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Greeks prepare report for BOT Board to see suicide report

TRUSTEES TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

BY CLAIRE DORRIER
STAFF WRITER

As the pledge process comes into full swing, members of the University's governing board are sitting in the background, carefully watching the Interfraternity Council as it implements a new code of conduct.

During the UNC Board of Trustees' University Affairs committee meeting today, Jay Anhorn, director of Greek affairs, will provide an update about fall recruitment and how the new code of

conduct is being implemented.

Of the 450 students who registered for rush this year, 54 percent — a total of 242 new pledges — have entered the Greek community. Freshmen constitute 83 percent of the entering class.

Last year, 422 students registered for rush. Of those students, 213, or 50 percent, pledged fraternities.

The fraternity council found itself under scrutiny last spring after trustees became aware of personal servitude and hazing practices taking place in the Greek

community. In response, the IFC wrote and implemented a new code of conduct that specifically forbids those practices.

During the IFC grand chapter meeting Sept. 14, which at least 75 percent of members from each fraternity chapter were required to attend, officials emphasized the new code of conduct.

"I was particularly impressed with the turnout for the grand chapter meeting," Trustee Rusty Carter said.

To enforce the code of conduct, the Office of Greek Affairs has established a group of alumni representatives to monitor and approve pledge activities.

"Hopefully we will hear through

that network the progress that is being made and any issues we should look into," Carter said.

Alumni advisers are playing a larger role in enforcing the code and acting as contacts among pledges, parents and fraternity brothers.

New pledges have been instructed to contact their alumni advisers if they encounter problems.

"We just let them know they have the power to step forward and report any kind of violation of the new code of conduct," said Will Robinson, vice president of public relations for IFC. "If the executive board is hearing about things, we aren't going to turn our heads and let it slide."

Jim Tatum, chairman of the

UNC Fraternity Alumni Advisers Committee, said all reports are confidential so students will not feel alienated.

"All advisers of fraternities are sending out letters to parents of pledges addressing important issues and inviting parents to stay in touch if problems arise," Tatum said.

As parents gathered in Chapel Hill for Family Weekend, numerous forums were held Saturday morning, including one on Greek life.

Tatum said there was a frank and open discussion about the demands and stresses of Greek life.

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Board to see suicide report

Trustees to tackle issue Wednesday

BY JAMIE DOUGHER
SENIOR WRITER

Three UNC students committed suicide between September 2002 and May 2003.

The following August, a special task force formed to study why student suicides had become more common at the University in recent years. Group members began to examine UNC's policies and national data concerning suicide.

Then, two more students committed suicide at the end of the spring 2004 semester.

Today, the Suicide Prevention Task Force will present its report at a meeting of the University's Board of Trustees.

The deaths last spring heightened awareness of student suicide, a trend that is becoming more common nationally — it is now the second leading cause of death for college students, the report states.

After pointing out what it deemed the best practices used by UNC and nine of its peer universities to target mental health issues, the task force outlined ideas to improve the University's suicide prevention procedures.

Counseling and Psychological Service, which the report describes as a short-term referral service, is on par with similar programs at other universities, the report states.

"It's really strikingly similar," said Jan Sedway, a member of the task force and a professor of psychiatry who is engaged in an online study to screen students for potential mental health problems.

The College Screening Project, coordinated by task force member Linda Nicholas, is funded through May 2005 by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Students periodically are invited by e-mail to fill out an online survey, which Sedway evaluates to determine whether they are at risk for depression and might want to

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Congress officials approve payouts

Committee OKs \$26K in fee cash

BY LIZZIE STEWART
STAFF WRITER

The Finance Committee of Student Congress scrutinized nine student organizations' funding requests and approved total allocations of \$25,929.60 Tuesday night.

The committee, which examines each organization's bid for student fees, has more than \$64,000 to appropriate to student groups this semester. Student Congress will review and finalize all approved requests at its meeting next Tuesday.

"We literally audit every request that comes in front of us," said Daneen Furr, chairwoman of the Finance Committee. "The more exact the request, the better it is for us, because we know we're not wasting student fees."

Sangam, the University's South Asian awareness organization, requested \$19,806 but was appropriated \$9,150.

The request asked for \$15,200 for programming fees to fund

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SILENT NIGHT



DTH/LAURA MORTON

UNC sophomore Taiyyaba Qureshi (right) stands with other students who joined a silent candlelight vigil organized by Students United for Darfur Awareness Now on Tuesday night in the Pit. The group, which is based out of N.C. Hillel, sponsored the

event to raise awareness about the organization and the ongoing crisis in the Sudan. Portions of the African nation have been in conflict after rebel groups in the Darfur region rose up against the government with accusations of neglect and to discrimination. For the full story, please see page 2.

Groups seek options in registration drives

Attract voters outside residence halls

BY CAROLINE KORNEGAY
STAFF WRITER

With 15 days left to register to vote in this year's election, campus groups are taking new avenues to sign up students before registration forms are due.

Various campus groups, from student government to an English class, have joined the ongoing efforts to solicit student votes and tout the importance of civic participation.

In one of the latest pushes, the Residence Hall Association proposed an initiative Tuesday requesting that resident advisers conduct at least one registration program between today and Oct. 8, the last day to submit forms.

Dorm-storming to register voters inside the residence halls has been banned because of the University's facility-use policy, which prohibits such solicitation.

With that tool no longer available, students have had to find alternate means of getting election information out to the University community.

RHA President Colin Scott said the new voting push will help "teach our fellow Tar Heels to be better citizens."

"This is a good way to step up and do what's best for residents," Scott said.

While students moving into residence halls received voter registration forms during check-in, they also can pick up the forms at their community offices.

English Professor Todd Taylor and students in his first-year seminar, "Multimedia North Carolina," are creating a Web site that provides students with a cache of information about voting.

It includes information for out-of-state voters, out-of-district voters and first-time voters.

It also offers registration deadlines, links to candidates' Web sites and statistics the class found to inspire fellow voters.

Taylor said he decided last year that he wanted to teach students how to collect information on how to vote and how to share it, therefore making students a more active part of the electorate.

"The perfect way to answer their questions was for them to do the research themselves," he said.

The class of 20 students broke into groups that researched, wrote, edited and compiled information for the site.

The result of the project is a Web site called "The Counting Vote," <http://www.unc.edu/voter>.

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Mr., Ms. BSM candidates speak out

Have 1 week to present service plans

BY DANIELLE HARTMAN
STAFF WRITER

With only one week left before election day, candidates for Mr. and Ms. BSM are racing to present their original service projects to the student body in efforts to garner votes.

The contest, sponsored by the Black Student Movement, challenges students to develop a plan for the enrichment of the black community.

After completing a detailed application, a round of interviews and a presentation about their plan, winning candidates will have the opportunity to implement their initiatives this spring.

Although service is its primary focus, the award also carries a significant social perk. Mr. and Ms. BSM receive automatic nominations to UNC's Homecoming Court.

This year's campaign began Monday in the Pit; candidates and their supporters manned tables and waved posters touting their credentials and championing their service projects.

Although their platforms are unique, each hopeful cited the same reason for initiating a campaign: the chance to positively influence the entire black community.

Candidate Gahmya Drummond-Bey, a senior communications major, emphasized the importance of helping black citizens outside of the University community.

While outlining her service plan,

"It's important for people to know that even though the risks are out there, they can still relax."

CONITRAS HOUSTON, CANDIDATE

which involves giving residents at a Methodist children's home a glimpse of University life, she said that "a community is only as strong as its weakest link."

Drummond-Bey said she hopes to provide guidance and accountability for youths through mentors and scholarships.

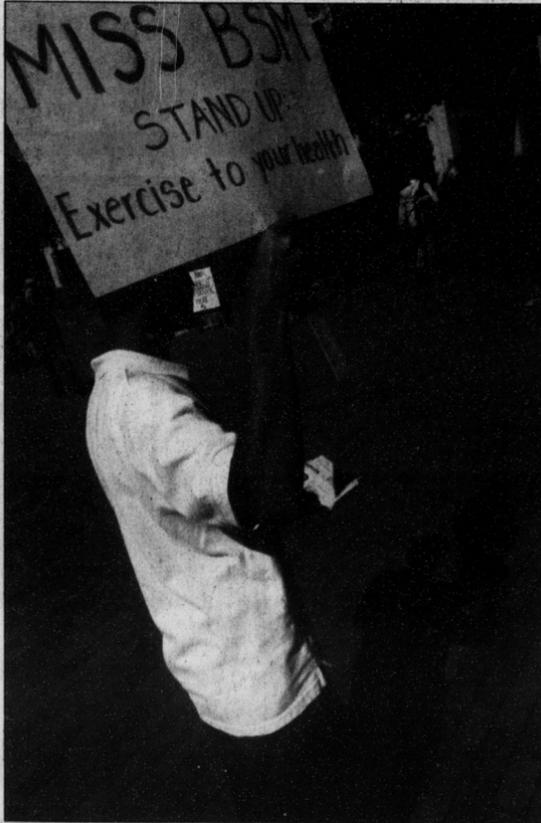
Candidate Conitras Houston, a senior communication studies major, is focusing on healthy lifestyles and exercise. After losing a grandmother to diabetes, she said, she became concerned with cultivating positive health habits.

Houston said she plans to sponsor a three-day health fair, stressing "Awareness, Action and Relaxation."

"It's important for people to know that even though the risks are out there, they can still relax," she said.

Although he is the sole candidate for Mr. BSM, Arthur "TJ" Abrams, a senior journalism major, also has

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DTH/RAY JONES

A supporter of Conitras Houston, one of two candidates for Ms. BSM, campaigns in the Pit on Tuesday. The BSM's elections take place in one week.

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KNOW THYSELF

Founder of self-knowledge club writes essay about encounter with monk, takes home \$100K PAGE 5

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FROM A GREAT HEIGHT

Rain ruins crops, pocketbooks in western half of state PAGE 5

SPORTS

WALKING WOUNDED

UNC running back Ronnie McGill likely won't play Saturday against Louisville PAGE 9

WEATHER

TODAY Sunny, H 87, L 59
THURSDAY Sunny, H 84, L 60
FRIDAY Partly cloudy, H 82, L 55

