

The Daily Tar Heel

INSIDE THURSDAY
OCTOBER 10, 1996



Crowded houses
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools struggle with overcrowding that's only getting worse. *Page 2*



Backlash!
If you're not annoyed by now, join the ranks of those who are just sick and tired of the Macarena. *Page 4*



Tackling issues
Al Gore and Jack Kemp put aside personal differences to debate the future of the country. *Page 11*

Today's Weather
Mostly sunny; high 60s.
Friday: Sunny; low 60s.

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BSM member drops Homecoming king bid

DAIRA JARRELL
STAFF WRITER

When the student body votes today in its first Homecoming king contest in the University's history, one candidate will be missing following his decision Wednesday to withdraw from the race.

Jerry Bright, one of the two Black Student Movement members vying for the position, announced his decision to drop out in a press release. Bright said he made his decision following a consultation with the members of his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Inc., who originally sponsored his bid.

"We (the fraternity members) have come to the conclusion that my candidacy would cause a conflict between two organizations which I am a member of, that being The Mu Zeta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha and The Black Student Movement," Bright stated in the release.

The two remaining candidates are Eugene Purvis, the official BSM nominee for king, and Sean Behr, a senior who was nominated by the Order of the Bell Tower, the student arm of the General Alumni Association.

One BSM member, who spoke under the condition of anonymity, said Bright received pressure from both the members of his fraternity and from those within the BSM to resign from the race.



Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc. member **JERRY BRIGHT** said his candidacy would cause a conflict of interest.

"They're both very qualified candidates, and the decision for Jerry Bright to resign was a personal one."

DEANA DAVIS
Black Student Movement Vice President

"It would better secure a victory for a BSM member," the source said.

Bright was asked to withdraw in order not to divide the black vote between himself and Purvis, the source said. The source said the idea was to solidify the opposition against Behr, who was white.

Bright said in an interview Wednesday night that he felt he could have won the race had he decided to compete.

"In an ideal society I could have run," Bright said. "But this is reality."

Bright also said he was aware of Purvis' decision to run when he applied for the nomination, but had not realized the conflict until after speaking to his fraternity members.

"There are points in time when an individual must make sacrifices for the good of organizations which he has committed to represent," Bright said.

BSM vice president Deana Davis denied that her organization deliberately influenced Bright's decision. "They're both very qualified candidates, and the decision for Jerry Bright to resign was a personal one," Davis said. "We actually encouraged both candidates to run."

Voting for Homecoming king and queen will take place today in Union 208-209 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

STARTING UP



Carr Court's latest addition, a new Head Start school, held its official opening Wednesday afternoon. Students welcomed the new center by singing "The Itsy-Bitsy Spider." *See story, page 2.*

Nelson keeps right to speak in Congress

■ A court decision nullifies a resolution limiting the ex officio member's power.

BY LYNN WADFORD
STAFF WRITER

Student Supreme Court has ruled that a Student Congress decision to limit the speech of ex officio Student Congress members was unconstitutional, according to a written decision read Wednesday by Justice Gene Davis, the decision's author.

Student Body President Aaron Nelson, an ex officio Student Congress member, filed a formal complaint with the court Friday, questioning the constitutionality of the resolution. The resolution limited ex officio members to one two-minute period to speak on a bill or motion at Student Congress meetings. It also prevented ex officio members from making motions or objections from the floor.

"It is my belief that the Supreme Court upheld the constitution," Nelson said Wednesday. "If the congress wishes to bring forward a bill and a student referendum in order to change the constitution,



Speaker of Student Congress **JAMES KILBOURNE** said he had expected Student Supreme Court to overturn the resolution.

SEE NELSON, PAGE 11

Sprinkler funds to be spread thin across state

■ Only a tenth of the state loan to Greek organizations will be interest-free.

BY ANDREW ROSE
STAFF WRITER

The \$1 million appropriated by the General Assembly to establish a Fire Safety Loan Fund will have to be spread thin to cover all of the state's fraternities and sororities, according to a memo sent out last week by State Treasurer Harlan Boyles.

A new provision dictates that for each loan given to a state fraternity or sorority to cover fire safety equipment, 10 percent will be made interest-free. The money will be distributed on a "first come, first serve basis," Boyles stated.

This money, designated as a no-interest, revolving-loan fund, "is to be used to install fire safety equipment in fraternity and sorority houses at both public and nonpublic institutions of higher learning located in North Carolina," he stated.

UNC Student Body President Aaron Nelson said the interest-free allotment was inadequate. "Ten percent is so insignificant, it means nothing over 10 years," Nelson said he hoped the percentage of funds offered with no interest would be increased.

The state treasurer can increase the percentage that is available interest free and still be true to the intent of the legislation, which was to aid fraternities and sororities in the installation of sprinklers.

Joseph Sansom, assistant to the state treasurer, acknowledged the possibility that the percentage could be increased. "If we find out during the distribution of

the funds that the \$1 million will not be taken up, the percentage to each fraternity or sorority will be changed to use up the funds," Sansom said. "But that entirely depends on just how many fraternities or sororities apply."

John Dervin, president of the Association of Student Governments, agreed that the new provision was inadequate. "The intentions were good, but it really doesn't follow the spirit of the legislation."

Ron Binder, director of Greek Affairs at UNC, said, "We are first and foremost very grateful to the state for the \$1 million. But unfortunately it's not enough to cover the houses in Chapel Hill, much less the entire state."

"At \$50,000 per sprinkler system, that money would disappear quickly. But we still need to take a more in-depth look at the proposal before concluding anything."

Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, said, "Obviously, it doesn't amount to much once it's spread over the entire state."

One area of difficulty remaining is determining how many fraternities and sororities, particularly from North Carolina's private universities, will apply for assistance from this fund. "We're still trying to figure out exactly how this money will be distributed," Dervin said.

Sansom said all state fraternities and sororities were eligible to receive the interest-free loans. "The only exception are those fraternities and sororities which are state owned, which will be covered under separate funding."

Sansom also recognized the shortcomings of the funds. "The amount is disappointing, as it won't amount to much individually. The interest-free loans certainly will not solve the problem, but hopefully it can at least assist them."

UNC, IBM join to create network that spans globe

BY JAMIE GRISWOLD
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

IBM will announce plans today to launch a new technology project in collaboration with the University.

IBM Global Campus, a worldwide, high-technology project aimed at helping colleges and universities expand their offerings for students, is intended to assist in the redesigning of learning, teaching and administrative functions. The program uses a combination of advanced technologies, network computing solutions, applications, consulting and services to accomplish this goal.

"IBM Global Campus will increase educational opportunities not only for traditional college students, but also for

working men and women for whom continuing education is now a fact," Chancellor Michael Hooker stated in a press release Wednesday. "We will be able to provide this important opportunity for lifetime learning without these students having to leave their jobs or families to travel to Chapel Hill to reap the benefits."

The first phase of the project will focus on new training and support activities designed to help UNC faculty members improve their high-technology teaching skills.

IBM Global Campus online computer networks will allow students to retrieve information about campuses, apply for

SEE IBM, PAGE 2

IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT



DTH/CARA BRICKMAN

Happiness is a sunny day, a good friend and a newspaper. One woman and her dog enjoy the last days of warm weather relaxing in the main quad.

Daly's group to take 6-year-old kisser's case

BY HOLLY HART
STAFF WRITER

Republican candidate for state auditor and UNC law student Jack Daly has taken on a new cause — 6-year-old Johnathan Prevette, the Lexington boy who captured national attention last month when he was punished for kissing a classmate.

The North Carolina Fund for Individual Rights announced Tuesday that it now represented the Prevette family in its suit against the Lexington City Board of Education. "We're about to turn the heat way up," said Daly, executive director of NCFIR.

Johnathan's mother, Jackie Prevette, said the family's demands were simple. "I want apologies, and I want this removed from Johnathan's record."

Daly said the foundation would issue demands to the school board on behalf of the family and would be prepared to file suit if the demands weren't met.

The demands included that the school's sexual harassment policy be restructured, a written apology be issued by the school and Jonathan's records be purged of mention of sexual harassment. "Mrs. Prevette simply wants her son

to be vindicated and his reputation to be restored," Daly said.

The school board had yet to respond to Mrs. Prevette and her demands, Daly said. "Thus far the school board is not taking Mrs. Prevette seriously."

Daly said he suspected that would change now that the foundation was representing the Prevettes.

Attorney Nate Pendley, who will represent the Prevettes at NCFIR's request, echoed Daly. "Ninety percent of the time, when a lawyer is brought in, the school board generally kowtows."

He added that lawsuits against government officials were very difficult to win, though.

Jackie Prevette said she thought NCFIR's chances of winning were very good. "They've sued several school systems and won," she said. "I think they're the best people to do this."



JACK DALY, Republican candidate for state auditor, will represent Jonathan Prevette.

In a press release issued by Lexington City Schools, Superintendent Jim Simeon denied that Johnathan had ever been charged with sexual harassment.

Simeon stated that Johnathan had been disciplined for violating the school's rule against unwarranted and unwelcome touching and that this rule was currently being reviewed for age appropriateness.

Pendley said the school misapplied the disciplinary law. "Schools cannot discipline a child without due process, and that was obviously not followed here," Pendley said.

Daly said the teacher and principal overreacted. "Clearly, Johnathan Prevette is only the latest victim of political correctness gone off the deep end."

NCFIR will be holding a press conference today at 1 p.m. in front of the Davidson County Courthouse in Lexington, Daly said.

Daly, with less than a month before the statewide election, said his foundation's representation of the Prevette case could introduce him to many voters that haven't heard of him.

He said that the case could have a positive impact on his race. "If it has any impact at all on the race, it will be one that will benefit me."

Sex is a form of temporary insanity.

Martin Grief