

The Daily Tar Heel

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INSIDE TUESDAY



Women Unite
More than 30 UNC students returned from the Women's Empowerment Expo. Page 3



Elections '96
Monday's noon filing deadline forced candidates to brave the cold to enter the race. Page 2



Sullivan Fined
Officials fined UNC hoopster Ryan Sullivan \$60 for an October charge of possession of marijuana. Page 3

Today's Weather

Partly sunny; high mid-30s.
Wednesday: Partly sunny; high mid-40s.

The Daily Tar Heel Student Elections Poll

About This Series

The Daily Tar Heel conducted an intercept poll on campus during the week of Jan. 29 - Feb. 2 to determine how important they thought the following 10 issues should be to the next student body president.

Top 10 Student Issues

- 1 Conveying students' concerns to administrators
- 2 Conducting an ethical administration
- 3 Stopping increases in tuition and student fees
- 4 Changing things that affect students daily such as dining and housing
- 5 Working with Student Congress to allocate student activity fees
- 6 Improving safety on campus
- 7 Addressing the concerns of women and minorities
- 8 Making cable and internet more easily accessible to students
- 9 Serving as a University liaison to state officials
- 10 Creating an executive branch diverse in race and gender

What Happens to Your Money?

Editor's Note: The Daily Tar Heel is running a series on the top five issues and the student body president candidates' proposals for addressing them. Today, we examine the No. 5 issue: working with Student Congress to allocate student fees.

BY JAMES LEWIS
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS EDITOR

Working with students to allocate student fees was the fifth most important issue facing the next student body president, students said in The Daily Tar Heel elections survey.

Every year, undergraduate students pay \$20 and graduate students pay \$12 to a student activities fee fund. After expenses, Student Congress is left with about \$150,000 each year to allocate to student groups.

In the past, critics have questioned how the money is distributed and whether the process which student groups go through to apply for a portion of that fund is fair and equitable. This past school year has been no different.

In July, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Rosenberger vs. University of Virginia Board of Visitors*, ruled that universities must consider all groups — even those political or religious in nature — for funding. UNC had previously denied these groups funding. Add to that the UNC Student Code, which prohibits giving funds to student organizations that discriminate, and the allocation process has hit a major roadblock. Since then, UNC's student government, with aid from the University legal counsel and student affair's administrators, has been trying to decipher the meaning of the ruling for UNC.

Daniel Vandergriff, president of the North Campus chapter of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, said student government had been making progress in dealing with the issue. IVCF applied for funding in early January, but the allocation bill has been tabled, pending a further clarification of the *Rosenberger* decision. "I think the Student Congress should allocate based on need and the way the student body is represented in those groups," Vandergriff said.

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Student Fee Allocation Process

How it Works

Each semester, undergraduate students pay a \$20 student activities fee. Graduate students pay \$12. The Student Activities Fund Organization (SAFO) acts as a bank, distributing funds to recognized student groups as Student Congress sees fit.

What's Wrong?

Some student groups say the process is too complicated and time-consuming and should be streamlined to improve efficiency and remove some of the paperwork involved in applying for student activities fees.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last summer that student groups cannot be denied funding because of their religious or political nature.

However, the UNC Student Code prohibits funding any student organizations which hold beliefs excluding certain groups from membership.

What the SBP Candidates Say

- Sean Behr wants to act as an advocate for student groups seeking funding.
- Lee Conner proposes a "Code Convention" to resolve problems in the procedure.
- Michael Farmer wants to bring student groups together to deal with the allocation process.
- Aaron Nelson says congress should allocate funds in a way that most benefits the campus.

DTH/CHRIS KIRKMAN, DANIEL NIBLOCK, JIM WEBB

Annexation Creates Controversy

Calvander residents said they were not represented fairly in the process.

BY SUZANNE WOOD
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen might receive a letter from the Orange County commissioners tonight stating the commissioners and residents of Calvander were not involved in the development of the "joint planning area" covering a 4-square-mile portion of Calvander, said Commissioner Don Willhoit.

Both Carrboro and Orange County have authority over the area known as the Small Area Plan and must approve any zoning plans together. The commissioners and residents, however, felt they were not involved early enough in the planning process to make a difference in the outcome of the project, Willhoit said. "It's joint planning, it should be joint planning," he said. Having the commissioners become involved in the planning two years after the project was started was not fair to the residents of Calvander, Willhoit said.

"In my opinion, we really ought to be doing this together," he said. "It's really hard after a group has been out of contact with an idea for two years to come in and make changes."

The complaints of Calvander residents and the commissioners that they were not involved in the planning process were unfounded, said Alderman Diana McDuffee.

"Coming up with this plan was a real open process," McDuffee said. "The group of 30 worked for two years and nobody was excluded from this process. If the county commissioners missed what happened, I don't know how that could have been."

Alderman Jacquelyn Gist agreed the planning process had been open to the Calvander residents and the commissioners.

"When the Small Area Plan work group was formed over two years ago, anyone who wanted to could join the group," Gist said. "It is not that there wasn't an opportunity for the people of Calvander to get involved."

Even though the residents of Calvander were invited to join the planning group, they were not given equal say on the project, said Commissioner Alice Gordon. Only six of the 30 members of the group were from Calvander, and those members felt their ideas had been ignored, she said.

Willhoit said he had heard the same complaints from the six Calvander members of the group. "At least one person came to me and said she had been a member, but that her concerns had not been heard."

The residents of Calvander did not like the plan of turning farmland into business, manufacturing and residential districts, Gordon said. The commissioners are the

See CARRBORO, Page 4

Campaign Moves to High Gear with First Candidate Forum

SBP hopefuls criticized each other's platforms at the Di Phi forum Monday night.

BY SHARIF DURHAMS
STAFF WRITER

The four candidates for student body president established the differences in their platforms during a Monday night forum sponsored by the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies.

When asked to point out the flaws in his opponent's platforms, Aaron Nelson said issues like candidate Lee Conner's plan to increase lighting on campus have already been approved by University administrators. "You shouldn't have something in your platform that's already in the works," Nelson said.

Conner said his contributions were instrumental in increasing lighting. "I'm the one that made these things happen," he said. "I'm the one candidate who is making part of his platform a reality."

Including lighting improvements in his platform was necessary to ensure that University administrators actually follow through on improving campus safety, Conner said. "It's not done yet. It's still going through," he said.

Candidate Sean Behr said his platform

was unique because it established attainable goals. "I think it's the most realistic platform out there," he said.

Behr said he disagreed with the "laundry list" mentality used by other candidates. He criticized opponents for trying to address a large number of topics without elaborating on them.

Michael Farmer said including students in government was the unique aspect of his platform. "We have to get in people who are different, with different ideas and different goals," Farmer said.

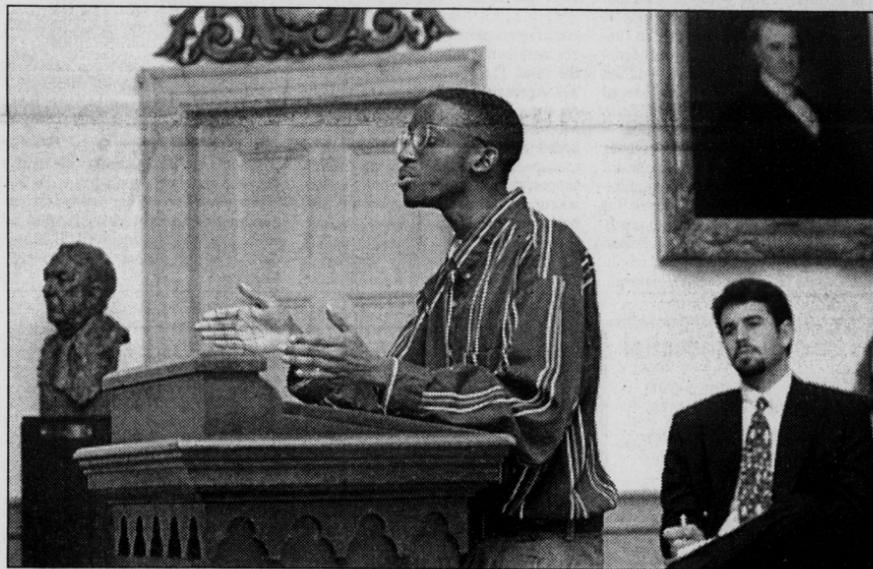
The idea of a student fee audit committee in Nelson's platform was presented by Student Body President Calvin Cunningham, Farmer said. "I think every single person up here had something in (their platform) that was already in the works," he said.

During the forum, all candidates agreed that increased pay and funding for graduate students was important. However, they disagreed on where the University should find money for these expenditures.

Behr said better communication between the Graduate and Professional Students Federation and the executive branch would help graduate students get the money they needed. "Treat the GPSF President as vice president of student government."

Nelson said UNC should refocus current expenditures to pay for graduate student health insurance. "We can pay for this if we make it a priority for the University," he said.

UNC could use money from its endowment or seek private donations to assist



Michael Farmer speaks at the student body president candidate debate at the Dialectic Philanthropic Society Chamber in New West Hall Monday night as Aaron Nelson (right) prepares his rebuttal.

graduate students, Conner said.

If elected, Conner said he would use his position on the Board of Trustees to encourage the development office to look for

private funding.

Farmer said he felt the Association of Student Governments for all 16 UNC schools could help cut costs on insurance

for graduate students. "Why don't we talk to representatives from all 16 schools and talk about getting something for a volume rate," he said.

DTH/JASON KIRK

Weekend Trailer Fire Kills Two

The weekend blaze left a man and his stepson dead and his wife hospitalized.

BY DIANE M. BLACKMAN
STAFF WRITER

Two Chapel Hill residents died early Saturday morning when fire broke out at the Riggsbee Mobile Home Park on Airport Road. A third was injured in the blaze.

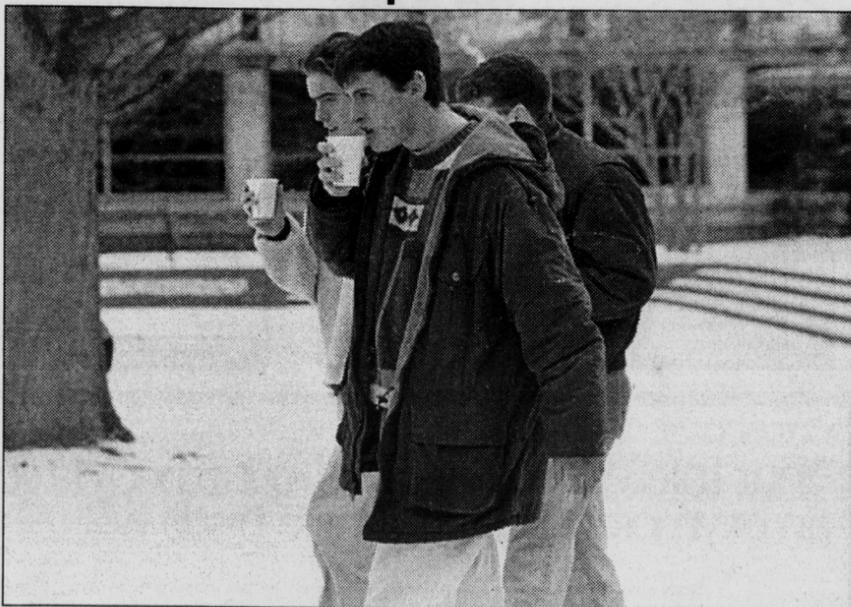
Wayne Rhodes and his 6-year-old stepson, Dominic Mack, died when flames consumed their mobile home. Carla Rhodes was listed in good condition Monday morning at UNC Hospitals, said Robin Gaitens, UNC hospital information officer.

Gaitens said the listing means that Rhodes' body vitals were stable, she was conscious, comfortable and the outlook was excellent.

According to Chapel Hill Fire Depart-

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Cup of Java



Jeremy Kimmel, left, and Wesley Eason drink coffee as they attempt to brave the freezing temperatures Monday. The snowy weather outside has driven students to look for warmth in any way possible.

DTH/RYAN MATTHEW

Muslim Students Fast for Holy Month of Ramadan

BY MARK LINEBERGER
STAFF WRITER

Since mid-January, a group of students has been abstaining from food and drink every day from dawn until sunset. While this may seem extreme to some, for many Muslims, it's a way of life.

Muslims all over the world, including the 30 to 50 in the Chapel Hill area, are celebrating Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting. According to Mohammad Bonawan, president of the Muslim Student Association (MSA), Ramadan is an experience that seems to unify the Muslim community.

"Ramadan is a time for Muslims to get their mind back on the right track," Bonawan said.

In the Koran, the holy book of the Islamic faith, Muslims are instructed to set aside Ramadan, the ninth month on the Muslim calendar, as a month of self-control.

"Fourteen hundred years ago, Mohammad the prophet wanted us to fast to achieve unity," said Haffan Ahmad, a senior from Pakistan and a member of the

MSA.

The dates of Ramadan vary from year to year, because of the fact that the Muslim year is based on the moon and is therefore shorter than the standard 365-day year.

While the word "fasting" may imply a long stretch without food, there is a ritual involved that dictates when Muslims may eat.

During Ramadan, Muslims gather just before dawn each day before morning prayer to share in a small meal called suhur. Following the meal, no food or liquids are supposed to pass between their lips until after sunset, when they gather for iftar, the evening meal.

"The fasting is supposed to help develop an appreciation for things others are often without, things which we often take for granted," Ahmad said.

However, there is more to Ramadan than just fasting.

"You're supposed to pay more attention to exerting control over base desires. It also involves abstinence from cheating, lying, backbiting and lust," said Ahmad.

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Either I've been missing something, or nothing has been going on.

Karen Elizabeth Gordon