

World and Nation

Schedule set for alcohol conference

By ERIC LUSK
Staff Writer

Decision '89, a conference designed to promote alcohol awareness in the college community, kicks off Tuesday at the Omni Durham Hotel.

The two-day seminar, sponsored by the N.C. Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission and the Governor's Highway Safety Program, begins at noon with Bobby Jones, former UNC and NBA basketball player, speaking on his dealings with alcohol while playing

professional basketball.

Other speakers slated to speak are N.C. Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner; N.C. First Lady Dottie Martin; Lonise Bias, mother of former University of Maryland basketball player Len Bias; David Anderson, who is nationally known for his work on alcohol-related issues; Michael Ford, son of former President Gerald Ford; and Eileen Stevens, winner of several awards for her campaign against hazing.

"We're hoping that through this

conference we can get students and administrators to think about making more responsible decisions concerning alcohol use," said Larry Height, chief agency legal specialist for the ABC Commission.

The conference will offer more than 30 forums on alcohol-related issues such as the making and spotting of fake IDs and hazing in the Greek system. The conference also includes forums with state agents and ABC Commission members, Height said.

"Hopefully we can let people know not just the laws dealing with alcohol use, but also the risks and dangers young people can get into by experimenting and abusing these substances."

While the conference is basically geared for college students, faculty members and administrators will be able to come away with some valuable information, he said.

Bias, whose son died of a drug overdose, headlines Tuesday's evening events, he said.

"All 16 public universities in North Carolina along with 20 to 25 private colleges have been notified and plan to send student and faculty representatives," said Paul Powell, chairman of the N.C. ABC Commission.

Gardner plans to attack the alcohol and drug problem first with his speech Wednesday and then through support of legislation dealing with stricter laws and improved treatment for alcohol and drug offenders.

"Drugs and alcohol are the No. 1 problem we face in North Carolina today," Gardner said in a telephone interview.

A broad package of legislation dealing with the drug and alcohol problem is in the works, he said.

Gardner proposes drug education beginning in kindergarten.

"We're waiting too late if we try to educate students when they are in college. Kids in fourth, fifth and sixth grade are already experimenting."

Gardner also noted that drugs today are more lethal than in the past.

"In the '60s we dealt primarily with marijuana and cocaine, but today it's so much worse with drugs like crack out on the streets."

Freed former ANC leaders welcomed home in rally

From Associated Press reports

CROWN MINES, South Africa — More than 70,000 blacks chanting in triumph welcomed freed leaders of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) on Sunday at the largest anti-government rally in the country's history.

Virtually every aspect of the rally — including repeated praise for the ANC's guerrilla campaign — violated security laws, but police kept their distance.

Government-run television reported the rally as the top item on the evening news.

"Today, the ANC has captured center stage in South Africa," said Walter Sisulu, the group's former general secretary, from a podium erected beneath huge banners of the ANC and the South African Communist Party.

He and six ANC colleagues were freed unconditionally from prison Oct. 15. All but one had spent at least 25 years in prison.

East Berliners mourn fugitives

BERLIN — At least 20,000 East Berliners observed a moment of silence Sunday for those killed while attempting to flee over the Berlin Wall, the first such public mourning since Communist authorities built the wall in 1961.

The observance came as the East Berliners gathered in a downtown square for a rally called by Mayor Erhard Krack to discuss reform.

Similar meetings were organized

News in Brief

in the southern cities of Leipzig and Karl-Marx-Stadt as part of a government effort to stop activists from staging protests to voice their demands.

All three cities have been shaken by large pro-democracy protests in recent weeks. Protesters rallied in at least three cities Saturday night.

In East Berlin, microphones were provided for speakers from the crowd, one of whom called for the minute of silence.

Congress denounces Ortega

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders on Sunday joined President Bush's denunciation of Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega and vowed to stand by a promise to provide humanitarian aid to the Contra rebels through next February's elections.

At the same time, despite the exchange of hostilities between Bush and Ortega in Costa Rica, administration officials indicated it was unlikely they would seek a renewal of military aid for the U.S.-backed rebels at this time.

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, said Ortega's threat to call off a 19-month cease-fire between his Sandinista forces and the Contras was "a very unwise move, particularly the timing of it."

Mitchell was interviewed on NBC's "Meet the Press."

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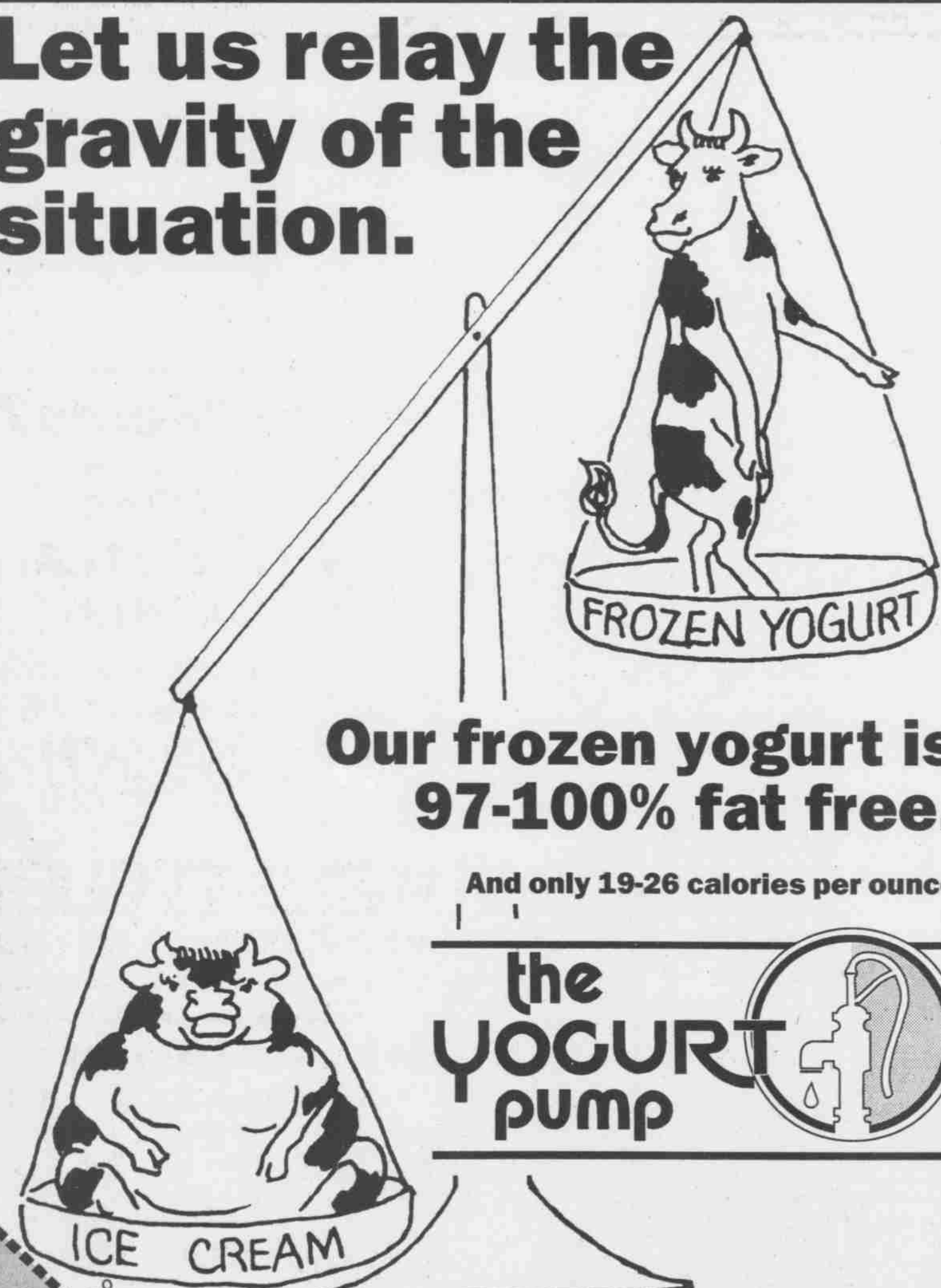
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