

The Daily Tar Heel

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TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2005

Hate crime sparks action

Students, officials to respond in Pit

Editor's Note: It is The Daily Tar Heel's policy not to run the names of victims of crimes unless they have direct influence on the news.

BY ERIN ZUREICK

STAFF WRITER

As the UNC junior who was the victim of a reported hate crime recovers from Friday's assault, the community is seeking to mend a shattered sense of security.

News of the assault that occurred

on East Franklin Street early Friday morning trickled through the community Monday, shocking students and officials.

"It totally disgusts me," said Blakely Whilden, co-president of

UNC Young Democrats. "If it can happen in Chapel Hill it can happen anywhere."

No witnesses have come forward in the case, and officials are encouraging anyone with information to contact Chapel Hill police or Crime Stoppers.

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Transgender-Straight Alliance and Amnesty International are hosting a speak-out event tonight, where members of the community can sign a petition against the exclusion of sexual orientation from N.C. statutes on hate crimes. A candlelit march down Franklin Street will conclude with a moment of silence.

SEE RESPONSE, PAGE 4

UNC won't drop tuition requests

BY MEGAN MCSWAIN

ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Gov. Mike Easley is backing an in-state tuition freeze in his budget proposal, bolstering a decision made by the UNC system's governing body in February.

But campus officials across the state are still searching for a solution to their financial needs.

No one is sure where the needed revenue will come from, but many speculate that the Board of Governors will be receptive to campus-based tuition increases for nonresident students and graduate students.

"I think that the campuses put forth tuition proposals in good faith that they would be considered by the board," said Jeff Davies, vice president of finance for the UNC system. "There is one school that has with-

drawn its requests, but only one."

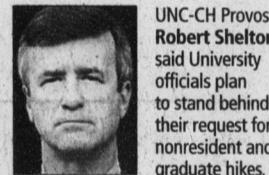
UNC-Chapel Hill will not drop its proposal to the BOG for out-of-state and graduate tuition hikes, but University officials plan to honor the in-state freeze and not ask for resident increases, said Provost Robert Shelton.

The University's tuition increase requests stemmed from a proposal by the campus Tuition Task Force.

In November, the task force reported that UNC-CH needs an additional \$5.4 million to \$5.6 million in tuition revenue.

The money was set to go to four major areas: a larger commitment to need-based aid, increasing teaching assistant stipends, a merit-based salary increase for existing faculty and a decrease in class size.

Since the University will not pursue an increase in resident under-



UNC-CH Provost
Robert Shelton
said University
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graduate hikes.

graduate tuition, receiving enough funding to accomplish all four of those goals will be difficult if not impossible, said Judith Wegner, chairwoman of the faculty.

"Given the amount, they won't be able to address (decreasing class size) at all," she said.

N.C. Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland, said the legislature understands the necessity to retain faculty.

"I know we're all doing what we

can so that we make sure we give Chapel Hill the money they need to keep the faculty," said Rand, the Senate majority leader.

The Board of Governors will discuss nonresident and graduate student tuition increases during the March 17 meeting of its budget and finance committee.

BOG Chairman Brad Wilson said that while he is unsure of what will take place at that meeting, nonresident tuition is less likely to receive the same treatment as in-state costs.

"I have not had any expressions of opposition (to nonresident increases)," he said. "It wouldn't surprise me if out-of-state (tuition) is ... approved in some amount at all the schools," he added.

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 4

Town to go ahead with building plan

BY STEPHANIE JORDAN

SENIOR WRITER

After an hourlong discussion Monday night, the Chapel Hill Town Council voted to allow its design consultants to move ahead with plans for a new town operations center.

"The most prudent action for the council is to move forward," said Town Manager Cal Horton.

"We would not get good bids if the council doesn't proceed with certainty."

The center, which will be located on Millhouse Road, is set to be the

home of Chapel Hill's public works and housing and transportation departments.

Some members of the council's budget review advisory committee had proposed delaying the project as a way to put off the financial impact of construction, estimated at \$44.1 million.

Much of the discussion centered on the fact that the town's budget situation is particularly tight this year — and will be made tighter

SEE CENTER, PAGE 4



Metal benches are just one of many examples of public art in Chapel Hill. Part of the new town operations center will be devoted to public art works.

DTH/BRANDON MAYNARD

INSIDE

SOUTHERN CULTURE

Indian clothing store at Carr Mill Mall brings a taste of Asia to the streets of downtown Carrboro



SPORTS

BACK IN THE SADDLE

As football team begins spring practice, senior is the likely front-runner at quarterback position

PAGE 11

WEATHER

TODAY Partly cloudy, H 46, L 26

WEDNESDAY Sunny, H 44, L 24

THURSDAY Sunny, H 43, L 23



Fraternity, University at impasse

UNC AND ALPHA IOTA OMEGA CAN'T REACH A COMPROMISE

BY KATHERINE EVANS

STAFF WRITER

It's back to the drawing board for lawyers involved in Alpha Iota Omega fraternity's ongoing lawsuit against the University.

Ideological differences between the two camps proved to be irreconcilable Monday, the deadline for both parties to submit a consent decree to clarify UNC's nondiscrimination policy.

UNC lawyers balked on amending the policy — a requirement for student organizations that members of the Christian fraternity refuse to sign — while AIO's lawyers demanded its revision.

"We were far apart in coming to an agreement," said Jordan Lorence, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, a religious-rights group defending the fraternity.

U.S. District Court Judge Frank Bullock Jr. said during the Feb. 16 hearing that if UNC and the fraternity could not come to a consensus, he would issue a ruling in the case. He said Monday that he would not comment on ongoing cases.

Experts said the two sides' inability to reach an agreement could bring about a messier outcome in the case. "I think generally on these issues, working them out before they get to court is much preferred," said Kermit Hall, a legal historian and expert in constitutional law.

In lieu of an agreement, each side sent Bullock its proposal for consensus and a letter explaining why a compromise could not be reached.

Although University lawyers and represen-

SEE AIO, PAGE 4

UNC IN COURT

Dec. 2003
UNC revokes AIO's status as an official student organization.

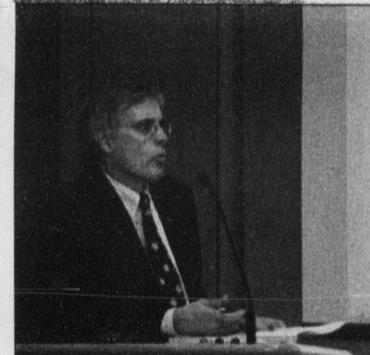
Aug. 25, 2004
The Alliance Defense Fund files suit against UNC, claiming its policies violate the First Amendment.

Oct. 25, 2004
UNC files a motion to dismiss the case, claiming student conduct rules do not infringe those rights.

ADF files a motion for a preliminary injunction that would in effect reinstate AIO's status.

Feb. 16, 2005
The two sides appear in a Greensboro courtroom and are told to hammer out a nondiscrimination policy they can agree on.

Feb. 28, 2005
Both sides submit letters explaining their failure to compromise.



DTH/WHITNEY SHEFFE

Chapel Hill Planning Director Roger Waldon speaks Monday night at Town Hall. After 21 years with the town, Waldon will step down June 1.

Waldon plans to resign post

Planning director to leave June 1

BY RYAN C. TUCK

CITY EDITOR

After seeing hundreds of developments go from permit applications to construction sites, Chapel Hill Planning Director Roger Waldon announced Monday that June 1 will mark the last day of his 21-year stint with the town.

"He has built an incredible legacy of not only confidence but respect," said Roger Perry, president of East West Partners Management Co. Inc., who has worked with Waldon on several developments including Meadowmont, off N.C. 54.

"He's fiercely defensive of the town's interests, and yet he's extraordinarily fair and outright about what you can expect."

After weighing his decision for some time, Waldon made the announcement at the planning department's weekly meeting.

"I've enjoyed my work with the town," Waldon said. "It's been thoroughly interesting and challenging. There was always something new to do."

Waldon's next position will be

that of a private planning consultant in the Chapel Hill office of Clarion Associates, a national planning consulting practice.

Because the planning department heads such integral town undertakings as examining land use and development applications and setting and regulating zoning standards, Waldon's departure will be felt first in Town Hall.

"He's been an important member of the staff," said Town Manager Cal Horton, who has worked with Waldon since 1989. "He's almost been to more (Town Council) meetings than I have."

Waldon was a permanent fixture at council meetings during his career, taking the almost-weekly role of advising the council on potential developments.

"I'm going to miss the daily interactions with people like Cal," Waldon said.

Horton said he will miss Waldon's familiar face around the office. "We're like the basketball players who can do passes behind

SEE WALDON, PAGE 4