

OPINION

Bicentennial Commemoration requires student input

Almost 200 years ago, with the laying of the cornerstone of Old East, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was born. Two years later forty-one young white males assembled and were the first students to attend the University. Since then, this campus has grown and become more diverse as it evolved into a world-class university. With University Day just celebrated, it seems appropriate to reflect on our University's approaching Bicentennial. We have good reason to be proud of the past accomplishments that have stemmed from individual and group efforts. During this time of turmoil and adversity, we must draw strength from the bold vision of our founding fathers and propel the University into the next century with a new determination.

The Bicentennial Observance of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is going to succeed in doing just that and much more. Although most students have heard of this "bicentennial" commemoration that will take place, many are unsure of the actual specifics of it. The observance begins on Oct. 12, 1993, and ends on commencement day, 1994. There are numerous, but vital, objectives to this commemoration. We will promote public higher education, which was a unique American idea that first developed in North Carolina 200 years ago. One focus will be on advancements from 1793 to the present in all areas. This includes emphasizing themes of freedom and diversity as well as reflecting on historical accounts of student organizations, campus life, athletics, the campus, faculty and academic departments. Much time will be spent analyzing the best of the past and present in order to determine the future goals of the University and its role for the twenty-

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first century. Encouraging younger students to stay in school because of the importance of education will be handled by reaching out to many schools around the state. Another goal will be making the people of North Carolina and the country aware of the service we offer to them, thus reaffirming the bonds between the University and the state.

Now it will not be unusual for many students to want to brush this aside because of the amount of time that lies between now and the actual commemoration. But *no* — we cannot do that. It is necessary for students to realize the enormity of this observance. The benefits we, as students, receive from this university are reason enough to celebrate its two-hundredth birthday. Student involvement, therefore, will be broad and exciting, and much planning will begin this year. Student organizations have the opportunity to coordinate (perhaps with other groups) a memorable and influential event for the observance. In addition, students will have the opportunity to help in the Bicentennial Campaign. Creativity and originality will be stressed.

The Student Bicentennial Planning Committee is in the process of being formed and structured. It will be a representation of different groups on campus to ensure that the Bicentennial Celebration is characteristic of all divisions of students. The committee will work to publicize the goals of the Bicentennial Observance to all students, faculty, and other community and state members. Working with the numerous student organizations to help them plan

events for the commemoration will be one of the main goals. Before approaching organizations, a list of possible activities will be made to assist in generation ideas. The committee will also research the past 200 years of this university and how it has been impacted by various students or groups. These are a few of the many objectives we hope to accomplish.

As chairwoman of the Student Bicentennial Planning Committee, I have recently become extremely aware of the necessity and desire to celebrate what our University has and will stand for, especially in regard to students. With the amount of negative, pessimistic talk in media and among people, I hope I, along with the committee, can succeed in reviving the Carolina spirit and optimism so that student events for the Bicentennial will not go forgotten. I want to extend the challenge to student leaders to explore their imaginations for unique events to take place during the Bicentennial. I assure that the Student Bicentennial Planning Committee will be available to help and answer all questions that might arise. In the upcoming months, student leaders will be contacted regarding the possibilities for their organizations.

During the next four years, all eyes will turn to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It is our job to show our importance in this country's educational system. We will be successful only with 110 percent involvement and commitment. Let's begin now to guarantee a dynamic and memorable Bicentennial Observance.

Rashmi Airan is a sophomore speech communications and business major from Miami, Fla. She is chairwoman of the Student Bicentennial Planning Committee.



University's 200th birthday is more than just a gigantic party

Bicentennial Observance highlights heritage and promise

The Bicentennial Campaign: a look to the future of UNC

Plans for the Bicentennial Observance have been percolating since 1985 when the Cole Committee issued the initial Bicentennial planning report. Now, only three years from kickoff, it is important to remind ourselves that the Bicentennial Observance is necessary and important and that its success depends on the entire University family.

Why have we chosen to commemorate the University's 200th anniversary? Why not build the world's largest birthday cake, give ourselves a self-congratulatory pat on the back for having made it to the age of 200, and blow out the candles with wishes of good times to come? In the broadest sense, anniversary observances reflect on the value individuals and society hold for an institution. We are the nation's first state University, some argue the world's first true peoples' University. We believe in the mission of our great University. We value deeply its service to the state, the nation, and the world. We are thankful for the impact it has on our lives and the lives of both those who have come before us and those who will come after. As our state's leaders increasingly sort out priorities for the future, the Bicentennial Observance must leave them no doubt as to the value we hold for our University.

Reflecting on the value of UNC at Chapel Hill, we must communicate through the Bicentennial the University's service and accomplishments throughout the state and nation. The kickoff and finale events of the Bicentennial Observance will call attention to the University's anniversary, but it is incumbent upon the University's individual schools, departments, and

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organizations to plan the programs in between that will bring distinction to the Observance while communicating a clear and convincing message about the University's past, present, and future. The Bicentennial will not unveil in 1993 as a menu from which to choose a variety of appetizers, entrees, and desserts. Faculty, staff, and students must help cook the meal! Already over 300 ideas have been submitted from individuals and groups across campus, from alumni, and from friends of the University. These people will plan and implement the majority of Bicentennial events. Most of this planning will occur over the next year.

I emphatically urge students to get involved. The University of Texas's Centennial was a national success largely because it involved students in every stage of planning. The staffs of Harvard University's 350th and The University of Pennsylvania's 250th have declared their greatest failure to be planning their anniversaries to take place during student recesses. As students are the core of our mission at Carolina, they must be reflected in every fiber of the Bicentennial. Historically, students on this campus have been the entrepreneurs of progressive and creative ideas and programs. The Bicentennial Observance is an excellent opportunity to engage this creative spirit.

In these times of austerity and uncertainty, understandably we don't feel much like a birthday party. But perhaps

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| Name | The Bicentennial Observance |
| When | University Day, Oct. 12, 1993, to Commencement May 8, 1994. Eight months |
| Goal | To strengthen the bonds between the people of North Carolina and their University, reaffirm the University's historical commitment to free inquiry in the pursuit of knowledge, and lay the cornerstone for the University's third century of service to the state, nation and world. |
| Strategy | Special conferences, colloquia, internationally distinguished speakers, festivals, memorabilia, histories, exhibits, concerts, ceremonies, awards, media features, student programs, videos, television programs, etc. |
| Leadership | William Massey, Associate Vice Chancellor for University Relations; General Secretary of The Bicentennial Observance. |

Steven Tepper, Associate General Secretary

it is through the thoughtful mission of the Bicentennial Observance that we can all find strength in the affirmation of the University's heritage and promise.

Steven Tepper is the associate general secretary of the Bicentennial Observance.

Robert Sweeney
Guest Writer

the University's annual operating budget. The remainder comes from contracts, grants, services and tuition. The endowment provides about 6 percent of its income.

The campaign will expand that endowment — those resources that fill the gap between what the state provides and the University's operations require. It will support student aid, faculty salaries, the libraries, research, the construction and renovation of several buildings.

The official campaign goal will be announced at a kickoff next Oct. 12 — University Day. By then, we expect to have raised about \$150 million. The campaign will conclude in 1995.

Under the guidance of Chancellor Paul Hardin, we are already seeing signs of success. Alumni, corporations and friends of the University have pledged nearly \$79 million toward the \$300 million goal.

What will the campaign do for Carolina?

For students, it will greatly increase support in the form of more need- and merit-based scholarships. It will mean a well-funded Honors Program and a Student Opportunity Fund that will benefit students campuswide. And it will provide greater support for graduate and professional students.

Faculty will reap the benefits of more endowed and term professorships, rewards for excellence in teaching, and funds to support curriculum develop-

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| Name | The Bicentennial Campaign for Carolina |
| When | July 1989 to June 1995 |
| Goal | To raise more than \$300 million for academics at UNC at Chapel Hill |
| Strategy | To mobilize the resources of alumni, corporations, private foundations and friends of the University to support students, faculty and facilities at UNC |
| Leadership | Hugh McColl, National Campaign Co-chairman and chief executive officer of NCBN; William Armfield, National Campaign Co-chairman and president of Macfield Inc.; Robert Sweeney, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development and Campaign Director |

The Bicentennial Campaign for Carolina, the largest fund-raising effort in the University's history, will raise more than \$300 million for academics.

ment, study leaves and research opportunities.

Those are just a few examples. Campuswide, we all will benefit from the success of The Bicentennial Campaign.

The Bicentennial Campaign for Carolina will set the course for the University's next 200 years.

Robert Sweeney is associate vice chancellor for development and the director of The Bicentennial Campaign for Carolina.

Voting for Helms is voting against education

For the past few months, this state has focused on a historical race for U.S. Senate matching two men on completely different ends of the spectrum: Jesse Helms, that last bastion of the Old South and staunch conservatism, and Harvey Gantt, the first black Senate nominee in North Carolina this century and strong advocate of liberal ideals. This race has focused on many issues, but speaking as a student, I believe it imperative that the issue of education receive just attention.

Some may think other issues more pressing than that of the often ignored realm of education. But in looking at long-term goals, education is the lifeblood of a democratic society. In a nation where the ultimate authority rests with the people, it can be detrimental to have that power resting with a society that is not informed and educated to its fullest potential. Sure, cuts have to be made; money is short. But prudence and vision are necessary in all legislative decisions, including deciding where to cut funds from the state and national budgets. In a time when funds to all levels of education in North Carolina are being cut by the principle supplier, i.e. the state government, federal/national funds become all the more important not to just college students like myself, but to preschoolers, those in elementary and secondary schools, those receiving vocational education, and to

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the handicapped. Cuts are necessary and allocations to other departments are a reality, but an individual lawmaker's priorities have to come into play, and sometimes, into question.

Helms has the worst record of any senator on the issue of education. He has expressed his desire to eliminate the Department of Education, and has voted against DOE appropriations bills every single year, bills which routinely pass with an average vote of 78-17.

He performs similar feats in regard to funding for vocational education programs and handicapped education. Helms was one of only 18 senators to vote for the termination of federal support for vocational education programs. Helms voted four times in the 1980s against funding for Head Start, and has consistently voted against funding for Title XX, which funds day care.

In addressing elementary/secondary education, his malevolence has been extraordinary. Helms voted 13 times in the 1980s against funding for compensatory education, which provides assistance to school districts with concentrations of children from low-income families. In 1987, Helms was the only

member of the senate to vote against the Elementary and Secondary Education Improvement Act. The act designated and reauthorized funding for several educational programs in urban and rural areas. It also included a Comprehensive School Health Program and literacy and basic skill instruction for adults. But no doubt his coup de grace was when he voted against President George Bush's Educational Excellence Act, which established or aided many educational programs, such as the National Science Scholars Program, the Presidential Merit Schools Program, the School Dropout Demonstration Assistance Act, and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. In addition, it authorized funding for a drug-free schools program and award to elementary/secondary schools which made substantial progress in raising student achievement levels. These are comprehensive measures that the federal government took to aid schools suffering financially or academically, and Helms opposed all of them.

In regard to higher education, Helms has maintained his indignant nature. He voted 12 times in the 1980s against funding for Pell Grants, which assist students from low-income families in gaining access to post-secondary education. He voted against the Higher Education Act of 1980 and in 1987 was the only senator to vote against amend-

ments to that act. In 1986 and 1987, he voted to eliminate a federal/state cost sharing partnership to assist in development and expansion of need-based grant programs, and in 1987, Helms voted to eliminate the College Work-Study program from the federal budget.

The preceding review was not a blatant negative attack on Helms; it was a straightforward presentation of Helms' public voting record on legislative acts dealing with education. True, it's point was to shed a bad light on Helms' dealings with education, but without being aware of what is bad, how can we contrast it with something that is good? Gantt's dedication to the best affordable education available is key to his campaign. Gantt's vehement opposition to the way Helms has voted on the previous pieces of legislation is proof positive of this dedication. Education is something everyone should be concerned about, and most are, but talk is cheap. Despite what Helms says, it is clear that his priorities do not lie with that which has been called the key to growth, progress, and life itself. John F. Kennedy once said, "Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education." On Nov. 6, vote for education; vote for progress. Vote for Gantt for the U.S. Senate.

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