

Carolina Images



Bell Tower

Tar Heel/Andrew Herman

The Morehead-Patterson Bell Tower, soon known by all University students as it rings several times a day, calls students to classes, provides twilight music and adds a special touch to the departing crowds after a football game.

The Bell Tower was a \$100,000 gift given by John Motley Morehead, class of 1891, and Rufus Lenoir Patterson, class of 1893, to honor members of their families who had been associated with the University throughout its entire history. Presently, 16 Moreheads and 11 Pattersons are commemorated on the tablets beneath the arcade.

One rumor has it that Morehead was jealous of the fact that the library was to be named after Louis Round Wilson, so the Bell Tower was placed in such a way that, when looking back on Wilson Library from the flagpole in front of South Building, a dunce cap sits on top of the Wilson dome.

The Bell Tower first rang in November 1931, and it is located south of Wilson Library. Not only is it visible for several miles, but it is also occasionally audible as far as Durham.



Tar Heel file photo



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Campus Y

The student YMCA was formed in 1860, making it the third in existence and one of the oldest student movements in the nation. The YMCA building was built in 1904 as the center of student activity, much like the Pit today.

Through the years, the YM/YWCA has initiated such programs as the Student Stores, intramural sports, freshman orientation, Carolina Symposium, the student/faculty phone book and the International Center.

In 1936, the YWCA was organized and later merged with the YMCA to become the "Campus Y." While it is no longer an active member of either the national YMCA or YWCA, the Campus Y remains as the liberal center of activity with 31 committees and more than 500 members.

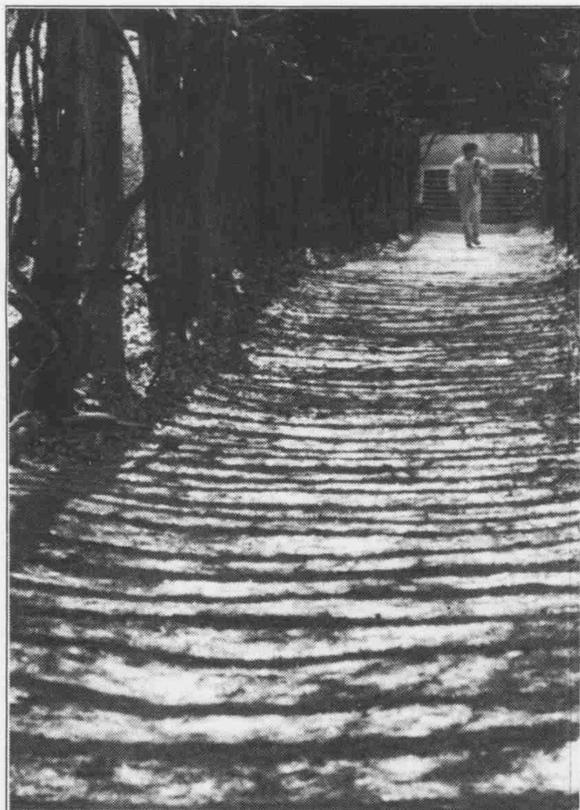
Coker Arboretum

Located at the corner of Cameron Avenue and Raleigh Street, the Coker Arboretum is a popular place for students who want to escape from the hassles of exams and term papers.

More than 400 varieties of plants and shrubs flourish in this five-acre naturalistic garden. The area was once a swampy pasture for animals such as former UNC President David Swain's white mule, Old Cuddy.

The idea for a naturalistic garden was conceived by UNC President Francis Venable in 1903. The arboretum was named after botanist William Coker.

Of the plants and trees in the arboretum, the most famous are the Marshall thorn — a red haw that is almost never seen in gardens — and a 200-foot wisteria arbor.



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Silent Sam

Located between the Old Well and East Franklin Street at the University's north entrance is a well-known Civil War monument nicknamed Silent Sam.

Sam was erected in 1913 by the N.C. Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to memorialize the 321 alumni of the University who died in the Civil War, as well as the 1,062 who entered the Confederate Army. Canadian sculptor John Wilson created him for \$7,500, using Harold Langlois of Boston as a model.

The legend surrounding Sam says his gun is supposed to fire every time a virgin walks by. Sam's gun, however, has been silent for as long as anyone can remember.

On the base of the monument, a young woman touches the shoulder of a young gentleman to call him from letters to arms.

In the spring of 1986, Sam temporarily deserted his post. He was taken to Cincinnati, Ohio, for an \$8,200 restoration to remove the effects of the weather and the tannic acid from trees and car exhaust from Franklin Street. His original bronze color had turned to green.

But now Sam's back — and better than ever. His restorers say he'll stay a bright coppery color for several years.

Davie Poplar

The Davie Poplar is a landmark older than UNC itself.

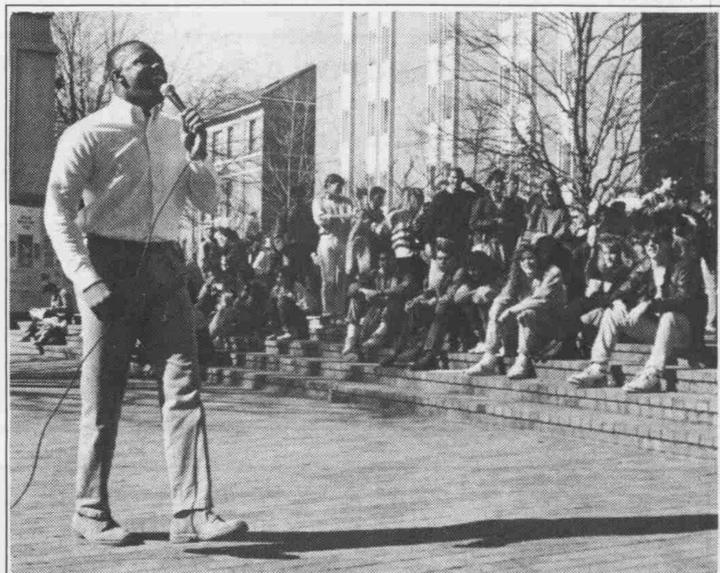
Many legends surround this ivy-clad tree, which is more than 200 years old. Stories suggest that William Richardson Davie, author and introducer of the bill that established the University, personally located the University lands around the tree. Although this is doubtful, the name Davie was assigned to the tree almost a century later by Cornelia Phillips Spencer to commemorate one of these tales.

Another legend about the poplar is that, while on a picnic in the spring of 1792, Davie and the site-selection committee for the University met, and after drinking and making merry, Davie thrust a poplar branch into the ground to mark the new site, announcing, "This is it." The switch supposedly grew into the Davie Poplar. (This was proven untrue, as Davie was not on the committee.)

Standing beside the Davie Poplar is the Davie Poplar, Jr., a shoot grafted from the big tulip poplar when it was thought the older tree would not survive after being struck by lightning. The second tree was planted by the class of 1918.



Tar Heel file photo



Tar Heel file photo

The Pit

From about 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, the Pit is the place to be between classes. Bordered by Lenoir Hall, the Student Union, the Student Stores and the Undergraduate Library, this open-air assembly is a popular meeting place for students throughout the day.

During the warmer months, the entrenched area becomes a stage where students can hear speeches from campus groups on the latest controversy or listen to their favorite evangelist as he or she preaches words of wisdom.

Students who pass the Pit during the day should also check out the Cube, an all-purpose campus billboard. The Cube is regularly painted and re-painted with announcements of upcoming campus events, including union films, concerts and speakers.

"Pit sitting" has become a noted phenomenon on campus, with some students skipping class just to enjoy a can of soda and the newspaper while sitting in the sun. Experience has it that if you sit in the Pit all day, you will see everyone you know at least once.