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Who controls activity fees?

By Steve Bass

Students often wonder where their "student activity fees" are spent, and more importantly, how they are allocated and accounted for. The process is mainly a political one dictated by student interest groups and personalities. However, according to the student constitution, the student group in charge of the hearings and accountability for the funds is the Student Fees Commission.

At this point, a brief diversion may be necessary to help the reader understand the make-up of the Student Association. Organizationally, there are three divisions of the Student Association: the Student Government Association (SGA), the Student Media Board (SMB) and the University Program Board (UPB). Specific duties are carried out by each division of the Student Association. For instance, the SGA runs the court system and allocates money to all chartered organizations and clubs. The UPB is responsible for all campus-sponsored University entertainment including the Rathskeller. The SMB is responsible for overseeing the activities of the medias, and allocating money for the medias. All three organizations are structured under the general heading of the Student Association.

The duty of the Student Fees Commission (SFC) is to hold hearings with representatives of the Student Association and student interest groups to make the initial allocation of student fees. (For instance, the SFC makes a lump sum allocation to the SMB which in turn allocates the money between the various media.) Under the rules of the SFC, the body is also in charge of reviewing and accounting the expenditures and revenues which they have allocated.

To insure impartiality and equal representation, the SFC is composed of two representatives from each of the divisions of the Student Association and three representatives from the student body at large.

Currently, the SFC has recently received notification from the office of UNC president William Friday, through his assistant Dick Robinson, that the ultimate responsibility for all student fees lies in the hands of the chancellor.

According to Dr. Douglas Orr, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, this was designed for a simple reason. "Ultimately one individual must be responsible for all activities and actions on a campus. This individual must be accountable to the taxpayers of the state, whose money we are dealing with."

The recent memorandum from Robinson was in response to a letter from Orr concerning the status of a 1971 memorandum from Friday's office. Michael Evans, chair of the SFC, says that all SFC policies have been made within the guidelines and regulations set forth in the 1971 memorandum, calling it the commission's "gospel."

With this in mind, the UNCC administration is concerned that the present system (under which the SFC is responsible for reviewing and auditing the accounts of the Student Association divisions) does not provide adequate accountability for the chancellor. Dr. Orr says, "The basis of the concern is not an indictment of the Student Fees Commission as much as recognition of the fact that there is not a standard accounting procedure within Student Government. Some organizations of the government have excellent systems of

accountability, some do not. If creditors or interest groups come to Dr. (D.W.) Colvard demanding to know why certain funds were spent in certain ways, we need a standard procedure which can be easily understood and explained. We certainly do not want to take over the allocation of student funds. We like the student involvement and we don't have

time to run the process."

To this end, Dr. Orr organized the Student Activity Fee Review Committee to "analyze the present system and make recommendations concerning the revision of the allocation system." Orr says, "We placed only seniors on the committee because we wanted people who

understand the way the present system works, and more importantly, people who have no self-interest in the system. Far too often, students in an investigative role have a personal interest in decisions that affect future years. This committee needed to be objective."

John Fraley, appointed by Orr as
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Drained pond mystery solved

By Nancy Davis

One of the biggest curiosities on the campus of UNCC is the muddy remains of the pond by the Student Health Center. Despite rumors, the drained pond is nothing more than a drained pond.

It is not the foundation for a new co-ed dorm, nor is it the site for a triple decker parking lot. "We just had to drain the pond," said Ed Ayers, UNCC Physical Plant director.

"That pond was built four years ago to handle the normal run-off of water caused by rain," explained Ayers. A misjudgment in the standing overflow pipe size caused problems in the handling of the "two floods that we've seen in a little over a year," said Ayers.

The overflow of rain was causing erosion of the dam and permanent harm. A spillway will be built underneath the dam (the sidewalk crossing the pond) and a larger overflow pipe will be constructed in the middle of the pond.

The plans are drawn and "will go out for bidding next week," said Ayers. The estimated cost of this improvement is \$2,500.

"If we put in a concrete spillway, the cost would be \$8,000, but the effect would be

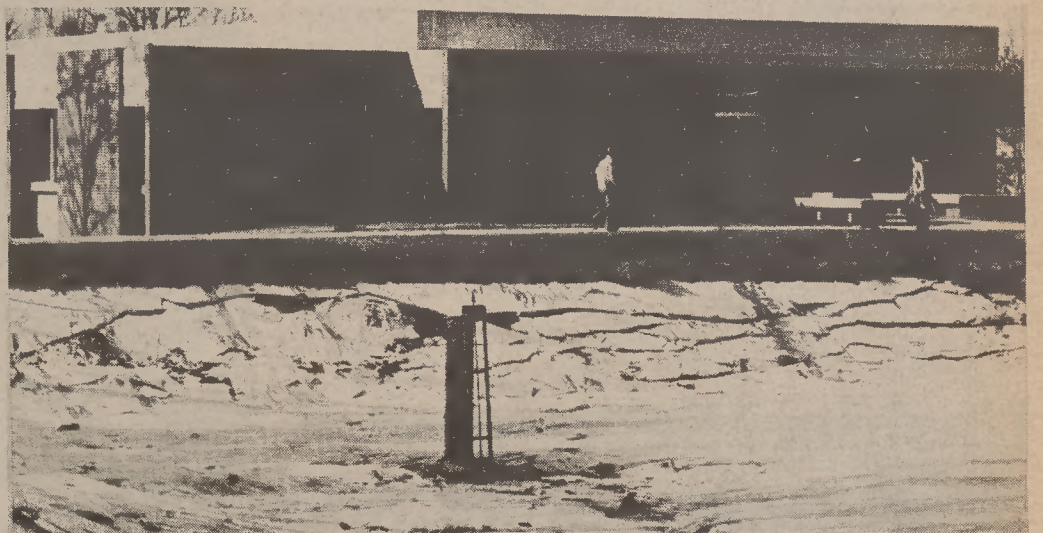
the same. It would be more attractive, but I feel we can use that \$5,500 to plant trees, or improve our sidewalks," Ayers said.

The pond was drained in mid-October and took over a month to dry up. "Work should begin in mid-February. It's what I call 'creative procrastination.' I was waiting for a light bulb...something to pop up that would be cheaper, maybe easier," said Ayers.

Ayers was disappointed in the findings at the bottom of the pond. When asked if he had visions of finding a buried treasure or a hand sticking out of the mud, he chuckled and said, "Yes! But all we found were some wine bottles!"

He was afraid that some fish might get trapped in the puddles. "Luckily there were no fish at all. That was a good surprise."

Carolina Journal photo by David Wagoner



The remains of the pond beside Brocker Health Center.

'China and the World' - Thursday

By Brad Rich

The Department of Political Science and the Friends of UNCC are cosponsoring a conference on "China and the World" Thursday, January 27 in the John Paul Lucas room.

Tom Thompson, the China expert in the political science department, spoke about the importance of the conference. "I think China is going through a transition now, the passage to the post-Mao era hasn't been an easy one. Adjustments are required, and these adjustments will affect China's relations with the rest of the world," he said.

Thompson said he sees "the end of revolutionary rule in China." He thinks there will be more emphasis placed on pragmatic economic development. "There will probably be improved relations between the U.S. and China, and China will probably soften

on the Taiwan issue. I think there is a good chance of normalization speeding up, and during the Carter Administration the U.S. will probably officially recognize China."

The improved relations with China will make the Soviet Union uneasy, Thompson said. "Improved U.S.-China relations could strengthen the U.S.'s bargaining position with the Soviet Union. You have to understand the key to U.S.-China relations is not Taiwan but the Soviet Union," he said.

Another reason China is looking to improve relations with the west is the possibility of purchasing military technology.

Thompson said, "That's why James Schlesinger was invited over to China, and why Guy Mery, the French Chief of

Staff was invited. They (the Chinese) want to improve their military; presently, they're using obsolete '50's weapons which couldn't win a '70's war with the Soviet Union that they consider inevitable.

"The U.S. hasn't completely ruled out the possibility of selling military technology to China yet. Currently we're permitting some of our allies to sell military technology to them. The most recent example of this is the British Rolls Royce sale of jet aircraft engines to China," he said.

The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. Besides presentations by Nish Jamgotch, professor of political science, and Thompson, the program includes a talk by Chancellor D.W. Colvard, who recently visited China, will give his own views of the country.