

# The Carolina Journal

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## PIRG not students' rights issue, Says Dean of Students Dennis Rash

By Brad Rich

According to Dean of Students, Dennis Rash, the decision not to fund PIRG, the Public Interest Research Group patterned after Ralph Nader's organization, should not be made into a students' rights issue.

Rash said the whole controversy stems from PIRG's belief that it should have a separate system of accountability. He said when students voted to increase their fees by two dollars to fund PIRG last year, the Administration was acting under a 1971 memorandum from University System President William Friday that basically gave only duly authorized representatives of student organizations the right to expend activity fees. The administration would have no authority, save that of auditing.

When the system was reorganized in 1971 to expand from six to 16 universities, a Board of Governors was created. This board set up a "Code", one provision of which stated that the Chancellor now was responsible for how all student activity fees were spent. Rash said this new policy, Section 502 D-3 of the codebook, superceded the old policy.

Rash said PIRG, by asking for a separate system of accountability, would not help the accountability. "The Chancellor," he said, "Being a prudent man, seeing the audit reports (of organizations that had overspent in the past), and knowing he was now responsible, set up the Student Activity Fees Review Committee. What has emerged is a need for a better accountability mechanism, as opposed to a better appropriations mechanism."

In the Chancellor's judgement, and mine, too, the single most important issue on campus is establishing this mechanism, an organization that looks at each organization's expenditures every month and determines whether it is spent right," he said.

Rash said he feels, as does the Chancellor, that any money PIRG obtains should have to go through this new committee just like any other student organization. "PIRG asked for a lump sum," he said. "They didn't want to have any system of yearly accountability. Of course, they'd have to report to their own Board of Directors, but it wouldn't be made up predominately of UNCC Students."

If we allowed PIRG an end-around the system, a special process of accountability, it would encourage other organizations to seek the same thing. That definitely would not help general accountability."

Rash emphasized the point no one ever said PIRG can't receive campus funding. He said, "If PIRG wants to come before the Fees Review Committee or whatever body is set up, submit a budget, etc., they can."

Rash also said he thinks that if accountability was tightened on other student organizations, as much as ten to fifteen thousand dollars could be freed to fund PIRG or "any other student organization." PIRG, Rash said, "Asked for a negative check-off." That is, they proposed to raise student fees by two dollars for every student, unless a student checked-off that he didn't want to give the money. It is impossible to deduce how much money this would have amounted to, because it's impossible to know how many students would have checked off," he said.

Rash said he was against raising the

student fees at all when many of them were not being spent efficiently in the first place. It's the same way I feel about taxes. As long as they are being spent inefficiently, I would never be in

favor of raising them."

In summary, Rash said, "I'm not yet convinced that PIRG cannot operate in the same manner as other student organizations. Of course, this wouldn't

be as efficient as their method, but then, I'd rather not have to explain exactly what I'm doing and how I'm spending my money either."

Carolina Journal photo by Lisa Laney



Dean Rash gave the Administration's views on the PIRG question.

## WFAE... 90.9 FM

By Brad Rich

WFAE has received permission from the FCC to begin programming tests Monday, April 18. According to station manager Bo Pittman, at this time the station will begin its regular program day, currently scheduled to begin between 4:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Pittman said permission to begin programming tests does not, however, insure that the FCC will license the station. The FCC grants permission to begin program tests when a station has shown itself to be in good operation.

The current schedule calls for the "Spider's Web," a continuing series of literature classics, to be aired at 4:30 daily. The show, produced by WGFV in Boston, Massachusetts, is designed to entertain the entire family, and will present such literary classics as "Through the Looking Glass," "Winnie the Pooh," "The Hobbit," and even a series on "The Little House on the Prairie."

At 7:00, WFAE will air programs from National Public Radio. Station Manager Pittman said, "I haven't really heard many of these, so I'm not sure exactly what all of them are. They will be educational, though; such things as the British Broadcasting Corporation's Science Magazine, and interviews with Dixie Lee Ray on nuclear power."

Classical music will be heard from 5:00 to 7:00 daily. Pittman said the classical programming is going pretty well, and will be an integral part of the station's programming.

Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00 will be Special Features. Pittman said this will include bluegrass, folk and blues.

Jazz will be aired between 8:00 and 10:00 Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Paul Stribbling has been developing the programming for jazz, and at first the emphasis will be put on traditional and contemporary artists. Pittman said, "At first we'll start off conservative, then go on from there. We'll play people like Maynard Ferguson and some from Al DiMeola, but we probably won't get as modern as, say Weather Report at first."

News Director John Edwards said his department is crippled by a lack of money and personnel, but he still has ideas for the near future. The news probably will be left out initially, but after a while Edwards said plans call for "a couple of short news shows a day dealing mainly with campus issues and a once-a-week special similar to the "National Column" in the Carolina Journal.

Edwards said at first the lack of money will prohibit his department from purchasing a teletype machine, but "there will be as much investigative reporting as personnel allows." He said investigative reporting on campus will have to be done "delicately," though, and in a "hunt and peck" style.

## Meet Chase Idol

By Patti Tracey

Chase Idol, our new Student Body President, is a native of Charlotte who never planned on attending UNCC, or any other college for that matter. Now he's a junior accounting major, after a try at engineering, who really enjoys school and campus life.

According to Chase, his mother has been a great influence on him and it was she who convinced him to try college. Chase and his mother are very close and she was a source of great support to him throughout his campaign.

Oddly enough, Chase has had no experience in Student Government. But he feels his 1½

years of experience as an R.A. in '73 have given him a good foundation for the presidency.

When asked why he decided to run, he replied, "I feel that I know enough students so that I can represent an overview of their opinions when dealing with the administration, faculty, and staff, which is basically the job of the Student Body President". Chase made it clear that his decision wasn't a hasty one. He spoke to a good many people in student government, including Ricky Pharr and Doug Lerner.

Looking back over the campaign, Chase feels it was

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