

Established in 1893 100th year of editorial freedom

The Daily Tar Heel

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The Tar Heel,

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, FEBRUARY 23, 1893.

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Charles Bankerville, Manager.
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s a native of Chapel Hill, it's difficult for me to imagine this village without The Daily Tar Heel. Today marks her centennial—100 years of editorial freedom center-

THE LEGISLATIVE COM-MITTEE VISIT THE UNIVERSITY.

ing on the nation's oldest and best public university. This anniversary allows us to pause from our frenetic daily pace and look back at a century of unparalleled service to the community.

The DTH's fascinating history is seasoned by the familiar names that have graced her staff boxes — Thomas Wolfe, Charles Kuralt, Jonathan Yardley, Ed Yoder, Jeff MacNelly, Curry Kirkpatrick, and the list goes on and on. But the purpose of this celebration is

not simply to pat ourselves on the back for our association with this fraternity of success. And it certainly isn't intended to celebrate just the 100th year. Rather, we want to salute those who have dedicated themselves to this institution of higher journalism learning every year and each decade.

From the cramped, pseudo offices of founding editor Charles Baskerville to the Alumni Building to the basement of Graham Memorial and finally to the Student Union, thousands of men and women have experienced a kind of second puberty in the DTH's news rooms. Ironically, our alumni list totalled 1,993 names, although we're confident that hundreds more have the honor of listing the DTH on their curriculum vitae.

Many former staff members, who punched out their stories for the DTH on manual Royal typewriters or even with ink pens, would be amazed to see how we've changed.

plies that the opinions stated underneath are weighty and should be re-

On this page great wars are fought, but fought quickly; expansive monu-

forgotten.
The ancients constructed architecture ancients constructed architecture and a second point and a second point architecture.

extravagant temples, with their endless discussions and debates, the common folk waited. Their marketplace, boisterous and busy, smokey and filthy, excluded the simply average from their philosopher-kings and limited their discourse to gossip and shouting, to ru-mors and curses.

The page you are reading, a vibrant Carolina institution 100 years old to-day, is a solution to the familiar problem of bridging the marketplace to the temple, of mixing highbrow with low brow. The opinion page, here and else-

day's ideas and opinions.

The unsigned staff editorials, collectively conceived but individually con-

Tar Heel still serves entire UNC community PCs and 12 A p p l e Macintoshes to

produce a paper five days per week, and the DTH indeed has Peter entered the Wallsten modern era of newspaper pro-Editor

duction But haven't lost the DTH's traditional function of serving the entire community primarily including students but with constant attention to issues of faculty, staff and Chapel Hill-Carrboro area residents. We continue to keep a close watch on student government and on the University administration.
The DTH remains on the forefront of

every campus issue, from race relations to tenure controversies. We aim to shape the future of the community and often look to past editors for example.

Often I'm envious of folks like

Jonathan Yardley who worked for the paper during an era that many people consider the most fascinating in this country's history. In his column, he writes about covering the 1960 presidential race and watching Terry Sanford's historic run for governor.

Perhaps in 20 years, my fellow staff members and I will reminisce about covering and shaping the fight for a free-standing black cultural center at LINC. , observing the watershed 1992 presidential election as journalists and

being a part of the University's 200th birthday. While covering these issues and af-

fecting the community's future, we sometimes forget that we work for a student newspaper. In fact, most of our readers tend to forget that as well, as they hold us to a high professional standard. We're proud of that, and we do consider ourselves to be on par (if not better than) the other area newspapers

battling for readership.

We do recognize, however, that our primary reason for working at the DTH is for an education. Like many others, I chose not to major in journalism be-cause I knew such classes would pale in comparison to the education I've received here. The J-school serves an important function, but it simply is impossible to get this type of hands-on experience anywhere else on campus.

It's ironic that while this year I've

skipped more classes than almost any other student (except for many of my co-workers), I also probably have learned more than anyone else. The DTH and its alumni are teachers

to all generations that pass through the University, especially those with the opportunity to stand on the shoulders of this century-old giant. In April, my term as editor ends, and I'll leave the DTH for good. No doubt, that will be a tough

But one aspect of our relationship will make it easier — I know she'll never leave me.

Peter Wallsten is a political science major from Chapel Hill.

Edit page pillar survives a century of battles On The Daily Tar Heel's opinion page, readers' thoughts for an instant make room for the ideas and words of others and then return quickly unguestion and panalyze on this control of the page. The columnist is immediately categorized not only by name, but by style, outlook, perceived ideological affiliation and previous published opinions.

quickly to question and analyze. On this page there is freedom to ask, to criticize, to explore and to suggest. Look carefully at this page. The character of its content has changed little in 100 years.

ments of words crumble as quickly as they are built. With the immediacy of a gaze distracted, tomorrow's DTH will inevitably invite fresh sorties and new battle plans. Yesterday's debates are

tural wonders to house their great philosophers and thinkers, to confine the debate of the day behind ionian columns and to dignify it with carved stone.

Deliberately downhill from these

where, is an equating civil institution; the currency it distributes evenly are the

structed, represent the opinion of the editorial board on the "important" is-

The masthead printed above the staff

Eric garded sepa-rately from the Wagner rest of the page. The beauty of Mind's Eye

opinion page, however, is that the importance conferred on its staff editorials is an accepted illusion, a journalistic sleight-of-hand performed with a knowing wink. The staff editorials may appear important, sitting there on their throne, but everyone knows that the most interesting (and popular) segment of the paper are its letters to the editor.

Angry and condemning, quick to fault, sharp-tounged and witty, the letters to the editor are never boring.

Although they are occasionally mass-produced by special interests and extremists, letters to the editor best identify the direction the opinion page is going and the location of its soul. The private party may continue inside the temple, but the hip bash has moved to the marketplace. No invitations are needed, but you had better show up to

A simple enough dichotomy between the elevated editorials and the voice of the people. But what should we make of

the columnists, yours truly included?

Because the columnist's name, and occasionally face, are published with his opinion, readers will inevitably personalize their reactions to the column more so than to the anonymous staff editorials or the occasional letter writer.

tion and previous published opinions.
The Daily Tar Heel's staff editorials
may be generally labeled conservative may be generally labeled conservative or liberal (strictly liberal, to be fair). But I have shared this space with an angry gay man, an angry feminist woman, an angry black man, an angry black woman and an angry humorist. For my part, I have been labeled as an insensitive rightwing Jew who is too pro-Israel and too pro-Gay. Well, whatever.

My first column on this page was

My first column on this page was written as an angry response to a misin-formed and misargued staff editorial. I recognize well the passion and excitement that the printed word can create, even if unintentionally.

I now regularly receive the same letters that I used to drop in the green box outside the DTH office. I am approached by readers around campus and town, and I enjoy talking with them friendly or not - about the latest

Although (or perhaps because) the majority of the letters and comments I receive are strongly opposed to my opin-ions, I am happy to report that as the DTH's opinion page enters its second century, public discourse at Carolina is

vibrant and healthy.

The path between the temple and the marketplace is well-marked and easily traveled as it passes through Chapel Hill. There must be thousands of editorialists, columnists and letter writers in its first century. Let us walk along the path with all of them. Eagerly, anxiously into the next century.

Eric Wagner is a senior political science major from Jerusalem.

Celebrating a century

It's Daily Tar Heel Day in North Carolina

Gov. Jim Hunt recently proclaimed this DTH day to honor our 100th birthday, which we celebrate today.

It's not often that we get a chance to honor this institution, which has served the students and the University community since Feb. 23, 1893, when the first edition of The Tar Heel hit the campus.

From Charles Baskerville, the paper's first editor, to Thomas Wolfe to Jonathan Yardley to Edwin Yoder, today's crew of laborers keeps the tradition alive.

But the DTH has come a long way from its humble beginnings as a weekly rag operated by the University Athletic Association. Today, with a staff of more than 125 students, the paper is a totally independent, not-for-profit service to the community. It's a laboratory of journalism where students call the shots and make all the editorial decisions. It is on this day that we honor the thousands of

people who have made the DTH, Chapel Hill's oldest newspaper, such a crucial element of life in the University community.

We honor those people and the newspaper's origi-

nal seven founders with today's paper, with a front page modeled after what appeared on the front of the original 10" x 14 1/4" paper.

As a culmination of 100 solid years of editorial

freedom, we've used today's front page to hearken

back to the 19th century, back to the days of handwritten stories and candle-lit offices.

The earliest editors sat in an upstairs storeroom of a Rosemary Street house, hunched over their desks armed with pen and ink.

Now, thanks to the innovation of 1929 editor Walter Spearman, we produce a daily newspaper with 20th-century technology that would amaze the founding seven

So, nearly 40,000 days after The Tar Heel's debut at UNC, we salute the founders. But the celebration doesn't end with today's pa-

We've also published a special edition commemorating the DTH's centennial. Titled "100th Anniverthis 22-page collector's item offers original works detailing the paper's colorful history. In addition, it gives a decade-by-decade glimpse back to

The Tar Heel. The special edition is available for \$3 at the DTH offices, Bull's Head Bookshop and The Intimate Bookshop.

important stories and events covered in the pages of

So it's not every day we get to celebrate a centennial, and it's not all the time we get to pat the DTH on the back

But this is the time to pause and recognize those who made it happen for the South's oldest college daily and the nation's best student-run newspaper.

Daily Tar Heel was true birthplace of many

hapel Hill, I wrote a few years ago, is where my real life began.

I could as easily, and as accurately, have written: The Daily Tar Heel is where my real life began. From the fall of 1957, when I wrote my first words for this newspaper, until the late winter of 1961, when my year as its editor ended, the DTH was the center of my world, the place where I discovered what I wanted to do with my life and where I got my first lessons in how to do

When I came to the DTH more than 35 years ago I, was an 18-year-old boy who had displayed a bit of ability with words but hadn't a clue about what to do with it.

The DTH showed me.

In class I was usually inattentive and impatient — I majored in English, not journalism — but at the DTH I took my instruction avidly and gratefully. I learned not by studying but by doing; I thus received what I still regard as a proper journalistic education, and the DTH was my teacher.
Today's DTH staffers and Carolina

students can scarcely imagine what the paper was like in my day. Though it looked much the same as it

does now, it was scrawny both in size and in staff. Journalism had yet to become a fashionable career; for most of the three and a half years I worked on the Tar Heel it was put out by a minus-cule editorial staff of perhaps a dozen, and any warm body that found its way to the offices on the second floor of Graham Memorial was quickly pressed

The result was that those of us who worked there were tight, almost clannish. We got to the office in late after noon, worked into the evening, presided over typesetting and printing, and ended up drinking beer at a ratty hole in the wall called Harry's; the Four Corners now occupies its space, and I do not regard the substitution as an improve-

We were an odd mixture of male and female, Southerner and Yankee, liberal and conservative; probably we were the

hippies of our day, though we looked entirely exceptional.
Our timing exquisite. We Jonathan

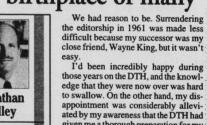
put out The Tar Heel during the time when John Yardley Fitzgerald Kennedy was running for Editor 1960-61 running

Martin Luther King Jr. was forcing America to confront its conscience. I've since had many second thoughts and reservations about President Kennedy, but covering the 1960 presidential race - it was also Terry Sanford's race for the governorship — was a dream. A vast generational change was taking place in America, not just in politics but everywhere, and the excitement on this campus and in Chapel Hill was posi-

The really important change of course was being engineered by King. Chapel Hill was still a very segregated place in those days, a condition that few of us had thought very clearly about before King came along. I was initially a member of the complacent majority, at as the sit-ins began in Greensboro and protests spread elsewhere, my con-sciousness certainly was raised in a

By the time I assumed the editorship in March 1960, I was eager to continue the tradition of outspokenness on civil rights that the DTH had enjoyed for years. To be sure it was easier to embrace that cause in Chapel Hill than in most other places in the state, but it wasn't a piece of cake.

The town's business community vigorously resisted change, and in the nearby countryside, opposition was nasty, with clear potential for violence. I don't pretend that during my year the DTH was a paragon of either eloquence or courage, but we did speak out, we did take some risks, and we were proud of what we did.



given me a thorough preparation for my chosen career; a good job awaited me upon graduation three months later, and I felt that I was ready for it.

What I didn't know then was how much I still had to learn. After a year as editor, I imagined that one day I would be editor of a "real" newspaper. I didn't know then how unsuited I was both

temperamentally and intellectually for administrative work. The idea of reviewing books, much less writing them, had never crossed my mind, and it would be years before this turn in my career would present itself to

But however much uncertainty lay ahead, this much was indelibly clear: Without The Daily Tar Heel, I never would have begun

Jonathan Yardley is book critic and a columnist for the Washington Post. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Criti-cism in 1981. His fourth book, "States of Mind: A Personal Journey Through the Mid-Atlantic," will be published next month.

Column policy

The DTH welcomes guest column submissions from our readers. Interested writers should contact Alan Martin at 962-0245.

Please follow these guidelines when submitting columns:

Limit column length to 800

All columns should be signed and typed double-spaced.

Please include your class, major, hometown and phone number.

The Daily Tar Heel

ral manager; Bob Bates, advertising director; Leslie Humphrey, cla

nt executives. roduction: Bill Leslie, manager/system administrator; Stephanie Brodsky, assistant.

nt editors: Leah Campbell and Kelly Ryan, city: Dana Pope, editorial page; Amy Seeley, features; Erin Lyon, layout; Jayson Singe, photo; John C. Manuel, Arm y and Carter Toole, sports: Andrea Jones and Stephanie Greer, state and national: Thanassis Cambanis, Marty Minchin and Jennifer Talhelm, university.

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