

# The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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## Forcing homogeneity Bar's ban out of place in Chapel Hill

Now that much of the visible public outrage among angry students and Chapel Hill residents over the On the Hill dress code has subsided, it's time to examine what problems exist and where the responsibilities lie for solutions. During the past two months, students and student groups have complained of discrimination against homosexuals at the local bar, whose code will not allow patrons dressed entirely in black and those who appear out of the "mainstream" of typical On the Hill customers. While issues of discrimination are often tough to discern, allowing the smoke to clear before examining the situation in this case brings other points to light.

### board opinion

On the Hill owner John Hopkins insists that the dress code exists at the request of many customers and for reasons of profitability; most of the people at the bar, according to Hopkins, wish to have similar people around them, and those who differ from this norm can detract from the bar's environment — alienating customers and hurting business. Hopkins has also said he is not concerned with what kind of people make up this "non-mainstream," and that no direct discrimination against a particular group, namely homosexuals, is intended.

This is the odd reasoning that has many students upset. Certainly there are typical On the Hill customers, including members of Greek organizations, who occasionally wear black; while homosexuals may choose to wear black, it is not a clear sign of homosexuality. The obvious question is how the management of a bar — or better yet, the doorman at a bar — can summarize a person's personality or sexual orientation by the clothes on that person's back.

Students upset about the dress code say that the policy is poorly enforced, because several people wearing black are often admitted while some not wearing black are turned away. The bottom line is that a dress code of this kind is very silly, especially in a town long known for its openness toward people of all kinds and not just those in some vaguely defined "mainstream." Such policy hurts students and other patrons who have no reason to be hurt.

But can accusations of discrimination against homosexuals be made in this case, especially now that the bar's management is trying to cover itself with a blanket dress policy? On the surface, the only discrimination that appears to exist is that against people failing to meet a dress code, and that is perfectly legal. The On the Hill code seems to be legally no different from a restaurant requiring coat and tie. But this is where student power enters the picture.

Student Congress recently passed a resolution encouraging students to boycott the bar to protest its dress code. Other students are recruiting support from various campus groups. And several members of the Chapel Hill Town Council have criticized group discrimination at the bar.

In a community as open as Chapel Hill, it is surprising that student patrons would want a homogeneous nightclub environment. But in a case such as this, the fate of the bar lies in the hands of the individual student; if close-mindedness and enforced homogeneity are repulsive to certain students, then they can exercise the individual right to boycott the establishment. In time, the same misguided management who devised the code may find that measures originally taken to save business will inevitably lead to its destruction.

## Partisan plays Martin should repay state for report

Democratic Party leaders have rightly charged Gov. Jim Martin with taking advantage of his position as governor in the 1988 gubernatorial race between Martin and then Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan. Democrats say Martin used taxpayers' money to pay for extensive research on Jordan's record, and party Chairman Lawrence Davis has asked Martin to reimburse the state.

The research was conducted by the governor's Research Office, which compiled detailed reports on both Martin and Jordan. The research was supposed to provide the governor with basic information on the positions he had taken in the past and the positions taken on legislative issues, according to former state Rep. Charles Hughes, who led Martin's campaign research office in 1984.

The difference in the reports was that the 20-page Martin report stated his legislative proposals and executive orders and how the proposals fared. But the 32-page Jordan report was filled with criticisms of the former lieutenant governor, and it contained such comments as "Bob Jordan's school package raised taxes which in turn will be passed on to the consumer. Double talk. Flip-flop. ... If Bob Jordan says partisan politics has nothing to do with his retreat from the Martin proposal, then he's lying."

While research on top legislative officials is a legitimate part of the job of the governor's Research Office, the Jordan report undeniably contains political overtones that could have been quite advantageous to Martin's re-election campaign. In fact, some of the research was given to the governor's re-election campaign staff.

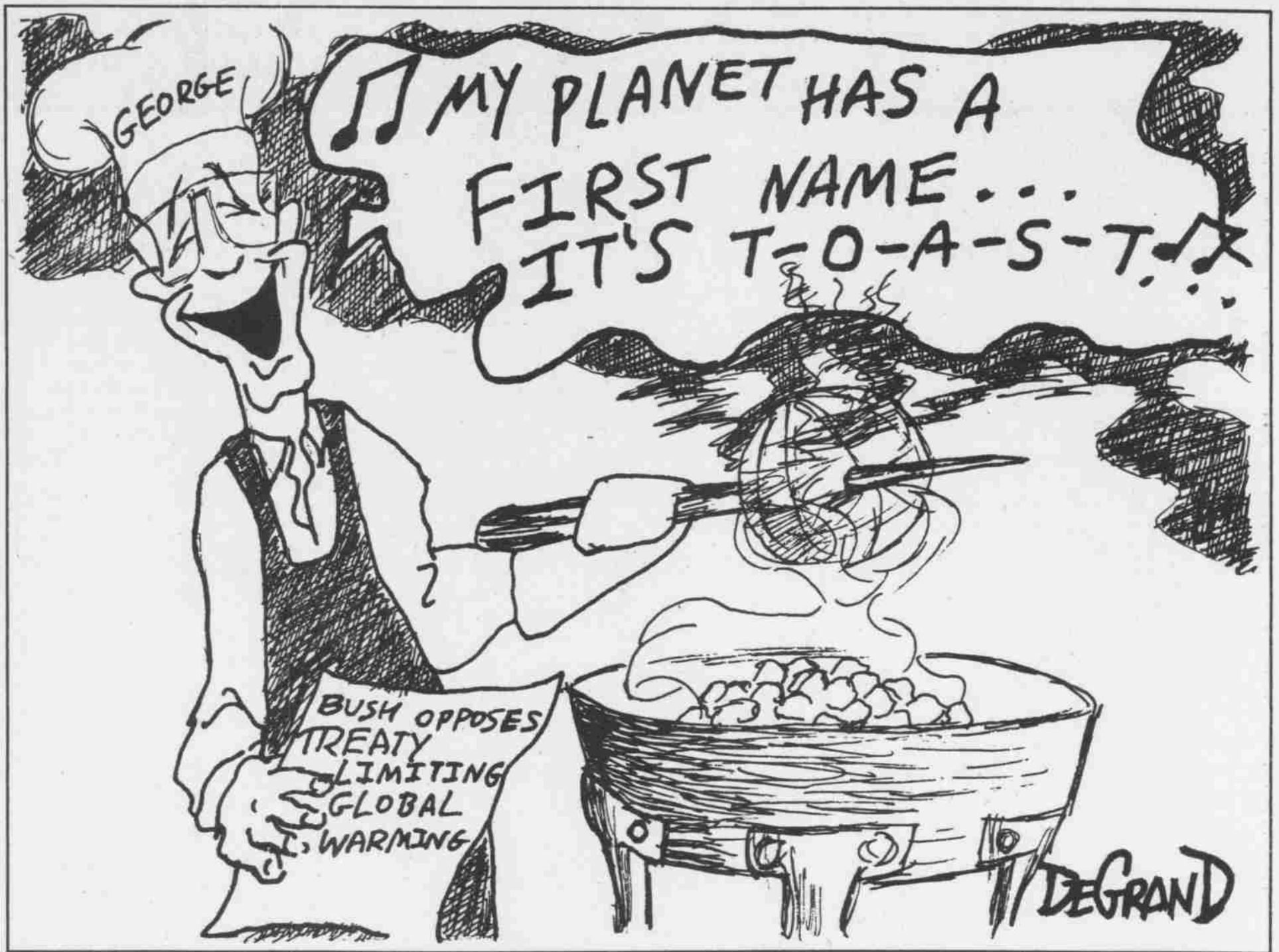
Research on the opposition should be paid for by a candidate's staff. If the Research Office had done research solely to keep Martin abreast of how certain leaders feel about issues, the report would not have contained such inflammatory language. Martin conceded that when Hughes wrote the reports he was "maybe a little more florid and partisan than he needed to be."

Martin is right — Hughes was much too partisan in writing the reports. As it was worded, the report would have been appropriate only if it had been written and paid for by Martin's campaign staff. This is especially true after

Martin criticized former Gov. Jim Hunt for using the state plane on campaign trips — Hunt paid the state more than \$100,000 to reimburse the government, and Martins should follow his lead.

But Martin and other leaders of the Republican Party say they have no intention of reimbursing the state, and they charge that this is an attempt by the Democrats to gain attention. No doubt, the Democrats are using the situation to their political advantage, as would any politician, but the fact remains that they have a valid point.

Martin's office may indeed need research and information on state political leaders, but the Jordan report overstepped its bounds. The document was partisan, and Martin owes it to the taxpayers of North Carolina to at least conduct an audit on how much money was spent preparing the report, and if need be, to reimburse the state. Since Martin called Jim Hunt on unfair campaign practices, it's only right that he should hold his office to the same standards. — Tammy Blackard



## Please, no nestling in the Arboretum

"No Alumni Center on Stadium Drive"

Some students may remember a sheet with these words pinned to it, hanging next to the bank machines at the Student Union in 1987. The sheet was part of a furious last-ditch push to block approval for the construction of the George Watts Hill Alumni Center. Students argued that the Big Woods — one of the most beautiful parts of a campus famed for its natural beauty — should be left unmolested.

But the students lost this argument. That should be obvious to anyone who finds themselves on Stadium Drive. There, next to Kenan Stadium, they'll see a fenced-off expanse of dirt — the future site of the Alumni Center. I remember Douglas Dibbert, director of the General Alumni Association (GAA), telling the DTH that the center would be built with an eye to preserving as many trees as possible. "I am confident that the area will be preserved and probably enhanced through natural landscaping," he was quoted as saying. "The building will be nestled in the trees."

I called Dibbert several weeks ago. The center's \$12 million price tag has almost been covered by alumni contributions, he said. The center will include ballrooms, meeting rooms and a library and memorabilia room. And of course, the center will provide new administrative offices for the GAA. Right now, the GAA is housed in a former apartment building, which means that there are closets and bathrooms but no public spaces. Dibbert said they'd taken to covering some of the many bathtubs with plywood for storage purposes.

Dibbert suggested I visit Alumni House, where I could see a model of what the Alumni Center would look like when finished. When I checked out the model, it looked good, both at eye-level and from above. There even seem to be trees growing in between the two sections of the building — a nice touch. With the model fresh in my mind, I walked over to Stadium Drive and climbed the fence. I kicked around in the dirt and thought about all the trees, big beautiful trees that had to be cut down and



Matt Bivens  
Rat Salad

dragged away for the building. And I realized anew that, no matter how "well incorporated" the building was in the woods, it simply didn't have to be here.

Nestled. That's a word the administration often uses when talking about the Alumni Center. We're gonna nestle that sucker right into the woods, like a baby in a crib. Of course, the difference between nestling a baby into a crib and nestling a building into a woods is pretty obvious: you don't have to mangle the crib to get the baby into it.

Originally an Alumni Center was to be built near the Dean Dome. But our alumni tend to think big, and every time the center was discussed it seemed to grow in size. Officials feared increased traffic and limited parking would make access to the center too difficult. They needed a new location.

In fairness, at first the GAA opposed the move. They'd already started raising money for the South Campus site, and they feared contributors would think they were being indecisive and withdraw donations. But the administration — the BOT and the Building and Grounds Committee — insisted, and by September 1987 the GAA accepted the Big Woods site, offered by then-Chancellor Fordham.

Furthermore, student representatives approved the move: A committee that reviewed the decision had seven students. Only four of the students bothered to attend the most important meeting, and all four — including Brian Bailey, then-student body president — approved the move. Later, Bailey said he had based his vote on the knowledge that the University had long-term development plans for

the Big Woods. Bailey said that made the Alumni Center a "much more appropriate and much more attractive" alternative to any other construction project. Of course, Bailey opted not to work for the most attractive alternative of all: No development, ever.

Whatever his reasoning, Bailey did a terrible job of informing students of the decision. Most students first learned of the Alumni Center's move when a sign announcing the construction was posted in the Big Woods. That's when the petitions began, the sheet went up over the bank machines and so on. Of course, these efforts came far too late. Our alumni — who aren't known for their patience, as Dick Crum can attest — had already forced the issue.

So there's plenty of blame to go around. Student leaders — Bailey and the seven others on the committee — share some of it. Chancellor Fordham and the administration should be roundly criticized for offering the Big Woods in the first place. And our ever-selfish alumni, as always, deserve rebuke.

Of course, pointing fingers at each other doesn't do much for the Big Woods. There's not much that can be done for the Big Woods. But there are other beautiful places on campus: the Arboretum, McCorkle Place, the Forest Theater and the graveyard behind Cobb lots, to name a few. And while it's easy to say, "Oh, they'd never do anything to the Arboretum, or to McCorkle Place," who's to say for sure? Maybe a new building — say, a new business school? — snuggled into the Arboretum? Delicately planted, cuddled up next to a bunch of flowers?

It's time we had a commitment, in writing, from the administration — from the chancellor — that these and other areas will always be off-limits to development. Come on, Chancellor Hardin: prove to us that the Alumni Center was a fluke.

Matt Bivens is a senior political science major from Olney, Md.

## Readers' Forum

### Frequent coverage of protesters getting old

To the editor:  
 Each morning as I pick up a copy of The Daily Tar Heel, I wonder what sort of publicity-seeking antics from the CIA Action Committee I will have to stomach before turning the front page. What visual representation of these antics will prompt me to ask, "Why must I be subjected to the same 'news' day after day after day?" I feel as if I am being put through Chinese water torture! (I beg the

forgiveness of any student of Oriental heritage for the use of this cliché.) We read of "crowds" that these activists address but we never see any evidence of their existence. Perhaps the intrepid photographers of the DTH could show us these massive congregations.

The persistency and redundancy of this daily coverage impresses two points on me. One, that the DTH staff is showing little or no initiative or creativity in finding newsworthy events and two, that the CIAAC is actually following a self-defeating course of action by trying to force feed their ideology

on an already overstuffed student body. I truly feel that in their later years the principals in these activities will look back with wry humor at the way they made a name for themselves.

I was going to suggest the CIAAC make a positive statement about something, anything, but then a frightening prospect occurred to me: They might not approve or support any established American institution! (As a reminder the CIA is not the only organization or practice that these folks protest.)

So, whaddya say guys? Sur-

prise us all with a positive statement about some aspect of American life and culture. If you have too much difficulty you may choose motherhood! (Baseball has gambling and apple pie has preservatives.)

One final plea to the DTH: A day without an article on the CIAAC would be simply marvelous! I don't think I'm alone when I implore you, "Please give us a break!"

HUGH D. GASSAWAY  
Senior  
Pharmacy

## Review's narrow focus ignored play's value

To the editor:  
 During this year I have read many DTH reviews on artistic performances which at least went to the effort to exercise journalistic integrity in the incorporation of three main characteristics: good points, bad points and a description of the integral technical elements of lights, sets, etc. However, in the most recent review of the play, "Walking Across Egypt," ("Set hampers play's emotional impact," Nov. 3), I reached the ultimate level of disappointment in my school newspaper.

Jessica Yates presents her review as a sparse summary that list characters' names and gives an impersonal, narrow evaluation of the set and overall meaning of the play. This review focused on only two main points: the ineffectiveness of the set design and the inability of the lead male character to adequately portray his role. I do respect the right of a reviewer to critique these aspects of this or any performance, but I do believe that a well-structured review should also include the positive aspects so amply present in this play.

If Ms. Yates did not appreciate the play's staging and set design, she has every right to express her discomfort. Dr. Ferguson's innovative concept of extending the stage provided a unique perspective from each viewing angle. This was unorthodox in that performers' faces were sometimes hidden, but the staging did not hinder the audience's perception of the action

or characterization. The set was designed by Ferguson to allow the audience to become part of the story's setting instead of detached observers. I only hope that the student body still contains some people who appreciate risk-taking to make new strides in developing American theater.

If Ms. Yates did not see in Wesley the stereotypical qualities that she expects from a reform school escapee, again she is welcome to show her dissatisfaction. But in order to gain full enjoyment from a play, any audience member should be open-minded enough to know that each actor's personal interpretation of their character is just as valid as any preconceptions that the observers had on arrival. Personally I thought Brent Wilson did a magnificent job of portraying an adolescent searching for a life he had never had.

After this article reviewed these two weak points, I awaited the praise or scrutiny of the other main facets of the show and was left unfulfilled. With only a cursory mention of four hilarious characters who did not let their humor become their only quality (Alora, Robert, Pearl and Finner) and a quick pat on the back for Hardy's performance that brought uproarious laughter to the same eyes that cried in the last scene of the play, Yates blew off the remainder of the cast. With nothing but stabs at unfounded arguments did she handle the critique of the play's text, which was so signifi-

cant in this show because it was the world premiere. And finally, the accomplishment that transformed the basement of a building with a bowling alley into an old southern home with the aura of family was all but ignored. The man responsible for this conveyance to another world was Paul Ferguson, the director, with the help of his staff, musical committee, stage manager and assistant director.

Don't get me wrong — I loved the Moses metaphor. But as a Carolina student who may or may not derive my opinions about artistic events on campus from a review, I need to know more than your interpretation of the work's true meaning (which is very much open to speculation) and the few things you didn't like. As far as I'm concerned, this review neglected all the wonderful qualities of a production that thoroughly deserved praise.

Fellow DTH reader, do not stop reading the reviews that this staff offers. Only realize that there are other possible interpretations. Do not take their words as law, because, as the world premiere of John Justice's new play has shown, several gems of artistic entertainment can and do get unjustly persecuted. (I'd conclude with a religious metaphor but I think we've read enough of those. Don't you?)

ANGELA M. COIN  
Sophomore  
Political science/speech communications

## The Daily Tar Heel

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