

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Groups resolve Stein fund issue

### FINANCE COMMITTEE DROPS CHARGES, RELEASES MONEY

BY MEGAN DAVIS  
STAFF WRITER

In what began as a hostile confrontation Monday, the UNC College Republicans and members of the Student Congress Finance Committee resolved the concerns that prompted the freezing of funds allocated for speaker Ben Stein.

At the meeting Monday night, committee members agreed unanimously to release immediately the \$4,111.50 allotted for Stein's visit to campus and to drop all possible charges levied against the group.

Funds were frozen Nov. 11 on grounds that the College Republicans failed to acknowledge

Congress as a financial sponsor for the event, a violation of Title V of the Student Code.

Raising even more concern, Tripp Costas, chairman of the College Republicans, misled Congress members when requesting funding for the event by stating that only 10 seats would be reserved for legislators and benefactors, Finance Committee Chairwoman Natalie Russell said.

A total of 78 seats for students and dignitaries were reserved, con-

stituting 10 percent of the capacity crowd. "These reservations aren't necessarily against the (Student) Code. However, the code lays out different priorities for funding, and events that are accessible to a greater percent of the student body are supposed to receive greater priority for funding," Russell said.

The Finance Committee decided to release the funds because members could not find any intentional violations of the Student

Code. The funds were frozen as an incentive for members of College Republicans to explain themselves before the committee.

Russell said Congress likely would have handled the funding request differently had it been aware of the number of seats that ultimately were reserved.

After initially refusing to respond to Finance Committee inquiries, Costas denied allegations that he misconstrued his intentions to Congress. He said his estimate

referred to the number of seats that would be held for dignitaries not affiliated with the school.

At the meeting's end, Costas expressed frustration that Student Body Treasurer Alexa Kleysteuber froze funding for payment to Stein without thoroughly explaining the violations under investigation. "I think the way this was handled was absolutely unprofessional."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).



Freshmen Bobby Sweatt (left to right) and Daniel Goans and sophomore Jon Gehlbach helped found the UNC Pirate Club in a Hinton James Residence Hall room. The group, which has grown to about 300 members in less than three months, will meet Wednesday at Forest Theatre.

DTH/JESSICA RUSSELL

## ALL HEELS ON DECK

BY JORDAN CASWELL  
STAFF WRITER

Sailing into a lagoon and snorkeling through a 150-year-old shipwreck in Bermuda last summer, freshman Daniel Goans felt right at home.

"I've never been the same since," Goans said.

"Captain" Goans, with the help of his roommate and a suitemate in Hinton James Residence Hall, started a pirate club at UNC-Chapel Hill in early September. Their aim: to promote their idea of the pirate attitude: getting the most out of life.

"There are ups and downs, but when you're a pirate, the downs don't really matter," said club member Bobby Sweatt, a freshman from Atlanta. "We want to let everyone know that pirates aren't always the bad guys."

Bad guys or not, the Pirate Club is growing fast. News of the club seems to spread through word of mouth. "I get at least five new members a day," Goans said. "They just come up to me."

In the less than three months since its conception, the club has attracted between 250 and 300 members. The pirates' first meeting since club membership skyrocketed will be at 5 p.m. Wednesday in the Forest Theatre.

The meeting, however, will not involve the usual pirate activities of stealing and killing.

Goans said he's unsure about the agenda, but don't expect the shipless group to sail the seven seas anytime soon.

Club activities thus far have included seeing "Pirates of the Caribbean" in the Student Union, dressing up for Halloween on Franklin Street and competing in a beard-growing contest that awarded the bearer of the most pirate-like beard a copy of "Pirates of the Caribbean" on DVD.

"In the midst of a lot of dryness that exists in society, this is just a lot of fun," Scott Cash said. A junior from Charlotte, Cash is the club's navigator and is in charge of transportation, being the only crew leader with a car in Chapel Hill.

Charlie Hiser, known as Chaz the ship

technician, helped found the club and manages the club's listserv e-mails. A freshman from Greensboro, Hiser said he thinks it's important for students, particularly freshmen, to be involved in campus activities.

"We try to get students involved without being under a banner," he said.

Another freshman, Katie Blair, from Charlotte, joined the club to meet new people and participate in weekend activities. "I thought it was a really cool opportunity to meet other people," she said.

Besides watching pirate movies, wearing club T-shirts and talking like pirates, members might have future travel plans. The cap-

SEE PIRATES, PAGE 4

## Thefts elicit renewed call for caution

Leaders outline steps toward safety

BY JENNY RUBY  
STAFF WRITER

A string of robberies in several campus residence communities has prompted the Department of Housing and Residential Education to encourage students to heighten their awareness of safety and security.

The most recent larceny occurred Monday morning, when two laptop computers were stolen from a room in Hinton James Residence Hall, said Rick Bradley, director of communications for the housing department.

Other incidents, which have involved cash stolen from students' wallets, recently have occurred in Avery, Teague, Grimes and Craige residence halls.

University police haven't ruled out the possibility that the thefts are related, but for now they are investigating each one as a separate incident, said Maj. Jeff McCracken of University police.

McCracken said he suspects

that the thefts might have occurred because residents allowed unknown people to follow them into the buildings. Once inside, such nonresidents could have gone into rooms that were left unlocked. One incident occurred while students were asleep.

"It takes just a matter of seconds to dip into a room and swipe a wallet off the dresser," he said.

McCracken said that as the year progresses, students tend to become more comfortable with their surroundings and less attentive to safety issues.

Thieves who have been around campus areas take advantage of this comfort, he said.

Housing officials sent an e-mail about the thefts Thursday to all students living in residence halls.

The e-mail outlines several guidelines for students to follow, including locking doors, encour-

SEE DORM SAFETY, PAGE 4

## Sniper suspect guilty of murder

Muhammad could face death

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — In a verdict that could cost him his life, a stone-faced John Allen Muhammad was convicted Monday of using a high-powered rifle, a beat-up car and a teenage sidekick to murder people at random and terrorize the Washington, D.C., area during last year's sniper attacks.

The jury began hearing evidence on whether the 42-year-old Army veteran should get the death penalty or life in prison.

"We reserve the death penalty for the worst of the worst," prosecutor Richard Conway told the jurors. "Folks, he still sits right in front of you without a shred of remorse."

Muhammad stood impassively as the verdict was read, looking straight ahead with the same enigmatic look he had throughout the trial. Two jurors held hands, and two others wept. Family members of victims held hands and wiped away tears.

The jury deliberated for 6 1/2 hours over two days before convicting Muhammad of two counts of capital murder. One

SEE SNIPER, PAGE 4

### STICK IT TO THE MAN



DTH/GARRETT HALL

Senior Katie Melville, a member of the Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor, sticks Post-it notes of suggestions from students to a photo of Chancellor Moeser on Monday afternoon in the Pit.

## Council to continue talks on tract

Talks skirt over UNC's 1st plans

BY KATHRYN GRIM  
CITY EDITOR

Town leaders addressed Monday the development of the town's largest undeveloped parcel of land, largely ignoring the fact that UNC released a draft of its plans for the property Thursday.

The University wants to develop 25 percent of the 963-acre Horace Williams tract, devoting a projected 6 million square feet to office space, 2 million square feet to residential housing and 300,000 square feet to retail.

Mayor Kevin Foy decided

Monday that the town should continue drafting its recommendations without letting them become a reaction to the University's plans.

The Chapel Hill Town Council reviewed about half of the 43-page report developed by the Horace Williams Citizens Committee during the past seven months. It voted to continue discussion for an hour before its next meeting.

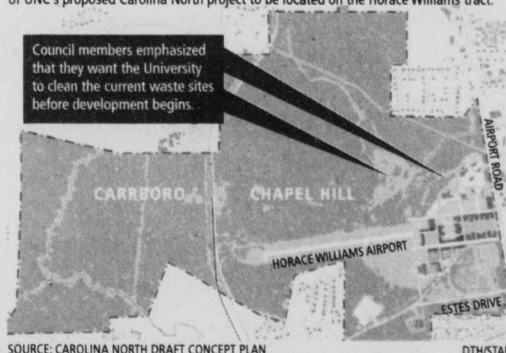
"We're realizing that putting that big of a development into a community is going to be painful," said committee member and council member-elect Cam Hill.

Thus far, council members have focused discussion concerning the University's satellite campus on

SEE DEVELOPMENT, PAGE 4

### CAROLINA NORTH: PRE-DEVELOPMENT STAGES

The Chapel Hill Town Council held a work session Monday night to discuss the features of UNC's proposed Carolina North project to be located on the Horace Williams tract.



SOURCE: CAROLINA NORTH DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN

DTH/STAFF

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