

Derby Days 1985 raises big bucks

By KIM WEAVER
Staff Writer

Derby Days 1985, a nine-day fund-raising event sponsored by Sigma Chi fraternity and 15 sororities, galloped to success when it surpassed last year's earnings at its end Saturday.

The charity fund-raising event raised about \$18,000 to \$19,000, said Steve Bayliss, Derby Daddy for this year's events. As Derby Daddy, Bayliss coordinated the activities of the sororities and ensured that they were carried out smoothly.

After expenses of \$9,000 to \$10,000 are extracted from the total, the remainder of the money will go to the Frankie Lemmon Memorial Preschool Inc. in Raleigh, Bayliss said. The school is Wake County's first kindergarten for children with mild to moderate mental retardation.

"Last year and this year are the best years ever," Bayliss said. "Over the past four years, we've raised probably \$55,000."

The best part of the week was when a group from

Sigma Chi and the sororities went to the pre-school to tell them about the drive's success, Bayliss said. The sorority coaches dressed as characters from Gilligan's Island, the theme of this year's fund-raiser, and played with the children, he said.

"It really gives you a positive feeling to get the personal aspect of it (the drive)," he said.

The Kappa Delta sorority raised the most money for the event, and the single event that grossed the most money was the trampoline-a-thon, he said. Field games were also a popular event, he said.

Although Sigma Chi fell a little short of reaching its goal of \$20,000, the same goal will be set for next year, Bayliss said.

"If we have better weather next year, we should be able to reach it," he said. "Our chapter is one of the highest contributors in the country, and it has been building up. We're doing really well right now."

Sigma Chi will present the check to Frankie Lemmon Memorial Preschool in about three weeks, Bayliss said.

"It is possible that we will get involved with them in some other way, too," he said. "We might put up a fence for them."

One of the goals of Derby Days was to improve the image of fraternities and sororities in the Chapel Hill area, Bayliss said.

"We did a lot towards reaching that goal. Next year, we hope to involve (all of) Chapel Hill as well as the campus," he said.

"Overall, the attitude of the University has been really helpful and encouraging. We've gotten a lot of praise from the University," he said.

Although a theme has not been set for next year's event, the primary recipient will again be a local charity, he said.

"The fact that we are putting something into the local Triangle area is what's important to us," Bayliss said.

The fund-raisers will celebrate their "victory at the track" at a party Saturday after the football game.

RTP firm to expand

By MARK POWELL
Business Editor

A Canadian communications firm is greatly expanding its research and development operation in the Research Triangle Park, adding more than 500 employees and a \$41 million building.

Northern Telecom Inc., the U.S. subsidiary of the Canadian company Northern Telecom Ltd., is expanding BNR, its research affiliate. BNR plans to hire 2,000 employees in the Triangle, officials said, making it one of the largest research and development firms in North Carolina.

Gov. James G. Martin announced BNR's expansion Tuesday at a lunch with Northern Telecom officials.

The expansion is expected to be completed in 1987. BNR will expand its investment in buildings and equipment with an additional \$50 million in 1987.

Northern Telecom makes computerized switching systems in the Research Triangle Park for telephone companies.

The planned expansion is part of an effort to invest more money in research and development, as Northern Telecom bases more of its operations in the United States. The technical business requires a lot of investment in research and development in order to be competitive with large communication companies, such as American Telegraph and Telephone Co.

"These are the people who are responsible for developing digital switching systems," said Fred J. McNally, regional manager of public affairs for Northern Telecom.

Northern Telecom expects its U.S. operations to generate over two-thirds of its total revenues in the next five years. Its Triangle operation is second to International Business Machines Corp. as a private employer in the Research Triangle Park.

McNally said the 500 new employees would come partially from North Carolina, but the positions would be for highly skilled professionals in research and development.

"We recruit nationally," McNally said. "But one of the main reasons we located here was the nearness of the universities and strong technical colleges."

Northern Telecom has expanded its operation from employing 2,000 people in the Research Triangle Park in 1980 to over 6,000 in plants in Creedmoor, Morrisville and a Raleigh training center.

Northern Telecom chose the Research Triangle Park for location because of the quality of life, educational facilities and the support state government offered, McNally said.

"We've had great support from all the state officials," McNally said. "Governors Martin and Hunt have been very cooperative."

BNR developed the digital switching system in 1976. The new device replaced the older and less efficient electromechanical switches used by telephone companies. Northern Telecom was the first company to market such equipment. Telephone companies began to switch to its equipment.

Despite a recent downturn in communication equipment sales, Northern Telecom's devices are selling well. The company had revenues of \$2 billion at midyear, up 45 percent from the year before. Northern Telecom netted \$132 million, an increase of 34 percent from the previous year.

Construction of the new building is scheduled to begin before the end of the year on 112 acres on N.C. 54. The three-story building will replace BNR's rented space at the Perimeter Park near the Research Triangle Park.

BNR operates out of seven complexes in the United States, England and Canada. It employs 4,500 people and had a \$470 million budget this year.

Northern Telecom Ltd. owns 70 percent of BNR, while Bell Canada owns the other 30 percent. AT&T and Northern Telecom each have about 50 percent of the U.S. switching equipment market.

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