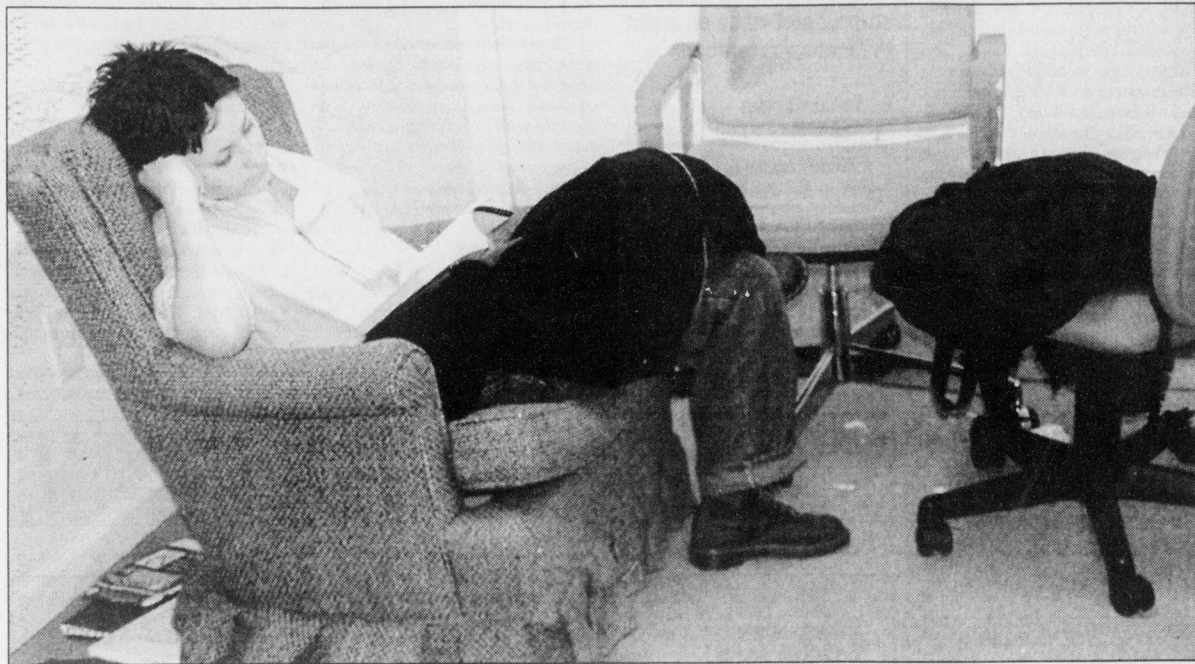


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DTH/LAURA LEIGH PAGE

Robin Landy, 16, studies for one of her classes at the School in the Community, a charter school in Carrboro. The school, which was in danger of losing its charter due to an insufficient number of students, met enrollment requirements Tuesday.

School Meets Enrollment Deadline

School in the Community now faces balancing a budget deficit to retain its charter from the state.

By COURTNEY JONES
Staff Writer

The N.C. Board of Education will decide today whether to let the School in the Community, a Carrboro charter

school, continue to operate with a projected \$80,000 to \$85,000 deficit for the 1998-1999 fiscal year.

Fred Battle, chairman of the Board of Directors for the School in the Community, said the school had raised enrollment by a Tuesday deadline, meeting a state requirement of 65 students.

On Nov. 23, the state Charter School Advisory Committee set the deadline for the school, which had been 10 students short. School in the Community also

had to balance its budget by Tuesday, which Battle said is the school's current focus. "Right now our charter is in the air because of deficit," he said.

Charter schools receive money on a per-student basis from local systems and the state, so increasing enrollment would help erase the deficit.

On Wednesday, school officials met with the advisory committee, which will recommend to the state board that a waiver be granted to keep the school open.

"The community has been great in supporting us, and I think (the board) will see that we have great community support, and we are doing a good thing," Battle said Wednesday. "Our discussion today was pretty positive."

Dr. Grova Bridgers, director for the state Office of Charter Schools, said the board was considering the request to keep the school open despite the deficit.

"The state Board of Education heard

See COMMUNITY, Page 11

Congress Seat Resignations Disrupt Body

Brad Rathgeber, Rules and Judiciary chairman, and Select Committee Chairman Jason Cowley resigned.

By ANDREW MEEHAN
Staff Writer

Student Congress members plan to elect a new speaker at their next meeting in January following former Speaker Brad Morrison's resignation at the meeting Tuesday night.

Also from Tuesday night's Congress meeting, the Rules and Judiciary Committee must now select new leadership following the resignation of three representatives.

Some representatives said the upcoming speaker change would run smoothly with Speaker Pro Tem Morayo Orija running for the position. Orija is the sole candidate for the speaker's post and is one of three remaining members of Congress who had experience before this semester.

Orija said she would like to continue Morrison's work toward making Student Congress proactive.

She said she would like to devote less time to administrative matters than Morrison and also wanted to improve internal relations.

She said such relations had broken down among members working within

the legislative branch.

She also said she was planning a retreat for representatives at Student Congress adviser Jon Curtis' house.

"A lot of personal attentions are being brought in, and I don't think it's good for Congress as a whole."

Morrison said that he hoped Orija would look at the past few months and weigh the pros and cons if she were elected speaker.

"She is more than qualified for the position," he said. "Overall, I know we're on the same page."

Rep. Mark Kleinschmidt, Dist. 1, said he would like to nominate Orija for the post. "Under her leadership, everything will be very smooth," he said.

Rep. David Gregg, Dist. 7, said Orija would be the logical choice as the only experienced member who was not already a committee chairman.

He said Orija had been helpful to members throughout the session.

"Her nickname, Mama Congress, is very appropriate."

Orija would likely preside over the selection of a new Rules and Judiciary Chairman to replace Brad Rathgeber and a select committee chairman to replace Jason Cowley, who stepped down at the Tuesday night meeting.

Rathgeber said the officers of Congress saw Gregg as the logical choice to be the new committee chair-

See SPEAKER, Page 11

UNC's Transit Future Might Include Train

Developers of UNC's master plan discussed the pros and cons of outfitting campus with train and bus transit.

By LAUREN BEAL
Staff Writer

Future railroads across campus were just one transit possibility discussed Wednesday as architectural consultants and UNC officials continued work on the University's master plan.

Consultants from Ayers Saint Gross presented a revised version of their conceptual plan - the firm's ideas of future changes - to the design and operations committee.

The conceptual plan is the second phase of the master plan, a five-phase process for improving the campus through renovations and construction.

The first observational stage was completed in September.

George Alexiou, who previously worked as a consultant for the Parking and Transit Task Force, introduced three

underrated and had a lot of potential. "It has the lowest cost, is the most convenient and works with any street system."

Along with transit possibilities, the revised plan focused on maintaining the natural landscape of campus, a principle which was emphasized in earlier meetings. "A big plus on campus is the integration between the built environment and the natural landscape," said Adam Gross, a partner with the firm.

"It's an easy thing to say, but a hard thing to find. It needs to be maintained."

Gross said the plan incorporated more greenery like terraced gardens throughout Mid and South campuses.

"What we're thinking about is extending the green of North Campus, creating another system of quadrangles," Gross said.

The plan also addresses the goal of a more pedestrian-friendly campus.

Gross pointed to the removal of some surface parking lots and addition of some other parking structures throughout campus, like parking decks.

While the conceptual plan will be revised, Gross said the meeting with the design and operations committee

"We might have to knock down a few buildings. I'm not trying to present a horror scenario here, but this is a train ..."

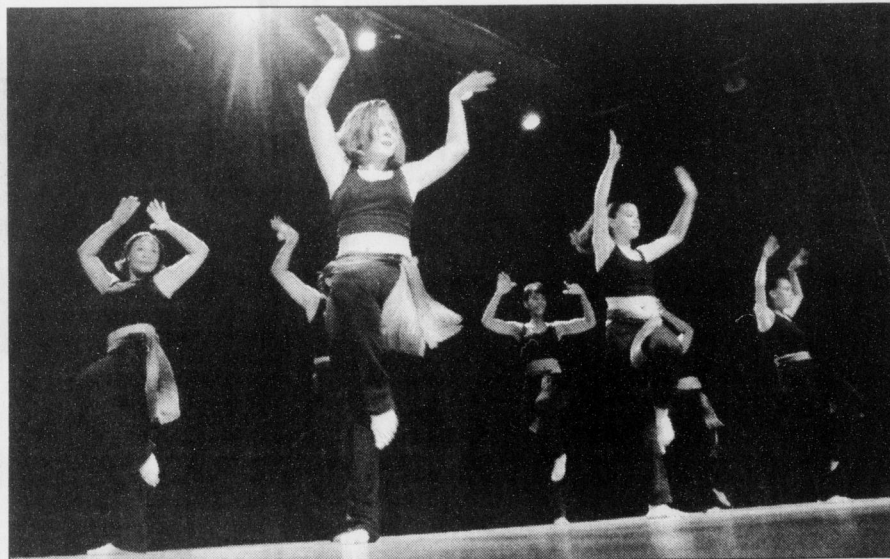
GEORGE ALEXIOU
Consultant, Parking and Transit Task Force

look to Precinct One, an area which includes Health Affairs, the UNC Hospitals and medical schools.

The Precinct One Study will be issued in March 1999. Ayers Saint Gross plans to issue the remaining three precinct studies throughout 1999. A final Comprehensive Plan and Design Standards is projected to be completed by fall 1999.

The University Editors can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

UNITY JAM



DTH/JENNIFER GUTHRIE

Sophomore Rita Billingsley (front) dances to Noreaga's "Superthug" with the Opeyo! Dancers in the Great Hall on Wednesday night. The performance was part of the Unity Jam celebrating World AIDS Week.

Bank Clears Grail-Valkyries of Fraud

By DEVONA A. BROWN
University Editor

Members of the Order of the Grail-Valkyries are breathing sighs of relief now that NationsBank voluntarily dismissed its civil case of defrauding the bank of \$894,000.

Grail-Valkyries filed a cross claim against Donaldson, accusing him of illegally representing the group.

Last month, Donaldson agreed to pay NationsBank \$3.8 million in damages.

"The ruling makes sense," Grail-Valkyries President Christian Charnaux

said. "This was (Donaldson's) action, not ours."

Charnaux said organization members would have preferred earlier clearance by NationsBank but said they were satisfied with its Nov. 24 dismissal of the case against them.

"The Order is happy to finally put this behind us," he said. "We're pleased that the courts now recognize that these were the actions of an individual, not the group he was associated with."

Grail-Valkyries attorney Tom Terrell said in January that it was important to note that the organization never benefited from the money Donaldson borrowed.

"Grail-Valkyries never received that money even though it was borrowed in Grail-Valkyries' name," he told The Daily Tar Heel.

Leaders of the honor society were not shocked by the decision made by NationsBank officials, Charnaux said.

"The leadership of the Order has been operating under the assumption that this would be dismissed," he said. "This did not come as a surprise but more of a relief that it's over."

Charnaux said that with the lawsuit behind them, Grail-Valkyries members could focus on upcoming membership nominations, scheduled to occur in January.

"Now we can devote our full attention to honoring individuals that have demonstrated leadership, character and scholastic excellence as we have for the past 78 years."

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Gospel Choir Takes Vote on Name Change

The BSM voted on a plan Wednesday that could change the choir's name to the UNC-CH Gospel Choir.

By SHANNON SNYPP
Staff Writer

The Black Student Movement voted Wednesday night on a proposal to change the name of its Gospel Choir to boost sales of a compact disk to be released in the spring.

The proposed change would rename the BSM Gospel Choir as the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gospel Choir.

A secret ballot was collected from all members at the meeting and counted afterwards to ensure that everyone who voted was a member of the BSM.

See CHOIR, Page 11

INSIDE Thursday

Unplug This

'60s folk singer Spider John Koerner will return to the stage this

Saturday at the

Skylight Exchange in Chapel Hill.

See Page 5.



Today's Weather

Partly sunny;
High 70s.
Friday: Partly sunny;
Low 80s.

Great services are not canceled by one act or by one single error.

Benjamin Disraeli