

The Daily Tar Heel

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Not Just a Chance to Skip Class

Students! You've heard about him, you've read about him and you've seen his pictures. Now is your chance to meet him in the flesh. For only the eighth time in UNC's 202-year history, a new chancellor is being sworn in.

Chancellor Michael Hooker will be inducted at University Day celebrations on Thursday at 11 a.m. in Polk Place in front of an estimated 4,000 people. Like the Bicentennial Celebration two years ago, this year's University Day is not only a chance to get out of a couple of classes, but to show your interest in campus affairs.

It is a day when we as a body can put aside our recent differences of opinion on the tuition increases and the Black Cultural Center, and unify as the nation's first public university. We have a

chance to contribute to history as we stress the importance of education in today's increasingly competitive society.

University Day attracts many big names, including the governor and treasurer of the state of North Carolina. This is your chance to rub elbows with such leaders as they gather in front of South Building between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Hooker is so excited that he has invited all students, staff and faculty to his induction. Afterward, there will be a student reception in the Pit at 2:30 p.m. for him and his wife, Carmen.

Come on Thursday to discuss your concerns, sing your praises and show the faculty and staff that you are not just a number, but a part of the University community.

Worthy Message, Exclusive Method

On Monday, millions of African-American men are expected to march in Washington, D.C., as a pledge to return to their roles as family and community sustainers and providers.

Not to discount the value of the Million Man March — it is a good way to instill hope into African-American men and make them more conscious of their responsibilities and influence — but one does have to wonder what kind of message it sends to exclude African-American women and people of other ethnicities. Also, the conservative agenda of the march, the promotion of family values, excludes many African Americans such as homosexuals and liberals.

Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan envisioned the march, and some Baptist groups will not participate for religious reasons. The national NAACP did not endorse the event because of its past problems with the march's national director, former NAACP President Ben Chavis.

Despite its exclusivity and the politicking involved, the Million Man March promises to be a spiritual, political and economic rebirth. Not only will it counteract the negative image of

African-American men, but it encourages African-American men to play a greater role in caring for their families and in the political arena. In a time when affirmative action and voting rights are threatened, it is extremely important that African Americans make their voices heard.

Organizers are calling for a boycott of all but black-owned businesses on Monday as a symbol of the economic force of African Americans. African Americans spend \$433 billion annually in disposable income, and though some critics claim a boycott sends a message of prejudice against whites, it puts more bite into the argument that all Americans need to recognize the economic power African Americans possess.

The event is, in some ways, reminiscent of the march led by Martin Luther King Jr. in 1965. It is a time for reflection on how much needs to be done and how much can be done when people are educated and united rather than divided and in turmoil. The march is a worthy cause, but as there is strength in unity, organizers and participants are only weakening their cause by excluding certain groups.



For Greens, Top Priority Is Protecting Environment

Editor's Note: The author is the Carboro spokeswoman for the Orange County Greens.

TO THE EDITOR:

For the record, I'd like your readers to know that the Green Party is dedicated to protecting the environment. A story in last Wednesday's paper (Greens Endorse in Carboro) quoted me as saying, "We chose candidates who encourage developmental progress, but we also take the environment into account."

The Greens are careful to support candidates whose approach to development is ecologically viable and enhances the community.

Robin Magee
CARRBORO

Political Sound Bite Not Just Contemporary Phenomenon

TO THE EDITOR:

The Johnston Scholars' Issues Forum debate between USA Today columnist Tony Snow and Professor Chuck Stone on the issue of selling political policy during a campaign made me laugh and it made me think — both enjoyable activities. Tony Snow's admonition that the reason politicians don't have longer sound bites is "because they are boring and don't say anything," is amusing partly because it rings true. But Professor Stone's call to action ("If the sound bite trend ... is going to change, there must be a political revolution by the public.") was more thought-provoking.

This debate reminds me of something columnist George Will said to the Kenan-Flagler Business School during his Weatherspoon Distinguished Scholar Address on Sept. 12, when he remarked on the length of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. ("Two minutes and 45 seconds is a lifetime ... If Lincoln were to give that speech today he would have to say: 'Read my lips — no slaves!'"). The fact is, by 1863 oratory standards, Lincoln's speech was the quintessential sound bite. Edward Everett's dreary and forgettable oration at Gettysburg that day lasted more than two hours.

Peter Chiaramonte
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
BUSINESS

Anti-Discrimination Efforts Equal, Not 'Special,' Rights

TO THE EDITOR:

The media, reporting that the Supreme Court is hearing arguments about the constitutionality of Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2, has repeatedly used the term "gay rights." This has the effect of playing up the false notion that gays and lesbians are asking for "special rights."

In reality, any ordinance which outlaws discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation — by its very drafting that way — provides protection for heterosexuals and homosexuals equally. It does not just protect gay people.

I understand why the media uses such a short-cut phrase as "gay rights," because the question of equal standing for gay people is the crux of the political dispute. There is rarely a need to assure the sexual orientation rights of heterosexuals. However, there have been such cases. Not long ago I read about a man who wanted to turn the bar he owned into a gay bar, so he fired the heterosexual employees to replace them with gay ones, and promptly ran afoul of an ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Those who say that protection from discrimination in jobs, housing, public accommodations, etc., is a "special right" that can be granted by a heterosexual — or white, or Christian, or whatever — majority are wrong. Equal opportunity is not a special right — it is a fundamental right. There is no equality without equal opportunity.

William Stosine
INTERNET READER
IOWA CITY, IOWA

Ironic, Greedy DTH Editorial Really Missed the U-Bus

TO THE EDITOR:

I think the editorial "When 'Free' Isn't Really" that appeared in the Sept. 28 edition of the DTH is terribly ironic especially in the face of the tuition hike debate. It is just such an attitude as this that brought about the tuition increase which was so hotly debated so recently. Taxpay-



READERS' FORUM

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticism. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 words and must be typed, double-spaced, dated and signed by no more than two people. Students should include their year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff should include their title, department and phone number. The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and vulgarity. Bring letters to the DTH office at Suite 104, Carolina Union, mail them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 or e-mail forum to dth@unc.edu.

ers of North Carolina are asking themselves the same question: Why should I pay for something that doesn't directly benefit me?

And, of course, those in the legislature have heard their constituents, and thus have moved the burden of expense onto those who directly benefit from the University. But are those who directly benefit from it as capable of affording it? What would be the individual burden upon each taxpayer if the legislature had provided the money for faculty raises and library books? Much less than \$400 per person, I can guarantee you that. Did you really think that UNC was one of the best bargains in the nation for free?

And, contrary to the editorial, don't you see the benefit of a free U-bus, even if only used occasionally to get to the other side of campus, and not having to scrounge for spare change? (Besides if you ride the bus five times, you are already in the black.) And, likewise, taxpayers of North Carolina, don't you see the benefit to the economy and businesses in this state of affordable education, even if not a direct benefit.

Now, would you really be so greedy as to withhold spare change from your fellow classmates so that they cannot easily, affordably traverse the campus in a timely, safe and comfortable mode?

Karen Leanza
GRADUATE STUDENT
CHEMISTRY

Robert Roskind
CHAPEL HILL

Bring Out Your Sleeping Bags To Help Fight Homelessness

Editor's Note: The author is the president of the Mu Zeta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

TO THE EDITOR:

On behalf of the Mu Zeta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. I would like to announce the Seventh Annual Morrison Sleepout for the Homeless. It will take place Friday between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. on the front lawn of Morrison Residence Hall.

The event has enjoyed great success over the past six years and we expect this tradition to continue. The sleepout raises \$1,000 in donations which is given to the IFC shelter in Chapel Hill. The brothers work diligently for weeks prior to the event to raise these funds.

Despite the work of the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha, the sleepout is not exclusive to members of my fraternity. In fact, we encourage support from any and every student who feels compelled to address the homeless situation in Chapel Hill as well as in America. We invite and encourage everyone to attend. All that is required is dedication and a sleeping bag. We sincerely hope that the campus community will assist us in our efforts. We hope to see you on Morrison lawn.

Mark Lee
SENIOR

Editor's Note

Does it sometimes seem like no one is paying any attention to you?

If you have sent a letter to the editor via e-mail, we have not forgotten you, we have just had a difficult time retrieving the messages. While we are still checking our e-mail whenever Isis is not too busy, the best way to ensure your comments are printed as quickly as possible is to send them to The Daily Tar Heel on an old-fashioned piece of paper. The office is in Suite 104 of the Student Union and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. When the office is closed, letters can be dropped in the box just outside the office. Thanks for your patience and keep up the dialogue.

Thad Woody
SENIOR

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THE DAILY TAR HEEL

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