

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 112, ISSUE 33

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2004

www.dailytarheel.com

Airport debate halts UNC plans

COUNCIL TO DELAY SATELLITE TIL TRACT'S FATE IS RESOLVED

BY EMMA BURGIN
CITY EDITOR

The Chapel Hill Town Council decided Wednesday effectively to postpone planning for Carolina North until the N.C. General Assembly has determined the fate of the Horace Williams Airport. The council approved a resolution, proposed by member Cam Hill, that in effect will discourage

the council and the town staff from negotiating with the University on its proposed plan for the Horace Williams tract.

"I'm confused," Hill said. "The University of North Carolina is asking us to move forward with our discussions on Carolina North, and at the same time, there's an airport there."

"My feeling is we should consid-

er postponing consideration of Carolina North until the issue of the airport is resolved."

The legislature has stipulated that the airport remain open until Jan. 1, 2005, but lawmakers have indicated in the past that they might keep it open beyond that date.

Hill's resolution to delay negotiations quickly gained support from the council, which unanimously passed it despite reservations about acting on an item proposed so recently.

"It makes perfect sense to me," council member Bill Strom said. "I

don't understand why we're being criticized for going so slow with a project that has a monkey on its back."

The discussion about Carolina North and the airport was prompted by a petition from Northhaven resident Al Burk that asked the council to keep the airport open.

"(The airport is) not such a bad neighbor compared to having such a dense development," he said.

Burk said the airport, which lies on the southern portion of the Horace Williams tract, would provide a buffer for Northhaven,

which is the closest neighborhood to the proposed development.

N.C. Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, said Tuesday that the committee appointed to investigate the fate of the Horace Williams tract and airport has yet to meet.

But, he said, members of the committee deemed N.C. Area Health Education Centers an important reason to consider keeping the airport open.

AHEC uses the airport to transport doctors from UNC Hospitals to more than 15,000 patients statewide and to help UNC facul-

ty and staff continue statewide teaching programs.

Officials have proposed moving AHEC to another airport, such as Raleigh-Durham International. But officials said Wednesday that relocation could take five to 10 years.

An AHEC representative told the council Wednesday that more than half of AHEC doctors say they would not be able to participate in the program if it moved to RDU.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

ASG's woes also appear nationwide

Students seek to improve efforts to lobby systems

BY CHRIS COLETTA

ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

They are separated by more than 2,500 miles of U.S. soil, two states bordering two different oceans, with one favoring chitlins and one pledging its allegiance to tri-tip.

Nevertheless, South Carolina and California often share the same goals and missions, one of which — educating their young — has forced students to unite in unique ways.

Passing the TORCH

A three-part series examining the effectiveness of the ASG Today: A Nationwide Look

The last decade has been a turbulent time for higher education. Budget crunches and the recent recession have forced states to take money away from colleges and universities while

at the same time asking students to offer more in the form of tuition, moves that have prompted students everywhere to look for solutions.

Enter state student associations, notably those in California and the Carolinas.

The South Carolina association has yet to get off the ground and has turned to the UNC-system Association of Student Governments for help. The California association has been around in its current form since 1979.

The SCSSA wants to speak on behalf of all students in S.C. universities. The CSSA represents the more than 400,000 students in the California State University system but doesn't include the state's largest colleges, such as the University of California-Berkeley, UC-Los Angeles and UC-Davis.

Both groups, however, are joined by one simple fact: They want to deal with what they view as the pressing needs of their university systems.

"You cannot find a better long-term investment than education," said Zachery Scott, student body president at the University of South Carolina-Columbia and one of the SCSSA's founding members.

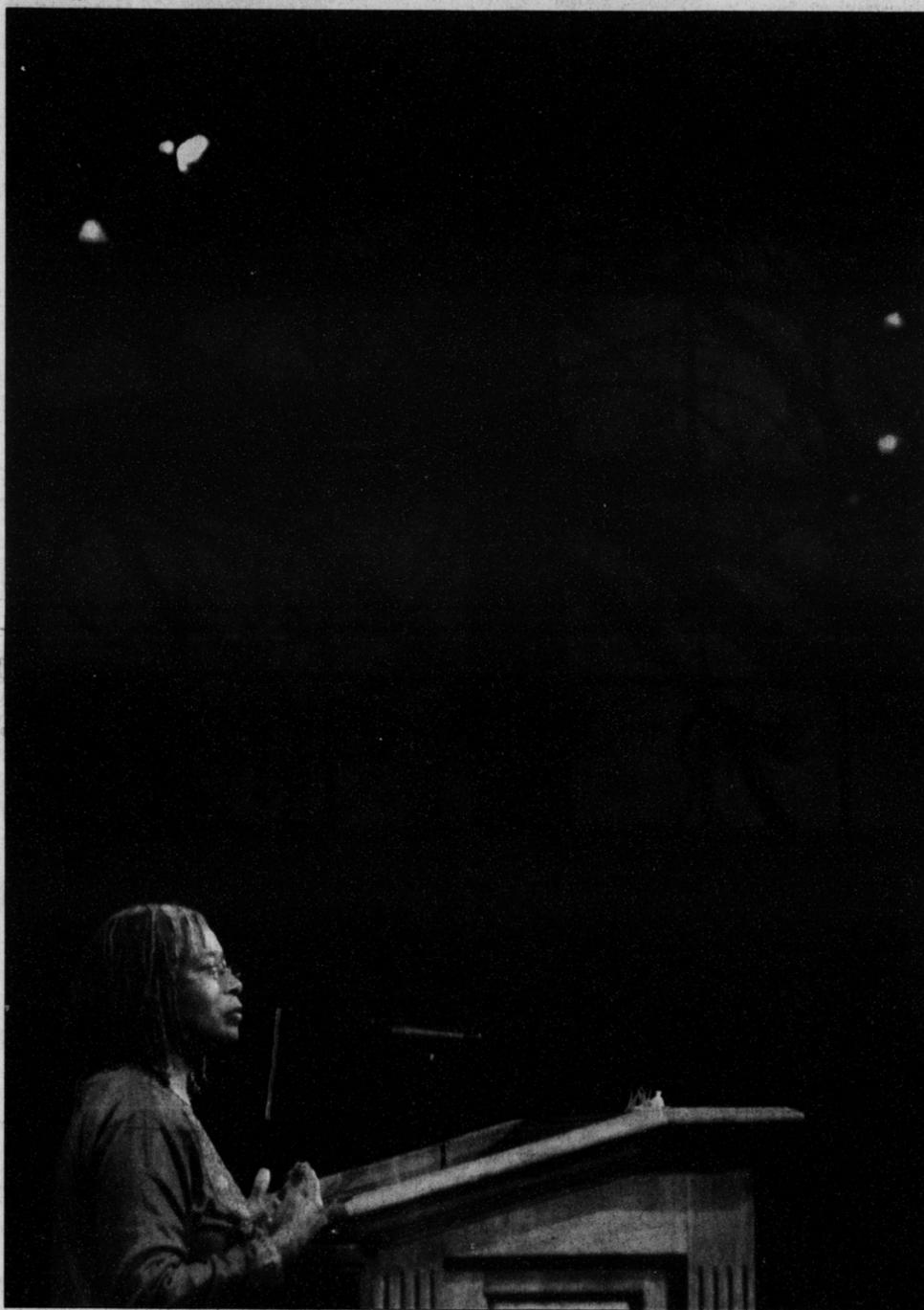
Says Susana Gonzalez, executive director of the CSSA and a graduate student at CSU-Long Beach: "How you become a responsible citizen of your state is really important, and this is how that happens."

Gonzalez and Scott pointed to a laundry list of problems faced by their systems: increases in tuition and fees, the eroding quality of the classroom, midyear budget cuts.

They are problems with which students in both states long have had to deal. They're the reasons the CSSA has a full-time lobbyist on its payroll who's now fighting to have recent fee increases overturned, and they're the reasons South Carolina students are dipping their feet in the water of student governance.

SEE GOVERNMENT, PAGE 4

ALICE WALKER



DTH/JUSTIN SMITH

Writer Alice Walker speaks to a packed house in Hill Hall Auditorium on Wednesday night. She read a sampling of her poetry and prose. In her talk, Walker advocated for peace and denounced the war in Iraq. She

won the Pulitzer Prize and the American Book Award in 1983 for "The Color Purple," one of the most popular contemporary American novels. Earlier in the day, Walker and her agent Wendy Weil spoke to writing students in Greenlaw Hall.

Racial dispute lands in court

Judge calls for protective order

BY EMILY STEEL

ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

An employee of the University's Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine must, by order of a Durham County Superior Court judge, indefinitely refrain from contact with a co-worker who has accused him of harassment through racial slurs and threats.

Latasha Richmond, a black employee, sought a protective order from Martin Voss, her white co-worker, after claiming she endured more than seven months of daily harassment that led to psychological distress.

Superior Court Judge Orlando Hudson officially ordered Wednesday that Voss refrain from threatening or coming within 150 feet of Richmond, coming within 150 feet of Berryhill Hall and contacting Richmond by telephone or other means, according to court documents.

While the University is not a party in the lawsuit, UNC now is required to implement court orders, said Richmond's attorney Michael Kornbluth. "The University has a responsibility at this time to ensure that this order is carried out, so we are waiting for the University to do the right thing."

Richmond, who has worked at the University for almost four years, has endured an environment of racial intimidation and hostility since Voss began working in the department around August 2003, Kornbluth said.

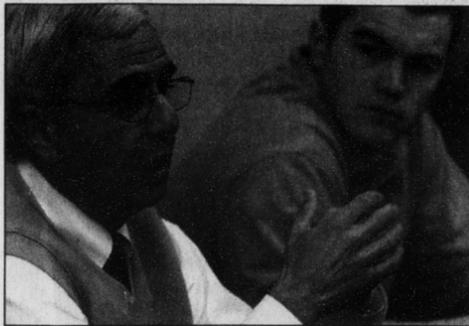
Voss represented himself in the case and could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Voss has an extensive criminal record and was on probation during at least one harassment incident for unauthorized signing of a credit card in Nevada, according to court documents.

Documents state that Voss called

SEE COURT ORDER, PAGE 4

Students air opinions on signage



DTH/JUSTIN SMITH

Athletic Director Dick Baddour and CAA President Will Keith participate in an open forum Wednesday night on the use of corporate signage in the University's athletic facilities.

BY LAUREN HARRIS

STAFF WRITER

Students advocated Wednesday for a limited and nondistracting use of advertising if it must be incorporated into the University's major sports venues.

About 50 students packed Union 3205 for an open forum with Athletic Director Dick Baddour, during which he answered audience questions and discussed officials' stance on advertising.

Baddour said that while the use of corporate signage is not inevitable, it would be one of the better options for funding athletic scholarships, which likely will cost an additional \$300,000 because of recent tuition increases.

This year, the Educational Foundation

SEE ADS, PAGE 4

Teens face expanded charges

BY SHANNAN BOWEN

ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

The simple assault charges filed against three teenage boys who were arrested in an altercation with a Sikh UNC senior last month on Franklin Street will be amended to charges of ethnic intimidation as it was determined that the incident stemmed from a racial slur.

Gagandeep Bindra met Wednesday with District Attorney Carl Fox and Chapel Hill police Chief Gregg Jarvis to challenge the decision to exclude ethnic intimidation from the charges placed on his attackers.

Bindra, who was born in Punjab, India, said he was attacked

after the teens called him al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, referring to his brown skin and a scarf, called a patka, worn over his head.

The perpetrators were arrested and charged with simple assault, and the incident was listed as a hate crime, but Chapel Hill police left out charges of ethnic intimidation on the basis that there was not a direct link between the verbal insult and the attack.

N.C. General Statute 14-410.14 (a) makes it a misdemeanor to assault another person, to damage property or to make threats because of a person's race, color, religion or national origin.

Jarvis had said that police did

not think there was a direct link between the assault and the verbal comment because they did not happen at the same moment.

But a lawyer for the police department submitted a memo that states a precedent for determining the linkage, Bindra said.

According to a report released by Jarvis, the chain of events, from the initial verbal encounter to the assault, can be considered a "continuous transaction," one continuous incident instead of two separate incidents, and thus fits the elements of ethnic intimidation.

"I have assured Mr. Bindra, and I

SEE CHARGES, PAGE 4

DIVERSIONS

MAINSTREAM MEDIA

The study of pop culture worms its way into classrooms around the country and at UNC PAGE 5

SPORTS

SWING AND A MISS

Sophomore Adam Kalkhof records eight strikeouts in the Tar Heels' 8-5 win Wednesday PAGE 13

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