

**O**n the entrance of the Morehead Planetarium was a banner that read: "Don't Lock Me Out of UNC."

This banner, along with many other student placards, armbands and chants, contributed to the environment surrounding the protests against the tuition hike and this environment has been fervent since the beginning of the semester.

The main source for student activism has been the issue over the tuition increase. On Oct. 28, the Board of Trustees voted 9-3 on Oct. 28 to raise tuition \$1,500 for all students during the next five years and as a result, students gathered inside and outside of Morehead Planetarium to have their voices heard.

At the Oct. 28 rally, Michelle Barskile, a freshman from Garner, N.C. said, "Cost is one of the main reasons why I chose UNC. It's a prestigious university with a low cost. I'm just trying to show my support so it won't get passed."

According to the proponents of the measure, tuition needed to be raised to increase faculty salaries. Provost Richard Richardson said: "We must be competitive in terms of salary. We've talked the talk of the greatest public university in the nation, now we must be prepared to walk the walk."

After the vote, Erica Smiley, a sophomore and Rules and Judiciary chair of Student Congress, said that students had been kept out of the political process and questioned as to "why our university was turning back over 200 years of tradition."

**E**arlier in the semester, another group, the newly formed Students Seeking Historical Truth (SSHT) shocked the campus. Their aim was to educate the students in a provocative way about the racist past of the University. They decorated Saunders Hall with signs that read KKK. Murphey Hall was deemed "Hitler Hall" and a sign that read "David Duke KKK" was placed on Steele Building.

The founder of the group, Kristi Booker, a sophomore, told the Daily Tar Heel on Oct. 7, "We put up

posters that told the truth of what Saunders was." Eboni Staton, a member of SSHT also told the DTH, "We created our own memorial to show what Saunders was: a murderer, a slave owner and the emperor of the KKK."

Their signs, however, were later removed by University police who called the actions of SSHT vandalism. In response to that, Staton told DTH reporters, "We wanted the University to see what Saunders really looked like, so we created our own plaque, but the University didn't want you to see that."

Other campus activists have taken the podium to fight for what they want. Protestors against the death penalty, anti-sweatshop demonstrators and those dissatisfied with University actions have all found their place in the Pit.

This reality has reinforced the idea that student activism, therefore, is an important and needed fact of university life here at UNC-CH. Concern over important issues have galvanized the student body; and that has forced them to realize that as united, they will never be defeated.

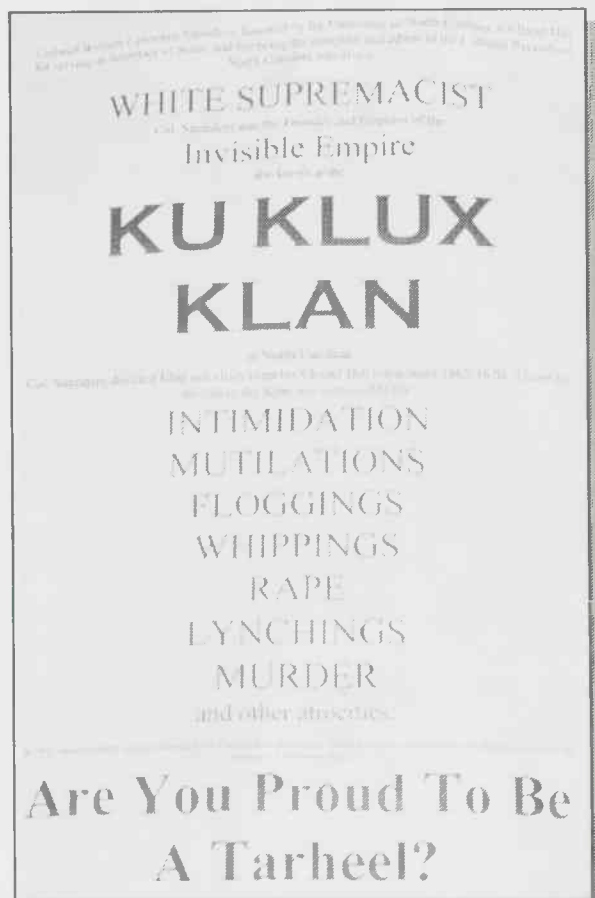


Photo by Courtney McSwain

**Previous page** (clockwise from top left): Student Body President Nic Heinke speaks on behalf of the students; Bill McCoy and Anne Cates sit among the Board of Trustees in deciding on the tuition increase; faculty and students come together to persuade the Board of Trustees to not raise tuition.