

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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Brute force

Police need to toughen stance downtown

In the past, visitors to Chapel Hill were not reminded of the East Village while strolling down Franklin Street. But recent violent outbursts have caused at least one former New York City resident to associate this idyllic college town with crime-ridden sections of the Big Apple. Unfortunately, Chapel Hill has acquired some of the violence of congested cities without the hardened big-city police force to stifle it.

The atmosphere on Franklin Street has changed since last year, and the Chapel Hill Police Department has been sluggish in its response to the increased violence. Youths have harassed Barrel of Fun patrons since Sept. 22, when they were removed from the game room for being obscene. On Sept. 28, a group threatened an employee with brass knuckles and a knife, and police were called. Yet there were no police in the area on Sept. 29, when a group of youths assaulted a UNC student and a visiting instructor. The police department stations four extra officers downtown on weekends, but this increase apparently is not enough to combat problems in the area.

Perhaps police thought the incidents on the 22nd and 28th were only isolated occurrences in this town of fun-loving, peaceful liberals. Nonetheless, they should have been wary of future violence and stationed at least one officer near Barrel of Fun to deal with any problems. Visible

officers might have deterred the youths' attacks. But no officer was near the area on the 29th, and two people were injured.

Police officers were finally showing themselves on Franklin last weekend, and no outbreaks of violence occurred. Their presence probably stifled any aggressive impulses felt by youths in the area. And to keep violence to a minimum, the Chapel Hill Police Department should continue to make its presence known around town. Violence is on the rise everywhere, even in this quaint education mecca. The incidents of the past few weeks should not be regarded as bizarre, once-in-a-blue-moon outbursts.

Stationing officers downtown may dampen the merry, carnival-like atmosphere that attracts so many students. Bargoers may find uniformed men stationed on corners oppressive. However, gangs of angry youths are more threatening. Unfortunately, Chapel Hill is not the quiet oasis its residents would like it to be. The sobering intervention of the law here is better than the alternative gang violence.

An increased police presence in Chapel Hill may shatter the illusions of those who consider the town a college paradise. But it is necessary to prevent the town's residents from being plagued with senseless attacks. Violence on Franklin Street needs to be nipped in the bud before it becomes an even bigger problem. — Crystal Bernstein

Greased pigs and more

N.C. State Fair makes for best road trip

The N.C. State Fair starts tomorrow. For the last couple of weeks, it has taken over the fairgrounds in Raleigh, preparing to bring thousands of fun-seekers from all over. As always, the fair promises to be fun and enjoyable for the whole family. But the reality is that the fair is nasty, dirty, smelly, cheesy, all-American, and cheap. It's the best road trip for the next 10 days.

The fair is an experience in itself: the people, the food, the fun, the exhibits, the money spent there. It's a chance to experience the diversity of people who live in North Carolina. And the differences certainly can be seen: from the politicians in their sporty garb to the rednecks in their cowboy boots and hats that don't match. But no one can understand either breed — one talks his political jargon, the other abuses the English language through his thick, unintelligible accent. And all the cool teeny-boppers come to pick up people of the opposite sex. And a meat market the fair becomes, literally and figuratively.

Although the fair has become commercial, agriculture and livestock competitions still attract those funny animals and funny people whom city folks will never understand. Habitual fairgoers live for the pig races and animal shows. There is nothing like a greasy pig.

And the food is even better than the animals. It wouldn't be a fair without greasy

junk food. People spend outrageous sums of money on cotton candy, candy apples, fudge, etc. It's the only place in North Carolina where a hamburger sells for \$3. That's money well-spent, rest assured.

And don't forget the rides, or the people who devote their toothless and greasy lives to loading fairgoers onto them. The rides are old, creaky and set up only a few hours before people load onto them, which adds to the great death-defying excitement. Just about every ride goes in circles, so those dare devils cannot only feel the rush of excitement on the ride, but also feel the rush of sickness when they get off.

Fairgoers should also not forget to bring lots of money because it looks really easy to knock over those bottles with a softball or get a dime into a circle. Fairgoers vigorously compete for those high-quality stuffed animal rewards and dead goldfish. There's nothing like seeing a prize-winner bringing home this tremendously overpriced gift for his girlfriend.

Such is a typical day at the fair: the people, the food, the rides, the tacky prizes, the greasy pigs, the smell of horse manure, and lots of mud. After the first day, usually the fairgrounds become a maintenance disaster, which makes wearing old shoes a good idea. It's so tacky, it's hilarious, and it's great. Everyone should go at least once. Have fun. — Jessica Lanning



First black at Ole Miss needs to reassess priorities

Life is full of unanswered questions. Why do bricks jump up and trip you when you're walking across campus trying to look cool? Or better yet, when you're leaving Lenoir on the Pit side at noon? Why are the people who live next door always loud when you're studying for three exams the next day? When you're flying in an airplane, why doesn't your drink spill when the plane makes a turn? Perhaps the reason why these questions are unanswered is that they perplex me (notice the big S.A.T. word). However, I do have one question I'd like to address to Sen. Jesse Helms' aide James Meredith: What's your deal?

I remember in AFAM 58, a class about the civil rights movement and one of my favorites, watching the movie "Eyes on the Prize." In one segment, Meredith was featured in his many attempts to enroll at the University of Mississippi in the fall of 1962. Eventually, he'd be the first black student at that university. I personally was impressed with him. He was very self-confident, perhaps a tad bit cocky. He knew what he wanted to do, and nothing was going to stop him in the process. As a result, hell was raised on that campus for a weekend, but the situation calmed down once he enrolled.

Meredith helped break down the barriers of segregation in education during a turbulent period in the United States. His success helped other Americans enjoy the right to equal education that so many others were denied.

In addition, Meredith also embarked on the March against Fear in the late 1960s to prove that the racial climate in America had changed. Unfortunately, he was shot early in the march, and other civil rights groups intervened to finish what a bullet had prevented him from completing. In any Afro-American studies class

Kimberley Maxwell

Strictly Business

at any college or university, his name will more than likely be mentioned, even if it's just a passing reference.

When I read in the newspaper last fall that Meredith would be working for Sen. Helms' campaign, I gave him the benefit of the doubt. I don't like to judge other people. I believe that as you judge others, you also will be judged. In essence, beware of where you point fingers and make accusations. Anyhow, I thought maybe he just really needed a job. Or perhaps he was working through Sen. Helms to make a positive change. A reverse psychology-type thing. Within a few months, Meredith attacked many black leaders, accusing them of drug involvement. Needless to say, I was pretty underwhelmed with that move. Not too smooth, I thought, but I still stayed pretty open-minded. Then Meredith let the cat out of the bag and removed all doubt in my mind.

According to the excerpts from speeches and letters released to Roll Call, a newspaper in Washington, Meredith intends to be one of black America's future leaders. However, according to the same information, he wants to put blacks with drug abuse problems, AIDS and mental problems in institutions. He wants to ensure that ministers and church officials uphold the moral standards outlined in the Bible. Also, he thinks Thurgood Marshall, a U.S. Supreme Court justice, should quit his position, because Marshall isn't clearly representing black interests.

UGH!!!

First of all, institutionalization isn't the sure-fire way to solve the problems of the aforementioned people. For those with drug abuse problems, the focus should be on treatment, especially affordable treatment. The government can stop drugs from coming into this country, but those who want to come clean should have the opportunity to do so. Locking up people with AIDS is simply inhumane. This isn't a contagious disease we're discussing, but it is a killer. Let's fight for a cure for the disease, not fight the people who have it. As for making ministers responsible for moral standards, there's no way that will ever work: people are responsible for their own actions. And last but not least, Justice Marshall is still serving on the Supreme Court until he can be replaced with someone who shares his ideology in law. By no means has he sold out.

Understandably, Meredith declined to respond to his remarks due to the upcoming election. However, to be a leader in the black community, one must be able to reasonably and soundly address the problems that plague the community: higher unemployment rates, drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, institutional racism and the plight of black males.

True enough, innovation is important in helping to solve these problems. But in order to help the black community, leaders can't stab it in the back simultaneously. Meredith may be the future of black leadership (Heaven help us all), but he needs to know the needs of the people he is leading first.

Kimberley Maxwell is a senior journalism and political science major from Marietta, Ga.

READERS' FORUM

Student fee increase merits further debate

Editors' note: Matthew Heyd is speaker of Student Congress and Bill Hildebolt is student body president.

To the editors: We feel that it is necessary for us to write to the student body to try to make our actions this summer absolutely clear concerning the student fee increase proposal ("Fee hike proposed in response to cuts," Oct. 10).

You may have noticed that this proposal was on neither of our campaign platforms. We certainly did not come into office with the idea of proposing to raise student fees. Yet, once we were in office, we were made part of an already established committee of University administrators that was talking about doing just that. The proposal is a departure for Chapel Hill because we haven't used student fees for items other than student services in the past. We decided that it was in our best interests, and the best interests of the student body, to respond to what we heard from the committee to be the needs of the University, and so we acted pro-actively and put forward a very pro-student proposal to see what the rest of the committee thought.

Many students may believe that the student body votes on all student fee increases. Unfortunately, this is not true. The chancellor has delegated complete allocatory control over student activity fees to student government, and these go to the student body for approval. Student activity fees are 10 percent of student fees and pay for organizational budgets, like Graduate Students United and The Phoenix, and student-approved projects, like the new SAFE program and the Student Recreation Center. The administration has the power, with the approval of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors, to raise student fees without the approval of the student body or Student Congress. The point is that they could do this without student approval. What we proposed was that this fee, and all future fee increases would necessarily be ap-

proved by Student Congress. This proposal expands the student role in student fees and changes nothing about the approval process for student activity fees. All of the fees that have been voted on by the student body would still be voted on by the student body.

Another big catching point is the amount of money that was proposed. Certainly \$600 is not set in stone (nor is any figure), but there was a reason for stating it. There has been talk about numbers that are a lot higher than \$600. In proposing \$600, we felt that we could get a barometer on administrative and student opinion. We feel very uncomfortable with a number that high ourselves, but as you start lowering the number you soon get into sums that are merely symbolic and would do little to really help the University. For example, our proposal would raise \$6 million a year. The budget cuts this year will total around \$20 million. If we cannot agree on a substantial figure, then our feeling was that the results would not merit the precedent that the proposal sets.

So what's going on now? There is no reason to believe that this proposal is going to be implemented in the next year, or even ten years. The administration has not given any substantive commitment and we have not given unconditional support. If it does go forward, students will be involved at every level of the decision-making process. The fact is, at this point we're not even out of the starting blocks.

We are now creating an inclusive fees task force. This committee will be co-chaired by the two of us, and we are both in the process of naming "deputy" chairs, so that we can simply go and be part of the discussion, rather than run the meetings. Anyone is welcome to join the group. We will be meeting weekly, and the first meeting is Friday at 4 p.m. in the Pit. We will start Friday by explaining the process that this proposal went through in more detail, and then we hope to hear student concerns. After that, the committee will set about to its real task, which is to research the needs and possibilities for such a fee, and then to make

recommendations.

MATTHEW HEYD
Junior
History

BILL HILDEBOLT
Senior
Economics

Town public library needs more space

To the editors: It's Saturday afternoon during fall break in our university town, and the weather is gorgeous. Half the citizens must be out of town for the weekend, and the other half jogging or riding their bikes under Carolina blue skies, right?

Wrong. In Chapel Hill, most of the town seems to be at the public library. The parking lot is jammed full, so I park on the yellow line and run in to look something up in a magazine. The reading area near the fireplace is full, too — every single seat — so I take the magazine to the tiny reading area near the mystery fiction and look at it there. The browsers, all accustomed to moving carefully in a confined space, hardly brush against me at all. It's another typical Saturday afternoon at the public library.

It's a pity that some opponents of the supplemental bond issue to build the larger-sized new library have gotten the idea that "twice as big" means "big enough," or that building the larger-sized library would mean we'd have unused space on our hands, waiting for a population boom that might never come.

The truth is, the larger new library — the one we'll get if we vote for the bond issue — will be barely big enough to serve our needs right now and for the next twenty years. That's not just my idea. That's according to minimum standards established by the American Library Association.

Right this minute our library is like a boarding house with four chairs and 16 people at supper every night. Everyone gets served, more or less, but it's not a pretty sight.

If the bond issue is defeated, the smaller new library will be like

that boarding house with eight chairs instead of four. But "twice as big" wouldn't be "twice as good." It wouldn't be good at all. It would only be half as bad.

Let's not build a new library that's only half as overcrowded as our present one. Let's build one that will serve the town's present needs — the larger, 47,000 square foot library. Please vote "yes" for the library bond issue on Nov. 6.

MARY LYCAN
Chapel Hill

UNC is not everyone's first college choice

To the editors:

This letter is in reference to a suggestion made recently that the budget problems could be solved by terminating UNC-A and UNC-G. Obviously, the author is not very knowledgeable about these institutions. Believe it or not, some people choose UNC-G over our own beloved University. A friend of mine who graduated from Reynolds High School with a 3.9 GPA and loads of activities chose UNC-G over the other schools in the UNC system because she liked the classroom atmosphere. She is currently doing very well as a graduate student at Bowman Gray. Another friend of mine is planning on attending UNC-G because they have one of the most respected design departments in the southeast. Although I am not as familiar with UNC-A, I'm sure that there are similar examples.

It is great that people are searching for answers to our current dilemma. However, let's try to think of rational answers, not ridiculous suggestions pulled out of the air without careful consideration.

KEVIN BEAMAN
Freshman
Chemistry

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Letters should include the author's year in school, major, phone number and hometown.

The Daily Tar Heel

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