

Ex-UNC Professor Keeps Custody of His Son

BY JOHN SWEENEY
STAFF WRITER

After a 36-hour delay, the decision in the custody case between former UNC professor James Williams and his ex-wife was handed down Thursday morning. In Orange County District Court, Judge Phillip Allen revised a previous custody agreement between the divorced couple, ruling that Jim Williams would retain physical custody of their 7-year-old son, Austin, but that custody also would be shared more equitably between him and his ex-wife, Ashley Williams. Jim Williams resigned from his position in UNC's English department in July after allegations of sexual and professional

misconduct surfaced during his lengthy divorce battle last spring. The latest round in the dispute began when Jim Williams moved with his son to Chicago to take a position at Governor's State University. Ashley Williams was not notified of the move, and Jim Williams was charged with contempt of court for violating the spirit of the original court-ordered custody agreement. Ashley Williams also filed a motion requesting that she be granted full custody of their son. In his decision, Judge Allen said he found sufficient change of circumstances to alter the custody agreement set up by Judge Joe Buckner in the Williams' April custody trial. The new agreement allows Jim Will-

iams to maintain primary physical custody of his son during the school year, but stipulates that Ashley Williams have custody during the summer and all major holidays. The agreement substantially increased the amount of time Ashley Williams will spend with her son. Allen also reprimanded both parents for their actions during the course of the divorce and the custody trial. "The actions of the plaintiff and defendant have caused us to have a very complicated case." Despite his decision, Allen said his sympathies were with Ashley Williams. "From the evidence I've heard, you have won my heart, but not my legal opinion," he said. Afterwards, Jim Williams' lawyer, Lunsford Long, said he was pleased with

the outcome of the hearing. "(Allen) made the correct decision," Long said. "He saw Austin's needs as they are." Ashley Williams lawyer, Terry Harn, said he was disappointed with the decision, but not with Allen. "I think (Allen) did what he could do," Harn said. "We didn't prove that the boy had been injured because we didn't have access to him." Harn also said he did not think Ashley Williams would appeal the decision. After handing down the custody order, Allen ruled on the contempt of court charge that had been leveled against Jim Williams. In lieu of a fine or a jail sentence, Jim Williams was ordered to pay his ex-wife \$1,000 during the next two months to help defray her legal costs.

Today Marks Last Chance To Register to Vote in Pit

BY DAVE SNELL
STAFF WRITER

Student activists will be out in full force today in a final push to register voters before the Nov. 7 election. Today is the last day to register. "More students vote in SBP (student body president) elections than in local elections," Student Body Vice President Amy Swan said. "That's pathetic." Registration efforts will be intense, Swan said. There will be tables set up in the Pit from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. where last-minute registrations can be completed in time for the upcoming elections. "If we show up at the polls in big numbers this year, it will show that we are a body of voters to contend with," Swan said. Many students pay taxes in Chapel Hill and Carrboro and deserve the right to make their voices heard, said Mohan Nathan, student body co-secretary. "What goes on in the town affects what happens here on campus," Nathan said. Swan also urged students registered in their hometowns to change their registra-

tion to Orange County. "Students spend most of the year here, and Chapel Hill is the place where the laws affect them the most," Swan said. Swan cited examples of recent legislation passed in Chapel Hill that directly impact the University. Noise ordinances and the controversial open-container law, which has raised concern among students, are examples of local laws which directly affect the student population of the town, Swan said. "These are issues that come up in every student's life," Swan said. "Elect people who will listen to student needs and address them."



Student Body Vice President AMY SWAN said students should register to vote because local issues affect them.

Nathan emphasized that other campus groups have been key to the success of the registration effort. "Alpha Phi Alpha (fraternity) showed great leadership in getting the drive (for registration) moving, and other groups have followed along," Nathan said. In addition to Alpha Phi Alpha, SEAC, B-GLAD and the UNC Young Democrats have been active in the drive, Nathan said. "They have been very integral in getting the effort off the ground," Nathan said. For example, UNC Young Democrats went door-to-door in residence halls around campus registering people to vote, said Aaron Nelson, UNC Young Democrats president. Nathan said the biggest problem was getting voters to go to the polls. Students who cannot make it to the tables in the Pit can also obtain the registration forms in Davis Library.

Fraternity to Sleep Under Stars to Help Homeless

BY MATT LECLERCQ
STAFF WRITER

Continuing a seven-year tradition, members of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., will spend tonight outside Morrison Residence Hall to raise money for charity. Members hope to raise more than \$1,000 for the Chapel Hill Interfaith Council for Social Services in the fraternity's seventh annual sleepout for homelessness. John Fitzpatrick, a fraternity member who has participated in the sleepout for the past four years, said he hoped that 30 to 40 students would decide to camp out and that the fraternity's actions would raise awareness of the problem of homelessness. "We think there's a growing need to

draw attention to the homeless problem in the area, locally and nationally, by putting our first foot forward in trying to address the needs of the homeless," he said. Malcolm Logan, vice president of the eight-member fraternity, said anyone was welcome to join the sleep out. The event begins at 10 p.m. tonight and will last until 6 a.m. Saturday morning. Food will be provided for those who spend the night. "It's equally important to the sleepout to get other people who can't make financial donations to come out and provide a physical endorsement for what we are doing," Logan said. Fraternity member Antoine Rogers, a senior from Greensboro, said the money raised would be used by the shelter to

"Everyone wants a roof over their head."

ANTOINE ROGERS
Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Inc.

purchase items such as blankets and cots. He said he thought that by sleeping outdoors, the problem of homelessness would be brought closer to home. "If students had to sleep outside every night, they wouldn't want to," Rogers said. "So it's important that we give money to this shelter. Everyone wants a roof over their head." Fraternity members will be in the Pit

from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. today to accept pledges or donations. "This is our community for the four years that we're here as students at UNC," Rogers said. "It's our responsibility to be sure that the community as a whole has the necessities to meet the needs of homeless, and the main necessity is funding." Fitzpatrick said he thought it was important for the fraternity to draw attention to the issue. "If someone doesn't step forward to address this, who will?" he said. The fact that the sleep out is on Friday the 13th isn't important, said Logan. "We can't worry about that because homeless people have to spend every night sleeping outside."

More Than 2,000 Expected At Weekend SEAC Conference

BY JOE MILLER
STAFF WRITER

This weekend UNC will play host to a national conference run by the Student Environmental Action Coalition. This is the fourth such conference in the organization's history. More than 2,000 people are expected to attend the three-day-long conference, which will begin tonight and last through Sunday. "This conference will focus on the role of young people in working for global change and will feature youth leaders from the environmental and social justice movements," according to a SEAC press release. SEAC was started at UNC in 1988. Since then, it has spread to more than 2,000 high school and college chapters with 30,000 members. "Being here with over 2,000 other students would just be so amazing to see that there are people everywhere working very hard all day and night every day," said conference organizer Megan Southern. "So I am hoping that people feel all this energy ... and really pay attention and go to everything because there's so much being offered here." Laura Marston, co-chairwoman of the UNC chapter of SEAC, said the conference would focus on renewing interest in the environmental movement and social

justice. "This conference is going to have a really big focus on social and environmental justice issues," Marston said. Featured speakers include Than Htay from All Burma Students' Democratic Front; Meena Raman of Third World Network; Barbara Dudley, executive director of Greenpeace; and Cecilia Rodriguez of the National Commission for Democracy in Mexico. Portions of the conference are free and open to the public, including the opening night plenaries beginning at 7 p.m. tonight in Carmichael Auditorium. Several Saturday night events are also open to the public. A performance by the Underground Railway Theater is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Folk music performers Casey Neill, Nick Thompson, Matt Peters, Sev Williams and Mike Garrigan will hold a concert at 9 p.m. at the Union Cabaret. Tickets cost \$3. Also, a benefit concert featuring Archers of Loaf and Superdrag will take place at the Rosemary Street Parking Deck from 8 to 11 p.m. Tickets for this event are \$5. SEAC organizers have said they plan to participate in the UNC Housekeepers Association march scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday on Polk Place. UNC students may register for the conference for \$20.

LOWMAN
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"The tuba is a bit of a joke instrument," Lowman said. "It's the one the drunks try and throw beer bottles into." "But if you play (the tuba) you begin to realize just what a remarkable instrument it is." Lowman said he had dreamed of playing tuba in a big-league university marching band ever since his days in Belmont High School's rather modest marching band. The small college he attended as an undergraduate had no marching band, and when Lowman finally arrived at a school large enough to support one, he was too busy with his graduate studies and a young family to pursue his dream. "I love to watch and listen to university marching bands," Lowman said. "Every time I would see a really good one, I would just think to myself: 'I'm sorry I missed that along life's journey.'" Then, about a year ago, Lowman decided to try and realize his dream. He scrounged up an old, secondhand tuba and began practicing with the instrument, trying to see how much he remembered. "I gave myself three months," Lowman said. "And in about two weeks I was playing in the (Chapel Hill) Village Band. I discovered that for me (playing) the tuba was like a kid swimming or riding a bike—you just never forget." After practicing for a few months, Lowman approached UNC band director Jim Hile about trying out for the marching band. "When he contacted me, he was very enthusiastic about the idea," Hile said.

"But he was very concerned and worried that he might be taking a position away from a student." As luck would have it, however, several of UNC's marching tubas chose not to return, leaving more than enough room for a small psychology professor and his 27 pounds of marching Tar Heel sousaphone. Joe Lowman was about to make his lifelong dream happen. When Lowman completed his stint in UNC's summer band training camp, he began to realize just how intense and demanding playing tuba with "the pros" was. "I didn't pass out or anything from the heat," Lowman said. "And I discovered that working with the marching band is intellectually more difficult than anything else. I knew that physically it would be hard—you're hot and sweaty after about 10 minutes of work—but I knew I could do it." The hardest part, Lowman said, was the mechanical aspect of learning the marching band's field routines; he said some of the band's segments can call for up to 40 field movements in only a 12-15 minute time frame. At this level, Lowman said, the marching band seemed more to him like a finely choreographed ballet than anything else. Despite Lowman's weaker spots (other students and band members reportedly gave him personalized marching instructions), Hile said everything was working out well between the professor and his student bandmates. "I think he's been a super addition," Hile said. "He's a solid tuba player and he brings a truly new element to the band. He's also got a great personality—very enthusiastic."

Lowman and Hile both said Lowman's presence in the band had unforeseen advantages for students. "He is very much a liaison (between the students and faculty)," Hile said. "His reach in the band, to students, goes very far and wide." "The fact that I'm in the band makes me an accessible, approachable faculty member," Lowman said. "I think anything that helps students see themselves as our peers—or even as an apprentice—is what college is all about." But life for Lowman isn't all football games and band rehearsals. As a full professor in the department of psychology, he carries a full class load complete with graduate students. Lowman is also an assistant dean with the College of Arts and Sciences, a role which he says eats up roughly one-third of his time. When not teaching or advising, Lowman also finds time to sing with the Carolina Blue Barbershop Quartet and occasionally in opera productions in the region. Last year, Lowman sang in the chorus of Verdi's "La Traviata" produced by the Triangle Opera Theatre. Lowman also helps to advise the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity and the UNC Psychology Club. Although Lowman said he was having a great deal of fun with the band, he was not planning on returning to the ranks of marching Tar Heels once the semester is over. "I think going to Kenan Stadium—especially marching from Wilson (Library)—is the biggest rush in the world, and it's always over too quickly," Lowman said. "But this is a one-time thing."

ENDORSEMENTS
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it produces, and also we'll be proceeding to look at other aspects of the issue of open land." While the Sierra Cub was focusing on Carrboro candidates, the Greens issued a series of endorsements for candidates running for office in Chapel Hill. In support of Foy, Greens spokesman Dan Coleman stated in a press release that Foy "represents an opportunity for new leadership for Chapel Hill." In the release, Coleman said that Foy was "hard working and knowledgeable of the issues." This year also marks the second time Chilton has received support from the Greens. "In the past two years, Mark has emerged as a leader on the town council," Coleman stated. "He is a strong voice for fairness and environmental responsibility." Coleman stated in the release that Franck's work on the Chapel Hill transportation board showed him to be a strong voice for the curtailment of auto dependency. "Richard Franck has shown himself to be thoughtful and knowledgeable on a range of issues," Coleman stated. Coleman also stated that the Greens were expecting Capowski to remain an advocate for community-oriented development along with environmental and social responsibility. Capowski said he was pleased the Greens expressed confidence in him. "I am happy with the endorsement, of course," he said. "All endorsements help a campaign."

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But, if you want to know what the Tar Heels will be like and just who will be wearing Carolina Blue this winter, then we have the answer. The 4th annual Tar Heel Tip-Off will be held on October 14th at 11:00pm in the Smith Center. Admission is FREE to all. Hosted by Woody Durham.

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