



ANNE FAWCETT

Put Some Faith In Faith-Based Charity Plan

The line separating church and state grew blurry last week when President Bush created a new office to grant federal funds to religious organizations providing social services.

But if the government can make the program work in practice as well as it does in theory, the new initiative is cause for cautious optimism.

To receive the funds, the agencies must separate their service and religious functions. Thus, volunteers could not talk about Judaism to people at a synagogue soup kitchen and still receive federal funds.

Advocates for and against the proposal met in a televised press conference last week.

Office Director John DiIulio, a Democrat, told critics and the press that the initiative will level the playing field for religious organizations to compete for the same funds as secular organizations. It will seek to connect the two groups and to identify successful models for social service provision.

The idea of federal funding for faith-based organizations, or FBOs, isn't new; it's an expansion of programs that have been a part of the government for years. One of these, called Charitable Choices, provides publicity for organizations that meet its accountability standards, including FBOs.

Bush's idea sparks concern on both sides of church/synagogue/mosque doors. Among local liberals, the fact that a Republican (and therefore, obviously evangelical Christian) signed the executive order makes a widespread conversion effort even more likely.

But Clinton and Gore supported such an office during their terms, and former vice presidential candidate, Democrat Joseph Lieberman, supports the initiative now.

Many who oppose the office wonder if it's realistic to expect religious organizations to separate their religious teaching from their outreach.

Others, such as the People for the Separation of Church and State, worry that the strings that come with government funding will give Washington control over the nation's religion.

Critics also see a catch-22 in hiring for these programs. On one hand, organizations receiving federal funds cannot discriminate based on the religious affiliation of their employees. Yet the other side claims that requiring FBOs to hire people without regard to their religion interferes with the separation between church and state.

If the organizations are doing what they're supposed to do - keeping religion out of their social service provision - they should want to hire the most qualified people to provide services, whatever their religion.

If the religious organizations don't agree with the strings, they don't have to apply for the grants. It's that easy.

But those who desire and are able to separate community service from religious mission work have the chance to supplement the federal government in doing great things.

DiIulio noted that Habitat for Humanity has been very successful at separating its religious background from its service mission. While Christianity is still a component for some groups of volunteers, UNC's student chapter is good evidence that people can participate on a purely secular level.

Jim Wallace, director of the Call to Renewal social activist movement, said the wrong way to run the new initiative would be to have FBOs replace government organizations. Instead, he said the FBOs should investigate larger policy questions such as the roots of poverty and model how to solve them.

In addition, Eugene Rivers, co-founder of the Boston Ten Point Coalition, advocated partnerships between different faiths with common interests. "The question is not religion, but results," he said.

Exactly. The initiative is admittedly risky. A team of watchdogs is ready and waiting to make sure neither churches nor the state overstep their boundaries.

But if (and hopefully when) the initiative succeeds, think of all the good it could do.

Columnist Anne Fawcett can be reached at fawcetta@hotmail.com.

Poor Lighting in Town Troubles Students

Chapel Hill police officers offer advice to students who are concerned about safety in badly lit areas.

By Katie McNeill, Staff Writer

Many UNC students say they are concerned about a lack of street lighting around town and are wondering what efforts are being put forth to remedy the situation after several recent assaults.

Hillsborough and Rosemary streets are just two areas of Chapel Hill that residents have complained are poorly lit and potentially dangerous when it comes to walking or jogging at night.

UNC junior Logan Stewart, who lives in the Alpha Chi Omega house on Rosemary Street, said until this semester she would jog every night after dinner.

But in light of two sexual assaults that occurred this year and a mugging that

occurred at Little Fraternity Court in the fall, Stewart said she feels unsafe running or walking alone at night. She said she has rearranged her day so she doesn't have to run at night. "I feel more lighting would make everything more convenient and safer," Stewart said.

UNC senior Caroline Roberson said another area of concern is Hillsborough Street. Roberson, who lives in an apartment complex off Hillsborough near the site of one of the recent sexual assaults, said the area gets extremely dark at night.

"I won't go outside unless I'm with a group of friends at night," she said. "It's scary coming home at night from the library and campus because it's so dark."

Chapel Hill Crime Prevention Officer Chris Blue said people know the dangers of walking alone at night and should be careful. "Lighting is a problem, but most people are aware of it and are cautious of it," he said.

Blue said the Public Works Department works hard in making sure street lights are functioning. He also said

the department continually checks the town for broken street lights and areas that might need more lighting.

Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said people should always be aware of their surroundings, take note of where an assailant could hide and notice places where they could go for help. Cousins also recommended walking and parking in lighted areas if possible.

"Trust your feeling, if something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts and act on it," she said.

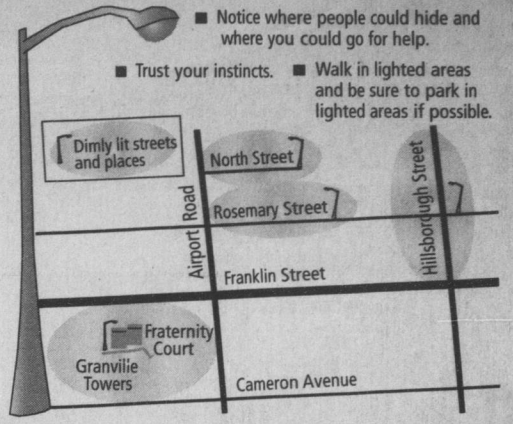
The alleyway and parking lot area through Fraternity Court, which for many Granville Towers residents is a common route to and from campus, is another area of concern for students.

Granville Towers General Manager Dennis Emy said he worked with former Director of Greek Affairs Ron Binder last year to improve the lighting along the pathway. But Emy said half of the pathway belongs to Sigma Nu fraternity, and

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Keep Your Head Up

It is important to pay attention to surroundings when walking around town at night. Here are some basic safety tips to help stay aware of what is going on around you.



SOURCE: CHAPEL HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

DTH/LAUREN DAUGHTRY



DTH/EMILY NETZEL

A student dodges construction equipment on Manning Drive en route to Hinton James. Construction on South Campus continues to cause inconveniences for pedestrians, although many have adjusted to the changes.

Construction Under Way at Last

By Rob Lechner, Staff Writer

The construction of the four new South Campus communities is finally beginning to proceed as planned after adverse weather, upset students and other delays put the projects behind schedule.

The new communities, which will house about 900 students, are scheduled for completion in June 2002 as part of the University's Master Plan for managing long-term campus growth.

Rebecca Casey, assistant director of University housing, said unexpected snow and rain late last year, combined with other more routine obstacles, set the project back a couple months. Construction crews are now working on the weekends to make up for the delays.

Casey said the foundation work for the Ehringhaus, Morrison and Craige communities is almost complete. During February, the structural steel could start being set for these halls.

Reactions to the construction are mixed from students in the neighboring residence halls.

In Morrison Residence Hall, many residents said students living on opposite sides of the building experience dra-

stically different levels of inconvenience.

When asked if the noise bothers her, freshman Lara Whittaker said, "No, it's not on my side of the building." She supported the idea behind the construction, saying that South Campus definitely needs improved residence halls.

But sophomore Brett Emmerton holds a different view. "It bothers me because it wakes me up at 8 a.m. on Saturdays to the sound of jackhammers," he said.

Emmerton said he does not believe the new communities will benefit a large enough number of students to be worth the costs.

Some Hinton James residents also have said the construction has been an inconvenience.

Construction on the Hinton James community lags slightly behind the other three, Casey said. An electrical duct bank that runs underneath the sidewalk along Manning Drive had to be completed before the workers could start the foundation work.

Casey explained that the work on the bank caused the closing of the sidewalk from the intersection of Manning Drive and Skipper Bowles Drive to the end of the construction site. A fence was then erected along Manning Drive from the

construction site to the Hinton James parking lot.

The fence was installed to prevent Hinton James residents from jaywalking across Manning Drive on the way to campus, which incited objections and the repeated destruction of the fence. But now that the electrical duct bank is complete, the sidewalk has been reopened and the fence has been taken down.

Some Hinton James residents said they are not as upset about the construction now that the fence has been taken down. "Now that we can walk on our normal path, it's not much of a pain anymore," said sophomore Nathan Talbert.

Freshman Jessica Barbour is less satisfied. She said the new communities will not be worth the construction because it is too aggravating for current Hinton James residents. "There's just a big fenced-in area of our pretty green lawn that nothing is happening in," she said.

"I was very happy to see them burning construction stuff on Franklin Street."

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Few Meet Deadline To Run for Congress

By Tyler Maland, Staff Writer

More than half of Student Congress' 37 seats will have no candidate names attached to them on the Feb. 13 ballot, with only

14 candidates turning in the required 10 petition signatures to the Board of Elections by Tuesday afternoon.

Though the candidates handed over their petitions Tuesday, they will not officially be assured a place on the ballot until Thursday or Friday.

Jeremy Tuchmayer, chairman of the Board of Elections, said these 14 candidates are battling for 11 seats.

Tuchmayer said the candidate with the highest number of votes wins the election. "All congressional seats are done by what is called a plurality," he said. "All other elections are done by majority votes."

Student Congress represents 26 dis-

tricts, a total of 37 seats.

The 12 undergraduate candidates are freshman Robert Shapiro and freshman Rose Miller for District 11, junior Mark Townsend for District 12, freshman Kimberly Turner and freshman Allison Perry for District 14, freshman Nathan Cherry and freshman Seth Floyd for District 15, freshman Christa Cottomond for District 16, freshman Haroun Habib for District 17, freshman Thomas Sweeney for District 18, sophomore Matthew O'Brien for District 20 and junior Andrew Wagner for District 21.

Districts 1 through 9 are graduate districts and contain 12 congressional seats. But only two graduate students got the 10 required signatures to be put on the ballot.

Gregory Wahl, a law student, is running for District 1, and Elmarie Bodes, a graduate toxicology student, is running for District 7.

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Congress Allocates Part Of Remaining Funds

By Rachel Clarke, Staff Writer

Student Congress voted to spend about 21 percent of its remaining funds Tuesday night, leaving \$9,813.03 to finance funding requests until the end of the semester.

The \$2,673.75 distributed by Congress will fund campus groups such as Queer Network for Change, Bounce magazine, the Ballroom Dance Club and the Korean American Students Association.

Finance Committee Vice Chairman John Vollmer said the Finance Committee agreed to vote favorably on these bills after meeting Monday night for about four hours.

Vollmer said the committee had to eliminate several requests because more money was requested than Congress has in its budget.

"About 125 percent of what we had left was requested," he said. "We had a whole lot of money requested. We cut a whole lot out."

Bounce magazine, a new publication on campus, will receive \$888.

Representatives from the magazine said it will provide humor and political satire about events both at UNC and around the world.

Congress voted to fund three issues of the magazine, with 3,000 copies of each. QNC will receive \$220 to fund the publicity, equipment rental and technical fees for a drag show involving professional drag queens. It will be held in the Union Auditorium in March.

KASA will use its \$915.75 to host Korea Night on Feb. 24, which will include a professional fan dance.

Congress restored money to the UNC Ballroom Dance Club that had been cut by the Finance Committee. The club originally asked for \$1,200 to pay for advanced dance lessons for club members. This was reduced to \$350 by the committee, but the Congress voted to restore \$300 of this funding. The Ballroom Dance Club said it could raise the remaining \$500 to \$600 itself through the two fund-raising events it has planned.

Three nonfinancial bills also were See CONGRESS, Page 7

Tar Heel Fan Seeks Support for Vandalism Victim

By Coke Whitworth, Staff Writer

As authorities work to identify those responsible for vandalizing two cars during Thursday's postgame celebration, an Orange County Tar Heel supporter is taking it upon himself to raise funds for one of the victims.

After North Carolina's 85-83 victory over Duke, revelers flooded Franklin Street to celebrate. But the celebration became destructive when partiers overturned two vehicles, damaging one possibly beyond repair.

Tom Benfield of Cedar Grove, who watched the game and the postgame festivities on television, said he was angry when he saw the celebration after the Duke game turn into a breaking story about vandalism and violence.

"It was uncalled for, and it made for a bad end to a great night and great cel-

ebration," Benfield said. "It was just bad for the image of Tar Heel fans."

Benfield said he decided to do something to help that image by raising money for Mindy Guadagnino, 26, whose 1997 Honda Accord was damaged by vandals. Benfield said he is going to open a bank account in Guadagnino's name and then try to collect donations from UNC students at the Pit. "I'm looking for any student organization to go along with me on this and help me with the collecting of donations," he said.

Guadagnino said she couldn't believe it when she heard about Benfield's idea. "It's overwhelming and amazing," she said. "It's just awesome that some Tar Heel fans will go out of their way to redeem themselves for the actions of other fans."

Guadagnino also said she was unsure of the damage estimate because her insurance company will not be able to

take a look at her car until today, at the earliest.

Guadagnino's car was just one that were damaged in the celebration. UNC junior Sarah Coffey paid \$225 to get damages to her 1999 Nissan Sentra repaired. Coffey said that no one except her father offered her any financial assistance.

Benfield said he plans to take a half-day off work from his job at a post office in Durham to get some things done for the project benefiting Guadagnino. "I'm doing this for Tar Heel fans everywhere; I feel like it's just my turn to do something for someone," Benfield said.

"I wouldn't even wish what happened to Ms. Guadagnino on a Duke fan," Benfield added with a laugh.

UNC Student Body President Brad Matthews said he did not know about Benfield's efforts, but said the student

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DTH/MIKE MESSIER

Tar Heel fan Tom Benfield is organizing a fund-raiser to help pay for damages sustained by this car during Thursday's Franklin Street celebration.