

Project focuses on uniting sororities

Events included service, dinners

BY ALLISON PARKER
STAFF WRITER

Sister Sorority Week, a series of events designed to promote unity within the UNC Panhellenic sororities, culminated Tuesday night with a grand chapter meeting.

"The goal of the project is to create a sense of unity among the nine sororities and to celebrate that unity," said Lia Andrews, co-chairwoman and co-founder of the Sister Sorority Project.

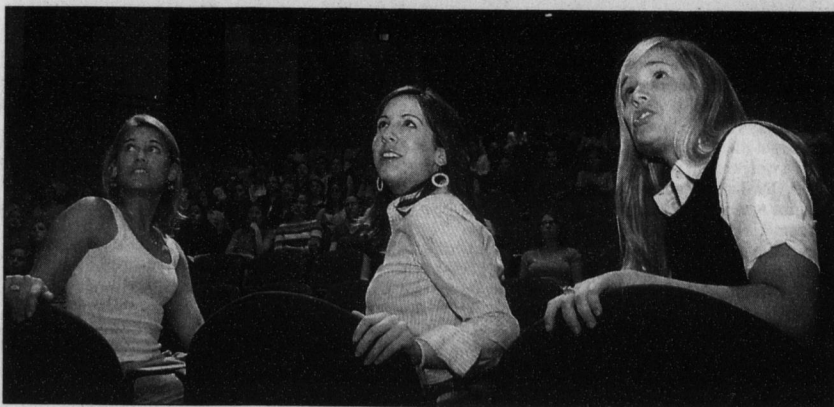
At the grand chapter meeting, only the second of its kind in recent history, speakers emphasized the need to unify the entire Panhellenic system.

"We need to come together," Andrews said. "We have negative stereotypes on campus."

Two Panhellenic sororities, Delta Zeta and Phi Mu, were forced to close their houses in recent years because of declining membership.

Speakers at the chapter meeting stressed the importance of involving sorority members from the entire Panhellenic community, which could prevent more sororities from being forced to close their houses.

"It should be less about what particular house you end up join-



Kit Maclean (left to right) of Chi Omega, Elizabeth Byrd of Kappa Delta and Courtney Sigmon of Sigma Sigma Sigma recite the Panhellenic creed Tuesday night at the Grand Chapter Meeting in Koury Auditorium.

ing and more about the Panhellenic community as a whole," said Elizabeth Hill, the project's other chairwoman and founder.

The week's events, which began April 5 and ended Tuesday, were designed to unite the nine sororities.

As part of the project, the sororities were divided into groups of three and participated in a variety of events together.

The events included a progressive dinner, in which sorority members were able to get to know each other.

"The girls went from house to

house, learning about each other's chapters," Hill said.

Other activities included service projects that allowed the sororities to participate with groups outside the Panhellenic system, including organizations such as ROTC and Theta Nu Xi multicultural sorority.

"It's a good opportunity to get to know other girls, do good for the community and have fun," Hill said.

During Sister Sorority Week, the sororities held a service day in which they raised \$1,000 for Habitat for Humanity.

A Web site still under construction, <http://www.sistersorority.com>,

was created this semester to promote the project nationwide.

"A couple of other sororities have similar programs, but they aren't as full blown," Andrews said. "We're the first to actually make a plan, permanent and laid out."

Andrews said she hopes the Sister Sorority Project will continue every semester.

"This project is here permanently," she said. "We were very pleased with the results and are hoping for greater participation next semester."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

PETITION

FROM PAGE 1

The ultimate goal for everyone is to increase the minimum TA salary at the University, but that will take more time than some would like, Shelton said.

"Everyone is of a mind," Shelton said. "We need to use a portion of tuition increases for TA salaries."

Also included in the task force's report was a comparison of UNC's

TA stipends with those of 17 peer institutions. Out of the 18 institutions, UNC-Chapel Hill ranks 15th, behind N.C. State University, which ranks 5th.

"UNC is losing grad students to other institutions that simply pay better," Bostrom said.

"It is hurting the University as a whole."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

SURPLUS

FROM PAGE 1

more than positive indicators of economic health.

Corporate tax revenue only accounts for about 6 percent of the state's total tax revenue, Crofts said.

He warned that monthly figures of corporate tax revenue are very volatile and difficult to predict due to depreciation practices and other complicated accounting principles that companies employ.

Crofts added that job growth and consumer spending are far better measurements of the state's

economic health. Unfortunately, he said, job growth this year will continue to be fairly sluggish.

Crofts predicted job growth of 2 percent to 3 percent, a figure that is lower than expected given an economy that's trying to bounce back. A gain of 4 percent to 6 percent usually would be expected.

"Corporate profits don't measure the economy directly," he said. "But it is a healthy sign because it could mean that employers may begin rehiring and increasing their capital investment."

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

PRESIDENT

FROM PAGE 1

"My mama even teases me about riding in the car with him because he's always on the phone talking to somebody."

BOG member Ben Ruffin said that Ducote has gotten the hang of the push-and-pull that it takes for the student member to deal with the board.

"He's conducted himself not like a student representative, but like a ... full Board of Governors member," Ruffin said.

"He has advocated for the students without compromise, but doing it in dignity and knowing how to work the board, knowing how to talk to the board members."

Victor Landry, the ASG's senior vice president who ran on a ticket with Ducote in last April's ASG election, said Ducote ultimately just got people to take him seriously.

"I think that Jonathan convinced somebody a long time ago ... that he knew what he was talking about," Landry said. "(BOG members) were able to come to Jonathan as, number one, an intelligent person; number two, as an adult, not some kid."

ASG progress

The defining feature of Ducote's tenure is the ASG fee. A main goal of Ducote's predecessor, Andrew Payne, the dollar collected from each full-time student was intended to cover travel expenses for ASG members who attend meetings throughout the state.

"I don't really think there's any power in this whole ASG business. It's all about advocacy."

JONATHAN DUCOTE, ASG PRESIDENT

It also went to hire a full-time staff to cut down on the amount of paperwork the ASG's officers have to handle.

But Ducote said that during his term, the fee also has been used to put student voices into the debate on issues affecting the system.

"We had a lot more students come up and be engaged in the association," he said.

"It's not always me up here (in the office) at two or three in the morning. You've got two or three people working here with me."

Ducote said the increased number of voices has had a forum in which to be heard during his two years in office.

Many credit the ASG with effectively getting Gov. Mike Easley involved in this year's tuition debate. Hannah Gage, vice chairwoman of the BOG's Budget and Finance Committee, said the ASG's Personal Stories project probably will be used to influence policy-makers for years to come.

The book contains 800 stories of UNC-system students, parents, professors and others who said they were affected negatively by recent budget cuts and tuition hikes.

Gage said the book played a big part in the board's decision to shrink the tuition increase proposals presented earlier this year. Ducote and other ASG members credit it with drawing Easley into the debate.

"I think one of the reasons we didn't grant the requests that the 16 campuses had put forth had a great deal to do with the effort that Jonathan put forth to communicate to us what this means for students," Gage said.

Educating student leaders

Ducote said that midway through his time as ASG president, he made a shift.

Student leaders at UNC-system schools said that they didn't think he was involving them adequately and that they didn't understand the rationale of the BOG's actions.

On top of that, there were differences between individual schools that needed to be ironed out.

"One of the most difficult parts is managing and coordinating and getting all the student body presidents on the same page," former ASG President Andrew Payne said. "The advice that I would give the next person is that you've got to respect where the (student body) presidents are coming from."

Ducote said he realized this problem and decided to give student body presidents as much information as he could.

"It's not me hoarding all of the information," Ducote said. "I figured that the only way the association was really going to grow was if they knew as much if not more than what the BOG knew about the university."

And, sitting on his cell phone in his office after it's closed for the day, that's what Ducote talks about: continuing to empower students.

He said he learned that in order to grow, the ASG has to continue to "show people what they can do."

"I'm not sure if that's so much power. I don't really think there's any power in this whole ASG business. It's all about advocacy. We're advocating for something here, and to really advocate for things, you have to understand where people are coming from."

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

RED LIGHT

FROM PAGE 1

\$16,000 to \$17,000 in fees were collected, most of which must be paid to ACS, Neppalli said.

But the town and ACS have not agreed on how much the town owes. The conflict springs from how much the town owes the company as a termination fee.

In its contract with ACS, the town agreed to pay to the company

60 percent of the amount collected from citations issued during the 30 days after the council requested the contract to be terminated.

The town was required to give the company 30 days' notice before expecting the cameras to cease operation, but the company shut off the cameras immediately after receiving the council's request to end the contract Jan. 29.

The town is unsure how the company plans to estimate the amount of money it would have collected from citations during those 30 days. Town staff expect to receive a proposal from ACS in the next few weeks.

To date, the company has installed more than 650 red light cameras in 55 locations in the United States and Canada, said Joe Barrett, director of communications for ACS.

Chapel Hill's contract with ACS allowed for the installation of as many as 10 red light cameras. The company only installed cameras in three locations, one on Airport Road and two along U.S. 15-501, before the town ended the contract.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Want to learn about organ donation?

Wednesday, April 14th
10am-4pm. The Pit
Free food & door prizes

Life Takes guts

Sponsored by Carolina Donor Services, the APPLES Service-Learning Program Office, and the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School

What do I know about me? ... I know one day I'll want to start a family... but not yet.

- Birth Control
- Pregnancy Testing
- Abortion By Pill
- Surgical Abortion
- Conscious Sedation (optional)
- STD/HIV Testing

Planned Parenthood®
Chapel Hill 942-7762
Durham 296-2872
for appointments for walk-in times
www.plannedparenthood.org/ppnc

It's Clinique Bonus Time at Dillard's!

Yours free with any 19.50 or more Clinique purchase

Star Performer: One Month Supply of Rinse-Off Eye Makeup Solvent

Plus:

- Dramatically Different Moisturizing Lotion
- High Impact Eye Shadow in SunKissed
- NEW! High Impact Mascara in Black
- Colour Surge Lipstick in Sassy Spice
- Superbalm Tinted Lip Treatment in Raspberry Tint
- NEW! Water Therapy Firming Body Smoother
- Mini Bag

One gift per person, please, while supplies last.

CLINIQUE
Allergy Tested.
100% Fragrance Free.