

Zeta Psi to reopen at UNC Report: Settlement fund

Year of inactivity will end this fall

BY ALLISON PARKER
STAFF WRITER

After a one year hiatus one of UNC's oldest fraternities will be reintroduced to the University this fall.

Zeta Psi was established at UNC in 1858, but because of low membership and a decline in recruiting, the fraternity was inactive this year.

"The membership was low, and they had to deal with competition with fraternities similar to them," Jay Anhorn, director of Greek Affairs, said.

He said interest among members also declined in recent years.

"Members had terminated memberships themselves and chose not to be involved," he said.

Will Wright, nationwide director of chapter development for Zeta Psi, is in charge of refreshing the fraternity's involvement at UNC.

Zeta Psi was the first fraternity to expand internationally with chapters in Canada, and it was the

first coast-to-coast fraternity.

"We've had a proud history, and UNC's chapter is our southern-most chapter," said Andy O'Brien, executive director of Zeta Psi Fraternity of North America, Inc. "It's a crown jewel within Zeta Psi."

Wright said the revitalization will call for a unique group of students. "The house is ready to go. We just need determined young men to pick up the torch."

The Zeta Psi house is located in the small fraternity court on Cameron Avenue, and was closed down last year.

The fraternity has seven active members, who will be graduating this year.

"Zeta Psi wants to use this opportunity to restart before it fizzles out," Anhorn said.

Wright said he will focus on advertising and heavy recruitment to attract new members.

"We hope to get new members by word of mouth, phone calls and

recruiting from other student organizations," Wright said.

Zeta Psi officials will help new UNC members get accustomed to the fraternity, O'Brien said.

"Next fall, the chapter will receive visits from headquarters to ensure that the young men are learning the ropes," he said. "They also will receive a lot of support from local alums."

He said representatives from national headquarters will also teach new pledges special skills.

"We will get them involved in leadership training, resumé writing and management skills," he said. "There's a big expenditure on our end to provide support."

Wright said he hopes to encourage new members to get involved and prevent them from leaving the fraternity in the future.

"It all goes back to recruiting," he said. "I want to be sure all the guys I recruit know the obligations and duties before joining."

Contact the University Editor at uodesk@unc.edu.

BY ADJOA ADOFO
STAFF WRITER

States nationwide increasingly are using their \$206 billion settlement with tobacco companies to fix their budgets, according to a report released Monday by U.S. Congressional auditors.

Despite promising to spend money from the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement on health-related programs, the U.S. General Accounting Office found that 36 percent of last year's settlement earnings was spent on budget shortfalls. Twenty-four percent was spent on recovering the cost of treating sick cigarette smokers.

"We hate to see funds used to patch up the budget," said William Upchurch, executive director for the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. Upchurch said state officials changed plans from the original intentions to spend the money on health-related programs. "That was a decision left up to certain powers."

But Jeffrey Houpt, a member of

the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission, said the state is not using the money to help fix the budget. "Other states may be, but North Carolina is not doing that," he said. "None of the money was sent out before being evaluated for effectiveness first."

According to the report, North Carolina received more than \$174 million in MSA payments and interest in the 2003 fiscal year. Out of that total, close to \$7 million was used for health-related programs while more than \$78 million was used for general purposes.

"(The state) is putting more money into prevention programs this year than last year," Houpt said.

For the 2004 fiscal year, almost \$15 million will be directed toward health-related programs out of more than an expected \$159 million in MSA payments.

The report also stated that for the 2004 fiscal year, North Carolina plans to spend 48 percent of its settlement money on economic development for tobacco

regions. "The state needs to invest in economic opportunities to create new jobs and diversification programs," Upchurch said. "The rural areas have become very dependent on tobacco."

But the report showed that states plan to spend 54 percent of the annual proceeds from the settlement on budget deficits this year. In contrast, states plan to spend 17 percent on health programs.

In 1998, 46 states signed the settlement with tobacco companies to receive \$206 billion over 25 years. Though it was not a requirement to allocate the money toward specific programs, states pledged to spend it on anti-smoking and other health-related initiatives.

In 2002, Congress included a provision in the 2002 Farm Bill requiring the accounting office to examine annually how states spend the settlement money.

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Request for Nominations

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CORRECTIONS

A page 1 article in Monday's paper incorrectly stated that CUAB sponsored the 2000 Outkast homecoming concert. The Carolina Athletic Association sponsored the concert.

A page 3 article in Monday's paper incorrectly identified Justin Guillory as the president of Carolina for Kerry. The coordinator of the group is P.J. Lusk.

Renan Snowden also was quoted incorrectly.

Snowden said in an e-mail that she actually said what she appreciated about the "Dean campaign was that it felt like a movement that was greater than just this one candidate and was especially effective at engaging young people in politics."

"Furthermore, a candidate like Howard Dean made it acceptable to be a liberal and a Democrat, encouraging the participation of many progressive Democrats who had felt disaffected by the increasingly moderate stance of the party."

To report an error, contact Managing Editor Daniel Thigpen at dthigpen@email.unc.edu.

Medicare running dry

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Medicare will have to begin dipping into its trust fund this year to keep up with expenditures and will go broke by 2019 without changes in a program that is swelling because of rising health costs, trustees reported Tuesday.

Social Security's finances showed little change.

The deteriorating financial outlook for the health-care program for older and disabled Americans is a result, in part, of the new Medicare prescription

drug law that will swell costs by more than \$500 billion during a period of 10 years, according to the annual report by government trustees.

Provisions of the law President Bush signed in 2003 "raise serious doubt about the sustainability of Medicare under current financing arrangements," trustees said.

Social Security's projected insolvency date remained 2042.

The 2019 go-broke date for the Medicare trust fund, devoted primarily to paying beneficiaries' hospital bills, is seven years sooner than last year's projection.

The trustees' report is the first official estimate of the long-term costs of the Medicare law.

Trustees said that projected lower tax receipts devoted to the program and higher expenditures for inpatient hospital care also contributed to the growing financial problem.

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