

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 112, ISSUE 67

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

www.dthonline.com

Council picks MLK panel

TWENTY-MEMBER COMMITTEE WILL SEEK COMMUNITY INPUT

BY TANNER SLAYDEN
STAFF WRITER

The Chapel Hill Town Council voted unanimously Monday to try involving everyone who applied for the special committee to consider renaming Airport Road, but remained divided on certain details.

Council members chose option four of Mayor Kevin Foy's propos-

al, which will create a 20-person committee that will provide all its materials to the public and to applicants not chosen.

At the end of Monday's meeting, council members made nominations to the committee, which will consider renaming Airport Road to honor Martin Luther King Jr.

After two votes, the committee — composed of four members of

the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, four business owners or residents on Airport Road, seven citizens at large, two people familiar with the history of the community, two council members and Foy — was set.

Council members voted unanimously to appoint Mayor Pro Tem Edith Wiggins and council member Sally Greene to the committee.

The council also agreed that applicants who were not chosen should be engaged in a focus group that will deal with the issue.

"We want for the full community to be involved, not just the committee," Foy said.

But there was discussion about the proposed use of a facilitator for the committee. Some council members were uncomfortable with the process of finding, and the price of hiring, a facilitator.

Under Foy's proposal, a facilitator would cost between \$15,000 and \$25,000, and one council member said Foy appeared to have picked a facilitator already.

Mark Kleinschmidt, who reminded council members that he

opposed the idea of even forming a committee on the renaming of the road, questioned the outline for hiring outside help. "I am confused about the process of selection (for a facilitator)," he said. "We could have handled it earlier."

Kleinschmidt said the delay was "unacceptable."

Foy responded by saying that he was doing the best he could and that he wasn't "dragging the process out." He added that Town Manager Cal Horton was the per-

SEE MLK, PAGE 4

Lawsuit at UNC is not unique

Ariz. group heads similar challenges

BY EMILY STEEL
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

As the University's lawyers prepare arguments for a federal lawsuit that weighs the importance of nondiscrimination policies against free speech protections, they are facing an organization that has fought and won similar battles at public universities throughout the nation.

The Alliance Defense Fund, an Arizona-based religious liberties group, has challenged policies similar to UNC's nondiscrimination policy — required of officially recognized student groups — at several universities, including the University of Minnesota, Southwest Missouri State University, Rutgers University, Ohio State University and the University of Oklahoma.

Most of the universities have ended up rewriting their nondiscrimination policies and settling the suits out of court.

A case is pending at OSU, where a chapter of the Christian Legal Society is protesting a similar nondiscrimination policy.

ADF filed suit against UNC on Aug. 25 in an attempt to reinstate the official status of Alpha Iota Omega, a three-member Christian fraternity. The suit claims that the University's policy violates the group's First Amendment rights.

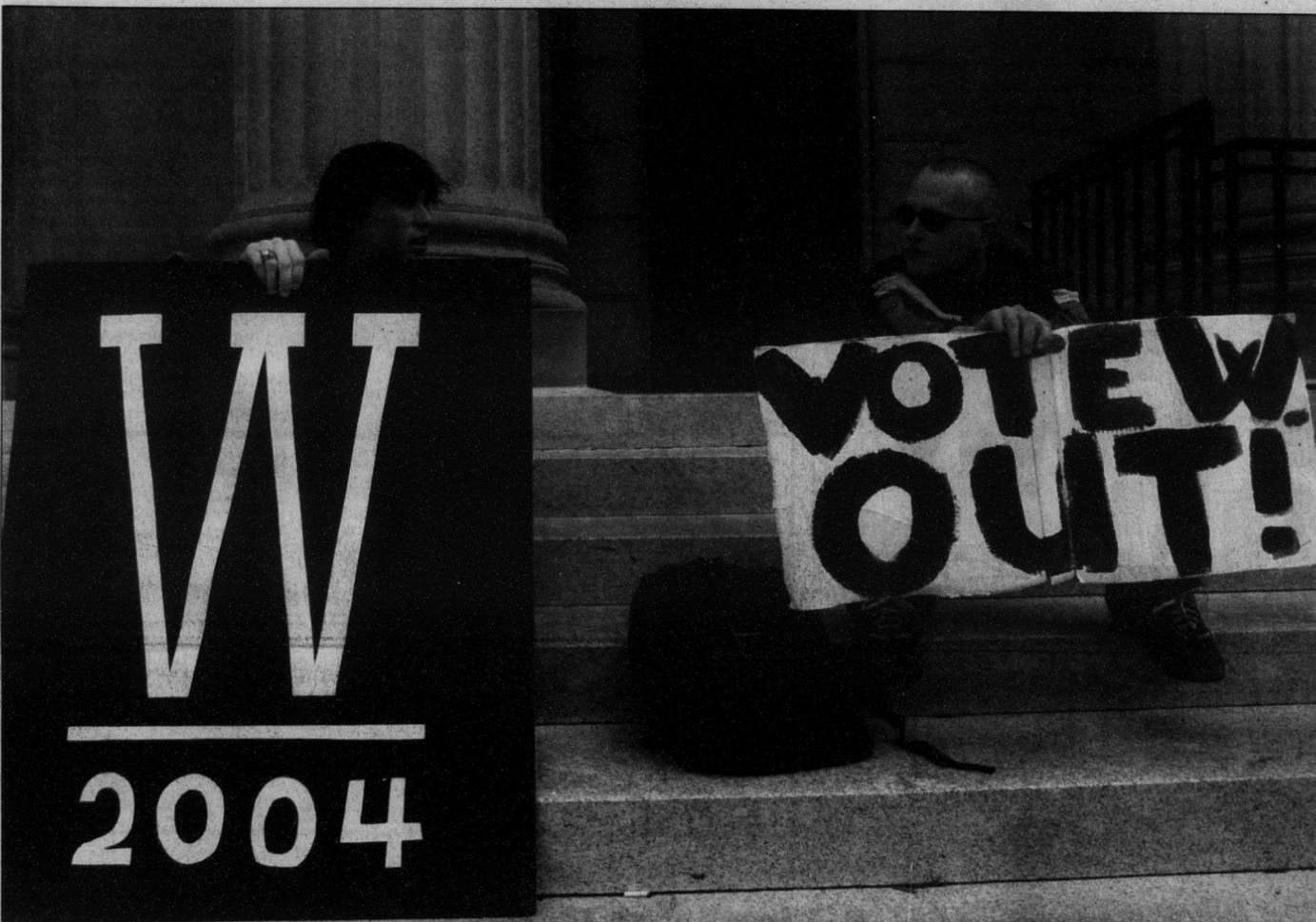
The University's lawyers in the N.C. Attorney General's Office requested and received an extension on the 20-day deadline to file a response. A response now is due Oct. 25.

Lawyers at UMinn. faced a similar predicament last fall when ADF filed suit, claiming that an "Equal Opportunity Statement" violated the First Amendment rights of campus groups.

The statement, similar to UNC's nondiscrimination policy, required the Maranatha Christian Fellowship to accept members and officers who did not subscribe to Christian beliefs. When groups refused to sign the statement, they were denied access to student fees

SEE LAWSUITS, PAGE 4

FRIENDLY DEBATE



DTH/RAY JONES

Richard Bean, a junior (left), and Dan Van Atta, a senior, hold signs showing their views about President George W. Bush on Monday afternoon on the steps of Wilson Library. Van Atta said he was sitting for nearly 45 minutes when Bean walked up, and they engaged in friendly discussion about the president. The discussion

arose during a heated day in politics: Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry criticized Bush for allowing a ban on assault weapons to end, Senate candidates Erskine Bowles and Richard Burr toured the state touting their health care plans, and Gov. Mike Easley traveled to Wilson to stump on behalf of Democratic candidates and to raise funds for his party.

IFC pleased upon rush's end

Runs smoothly with new rules

BY JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

After the end of the rush season, the Interfraternity Council is championing both a class of pledges and a revised code of conduct to protect them.

Friday marked the end of the rush period, as rushees were given the right to begin pledging to the IFC fraternity they wish to join.

Rush, which began Aug. 24,

provided time for potential pledges to test the waters of Greek life by visiting several houses and fraternity officials.

Based on preliminary totals available at press time, IFC President Walker Rutherford said this year's rush was particularly fruitful.

Although the last day to divvy out bids was Friday, those receiving a bid had until Monday to accept officially.

At last count, about half of the 21 IFC fraternities had reported total figures. They netted an average of about 15 pledges per house, Rutherford said.

Alpha Epsilon Pi garnered more than 20 pledges, said President Daniel Singer. "We have a really strong pledge class this year — definitely our strongest one ever," he said. "(Rush) went extraordinarily well."

Coulter Warlick, president of Phi Gamma Delta, said his group had similar success, as 14 of the 16 bids it handed out were accepted.

But the numbers aren't the only aspect of the past weeks that pleased leaders. "The whole rush process was a lot better than previous years," Warlick said. "I talked to a lot of the other presidents, and

they said that as well."

According to multiple IFC officials, these remarks can be attributed to a more concise rush schedule and the implementation of curfew nights instead of blackout days.

Last year's rush spanned three weeks and had several blackout days, during which no rush events could be scheduled.

By contrast, officials said this year's two-week period gave members the opportunity to relay all the necessary information to those considering pledging and

SEE RUSH, PAGE 4

Task forces turn critical eye on student fees

BY JENNY RUBY
STAFF WRITER

The amount that students will be forced to pull from their pockets to cover student fees next year is up in the air as a new chapter of fee talks begin.

Last year, UNC's Board of Trustees approved significant hikes to both tuition and fees. After much heated debate, the board approved a \$300 tuition increase for in-state students — later reduced to \$250 by the UNC-system Board of Governors — and a \$1,500 increase

for out-of-state students.

However, the recommendation for a \$121 student fee increase was passed with little discussion among trustees.

"Last year, the trustees wanted to really take another look on our overall philosophy on tuition," said BOT Chairman Richard "Stick" Williams. "It was that review of our policy that caused us to pay a lot of attention to tuition and not fees."

He added that the recommendations for fee increases appeared to be reasonable, so trustees were

not forced to pay as much attention to them.

Student Body Vice President Alexa Kleysteuber said she wasn't surprised at the quick approval of the student fees because of the depth of discussion concerning the tuition increase.

"Fees had already been through so many other committees," said Kleysteuber, who has served on both the Chancellor's Committee on Student Fees and the Student Fee Audit Committee since last year.

Student fee proposals go through a long process before reaching their destination in front of the BOT.

One step involves the Chancellor's Committee on Student Fees, which will have its first meeting Wednesday. At the meeting, members will be presented with proposed fee increases.

Student Body President Matt Calabria said the committee will be setting a timeline for the rest of the semester Wednesday.

SEE STUDENT FEES, PAGE 4

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANS FOR LOT 5

The redeveloped lot 5 is planned to be a four-story mixed-use building with residential and retail space and expanded parking. Lot 5 will be built concurrently with the expansion to the Wallace Deck.



SOURCE: BUSINESS TODAY

Consultant offers fiscal plan for lots

BY DAN SCHWIND
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Developing downtown parking lots 2 and 5 took another step in the planning process Monday when real estate consultants presented a financial analysis of the proposed projects to members of the Chapel Hill Town Council.

John Stainback, managing partner for Stainback Public/Private Real Estate LLC, unveiled the analysis, which was presented to answer questions of how much the project would cost and how it

would be financed.

"We think this, with some tweaking, is the answer to a complicated problem," Stainback said.

Lot 2, located behind Spanky's, and lot 5, across from University Square, will be constructed into mixed-use developments under the current proposals.

Monday's analysis estimated the total cost for the project to be about \$66.3 million, most of which would be paid for by the as-yet-undeter-

SEE LOTS 2&5, PAGE 4

JOIN THE TEAM

If you're interested in working for The Daily Tar Heel staff, act quickly — applications are due at the DTH front office in the Student Union at 5 p.m. tonight

INSIDE

FREE RANGE
Ban on assault weapons expires; 19 types of guns legal **PAGE 6**



INSIDE

SOUNDING OFF
Former Reagan administration official comes to UNC, waxes political **PAGE 7**

WEATHER

TODAY Showers, H 78, L 64
WEDNESDAY Showers, H 80, L 66
THURSDAY Showers, H 80, L 67

