

# Panel Hosts Racial Preferences Discussion

The discussion began with a summary of the legal role that race historically played in college admissions.

By RUTHIE WARSHENBROT  
Staff Writer

A panel held Thursday night as part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of racial integration at UNC sparked discussion about racial preferences in admission policies at the University.

Senior Lindsay Reed, who is in

charge of special events at the Campus Y, organized the event.

Reed said she made this a part of the celebration of racial integration in honor of students who wanted to apply to UNC 50 years ago but could not. "I have so much empathy and respect for these students that were willing to challenge something unjust," Reed said.

About 35 students attended the discussion, which was led by the two-member panel. Professor John Boger from the School of Law and Herb Davis, associate director of undergraduate admissions, were the panelists for the event.

Boger began the discussion with a summary of the historical and legal

aspects of racial preference in college admission. He spoke of affirmative action cases in the past and said he thinks racial and cultural diversity help build a student body.

"When you're selecting a class, you're building a society," Boger said.

Davis said UNC's mission statement makes recommendations about things a campus should do when selecting a freshman class.

He said UNC admissions looks at students as individuals and does not just rely on test scores and extracurricular activities.

Davis explained that each student is reviewed individually in 18 to 25 areas, including courses, grades, extracurricular activities, leadership, public service and background.

Davis said the University does not use affirmative action, but he said many students are admitted into UNC for reasons such as being athletes, children of alumni and in-state residents.

Admissions counselor Carol Ben-Davies said affirmative action can be demeaning to minority students.

"All you students are here because you're supposed to be here," she said. She said graduation rates for minority students match up with graduation rates for the whole class.

"It hurts too bad to hear that minority students think they are here for their race," Ben-Davies said while crying.

"I just hope that people will take something back to their environment where people really think that."

But sophomore Tre Arhagba said he refuses to tell himself that he does not belong at UNC, regardless of his race.

"I don't think I allow affirmative action to be a crutch, but I'd be lying if I said in this day and age, it's not necessary," he said. "We've earned our places at this University."

Davis said UNC is different from schools that use formulas — based on criteria such as test scores and class ranks — to give value to admissions characteristics.

Instead, he said applicants are looked at individually and in terms of the quality of their high schools. "You compete within your environment."

Freshman Phabienne Parker said she thought the panel was interesting. "As far as affirmative action in colleges, I think it is not necessary," she said. "Some students may need it but I believe black students could get in without it."

Reed said she learned from the panelists. "These are two very distinguished figures who know their areas of the University," she said. "Also, hearing UNC's criteria for admitting students from Herb Davis dispelled some myths. "I hope students tell other people about what they learned tonight."

The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

## REDISTRICTING

From Page 3

course he's been running," he said.

But Beyle said the issue of redistricting is far from over. The plan must be approved by the U.S. Justice Department before it goes into effect.

He said a lawsuit could lose the state's 13th District congressional seat.

Utah sued the U.S. Census Bureau, claiming North Carolina unjustly gained one of its congressional seats based on 2001 Census results. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the suit last week, but Utah is considering other legal challenges. Beyle said, "If Utah wins, all our districts have got to be redrawn."

The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

## Curious about a career in consulting?

The Kenan-Flagler Business School invites students of all majors to apply to participate in **Undergraduate Consulting Day**

This program will allow students to spend the day with consultants from around the country and learn about career options in this field. This is great preparation for JUNIORS who are looking for internships and who will participate in on campus recruiting next fall. For more information and applications go to our website at <http://intranet.kenanflagler.unc.edu/events/consultingday/index.html>. Applications are also available at the BSBA Program Office, 3122 McColl, or University Career Services, Nash Hall. Completed applications are due by Monday, Dec. 17, 2001 to the BSBA Program Office. Questions? Contact Lora Wical at [wical@bschool.unc.edu](mailto:wical@bschool.unc.edu)

Sponsored by Accenture  
Friday, Jan 25, 2002  
9am-3pm, McColl Building

## EIGHT

From Page 3

of Eight refused to vote for a tax increase plan that was supported by most House Democrats.

After about a month of closed-door negotiations, the Democrats finally managed to appease members of the group and gather enough votes to pass the tax package.

Guillory said members of the group opposed the tax increase in order to benefit their constituents and ensure their own political success in the future.

"The reason they opposed the 1 percent increase in sales tax was to make black majority districts safer for black representatives," Guillory said.

At the time, members of the group argued that they did not want a tax increase that would be financially damaging for their constituents.

Similarly, several members of the group refused to vote for a House redistricting plan supported by House Democrats because they said the plan did not include enough districts with a black voter majority.

After more than a week of negotiations, the Democratic leadership once again had to redraw its plans to appease members of the group.

Guillory said some Democrats have tired of the Group of Eight's antics.

"Internally, within the legislature, other Democrats are annoyed," he said. "But voters expect a certain amount of in-fighting within the legislature. It hardly ever ripples out."

Fitch has expressed contempt in the past for those who criticize the group's work.

"I think it is unfounded to criticize a group of people for trying to do what is right," he said.

Thad Beyle, a UNC political science professor, said dissension within a political party is not uncommon and this group is not the first of its kind.

"It's happened before, especially in 1989, when some Democrats broke away from the Democratic caucus and joined the Republican party," he said.

That coalition was successful and toppled powerful House Speaker Liston Ramsey.

But Guillory said the situation this session is unique because party dissension normally increases when the majority party far outweighs the minority.

"When the legislature was majority Democratic, there were various factions within the Democratic party," he said. "When two parties in the House are closely arrayed, the impulse for party

discipline is stronger."

Guillory said the group has established the power that it needs to be recognized but that its ideas should not be viewed as in agreement with those of the rest of the Democrats.

"They have power within the House," Guillory said. "They have the ability to sway consideration on issues. But they have not articulated a united political philosophy, no ideological motive."

Although members of the Group of Eight sometimes dissent from the rest of the Democratic party, Beyle said their actions have good intentions.

"There's no political vengeance," Beyle said. "It's just good, raw politics."

Guillory said the group is also selective with the bills it chooses to oppose rather than consistently opposing Democratic leadership.

"The group only forms when there is an issue that they want to address," Guillory said.

"It is uncommon to have a small group find themselves at the fulcrum of House activity."

But Fitch said that in the end, his loyalty falls to the people he represents over the group, and the other members of the group feel the same way.

"My obligation is to the people who sent me here. It happens to be that the eight of us have a common purpose," Fitch said.

"We're just trying to do what's right for those we represent."

Beyle said the separation of the group from the Democrats will not affect party control of the state House, which the Democrats controlled for most of the 20th century.

"I don't think the Democrats will turn against them, because they are trying to maintain the Democratic caucus, and so they are trying to go along the best they can," he said.

Beyle also said the political future of the group is stable.

"(There are) 12 districts that are predominantly black, and there are six more districts that are made up of over 40 percent blacks," he said. "So, unless their districts change dramatically or if they decide to run for higher office, like Dan Blue is doing, they will surely be re-elected."

The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

## SESSION LIMITS

From Page 3

"Long sessions are pretty much an aberration (in North Carolina)," Hackney said.

"We have not, as a rule, had unusually long sessions. Generally, sessions end in July and August, and we have had only one other session that went past this period."

Hackney said support for the bill was not divided along party lines.

He said many legislators expressed concern that the bill gives too much power to the presiding officer of either house.

But Sen. David Hoyle, D-Gaston, said NCCBI's support might bring attention to the bill and make a vote more likely.

NCCBI supported the \$3.1 billion higher education bond referendum last year by funding media advertisements and building legislative support.

The bond passed overwhelmingly, with more than 70 percent of voters endorsing it.

UNC received about \$500 million for capital projects under the bond referendum.

Hoyle, who has introduced other bills calling for a constitutional amendment to limit session length, said NCCBI's support turn this bill into a "burning issue."

"Now they are going to push it and put heat on some people," Hoyle said.

He said the bills he introduced earlier, which were passed in the Senate, were not considered in the House.

"In the past we did not even get a (vote), but I think we'll get it now," he said.

"If we are going to get this bill going, it's going to be through the efforts of the NCCBI."

But Ferrel Guillory, director of UNC's Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life, said most states have some kind of session limit, and long sessions make it more difficult for people with jobs to serve in the legislature.

Guillory said the real issue in the next couple of years should be organizing sessions so that those who have careers and families can continue to serve.

He added that while this year's state legislative session has been unusually long, the recent trend has been for sessions to lengthen over time.

Guillory said several factors have caused legislative sessions to last longer, including a two-party system with a fragile majority that has difficulty coming to a consensus.

Guillory said he thinks the bill limiting session lengths might have trouble passing because it places more power with the governor.

"It's going to be very difficult for the bill to pass this House."

The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

**Chapel Hill**  
933-3003  
Village Plaza  
(next to Wellspring)

**Carrboro**  
933-5544  
118 E. Main St.  
(across from Weaver St. Market)

**Durham**  
286-7262  
706 9th St.  
(next to Francesca's)

**\$5 off**  
any pair of Doc Martens  
Expires 12-21-2001  
Limit 1 per customer

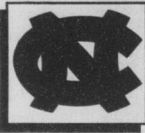
Doc Martens

men's & women's

all styles  
\$59.95

Look Out

a different kind of OUTLET STORE



TONIGHT

**NCAA Women's Soccer Quarterfinals**

**North Carolina vs. Penn State**

7pm at Fetzer Field

Admission: \$7 adults, \$3 students/seniors, \$1 children 5 & under

SUNDAY

**NCAA Men's Soccer 3rd Round**

**North Carolina vs. American University**

1pm at Fetzer Field

Admission: \$10 adults, \$5 students/seniors



**Hardee's SPORTS SHORTS**

**NC SPORTS BAR**

Voted "BEST SPORTS BAR IN THE TRIANGLE"

Spectator Magazine - November 2001

Chapel Hill's Original & Best Sports Bar  
with 25 Satellite Receivers & 5 Big Screens

T.V. Schedule for December 1, 2001

- 11:00 FB: Army vs. Navy  
FB: Michigan State vs. Missouri
- 12:00 FB: Penn State vs. Virginia  
BB: Stanford vs. Texas
- 12:30 FB: Vanderbilt vs. Ole Miss
- 1:00 FB: Miami vs. Virginia Tech
- 2:00 BB: St. John's vs. Fordham
- 2:30 BB: NC State vs. U Mass  
BB: Notre Dame vs. DePaul  
BB: Boston College vs. Michigan  
BB: Kansas vs. Arizona
- 3:30 FB: Georgia Tech vs. Florida State
- 4:30 FB: Tennessee vs. Florida  
FB: Oregon vs. Oregon State
- 5:00 BB: Texas Tech vs. TCU  
BB: Colorado vs. Georgia  
BB: Virginia vs. Virginia Tech
- 7:00 FB: Auburn vs. LSU
- 7:45 FB: Auburn vs. LSU
- 8:00 FB: Colorado vs. Texas  
FB: BYU vs. Mississippi State

**Daily Specials**

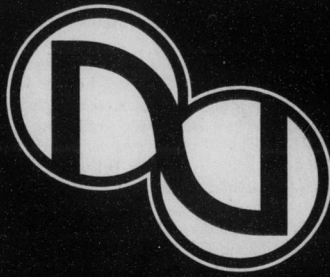
- Hotdogs \$1 every day**
- Monday** \$1 PBR cans  
\$2.25 Vodka & Tonic
- Tuesday** \$1.50 Natural Bottles  
\$2.25 Rum & Coke
- Wednesday** \$1.25 High Life Bottles  
\$2.25 Gin & Tonic
- Thursday** Doubles a Dollar More  
\$1.25 MGD Bottles

All ABC Permits

Every NFL Game  
Shown Every  
Sunday!



504 W. FRANKLIN STREET • CHAPEL HILL • 919-929-6978



**NV ANNOUNCES**  
ITS **GRAND OPENING**  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1ST ...

... AND THE FIRST ANNUAL  
**NV MASQUERADE BALL**  
MONDAY, NEW YEAR'S EVE

136 EAST ROSEMARY STREET (BANK OF AMERICA BUILDING)  
CHAPEL HILL NORTH CAROLINA  
919.960.0070

MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

[WWW.VIRTUALNV.COM](http://WWW.VIRTUALNV.COM)