

LICENSING
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But some students have expressed their discontent with the joint membership, calling it redundant and pricey. The University paid a total of \$82,000 in membership dues during the last fiscal year.

2001 graduate Dennis Markatos said UNC's joint membership exists mostly because of student initiatives during the late 1990s. Markatos, who co-founded Students United for a Responsible Global Environment in 1998, said he helped educate the University on labor issues through Students for Economic Justice, another organization focused on issues such as labor.

Markatos said SEJ led a three-day protest in South Building — which houses UNC's administrative offices — in April of 1999. Nearly 50 students refused to leave the building until then-interim Chancellor Bill McCoy signed their demand for public disclosure of factory locations, independent monitoring of conditions and living wages for workers. Markatos said it was this active protest, combined with education about the issues, that led University officials to take action. He said student protests, however, should not be labeled as attacks on the University. "This wasn't an anti-University thing," he said. "We wanted to build a better University."

LLCAC Co-Chairman Jim Peacock also said continued violations of labor conditions cannot be ignored. The committee recently refused to renew a contract with New Era Cap Company, a sports apparel manufacturing corporation. The company's Derby, N.Y., factory prohibits employees from speaking about their jobs to outside parties.

Peacock also emphasized a commitment to educating students on labor issues and practices. In spring 1998, he, along with Nick Didow and Pete Andrews, developed a course in response to protests against poor factory conditions.

Peacock said Nike Corporation founder and CEO Phil Knight visited in April on the day students were presenting hypothetical reforms for the corporation. Knight later announced increased labor standards for contract manufacturers doing business with Nike at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Knight invited several students in the seminar to the conference and credited the University for its student input.

But student disapproval with Nike emerged again in January 2001 when 800



DTH/BRIAN CASSELLA

Junior Candace Mosby shops for umbrellas in UNC Student Stores. UNC was named the top collegiate seller of licensed merchandise.

workers at the Kukdong International plant in Puebla, Mexico, went on strike because of poor wages and conditions. At the time, UNC had a \$7.1 million contract with Nike, and UNC sweatshirts were manufactured at the factory in question.

Although Moeser wrote a letter to Nike imploring the corporation to improve conditions, students launched protests near the Old Well and South Building. Some made their statement by stripping off their factory-made clothing in the quad. Others draped the Old Well in chicken wire to represent the caged-in conditions of factories. One student even flew to Mexico to speak personally with factory representatives.

Peacock said that since the communication with Knight in 1998, more than 140 other universities have formed a relationship with major corporations regarding labor issues.

Merchandise Sales Still Soaring

Despite the University's commitment to labor standards, the sale of licensing contracts has risen over the last few years.

In the 2002 fiscal year, UNC made \$4 million from merchandise royalties, Tufts said. This is a small percentage of the estimated \$105 million retail value of UNC-licensed goods sold that year. Retail value is generally twice the price of wholesale value. The University receives 8 percent of the wholesale value, he said.

Tufts said the University has more than 500 licensees — including corporations, companies and individuals — who use the UNC logo or insignia for their products.

The apparel industry is the largest and most profitable component of the mix.

To handle the large influx of requests, the University hired the Collegiate Licensing Committee to keep direct contact with licensees and to implement contracts. CLC is in constant communication with the University, he said.

Tufts attributes the success in sales to three main factors: sports, institutional loyalty and fashion. "In general, colleges and universities just have the first two factors. We have all three," Tufts said, adding that UNC apparel has launched a cultural phenomenon, whether it is worn by rappers or race car drivers.

Beale said the University has held one of the top sports licensing returns for more than five years. Although the athletic department does not approve licensing requests, he said, people have contacted the office to market everything from coffins to bobble-head dolls.

Beale said the University is careful not to oversell its insignia or to jeopardize its integrity through inappropriate merchandise. "People will put logos on anything these days," he said. "We're trying to keep it from getting too trashy."

He stressed the fact that 75 percent of the royalty money goes back to the University while 25 percent goes to the athletic department. "It's a great partnership and one that's been tremendously beneficial to the University from both an academic and an athletic standpoint."

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people would rather be in prison than live on the streets.

The week will end with a Street Speak "Speak Out" in the Pit from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., where members of the homeless community will tell true stories about life on the streets.

Campus Y is modeling the Hunger

Banquet after Oxfam America, an international organization that has been organizing events like this since 1970.

Freshman Terence McNamara said he attended the Hunger Banquet because he was curious about what the Campus Y had to say. "(The demonstration) was a pretty good symbolic representation of how horribly some people have to live," he said.

Tiffanie White, a sophomore English major, said, "I'll definitely think twice

before throwing food away now."

Grayson Barnes, co-chairwoman of the Campus Y hunger and homelessness outreach project, said she hopes the event will promote discussion among students.

"An incredibly small group of activists are working for this cause, whereas if more people know about it, it could bring about global change."

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cerning the Muslim faith," he said. "People at this point are more open-minded about learning about Islam."

Amin said the situation on campus surrounding the Summer Reading Program exposed students to something new, piquing their interests.

"This sparked curiosity among students, a curiosity not necessarily to convert to Islam but to understand the religion," he said. "And because of these events, the level of activity in MSA has increased."

Amin said most of the funding for Islamic Awareness Week came from private support, but he added that the MSA members had raised money themselves and are in the process of planning more fund-raisers and events.

"Right now we are mainly relying on word-of-mouth and fliers to advertise the events of the week," he said.

Mustafa said he wished to have more Islamic scholars visit UNC in the coming months, continuing the teachings sponsored during Islamic Awareness Week and extending them throughout the year.

"Hopefully, we can have more speakers come," he said. "Islamic Awareness

Week puts us under a spotlight. But as Muslims, it is our responsibility to answer questions and inform others about Islam in everyday life."

Mustafa said too much of the general public is unaware of what Islam is. "We want to let them see that this faith exists and is neither radical nor foreign but a religion just like any other," he said.

"We want to erase the negative connotations and perceptions associated with Islam and inform the public so that they can respect the religion."

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LAME DUCK
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Senate 50-49, but Republicans will take over in 2003 with a 51-47 edge. One member is Independent, and one seat remains undecided. Republicans also gained a slightly stronger hold in the House.

Drew Lyman, press secretary for Rep. Cass Ballenger, R-N.C., said he expects the main issue of the lame-duck session to be creation of a new U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

President Bush has urged congressmen to create the new Cabinet-level agency before the end of the year.

The House, already under Republican control, passed a bill to establish a Department of Homeland Defense in July, but the proposal was stalled in the Senate because Democrats wanted to make sure department employees would receive adequate job protection, Lyman said.

Congressional leaders agreed Tuesday

to begin pushing through Congress this week a bill to create the department.

Congressional officials said they expected the Republican-run House to approve the bill Wednesday while the Democratic-controlled Senate will begin debating it the same day. The legislation could be voted on next week.

Beyle said Republicans are confident the bill inevitably will pass because they will be in the majority next year in the Senate.

But Beyle said it is difficult to predict how both parties will act in the upcoming session. "In January, you'll have a whole new set of actors, and you don't know how they will act," he said. "One could guess that they'd side with the president and the issues he pushes."

Beyle said he thinks some

Republicans also might have concerns about the new department. "Not everyone acts in a knee-jerk reaction."

Other key issues on the session agenda include 11 federal budget spending bills.

The bills were made into continued resolutions because the federal fiscal year began Oct. 1, but they expire Nov. 22, said Mike Briggs, spokesman for Sen. John Edwards. But Briggs added that continuing resolutions can be passed that would allow

the bills to be considered next session.

He added that he thinks Congress should be able to pass everything on its agenda. "If they want to walk and chew gum at the same time, they can do it."

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redeemable for one hour of free parking in the same lots on any day.

Assistant Town Manager Flo Miller said the free parking dates would be beneficial to downtown business.

"It's stimulating, and the free parking will bring more people to shop and dine in downtown Chapel Hill," Miller said.

She said that loss of money as a result of the free parking would not be an issue but that the town is waiving about \$9,000 usually received from parking fees during the holiday season.

Council members Flicka Bateman, Dorothy Verkerk and Edith Wiggins voted against instituting free parking.

Verkerk said she is in favor of issuing coupons, but not free parking, during the days approved.

"I think Flicka, Edith and I just didn't see giving up (\$4,000) to \$9,000 that would be generated," she said.

Verkerk also said holiday parking is not a major issue for residents. "I didn't see that there was a problem," she said. "If it's not broke, don't fix it."

Council member Jim Ward, who voted for free parking, said the council

is taking a good step that will increase downtown business.

"We voted to have these free parking holidays so the community would be encouraged to shop downtown," Ward said.

He said that the town has offered free parking during holiday events in the past but that this year's plan is a chance to try to implement the idea of free parking Saturdays in December in hopes that it will be continued in future years.

Ward said the council loses about \$4,500 every year from eliminating parking fees on the days of the tree lighting and the parade.

He said council members are aware the council will lose about another \$4,500 by offering free parking on two additional Saturdays.

But Ward said that even though the town will lose some funds, businesses will benefit from the free parking and might generate more revenue from shoppers and restaurant patrons.

"It seems like it was an opportunity for us to support downtown business and encourage the community to shop downtown."

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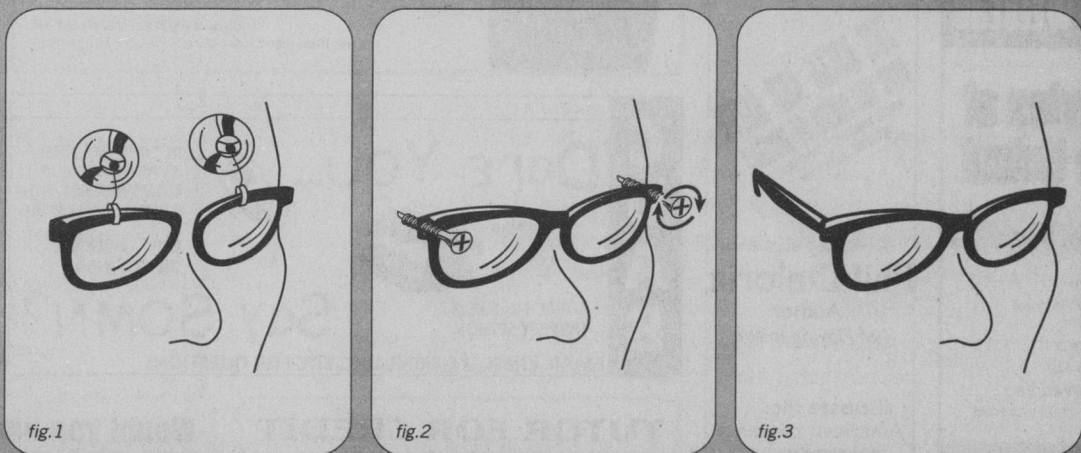
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