Groups devise various criteria for membership

BY EMILY STEEL
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

In a sense, the Alpha Iota Omega Christian fraternity is like many others that operate at the University.

The group must adhere to national guidelines, and it follows very specific standards when selecting its membership.

But the fundamental difference between the fraternity, which recently filed a federal suit against the University, and others that operate at UNC is its mission to spread Christianity.

"We are not just a social fraternity," said Tremayne Manson, president of the Alpha Iota Omega Inc. board of directors. "We also have a mission where we, as Christians and as brothers, we go out and we share the gospel of Jesus Christ."

As officially recognized student organizations, all participants in the four Greek governing councils — the Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council, the National Pan Hellenic Council and the Greek Alliance Council — must sign on to the University's nondiscrimination clause, said Lisa Katz, director of news services.

"There's no discrimination based on anything besides gender," said Walker Rutherfurd, president of the IFC. "Just like any group of friends, the personality, the culture and the membership is unique to each fraternity."

Alpha Iota Omega's recognition as a student group was revoked last fall when members of the fraternity refused to sign the same nondiscrimination policy required of all University organizations.

"The University of North Carolina is not saying that they cannot meet and have a fraternity," said Jerome Barron, a professor of constitutional law at George Washington University. "I don't think there is any interference with their free exercise rights or their free speech rights because the University is not punishing them."

"We don't turn back anyone ... but each organization has the right to choose who best fits them.

DERWIN DUBOSE, CHI PSI

The selection procedures for officially recognized fraternities and sororities vary from group to group, Katz said.

As organizations with national affiliations, she said, the groups follow guidelines and values set forth by their national chapters when selecting new members each year.

"We are in the rush process now, and everyone is welcome," said Derwin Dubose, a member of Chi Psi and co-president of the Campus Y. "We don't turn back anyone from coming out and getting to know the place, but each organization has the right to choose who best fits them."

Alpha Epsilon Pi, a nondiscriminating Jewish social fraternity, was notified Dec. 10, 2002 that it too needed to modify the organization's constitution, which read that members must "believe in God."

"Before we gained official University recognition, we were told that that phrase, that people had to believe in God, had to be taken out," said Daniel Singer, president of the fraternity. "We unanimously voted to remove it."

Singer said removing the phrase from the fraternity's constitution did not lessen the group's ability to provide Jewish men the opportunity to join a nondiscriminating organization with a social and cultural purpose.

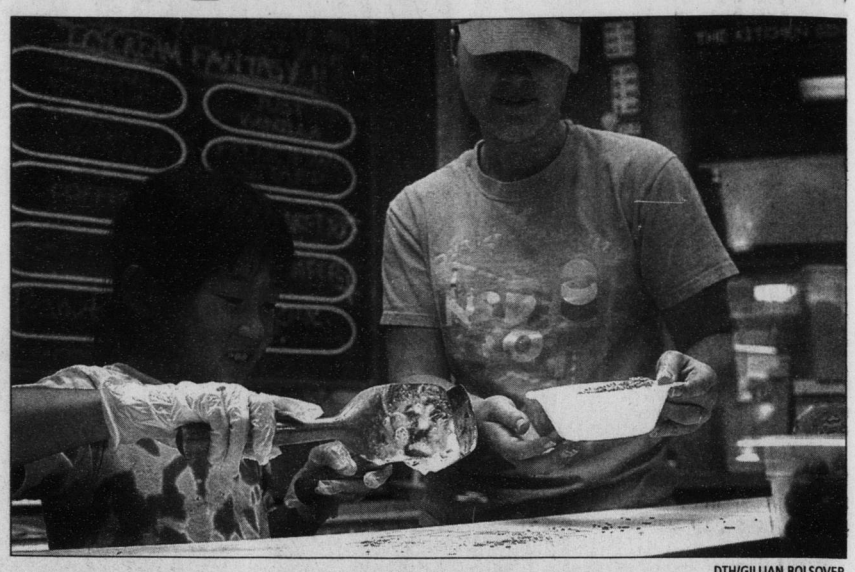
Jay Anhorn, director of Greek affairs, declined to comment on any University policies.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Inside Scoop shuts its doors

Financial strains take toll on parlor

BY MEREDITH LEE MILLER
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR



DTH/GILLIAN BOLSOVER

Anna Baynes, 8, creates an ice cream concoction with Jennifer Wilkinson, a four-year employee of The Inside Scoop, at the ice cream parlor Saturday afteroon. The store closed this weekend because of financial problems.

Chapel Hill lost some flavor this weekend when local ice cream parlor The Inside Scoop closed its door because of financial difficulties.

The ice cream parlor, located at the Midtown Market shopping center on Airport Road that includes the Flying Burrito and Foster's Market, had been in business for six years.

Owner Vivian Olkin cited cost restraints and high rent as the reason for the store's closing.

"While I haven't made money, I am proud of what I've done," she said.

Throughout the years, The Inside Scoop created an eclectic atmosphere with its homemade ice cream, fun mirrors, handmade hats scattered everywhere and local artwork adorning the bright walls.

"I wanted something outrageous and fun," Olkin said about the concept for her business.

She said the unique atmosphere of her store is what set her apart from large chains around town.

The freedom of being a small owner allowed her store to look and feel however she wanted without corporate approval, she said.

The ability to make on-site decisions for a business is great for local owners if they have the financial resources to do so, Olkin said, but sales could not support the high rent for the business's location.

Corporate chains on Franklin Street such as Cold Stone Creamery and Ben & Jerry's are advantaged because they can afford the rent even if sales are down, she said.

"I always hate to see someone go out of business," said Phil Campbell, owner of the Flying Burrito, a Mexican restaurant.

He said Olkin had a passion for her business, which is missing from corporate retail chains.

Campbell, who has owned the Flying Burrito for the last 19 years, said it is more difficult for small owners to keep costs down than it is for national businesses.

"I don't want a corporate Chapel Hill," said Olkin, who said she tried to make her customers and staff feel at home in her store.

"I am sad that the place is closing," said Jennifer Wilkinson, a UNC graduate who worked at The Inside Scoop the last four years.

She said the staff had become a family over the years because of Olkin's enthusiasm.

"Vivian's attitude was great at the store," said Zach Ward, a UNC graduate and executive producer of Dirty South Improv, a group that performed at the shop on Friday and Saturday nights last year.

Ward said he had been an Inside Scoop customer for years.

"The (improv) group could not have grown without that opportunity," he said.

Ward said local businesses are usually willing to sponsor local organizations. "They will usually try to help in any way that they can," he said.

Olkin said she wants to stay involved in the business community. She said she plans to open a dessert shop in Carrboro.

"I have too much energy," she said.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Proposal aims to aid international TAs

BY STEPHANIE JORDAN
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Learning the culture of discussion and debate in American classrooms can be a difficult task for international graduate students, leaving them with questions about how to create an effective learning environment.

A proposal to the Council of Graduate Schools, if passed, might help these students become an integral part of the classroom. The proposal, soon to be reviewed, asks for funding that will provide international graduate students with ethics training.

Linda Dykstra, dean of the Graduate School, said it can be difficult for international students to acclimate to American classrooms.

"The American training culture (might be) different from what they may have come from," she said. "(They) need to be taught the ways of the American classroom."

Dykstra added that this sort of program, in conjunction with the existing International Teaching Assistance Program, could be beneficial to those students.

She said international students would become more familiar with the student-mentor relationship and realize that it is acceptable to disagree with professors. The program also would help students prevent plagiarism.

ITAP, which is in its second year, spans two semesters and focuses on pronunciation so that students will better understand their teaching assistants.

The proposal came about when the Council of Graduate Schools, which encourages colleges to think of innovative techniques, asked more than 400 universities to establish methods of teaching ethics training. The council is prepared to fund an idea with $15,000 over the span of two years.

Dykstra said she and other senior staff from the school reviewed the request, and because of the small amount of funding offered, decided to narrow ethics training down to international graduate students because they would get the most out of the proposal.

If the proposal is not accepted, officials in the graduate school are planning to re-examine the proposal.

"We heard from faculty that international students would benefit from this approach," Dykstra said.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Yackety Yack Yearbook Board of Directors

Have you ever wanted to be involved in the business side of publishing? Help the *Yackety Yack*, the yearbook of UNC, approve a contract, elect staff members and figure out a budget. Come by Suite 2415 in the Old Union to pick up an application. **Applications are due on Tuesday, Sept. 7 by 5pm.** If you have questions call our office 962-3912.

CORRECTIONS

■ Due to an editing error, the Aug. 27 story "Honor Court cases on the rise" stated that the Independent Defense Council appeals to students who do not want to be tried by members of the Honor Court. It should have stated that those students do not want to be tried by members of the Student Attorney General staff. In addition, a similar error appears in a paragraph in which a source states that she will only take the best applicants for the Honor Court; "Honor Court" should have stated "the Student Attorney General's office."

■ Due to a reporting error, the same story stated that Honor Court convictions for cheating carry a "routine" sanction. It should have stated that there is a usual sanction of suspension and an F; in addition, there is a minimum sanction of academic probation and an F.

■ Due to a production error, the Aug. 27 story "ACLU sues to strike amendment" was uncredited. It came off The Associated Press wire.

To report corrections, contact Managing Editor Chris Coletta at ccoletta@email.unc.edu.

The Daily Tar Heel
P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515
Michelle Jarboe, Editor, 962-4086
Advertising & Business, 962-1163
News, Features, Sports, 962-0245
One copy per person; additional copies may be purchased at The Daily Tar Heel for $.25 each.

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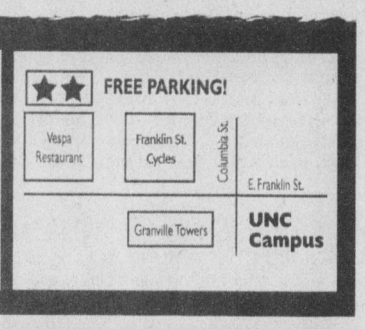

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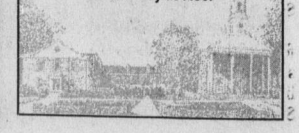
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