

# The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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## \$10,000 going to waste

To discourage people from walking in the Arboretum after dark, the University spent more than \$10,000 to put 14 gates and chains around the garden last semester. Since then, the gates have yet to be locked on a regular basis, and no one is willing to assume immediate responsibility for them.

It would seem that the wrought iron gates at some of the entrances and the chains that drape across the others were an unnecessary expense — spending thousands of dollars on waist-high gates is not going to keep people out of the Arboretum. Spending \$10,000 on something meant as a symbolic gesture seems a steep price to pay, but the University made a commitment to the gates, and it must follow through on that commitment. Especially considering that there are no plans to light the area, some small efforts should be made to warn people of the dangers of walking through after dark.

Peter White, Botanical Garden director, says he would be willing to take responsibility for the lock-up duty on weeknights if the University police would lock them during holidays and times when students aren't around. White has suggested hiring a student who lives nearby for about \$2,000 per year — \$10 a night — to lock the gates on weeknights, but his budget does not have the money to do so immediately. Sgt. Ned Comar of the UNC police,

on the other hand, has police officers who he says patrol the area regularly. But he says it should not fall to his staff to lock the gates except on weekends because he doesn't have enough manpower.

Obviously, the University did a poor job of planning ahead, although the idea to set up the gates was two years in the works. A semester later, someone must take control of the gates immediately. If police officers patrol the area at night as they are supposed to, Comar clearly does have the manpower to lock the gates after the Arboretum's full-time employee goes home in the evenings, rendering the \$2,000 proposed salary for a student unnecessary. There's no set time for the gates to be closed, but police should have no problem locking them around 7 p.m. and unlocking them 12 hours later.

The gates probably won't change many students' habit of cutting through the garden, but at this point, it does no good to argue whether the money should have been spent. Because it was, the gates should be used as they were intended. And to be used means to be locked every night, with the sign that warns students to stay out kept in full view. Students may not obey the sign, but they might be made to think twice, and at the extreme, that could save someone's life. — Sharon Kechsull

## Seize chance for progress

The United States is losing a diplomatic war in Europe to the Soviet Union, and the overly-cautious attitude of Secretary of State James Baker and U.S. arms control negotiators could frustrate arms control efforts and seriously strain the 40-year alliance between the United States and Western Europe.

Earlier this week, Baker met with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to discuss a variety of issues, including arms control in Europe. The talks seem promising because the superpowers appear to be committed to troop reductions in Europe, but Shevardnadze stole the show by calling for sweeping reductions in troops, aircraft and eventual negotiations over the presence of short range nuclear missiles in Europe.

Shevardnadze's proposal is divided into three stages. The first stage would call for inequities between U.S. and Soviet conventional forces to be eliminated, followed by a 10 percent to 15 percent reduction of conventional forces by both sides over three years. This is an important step because it is the first time the Soviets have admitted to their conventional advantage in Europe.

That stage would be followed by an additional 25 percent reduction in conventional forces over several years. Finally, the troops in Europe would be restructured to assume a "defensive nature."

Baker and U.S. officials are calling the meeting between the two representatives a success, but they remain doubtful about the sincerity of the Soviets. They say the Soviets are talking more than acting and are reluctant to agree on the proposal or even set a date to discuss further reductions.

But Shevardnadze has called for stringent verification, including on-site inspections with no right of refusal. He has also said the Soviets will initially remove close to 10 Soviet tanks in Europe for every one the United States pulls out.

Bush's administration should take a more sincere look at the opportunity for massive conventional troop reductions. Shevardnadze is telling Europeans what they want to hear — the superpowers are interested in further arms reductions on the continent. If the United States refuses to take the initiative, the Soviets could gain lost diplomatic ground in Europe, as they already have in the Middle East.

Although the United States should remain cautious throughout the negotiation process, the skepticism of Baker and the U.S. representatives reflects a closed-minded attitude that must be changed to make any progress. The disorganization of American foreign policy strategists gives Shevardnadze the chance to make strides in winning the support of the European people. — Chris Landgraft

## The Daily Tar Heel

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Printing: The Village Companies.

## Readers' Forum

### Student exchange benefits campus, Soviets

Michael Schmier  
Guest Writer

Two years ago, a dream was born. Sentimental, perhaps, but true. A few students and faculty advisers felt the time had presented itself for an exchange to take place between UNC students and Soviet students. What type of exchange? No one really knew at the time. There was simply an intense desire, encouraged by the new detente between the superpowers, to establish a point of contact and communication between the United States and the U.S.S.R., between UNC and a Soviet sister school. However, at the time it was only a faraway aspiration.

The obstacles to the establishment of a UNC-Soviet exchange were enormous. First, UNC was among many schools competing for the opportunity to be assigned a sister school in the Soviet Union. The U.S.S.R. had agreed for only ten such exchanges to be established. UNC students put together a proposal which was finally accepted by the Citizen Exchange Council of New York.

The first obstacle was the easiest. Next came the challenge of quickly creating a student organization to coordinate the project. The organization had to define the goals of the exchange and then form a corresponding agenda that would achieve these goals. There was so little time. The Soviets would arrive the following year.

Then, the money. The exchange was a student-run, student-organized program (with the fullest amount of cooperation and help from the Office of International Programs). As a student-run organization, the students and advisers had to raise the \$31,000 price tag through hours of grant-writing, bake sales, raffles, contributions, pleading phone calls and hard work. Some exchange members even cleaned the Smith

Center after games to raise funds. To those who gave their money or their effort, I personally say thank you for a dream come true. In a period of less than eight months, the exchange achieved its monetary goal — a goal which would ensure the comfort of the Soviets when they arrived and would ensure the cost-free emphasis of the program.

Then on Feb. 26, the Soviets arrived, and I was a little apprehensive. I did not know how our University or our community would receive them. Would the Soviets be treated as spectacles or as people? Would there be antipathy or enthusiasm? Would this exchange translate into something more than simply 12 Soviet students spending a week at an American university or really create a better understanding? Would we all discover something new? Of course, I had always hoped that the exchange would have great significance for students, the University and the community, but when it came to "crunch time" I personally was unsure of what the outcome would be.

I should have been more confident. The administrators, faculty and student body gave a better than expected effort in the first year of the program to create a favorable atmosphere for the exchange. To those who came to the seminars, who hosted students, to those who asked questions and showed the slightest bit of curiosity to our guests, I must also say thank you. I knew everything would turn out fine when the guys on my hall (who had been threatening "commie"

jokes all week) instead treated my Soviet guest with warm curiosity and friendliness.

I hope the UNC-Soviet Exchange is only a beginning to something greater. Perhaps in the near future UNC students will be able to spend semesters and summers studying in Rostov-on-Don, and Rostov State students will be able to do the same in Chapel Hill. Perhaps our professional schools will exchange students and even faculty members. It is the goal of the UNC-Soviet Exchange to bring our two universities for long-term intellectual and cultural exchange. At the same time, this exchange program hopes to allow people to see each other face to face without a wall of misconceptions and stereotypes separating them. For me, the greatest part of the exchange was discovering the many ways in which Yuri, my Soviet guest, and I were alike; the joy was encountering a person who has needs and wants like anyone else; the fulfillment lay in the shedding of ignorance and the attainment of knowledge and a new friend.

Finally, I must say that the exchange will thrive only as long as the students and the administration want it to thrive. The exchange could just as easily fail next year as it succeeded this year. Without the extraordinary amount of effort, time and devotion on the part of a small group of students and faculty, the exchange would have easily remained a dream and another unfulfilled aspiration. Therefore, I challenge the administration to show even greater support and more students to get involved in a project that has unlimited potential.

Michael Schmier is a sophomore history and Russian studies major and a member of the UNC-Soviet Exchange.

## Campaign criticisms valid

To the editor:  
I read and reread the guest column on Tuesday ("Campaign criticism not constructive," March 6) and was a bit disheartened. Not only did I work on a student body president campaign, but I also ran a successful campaign for Student Congress. I was sure to check with the Elections Board if I had any questions regarding the legalities of my actions. I even made sure to stand over 100 feet away from the polling site, because I knew I could have been disqualified.

Mr. Greenwood's and Mr. Hathaway's article reeked of that old cliché, "Everybody's doing it." They said it would be naive for the editorial board to "presume that these improprieties (campaigning within 50 feet of the polling sites) were unique to the spring." This does not condone or excuse these violations. And, while there is no written rule or law stating that campaign staffers may not be obnoxious at forums, it only seems logical to expect some civility. After all, the purpose of the forums are to inform the students about where each candidate stands on the issues. They are not pep rallies.

While I do agree that many campaigners did abide by the laws, and should be commended for their work, those few who didn't tarnished the election. When campaigning or running for an office, we all must uphold the rules set down for us, even if they seem illogical or inconvenient. We mustn't set a precedent of performing acts that violate Elections Board rules. Anarchy is a horrible precedent.

MINDY FRIEDMAN  
Sophomore  
Education

## Races need mutual respect

To the editor:  
When the word "respect" comes up, I automatically define it as "due courtesy or tolerance for things that I may or may not understand" including those things that do not directly affect me. Obviously some people do not understand this principle.

## Bush right not to intervene

To the editor:  
The following question is directed towards Chris Landgraft and stems from his editorial of March 8, "Bush worsens crisis." Mr. Landgraft, have you ever heard of an economic principle known as laissez-faire? It just so happens that this concept, which calls for no governmental interference in the functions of the market, is and has been the fundamental doctrine of the American economy for over 200 years. Adhering to this policy, the president correctly refused to intervene in the dispute between Eastern Airlines and its machinists union.

Yes, the strike probably will cripple the transportation industry, and possibly even pose a threat to travelers should sabotage prevail. But perhaps this will cause the American public to recognize the self-centeredness of the AFL-CIO and the unions they support. Where will the machinists be when Eastern fails? True to form, the unionists care not for the success of their company, but only for their own selfish demands and moment of glory.

## Stand up for literary freedom

To the editor:  
The persecution of Mr. Salman Rushdie by fundamentalist Muslims presents a grave moral crisis for all of us who cherish individual expression and literary freedom. History is replete with instances of thinkers and provokers of thought being hounded by zealots and bigots. An intolerant state killed Socrates for his ideas. Roman barbarians burned the library of Alexandria and massacred Alexandrian scholars. An obscurantist church forced Galileo to recant his scientific theories. Nazi thugs burned the works of Jewish scientists and artists. History repeats itself today. The attack of Mr. Rushdie is a challenge to the ideals of civilization. We, at this university, have a duty to condemn such intellectual terrorism. The University is a citadel of learning and reason. Free thought and expression are taken for granted here. The burden of defending these luxuries also rests with us. I urge the faculty and the students of this University to respond to the Ayatollah challenge by issuing statements of support for Mr. Rushdie. This is the time to stand up and be counted.

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## BCC is a step in the wrong direction

To the editor:  
Yes. Racism and prejudice are here at UNC. Whites and blacks (individuals) have not settled into any racial harmony; nor is it certain that they ever will. Thus we continue our efforts (waking the "apathetic," teaching the "ignorant," writing letters to the editor) in hope of achieving a harmony among the world's creeds and colors. But will a Black Cultural Center aid in the struggle for harmony? Will it push us closer toward gaining a prejudice-free campus (and maybe even a prejudice-free world)? No.

On March 6, I read Ms. LaTonya Rease's letter to the DTH ("BCC deserves SRC funding") which contended that the BCC will be "for the use of all students." Ms. Rease asserted that the BCC will play an "active role in increasing our cultural awareness and promoting racial harmony."

More importantly, it will not discriminate "against those who are physically handicapped" (something she assumes a Student Recreational Center would do). But that's another issue.

Ms. Rease, I have a few questions about the BCC. If it is to be a center "for all students," why then does the name itself discriminate? There are so many other cultures on this campus that would not be represented by a BCC — in fact, why a BCC and not a JCC (Jewish Cultural Center) or an ICC (Indian Cultural Center)? These two groups have also been discriminated against repeatedly; they too deserve a center which would promote an awareness of their culture. Still, a problem remains. While one specific culture is promoted, others are basically excluded. A BCC would separate one culture from another, and play an active

role in enfeebling the struggle toward racial harmony. Is that not obvious?

The BCC's effort to promote an awareness of cultures is a noble one indeed. However, by singling out one culture, the BCC will not give students an awareness of other cultures, nor will it promote racial harmony — two assertions set forth by Ms. Rease. Perhaps a more qualified solution would be a Student Cultural Center — one which would increase students' awareness of all cultures (leaving no stones unturned), one which would invite all students to learn about different cultures and one which would truly bring the campus (and even the world) a little closer to some harmony.

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