

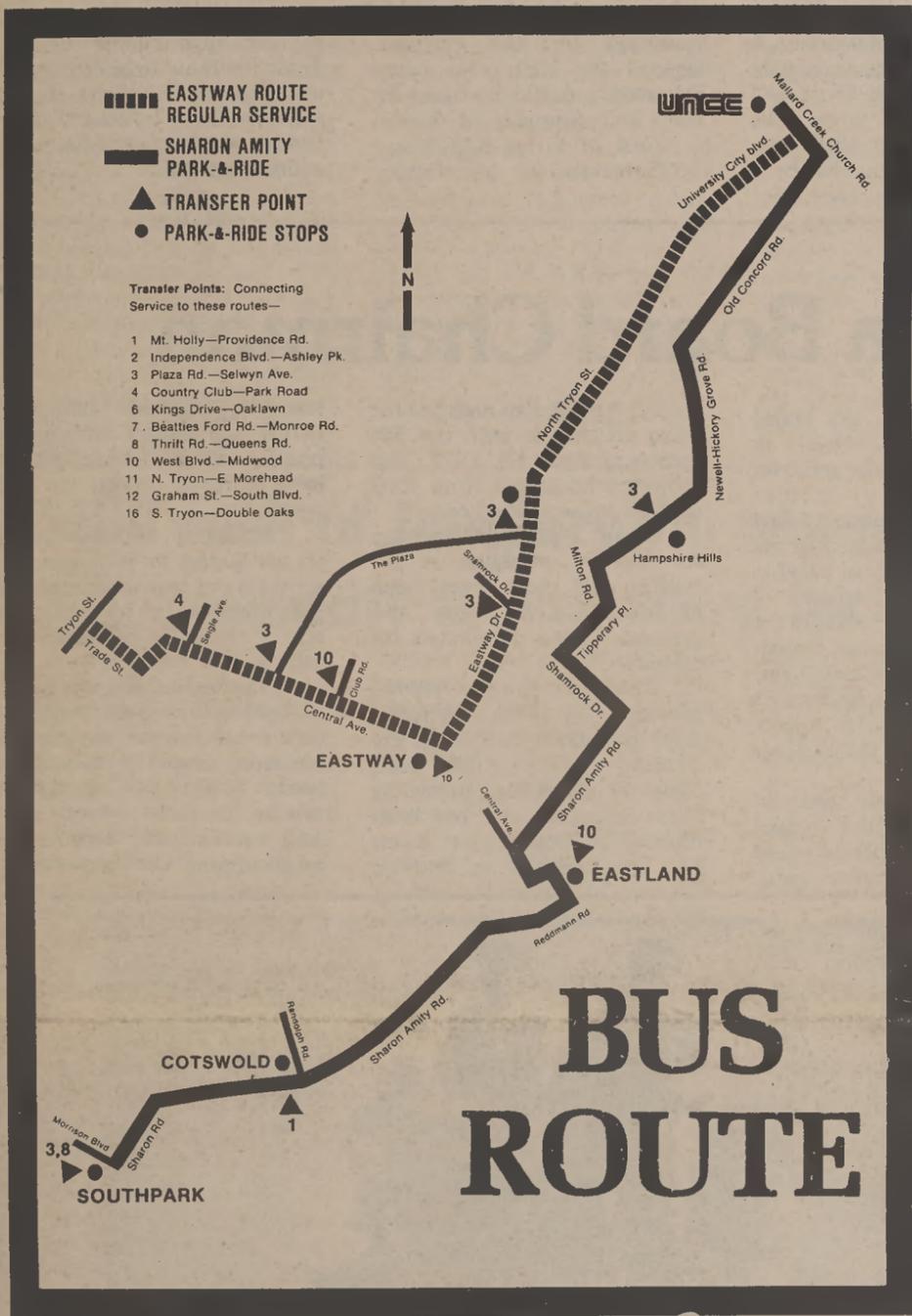
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Why no beer?

By Brad Rich

Jam-up at UNCC. The mere mention of the event conjures up vivid images of bare legs, bare feet, good music, sunshine and beer. At least it used to. This year, two of the ingredients were missing—the sunshine and the beer.

Sunshine was absent due to a quirk of nature; beer due to a change in state policy, it seems. To find out exactly how Jam-up was held for the first time ever without free beer, three of the people most closely involved in the controversy, Doug Lerner, University Program Board advisor Jennie Cernosia and Dean of Student Dennis Rash were interviewed.

Rash said in the past the University policy was guided by a policy statement from North Carolina University President William Friday saying, in essence, that student fees were directly expendable by the students, and could be used for anything they deemed necessary.

"This year," Rash said, "Vice Chancellor Orr received a statement saying this was no longer in effect, and that student fees were now under the control of the Chancellors of the individual universities."

Rash said the administration was advised that student fees are state money, that is, they are accountable to and audited by the state. Since state ABC laws forbid purchase of alcoholic beverages (and even cups or containers for the beverages), the administration decreed that the money budgeted for Jam-up beer was not to be used for that purpose. "This was no attempt to single out Jam-up, or for the administration to crack down," Rash said.

The main issue, according to Rash, is the question of whether student activity fees constitute "state money". Rash said

lawyer William Steimer, an assistant to Chancellor Colvard, prepared a statement saying that in his opinion the money is state money, since the money is collected by the University, accounted for by the business office and audited by the state office.

Rash said the reason the school was able to buy beer in the past was that no one was held directly responsible for the purchase, so the auditors didn't choose to look at it carefully. With last year's revelation of student activities fees being spent improperly in some instances, for example, lunches being disguised as salaries, the auditing process was improved and all activities came under closer scrutiny.

Doug Lerner, former UNCC Attorney General and an ardent supporter of students' rights, disagreed with Rash. "The administration interpreted how the state feels to suit their purposes," he said. "There has never been any ruling by either the courts or the State Attorney General on whether student fees constitute state money. I think it says something about our administration that they want to stop students from spending their own money."

Lerner said Dennis Rash made this interpretation, and that the administration is hesitant to ask for a genuine ruling because of fear that all school money, "right down to the health center and athletic program, would fall under the control of the Board of Governors."

Lerner said in the past the beer was bought from a wholesaler (at the cheapest possible price) using a retailer as a middle man, and that this was the "public" purchase plan this year. When the administration closed off this route, Lerner and others felt an alternative had to be found.

He said, "We felt as student leaders we had to try and get the students what they wanted for their money. We felt it was our job to get them the beer for their money."

One route mentioned was transferring funds allocated to various miscellaneous accounts in Student Government to stipends, then having an individual buy the beer from the company. Lerner said this would have worked had the Business Office not closed out its books for March a couple of days early.

Jennie Cernosia, UPB advisor, said the problem was first detected in December. When she first arrived at UNCC from Illinois, she was "stunned" that beer had been bought with activity fee monies in the past because it was a violation of ABC laws where she came from. "I thought it was a great idea, though," she said.

Cernosia said when the problem was detected, a ruling was asked for, and the response was that the Chancellor was directly responsible for how student activity fees could be spent. With that in mind, she advised the UPB to look for another purchase plan if they still wanted the beer, because she could never sign the check requisition. She told them to try and obtain the funds through Student Media Board, since these organizations do not need a faculty advisor's signature on requisitions.

Cernosia went on to say she thought the first plan tried, diverting the money through Student Government stipends would have worked had not a letter from Dave Johnston appeared in the *Carolina Journal* that explained the plan. "I

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New bus system one reason

Parking sticker will cost you \$30

By Doug Lerner

The administration has announced that UNCC parking fees will be increased by 50% beginning with the fall, 1977 semester. The increase from \$20.00 to \$30.00 reflects three major developments in the areas of parking and transportation at UNCC.

According to Vice-Chancellor Leo Ells, the \$10.00 mark-up in parking sticker fees will go to:

(1) the new bus system which is supposed to provide students with an inexpensive transportation link to the community (see route map this page) and relieve overcrowded parking situations on campus. The heavily publicized transportation plan will cost \$8 per semester or \$15 per year for unlimited transportation on the CTS, Charlotte Transit System. Only \$1.00 of the \$10.00 increase will go to the bus system.

(2) 200 new parking spaces which will be created for new on-campus housing. These spaces will be located between the site of the housing (now being constructed) and Highway 49.

(3) the building of a new parking deck between the gym and the University Center. This project will be the major reason for the increase. The 200 new spaces created will be ready during the fall, 1977 semester—probably in late October or early November.

Ells said the fee increase had not

been voted on and approved by the Chancellor's Parking Committee, where students and faculty have their representation, but he said he had "apprised" them of the action. Although the increase wasn't specifically approved in Committee, Ells says the Committee did approve the projects being paid for by the increase.

Ells said he did not know whether the construction between the gym and the University Center would be a first step in prohibiting students from parking in that area as has been proposed by Dean of Students Dennis Rash. Ells did verify, however, that parking fines will be increased next year from the current \$1.00/\$3.00/\$5.00 penalties to some undecided levels.

Dr. Judith Pressler, a philosophy professor who chairs the Chancellor's Parking Committee told the *Carolina Journal* that the fee increase had, in fact, been voted on in the Committee and that students had been present. She said she would send us copies of the minutes.

Opinion on the matter of the fee increase and the projects it will pay for seems fairly mixed. While those interviewed thought the bus system a good idea, few were enthusiastic about its potential in attracting the large support needed to make the project a success.

Jack Summerlin, Chairman of the Student Legislature, voiced the opinion

of most of those interviewed. He was asked whether he thought the new bus system would be a success. "No," he said, "but their (the administration's) intentions are good. I don't think that many students will give up the luxury of their own cars and of coming and going when they please. I don't think it is practical at the present time though it is a wonderful idea." Summerlin criticized the subsidy saying, "I don't think it is a good idea to force over 8,000 people to subsidize the hundred or so people who will ride the buses."

A more optimistic view is held by Associate Dean of Students Betty Chafin. She says the plan will, "provide a great service. The bus pass is one of the great deals in town. I am optimistic as to its eventual success on a long-range basis—but we have to get started now."

Vice-Chancellor Ells said the bus system would be, "just as useful as the staff, faculty and students make it." Ells said he hoped that the success of the bus system would save UNCC the expense of building a proposed 903 space parking lot.

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For those persons interested in more information about the bus system, contact Betty Chafin in the Dean of Students Office. If you are interested in the new parking deck or the proposed increase in fines, contact Jerry Hudson, Director of Security.