

The Daily Tar Heel

Volume 101, Issue 98
A century of editorial freedom
Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Chapel Hill, North Carolina
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1993

News/Features/Arts/Sports 962-0245
Business/Advertising 962-1163
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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Fires Fueled by Santa Ana Winds Rage in California

Wildfires driven by searing desert winds torched thousands of tinder-dry acres in Southern California Wednesday, destroying scores of homes and forcing hundreds to flee in terror from wealthy suburbs and rural hamlets.

One 3,000-acre fire threatened the Wild Animal Park in northern San Diego County, where zookeepers evacuated 26 endangered California condors and four Andean condors.

By midafternoon Wednesday, 12 large fires fanned by the hot, dry Santa Ana winds gusting up to 70 mph were burning from Ventura County to the Mexican border. The fires fed off vegetation baked to a crisp in the rainless summer.

A man was arrested Wednesday in connection with one of the worst blazes, which authorities said was set, perhaps accidentally, by a transient. In that fire, an estimated 45 homes were destroyed or damaged in the northeast suburb of Altadena.

Yeltsin Lifts Restrictions On Property Transactions

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin destroyed one of the remaining cornerstones of communist rule Wednesday by lifting virtually all restrictions on buying and selling land.

The action gives a huge boost to Russia's transformation to a market economy and likely will lead to the breakup of thousands of inefficient collective farms.

As the president pushed ahead with reforms, however, the fault lines in his government widened. Yeltsin accused his prime minister Tuesday of trying to seize control of the media in the latest infighting in the government.

Report: Haitian Official Part of Illegal Drug Trade

MIAMI — The second most powerful military man in Haiti personally receives and distributes \$100 million or more in drug-trafficking bribes each year, according to a confidential U.S. Senate report.

"The drug-trafficking 'perk'...right now is controlled by the Port-au-Prince police chief, Lt. Col. Michel Francois," said a summary of the report obtained by The Associated Press.

Francois also controls the "attaches," the civilian-military gangs the United Nations says are hunting down and killing pro-democracy figures in Haiti.

The report said little direct evidence ties Haiti's military ruler, Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras, to drug payoffs, but it adds, "Obviously there is an arrangement" between Cedras and Francois.

Clinton Presents Revised Health Plan to Congress

WASHINGTON — Promising a "new era of security for every American," President Clinton hand-carried his revised health-care plan to Congress Wednesday and urged passage within a year.

House Republican Leader Bob Michel said that there were "substantive and profound policy differences" over many elements in the plan assembled by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Clinton presented the plan in the Capitol's ornate Statuary Hall — to the cheers of more than 70 congressional supporters — in an effort to regain the momentum lost in the last month after the original unveiling of the broad proposal.

Hispanic Representative Gives Support to NAFTA

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration endorsed a proposal to finance community-development projects as part of the free trade agreement with Mexico and promptly won support for the pact Wednesday from a prominent member of the congressional Hispanic caucus.

Rep. Esteban E. Torres, D-Calif., and several Hispanic groups, including the National Council of La Raza, endorsed the North American Free Trade Agreement, intended to lower trade barriers between the United States, Mexico and Canada. Torres said his decision was based on the administration's decision to devote 10 percent of the funds from a new U.S.-Mexico development bank to help economically depressed areas even if they were not along the U.S.-Mexican border.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Variably cloudy, breezy; high 60.

FRIDAY: Mostly sunny; high mid-60s.

Congress Rejects Anti-BCC Bill by 17-3 Vote

BY STEVE ROBBLEE
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

One bill condemning the construction of a free-standing Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center and another that would defund minority-recruitment efforts left Student Congress debating the role of minority affairs on the UNC campus.

Rep. Joey Stansbury, Dist. 11, sponsored the bill to condemn the BCC. The bill stated in part, "A black cultural center will only further create disrespect for blacks at UNC and further racial separatism."

Rep. Adam McKible, Rep. 5, called the bill racist and "politically narrow-minded." McKible questioned Stansbury's voting record on minority affairs, including a vote earlier in the evening against funding

minority-recruitment efforts.

"You've voted against every minority-appropriations bill," McKible said.

But Stansbury said his bill was not an example of racism.

"I'm trying to avoid charges (of racism), but I really don't see how it's racism."

Rep. Philip Charles-Pierre, Dist. 19, said the BCC would have some social aspects but would be mainly for academics — unlike the current BCC, located in the Student Union.

After approximately 15 minutes of debate, Rep. Jonathan Jordan, Dist. 1, moved that congress vote on the issue. "I think everyone already has a stand on the BCC issue — further debate is dilatory and will result in political grandstanding," he said.

Members agreed to vote, and the bill

failed by a 17-3 vote with seven abstentions. Stansbury and Reps. Tom Lyon, Dist. 21, and John Phillippe, Dist. 18, voted for the bill.

Before the BCC bill, Brent Tollison, assistant program coordinator for minority recruitment in the Office of University Affairs and a UNC junior, appeared before congress asking for a reinstatement of funds for annual minority recruitment.

The \$4,735 that had been requested by student government had been pared to nothing in finance committee.

During debate, McKible proposed that congress reinstate \$7,201 for the recruitment programs — \$1 more than last year's minority-recruitment budget.

"I suggest that we amend this bill to \$7,201 to show that we want to go a little

farther than last year," McKible said. "The \$1 is symbolic."

The amendment passed by a vote of 17-12, but two-thirds of congress did not vote in favor of funding the group — as is required for Student Congress donations — and the bill failed by the same vote.

During debate, Tollison asked congress to approve the same level of funding it had in the past for minority recruitment.

Recruitment and preorientation programs such as High School Honors Day and Tar Heel Target have been funded by Student Congress since 1973, he said.

More than 80 percent of those high-school seniors who participated in High School Honors Day enrolled at the University, but the program also was successful based on the number of UNC stu-

dents who participated in minority recruitment, he said.

"Over 20 percent of African Americans and Native Americans on this campus are involved in these programs," he said.

Stansbury said he objected to funding the bill because it went to benefit high-school students and not those University students who now pay student fees.

"I think a large portion of this (recruitment) should be done by high-school guidance counselors," Stansbury said.

Rep. Monica Cloud, Dist. 16, said minority recruitment efforts helped UNC get "the cream of the crop as far as minority high-school students in this state."

Kelly Newton contributed to this article.

Fans on the Prowl



Linda Edmondson, a Hillsborough resident, tries on a new Carolina Panthers T-shirt at DSG Sports at Oak Creek Village in Durham. Edmondson was one of many NFL fans across the state who flooded stores Wednesday seeking new Panthers merchandise. See story on page 11.

DTH/KATRINA WITTRAMP

Historian, Novelist Seek Same Truth, Foote Says

BY JENNIFER AYRES
STAFF WRITER

"Too many novelists won't read history, and too many historians can't read novels," writer Shelby Foote told an audience of about 900 in Memorial Hall on Wednesday night.

In his speech, "The Novelist as Historian," Foote described the similarities and differences between novelists and historians. Historians communicate facts while novelists prefer to communicate sensations, he said.

"Both are seeking the truth," Foote said. "Not different truths, but the same truth."

"They only try to reach it by separate methods," he said.

Foote, a 1939 UNC graduate, has written six novels, a collection of short stories and a narrative history of the Civil War. He was narrator and consultant for "The Civil War," the highest-rated PBS show ever.

In the treatment of characters, historians tend to try too hard to remain unbiased, Foote said.

"It is here that I think (historical writing) is most sorely departed from the truth," he said.

"In truth, all is clear," Foote said. "The only thing that could muddy its waters is muddy writing."

Historical writing could benefit from writers who do not concentrate so much on facts, but the way in which facts are expressed, he said. "Facts can be done without, as certainly as any other components in communicating events," Foote said.

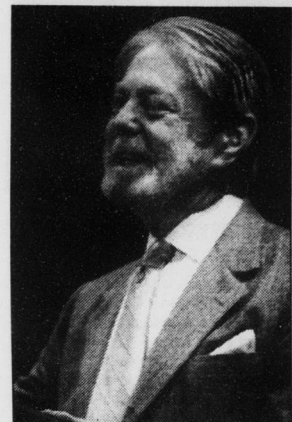
A historian's tendency to neglect the emotional and personal aspects of history for the sake of neutrality actually removes some of the story's truthfulness, Foote said.

"Facts are not enough," he said. "It is a great sin to distort them."

"If any historian produced one page as clear as Hemingway, that page would live forever," he said.

Foote said he agreed with Aristotle's belief that the management of plot was the most important element of composition.

"Plotting includes a good deal more than narration and the arrangement of



Writer SHELBY FOOTE said historians try too hard to be impartial events," he said.

Deciding what is historically significant enough to record is the way in which historians engage in the developing of plots, Foote said.

"Plot determines what will be left out as well as what is included," he said.

Foote compared the development of a plot to the creation of a painting.

"Drama comes from where the picture starts and stops," he said.

"Dryness can become richness if the brush, or the ink pen, is held by a steady hand with a caring eye," Foote said.

"There is no reason historians cannot be artists, too."

Foote said he enjoyed historical writing because of its intricate nature.

"Technically, what interested me was the multiple plot," he said.

When approached to write a short history of the Civil War, Foote said he readily agreed. "It seemed to be a pleasant way to spend a year and a half," he said.

Foote ultimately wrote a three-volume, detailed account of the Civil War.

"I spent the next 20 years doing that."

Campus Leaders: Students Uninterested

BY DANIEL FELDMAN
STAFF WRITER

With the municipal election less than a week away, candidates in the five local races are beginning to feel the last-minute crunch to garner support from Chapel Hill and Carrboro voters.

Although town government decisions affect the University, some campus leaders said Wednesday that most students didn't care enough to pick their local leaders.

Chapel Hill Town Council member Mark Chilton said the student body did not seem motivated to vote Nov. 2, even though 28 candidates are vying for 14 seats in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education, Chapel Hill mayor, town council, Carrboro mayor and board of aldermen races.

"There was massive registrations with the Gantt-Helms race in 1990, my campaign for a town council seat and a heated mayoral race in 1991 and a presidential election last year," Chilton said. "There seems to be a lack of an incentive to vote without a state and national one going on."

Chilton added that even without on-campus elections hype, some students were volunteering for local campaigns, includ-

ing those of school board hopeful Lavonda Burnette and council incumbents Joyce Brown and Barbara Powell.

Chilton said he was involved in a new group called Younger Voters of Chapel Hill, which has endorsed candidates with a student's needs in mind.

This year, campus groups did not hold candidates' forums or endorse candidates like they did in 1991 when Chilton, then a UNC junior, ran for a council seat.

Ameena Batada, co-chairwoman of Student Environmental Action Coalition, said Campus Y had prohibited SEAC from making endorsements after last year's student body president race. "The students have the responsibility to keep up with all events in Chapel Hill, whether or not SEAC and others do it," Batada said. "All the decisions made at the town council affects the student body since they are issues which

pertain to them off campus. It is not our responsibility to the students."

Dacia Toll, student body vice president, said student government provided a shuttle to and from the public library two weeks ago so students could register to vote.

"We've made a push for voter registration so students can exercise their right to vote," she said. "We have also been using education to get the registered voters into the polls."

Toll said the lack of a national election kept students from being interested in town races. "Generally (the student body) doesn't care on the whole."

Laney Edmisten, Young Democrats vice president, said her organization did not concern itself with local elections. "People are not concerned, so I'm not sure how many members (of Young Democrats) are even registered Orange County voters."

Chilton said many students were registered in Orange County from previous elections but that a big chunk still were not.

"There's a lot (of students) not registered, which is a legitimate point," Chilton said. "Several thousand students are currently registered in either Chapel Hill or Carrboro. Maybe a couple hundred will end up voting."

Local Elections: Why Should Students Care?



Part 2 of 3

N.C. Voters to Decide on Amendment

BY WARD CONVILLE
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 2, North Carolinians will have a chance to vote on a proposed amendment to the state constitution that would give counties and cities the option to use economic development bonds without voter approval.

A press release from Gov. Jim Hunt's office said the bonds were intended to fund infrastructure improvements to help attract new industries, which would increase the tax base to pay off the bonds.

"The governor is eager to have this tool in the hands of economic developers around the state and local governments so they can compete with our neighboring states in bringing jobs to North Carolina," said Tom Rosshirt, deputy press secretary for Hunt.

Rosshirt said an amendment to the state constitution similar to the proposed amendment was passed in the mid-1970s. The amendment also allows local governments to issue bonds without voter approval, he said.

"In 865 cases in the last 17 years, bonds have been issued (without voter approval),"

he said. "And the Department of Commerce says the bonds have saved or created over 100,000 new jobs, and not a dime of taxpayer money was spent."

The press release said the amendment would attract industry to the state without raising individual or corporate taxes.

"(Economic development financing) improves local infrastructure, enhances the local property tax base, attracts new industry and creates new jobs and makes the area more attractive for investment — all without spending existing revenues or raising taxes," the release said.

Ellis Hankins, general council to the N.C. League of Municipalities, said he was concerned that because of misinformation, some voters might think their property taxes would rise if the amendment was passed.

"Money to pay back bonds will not come from a tax increase, but from added property tax revenues that result from the new private developments," Hankins said. "The increased property taxes from new businesses would pay for public improvements necessary to support those new businesses."

The committee's release also said the amendment was being supported by Hunt as a way to attract more jobs to North Carolina.

"The proposed constitutional amendment was ratified by the General Assembly on July 23, 1993, the day prior to the legislature's adjournment," the release said.

"Proponents of the amendment say the amendment will help produce jobs in North Carolina. Opponents of the amendment say that it is a method of giving away taxpayer's money without the taxpayers having a voice in the gift."

Rosshirt said North Carolinians would get a chance to express their opinions on the issue by their votes. The amendment, he said, would not so much take away the voters' voice, but give elected officials a needed advantage to allow them to help the state's citizens.

"It will be giving elected officials greater leverage to act quickly to bring jobs to their communities when speed is of the essence," Rosshirt said.

Tom Gilmore, chairman of the Com-

Please See AMENDMENT, Page 4

The difference between my quotations and those of the next man is that I leave out the inverted commas.

George Moore