very successful with arresting and convicting rapists when the victim comes to police soon after the rape occurs and follows police suggestions.

Obtaining physical evidence of the rape by medical examination is

particularly important if the case goes to court, he said.

"If you collect the evidence, you don't have to prosecute; but if you don't, there's no hope of prosecuting later on," Comar said.

Cousins also said area police have a fairly high conviction rate if an arrest is made, with 50 percent in 1987 and 43 percent in 1986.

"Usually, if there's enough information for an arrest, then there's enough information for a conviction," Cousins said.

Groover said rape is caused by the assailant's need to have power and control over another person.

Men are often taught by society to use aggressive means to get what they want, while women are usually

taught to be "negotiators," she said.

People need to re-evaluate how behavior and communication affect dating relationships, Groover said.

"Education is a large part of stopping the problem," she said. "We can teach people to think differently about their sexuality."

The rape crisis center conducts programs for children and adults in a variety of settings, including public schools, churches and civic groups, Groover said.

The center's primary function is to offer counseling and emotional support to rape victims, she said.

Volunteers also advise victims to get medical attention and explain the option of reporting the rape to police without pressuring them to do so, Groover said.

Benzaquin said the UNC Rape Action Project has a one-hour presentation on date and acquaintance rape that it presents to male, female and co-ed campus groups.

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## MOVIES AT THE UNION

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\$1.50 (from Union Desk)

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Saturday, March 26  
(co-sponsored with  
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Sunday, March 27  
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7:00 & 9:30  
SUNDAY, MARCH 27  
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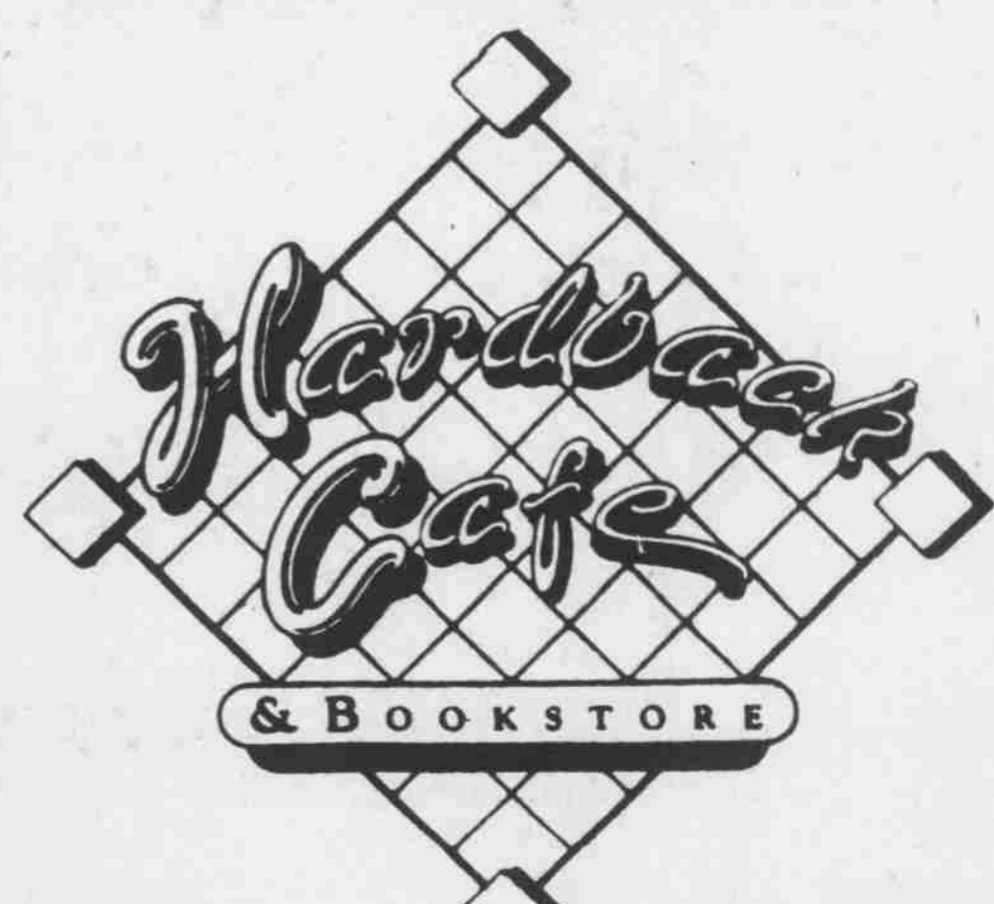
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Summer 1988

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