## Writers' group is critical mass

By MaRk matrox
sam
shmer
 Paul Thompson, leader of the UNC The group, which has been meeting once a week for about five years, is an
informal forum for critique of short stories and novels writuen by members.
Orignally organized by Max Steele of the Engish department, he heroup's out a college degree as well as those with Ph.D. s. in Engish. "It (the group) gives me a chance to
ty out things," said two-vear member try out things," said two-year member
Frances Hess, "and get immediate Heedoacs, a personnel assistant in South
Huilding, said the criticism allows her
Coode
ination firsthand in his youth. He has
had ot deal with racial violence during his term as mayor as well.
Reraias violenore ocourred frequently
in Philadelphia in 1985. In May,
 and back-to-nature philosophy that included receycing parbage and human
wastes in their homes, were driven from Film

Having grown up in Argentina,
Epstein was very familiar with life there. "The situation was bad," "he said. "Since 1930, we never had a govermment that
finished is term. There was always a
 Especially bad was the period bection Especially bad was the period between
1976 and 19833, which was called the Diry War: Thitry thousann people
disappeared, althoush heres. no
figure. The school system was like our
to find her biggest strengths in writing. 19 to 65 . "Because of life experience,"
"I think we know each other well
she said, "people develop in different enough that it (yow each other wel
a cerainin validity. The current validity
Includes current membership of 10 Includes two undergraduates, several
University employes
individual individuals, most of whom are retred to get published.
According to Thompson," ${ }^{\text {A }}$ profes sional writer is someonene who makes more meney
postage." Several members have left the group for other projects, including one who
is working on a master's degree in is working on a master's degree in
creative writing at UNC-G. Carol Klein, a former member currently working on a novel, enjoyed th
diversity she found diversity she found working in a group
whnees memherchip's agec range from



their headquarters by a police assault. bag of water-based gel exlosiosive on the bag of wate---ased gel exiosive on
raop of the
apparenty fucter by buse. The bomb,
 people homeless. people homeless.
Philadelphia also received national
attention last year when a black family's
from page 1
> society was. It's changing now. You can
see in the movie how history was taught. There was much censorship. You
Americans cannot understand. You're so used to democracy."
> That fact notwithstanding, Epstein to The Official Story, which he calls "a reflection on everything that's
happened. It can be understood by anyone. It's mostly about a mother's
love for her daughter. And there are ove fissing children in America."
 Currently, members of the group are each writing a short story from an
abitrary genre outside of their special-
bies as a abirrary genre outside
ties as a skills exercise.
The genres include. romance, science
fiction, humor and the surreal. "It's a fiction, humor and the surreal. "It's a
way of putting yourself in someone else's mind," Hess said.
The group meets every Wednesday
et al $5: 30$ p.m. in 321 Greenlaw, occasion-
ally inviting guest speakers such as Bland Simpson, author and creative
writing instructor in the English department. All writers and would-be writers are
encouraged to join. "We don't provide encouraged to join. "We don't provide
discipline," Thompson said. "This is a
support group" discipline, Tho
support group."

Campus Calendar Friday Inter-Varsity
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The Daily Tar Heel/Friday, February 7, 1986

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## The Far Side


"You lenow those teeny tiny litile birds
that walk around so trustingly inside a That walk around so trustingly inside a
crocodill's mouth? Weill, I Just been.
eatin' those litile guys like popcon.:
Doonesbury


Bloom County


