

Greeks tout service tradition

BY JACQUELINE BRILL
STAFF WRITER

Rhonda Foxx stumbled across the idea that would help her get elected as UNC's 2004 Homecoming Queen while watching The Oprah Winfrey Show. She saw a wishing tree and decided to bring that concept to Chapel Hill.

On Monday afternoon, the Carolina Wishing Tree — which allows for needy families to receive gifts and necessities from University members — was launched in the Pit with the hope of being a service vehicle for the Greek community.

Foxx herself is president of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority Inc., a member of the National Pan Hellenic Council, which caters to historically black Greek organizations.

Most fraternities and sororities make service and philanthropy a core value for their organizations, and many even require their members to complete a certain number of hours or participate in sponsored events.

"We have five target areas (of service) that are set by our national president," Foxx said, explaining that those areas are black family, education, health, economics and the arts. AKA members participate in a number of events throughout the year to hit all the targets.

"We wrote letters to the troops in Iraq, held a political debate between the College Republicans and Young Democrats and held an AIDS awareness panel," Foxx said. "Barbara Bush also spoke at our national convention this past year."

Fellow NPHC member Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity Inc. also participates in a variety of service projects. Along with Foxx, the fraternity also sponsored the Carolina Wishing Tree.

"We basically participate in some sort of service every week," said T.J. Abrams, president of the fraternity.

Alpha Chi Omega, a sorority within the Panhellenic Council, recently held its annual Fall Brawl contest to benefit the Durham Crisis

Response Center and the center's shelter for battered women.

The event pits members of the male Greek groups against each other in basketball and poker tournaments. The women are given the opportunity to pledge their time working at the shelter as well.

"We baby-sit once a week so that the mothers can have a little more time to themselves, and once a month, we'll also do a special activity for everyone so we get to interact with the women as well," said Laura Novack, the sorority's philanthropy chairwoman and a junior biochemistry major. "This month, it will probably be cookie decoration or whatever creative idea we come up with."

Theta Nu Xi, a multicultural sorority at UNC, is a service-based group and makes philanthropy its chief focus.

"Our main goal is to serve campus and the community," said President Alexis Heintz, a junior international studies major.

Heintz explained that the sorority's primary aim is to raise money for its national philanthropic organization, the National Center for Community and Justice, which works to reduce racism and bigotry in the United States.

"Last year, we did a bowling event and got people to pledge money for each pin we knocked down," Heintz said.

Members of Theta Nu Xi also have donated hours of their time to the Orange County Rape Crisis Center and Mary Scroggs Elementary School.

To many Greek organizations, service is as important to their members as it is to those being helped.

"For me personally, (service) is the most important thing outside of school, and there are always opportunities for our girls to participate," Novack said. "Everyone's involvement is just very cool to watch."

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HEARING

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public, both students said they had the same goal in mind: to enlighten students about the system.

"I decided to make my case public because I thought it would be good for the University to see how the honor system works," Foster said.

Milan, who was charged with an honor violation for possessing marijuana and aiding others in purchasing it, also said she decided to open her appeal to the community to help students.

She was sanctioned with a semester suspension, a semester of probation and 30 hours of community service during an Oct. 27 hearing.

"I'm having the hearing open not necessarily to benefit my case, but to benefit other students' cases in the future," Milan said.

While Chavez insisted that these two cases do not indicate a future increase in public hearings, others involved with the University's honor system said such a trend would be beneficial.

Adrian Johnston, who served as defense counsel for Foster, emphasized that an open hearing would aid honor system procedures.

"It's good for all students to go public because the system will

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KATHERINE MILAN, SOPHOMORE

work better under public scrutiny," said Johnston, who recently resigned from the honor system.

Glenna Goldis, Milan's defense counsel and a member of the Independent Defense Council, said public hearings would instigate conversation about the workings of the honor system.

"My main hope is that it will spark discussion about the issues we're raising," she said.

Open hearings should not affect the cases' outcomes, Johnston said. "But having the public present does add a level of accountability."

Foster said he believes the cases will encourage other students to go public. "My hope is that if students feel they have been wronged, having two precedents will help them make the decision to go public."

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MLK HISTORY

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Twice, the crowd rose in a standing ovation.

King was invited to the University by the Carolina Forum and a coalition of campus religious groups. The visit was part of a tour of Southern college campuses that came after the first lunch counter sit-ins in Greensboro early that February.

In Chapel Hill, students at Lincoln High School had staged the first local sit-in at Colonial Drugstore on Franklin Street, where blacks weren't permitted to sit down, on Feb. 28.

Weeks of picketing followed. "I can remember the long nights — four- to five-hour shifts," said Braxton Foushee, then a senior at Lincoln High School. "I can't remember when I missed a day not picketing."

By the time King came to town in May, the students' energy had lulled. "Everyone was kind of wore out at that point," Foushee said.

Before his planned speech at Hill Hall, however, King spoke at the black community center, which is now Hargraves Community Center on North Roberson Street.

He reminded the young activists to persevere.

"When you celebrate (Martin Luther King Jr.) you are celebrating the (civil rights) movement that took place."

FRED BATTLE, PRESIDENT, CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO BRANCH OF THE NAACP

"You are demonstrating a magnificent act, a magnificent act of noncooperation with the forces of evil," King told the predominantly black crowd of about 400.

"You are not seeking to put stores that practice discrimination out of business. You are seeking to put justice in business."

Foushee said King re-energized the crowd. "It gave us all the feeling we needed to just keep going."

The next day, at a noontime luncheon in his home, Dewitt Myers, then pastor of the United Church of Chapel Hill, hosted about 35 pastors and church staff from around the county in honor of King.

"He was the last to arrive," Myers remembered. "He was profoundly quiet, his body presence was peaceable — he was resolved."

But King didn't enjoy support from all church leaders in Chapel Hill, Myers said.

King was invited to speak that Sunday night at University Baptist Church, but the speech was moved

to the basement fellowship hall when some church leaders objected to him speaking in the sanctuary.

Today, as area residents debate whether to rename Airport Road in honor of King, some community members have asked why King's 1960 visit is not more well known.

"I've lived here 17 years and I like to think I'm aware of what's going on, but I wasn't aware of King's event," said council member Sally Greene, a member of the special committee that considered the renaming.

Fred Battle, president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said renaming the road is a way to remedy that.

"Martin Luther King represents the civil rights movement," Battle said. "When you celebrate the man you are celebrating the movement that took place — this was a legacy and a history."

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PLATFORM

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platform planks, Calabria and Student Body Vice President Alexa Kleysteuber met several times this fall with members of the Board of Trustees to discuss tuition increase proposals.

Calabria said they are trying to ensure that the Tuition Task Force's proposal is well-understood and considered next year when the board decides on next year's tuition.

Securing field space and the funds to renovate fields — another set of promises — has been taken care of and will reach realization sometime in the near future.

"We increased the sports budget tens of thousands of dollars," Calabria said.

Executive branch officials said that some projects will be completed this week but that all the major projects are complete.

"Our biggest challenge for next semester to make sure nothing gets forgotten," Allred said.

"Matt's made sure every project has a home and will be successfully completed."

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DALZELL

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without a plea.

Under state law, discovery is required to move forward with a case. The term includes statements, lab tests or anything that serves as evidence, said District Attorney Carl Fox.

The prosecution said it is in the process of sorting through boxes of discovery, which will take two weeks to complete.

Presiding judge Wade Barber Jr. scheduled Dalzell's next appearance in Superior Court for Dec. 14.

Barber told the defense that on that day, it should enter its plea.

The defense Tuesday also filed a motion to suppress a statement made by Dalzell that has not yet been released. The motion is set to be heard Dec. 15.

Dalzell has been the primary suspect in the murder and disappearance of Deborah Leigh Key since she was last seen with him Dec. 1, 1997.

The two were last seen outside Sticks & Stones, a former pool hall in downtown Carrboro, after it closed at 2 a.m.

Police approached Dalzell in April after Key's disappearance

and executed a search of his 1990 Honda on April 3.

Officials found a bra, panties, various papers, two pieces of stained seat cover and hair and fiber tappings, but the evidence proved insufficient and no charge was made at the time.

Police continued to keep tabs on the suspect and got a break in the investigation Aug. 31, when Dalzell requested police assistance in moving things from his Carrboro apartment.

While there, police found objects linking him to a former employer, Huntgate's Arts, Crafts & Hobbies at University Mall.

After police spoke with the store's manager, a larceny report was filed and police were given a warrant to search Dalzell's apartment, which led to his arrest Sept. 9 at a friend's residence in Stanley.

Dalzell remains in custody at the Orange County Jail on a \$70,000 secured bond for the murder charge. A separate charge of six counts of third-degree exploitation of a minor against him is still pending in district court.

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