

Council turns hopefuls away Groups discuss union rights for employees

BY DON CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

After a long and arduous quest for recognition, the South Asian student interest group Delta Sigma Iota was denied entrance to the Greek Alliance Council on Thursday night.

Despite its pitch for Greek recognition, the group failed to garner the two-thirds majority vote required to enter the council. In a vote of 5 nays and 4 yays, The Chi Alpha Omega fraternity representative who would have cast a vote left before the group made its decision.

Now, the group finds itself in what GAC President Greg Chang called "a state of limbo."

Although Delta Sigma Iota will maintain its status as a recognized student organization, the group cannot have formal rush or pledge new members.

It can continue to have interest meetings, but the University does not recognize it as a Greek organization. And by national chapter standards, the group will remain a colony and not a chapter of Delta Sigma Iota.

Chang said the council denied Delta Sigma Iota's petition for two reasons. First, he said, because of its status as a South Asian interest group, it separated itself from UNC's tight-knit Asian community — threatening the livelihood of the University's existing Asian-American organizations.

"They are going to have to convince the GAC constituency that they can coexist with the other groups," Chang said.

Also, some council members did not agree with how the group tried to join the Greek community.

According to the GAC constitution, groups seeking membership must meet with the Office of Greek Affairs and earn recognition as a student organization before boasting official Greek status.

"They didn't know they had to go through Greek Affairs, so they just showed up on campus wearing (their Greek) letters," Chang said.

The group apologized for the



Jason Matthews (left) and other members of Delta Sigma Iota, a South Asian interest group, make their case for recognition by the Greek Alliance Council on Thursday night. The GAC voted not to include the fraternity.

confusion and said it had tried hard enough to warrant a second chance.

"We have reprimanded ourselves," said Rajat Kumar, a member of Delta Sigma Iota. "And I believe we learned from our mistake."

Despite the apologies, some members still felt slighted.

The leader of the interest group, Ambarish Singh, said the group will do whatever it can to bring what he called an injustice to the attention of University officials.

"We worked extremely hard," Singh said. "It's nothing we're going to let go of easily."

Singh claimed the GAC's decision was self-interested and in violation of the council's anti-discrimination policy.

"We abide by the ideals of truth,

"They are going to have to convince the GAC constituency that they can coexist with the other groups."

GREG CHANG, GREEK ALLIANCE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

education, service and brotherhood," he said. "We excel at those, better than most Greek organizations."

He added that Delta Sigma Iota, through its unique focus, would

have offered otherwise uninterested students an opportunity to get involved in Greek life.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

CORRECTION

■ Due to editing errors, the name of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History was misspelled in a front-page March 3 photo and the March 2 article "Fusion group brings flavor."

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

BY STEPHANIE NEWTON
STAFF WRITER

After the close of this year's campus election season, solicitation of a different nature now defines the atmosphere surrounding Lenoir Dining Hall.

Members of Student Action with Workers are collaborating with two unions, Service Employees International and UNITE HERE, to bolster employee involvement.

"So far, there's been a lot of support for forming a union here," said Jillian Johnson, North Carolina student organizer for Service Workers United. "We serve to protect the workers through public relations."

During a meeting Wednesday night, SAW members reacted to a letter sent by Aramark Corp., UNC's food service provider, that urges employees to educate themselves about union participation.

"We feel that the letter handed out (Wednesday) was to further intimidate workers from joining a union," Johnson said. "The letter included some pretty blatant lies and anti-union sentiments."

In response to the letter, SAW members produced their own material that they say provides an accurate view of union participation.

On Thursday, Jonathan Pourzal, coordinator of SAW, said he was asked to stop distributing the organization's flier while inside Lenoir. A second attempt, made by another student, also was thwarted.

"Obviously, the management is aware of the campaign, and it scares them," Johnson said.

Some dining hall employees said they wish the topic of unions was more inviting, noting the potentially harmful nature of speaking out.

Michelle Crisp, a cashier who has worked with Carolina Dining Services since Aug. 1, 2001 and mother of an 11-month-old son whom she brings with her to work,

said she still has not reaped the benefits of her labor after four years of employment.

"I still don't make 8 dollars, and that's a shame," Crisp said, also noting her favor of union formation. "I feel that we should all get one. Everyone else has one."

Other employees commented on the fears that they say Aramark harbors about unions taking the spotlight.

"Aramark is scared. They're getting nervous," said Chris, an Aramark employee who works in Lenoir and who requested that his last name remain anonymous.

Cruz, another employee wishing to reveal only his first name, said he is worried about insurance, benefits and raises.

"People are trying to think, 'Where should we go from here?'" Cruz said.

Kate Moran, communications manager for Aramark, said employees are encouraged to talk directly to Aramark about their concerns, with no third-party involvement.

"In order to be successful, we try to maintain open communication with all employees," Moran said.

But she also said the company is willing to work with unions to collectively bargain for terms of employment such as wages and hours. But collective bargaining and the right to hold a contract with an employer is not legal in North Carolina — a law the Chapel Hill Town Council might request be repealed at its meeting with local legislators today.

"According to company policy, we recognize the legal right for employees to be represented or not represented by unions," Moran said. "We recognize that the right to choose goes across the board."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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presented by the Carolina Athletic Association

Come out to the pit today, Friday March 4th between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm to take part in the fun of Beat Duke Week.

We'll be pulling people from the audience for a hotdog eating contest at 11:00.
The first person to eat 15 hotdogs in the 10 minute allotment will receive a portable DVD player.

If hotdogs aren't your thing, pizza and Pepsi will be served in the pit starting at 12:00. Once you've grabbed a slice of pizza and sipped on some Pepsi, we invite you to stay for a performance at noon by the Clef Hangers, followed immediately by a pep rally led by men's basketball coach Roy Williams.

If you've ever wanted to test your lyrical skills and take a jab or two at Duke (minus profanity), then be in the pit at 1:00 for a peer judged rap contest. Participants may bring music and/or backup singers and will be given 3 minutes to rap - but the lyrics must contain references to Duke-UNC. **The winner receives two lower level tickets to the Duke-UNC game.**

So come out to the pit to cheer on your fellow Tar Heels and remember to sport your favorite Carolina blue shirt today and at the game!

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POLICE LOG

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ A larceny was reported Wednesday morning at the Abbey Court Apartments, at 501 Jones Ferry Road in Carrboro, police reports state.

According to reports, Jackie Laverne Davis, 37, also known as Brown Sugar, was arrested at UNC Hospitals at about 5 p.m. She was taken to Orange County jail to be held on a \$350 bond. She is scheduled to appear Tuesday in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ Two houses still under construction at 108 and 109 Springdale Way were reported broken into Tuesday morning, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, the perpetrator used a tool to try to pry open the screen of a rear window in one incident. In the other incident, the perpetrator used a piece of wood to break a basement window, reached inside and unlocked the window. Damage from both incidents totaled \$130, reports state.

■ A house was reported broken into at 5:07 a.m. Tuesday at 209 Sunset Drive, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, an unknown suspect entered by removing a side window. A \$60 DVD player and a \$5 pillowcase were stolen, reports state.

■ A Chapel Hill woman was

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