

The Daily Tar Heel

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South Building Shuffle

Chancellor Michael Hooker might not be known for his dancing prowess, but he's unveiled a snazzy new little step: the South Building shuffle.

In an expected move announced Friday, Hooker said that he would reorganize his administration, to make it more "efficient and effective." Hooker's move signals another a focus on increased accountability and activity in UNC's administrative headquarters. The reorganization may create anxiety for people accustomed to a complacent and often excessively bureaucratic campus administration. But the University community should welcome the changes, which streamline UNC's management.

Ever since Hooker moved into South Building on July 1, he has infused his coworkers with new energy and priorities. In reshuffling his top team members, Hooker has stayed true to UNC's long-time tradition of minimizing the number of administrators. He said the changes in titles and reporting procedures eliminated ambiguities

without creating any new positions on the payroll. Two vice provosts — one for academic and one for health affairs — will report to Provost Richard Richardson, who will be the undisputed chief of academic affairs. All other vice chancellors will report to Chief of Staff Elson Floyd.

Easily lost in the swarm of complex titles is the underlying vision. This move does not seek to centralize power under the chancellor, nor to create sinecures for South Building administrative fixtures. Hooker wants his still-forming administration to reflect his desire for clear organization, accountability and academic primacy.

In the long run, the adjustments should make our University's leaders more accountable. Health and Academic affairs will have more impetus to share resources, while closer coordination of the various vice chancellors will encourage administrators to think as members of a team rather than of a hierarchy.

Administrators may not be having a ball, but at least Hooker's shuffle will get them dancing.

Another Smith in the Dome

When Charlotte Smith drained a buzzer-beating three-pointer in the 1994 NCAA championship game, she secured a place in the long line of basketball wonders that have played at UNC. By recognizing this outstanding athlete, the University and the sports community have taken another small step toward fully acknowledging the achievements of its female members.

Smith's number 23 was retired at a ceremony during halftime of the UNC-Florida State men's hoops game. Smith, who graduated in 1994 after helping UNC win its first women's basketball national championship, is the first woman to have her jersey retired at UNC.

During her years at Carolina, Smith built an impressive legacy. In 1994, she was the Most Outstanding Player in the Final Four and set an NCAA Championship record by snagging 23 rebounds. As a senior, Smith was first-team All-American and third in voting for the Naismith Award with an ACC-leading 19.6 points and 10.7 rebounds per game. Smith is second in UNC history in career scoring and rebounds and was the first Tar Heel to score 2,000 points and grab 1,000 rebounds.

While Smith's credentials are impressive numerically, her real achievements are less easy to quantify. Through strong play and skill, Smith and her teammates brought long overdue national attention to a great sport. Smith's aggressive offense and agile ballhandling (not to mention her dunking ability) also encouraged a level of athleticism high enough to draw the crowds that men's basketball does.

Although no sport at UNC may ever be able to compete with men's hoops, the successes of the women's basketball team and of other women's teams such as soccer and field hockey have shown that women's sports are valuable and entertaining in their own right, not just as additions to male-dominated programs.

Smith's career at UNC and in the professional realm at Copma Ferraro in Italy is an example to all sports aficionados of the exciting potential of women's athletics.

With a magnificent past behind her and a brilliant career ahead, Charlotte Smith will help carry women's athletics to a new level, perhaps even rivalling the other number 23 from this University.

U.N.-Satisfactory Rating

When human rights organizations put out their lists of top offenders, the last country that comes to mind is the United States ... or is it?

A special investigation into executions around the world conducted by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights placed the U.S. on the list, along with Brazil, India and China. U.N. Investigator Bacre Waly Ndiaye explained the U.S.'s ranking was due to executions of the mentally ill or retarded, inadequate trials and persistent racial bias.

Before U.S. politicians point their foreign policy fingers at other countries, they should take a hard look at this country's conditions. If the government cannot administer the death penalty fairly, it should not be administered at all.

In 1972 the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the death penalty in *Furman vs. Georgia*, mandating the elimination of arbitrary and discriminatory applications. North Carolina answered by restoring automatic death penalty statutes, but those were struck down as well. In *Gregg vs. Georgia* the U.S. Supreme Court accepted the death penalty as long as it respected "evolving standards of human decency" and the "dignity of man."

But disparate applications of the death penalty remain. A black defendant killing a white person is far more likely to receive the death penalty than a white defendant killing a white person, a black defendant killing a black person or a white defendant killing a black person (which earns the lowest number of death penalties).

Often death row inmates have inadequate representation or no representation at all. Many have undiagnosed mental illnesses or handicaps. With the cuts in public interest services, these conditions will only worsen.

The recent pro-death penalty movement in the U.S. has prompted record numbers of executions and new legislation limiting appeals. At least 30 people have been executed this century, a large price to pay for a death penalty whose deterrent value is negligible.

Unfortunately, this listing is not a novel occurrence. Other human rights organizations routinely cite the U.S. for human rights abuses.

The U.N. report should put American citizens on alert and force legislators to take a closer look at problems in this country — problems the rest of the world can point out — before they attempt to solve other countries' human rights dilemmas.

Mitsubishi Ad Wrong; Facts Speak for Themselves

Sometimes the facts can't speak for themselves," said a Mitsubishi advertisement in Friday's Daily Tar Heel. The background picture of a rain forest is offered as a symbol of Mitsubishi's commitment to "sustainable development" and "stewardship." A truthful advertisement would have shown pictures of desolate clear-cuts. Mitsubishi Corporation is the world's number-one corporate destroyer of rain forests.

Mitsubishi's ad amounts to nothing more than "greenwashing" and lies. Many environmentally destructive companies have been painting themselves green in an attempt to make it look like the environmental movement is no longer needed, that its battles are over. This could not be further from the truth.

Mitsubishi tells us that 96 percent of the world's tropical fiber is used locally either for fuel or in support of industrial development. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N. notes that slash-and-burn farming is a major cause of deforestation, yet defines deforestation as the "removal of all tree cover." Logging severely degrades forests, but is not considered "deforestation" because a few trees are left standing.

The International Timber Trade Organization acknowledges that less than 1 percent of all logging in rain forests is done in a sustainable fashion. What about Mitsubishi's "low impact logging practices"? They include the logging of Sarawak, Malaysia, which has resulted in the displacement of over 200,000 people. Employing 170 local people and making a few government officials fabulously rich, Mitsubishi and its subsidiary Diaya Malaysia have left over 100,000 hectares of virgin rain forest destroyed. Their "reforestation" project plants only 10 percent of the original tree species and can never recapture a forest's original biodiversity. At a cost of \$40,000 per hectare, Mitsubishi "reforested" seven of the 100,000 logged hectares in Sarawak. Furthermore, Mitsubishi has consistently lied

about statistics. The Japanese government admitted that Japan consumes over 30 percent of the world's tropical timber output. Mitsubishi uses the figure 1.2 percent. Logging and corresponding road-building opens up rain forest to slash-and-burn farming. The process of deforestation is caused by a multitude of activities, of which corporate exploitation is primary.

Cattle ranching (for your hamburgers) forces farmers to move deeper into the forests by buying up and destroying, through unsustainable grazing, their land. Indigenous peoples are given no rights to their land, as mining companies pay off governments to provide low paying, short-term, degrading work in order to destroy the rain forest for profits.

Here in America, logging has increased to devastating levels due to a "logging without laws" bill. Timber industries are exempt from ALL environmental protection laws and public appeals to timber sales. Sales of ancient, threatened forests — halted a year ago because any logging would destroy them irreversibly — have proceeded. Timber companies have grabbed the most valuable, healthy forests and cut them at night, under armed guard, due to massive public protest. The property, income and environment of thousands are being destroyed by unsustainable clear-cuts and road building. Logging destroys rivers, causes landslides and imperils animal habitats and watersheds.

Mitsubishi, like our timber companies, has no problem getting around environmental protections.

Mitsubishi claims to adhere to a "corporate responsibility to society." They claim to research and support reforestation, alternative paper and sustainable logging. Yet Mitsubishi has never made good on its claims. Their unsustainable practices continue today in Brazil, Canada and Siberia.

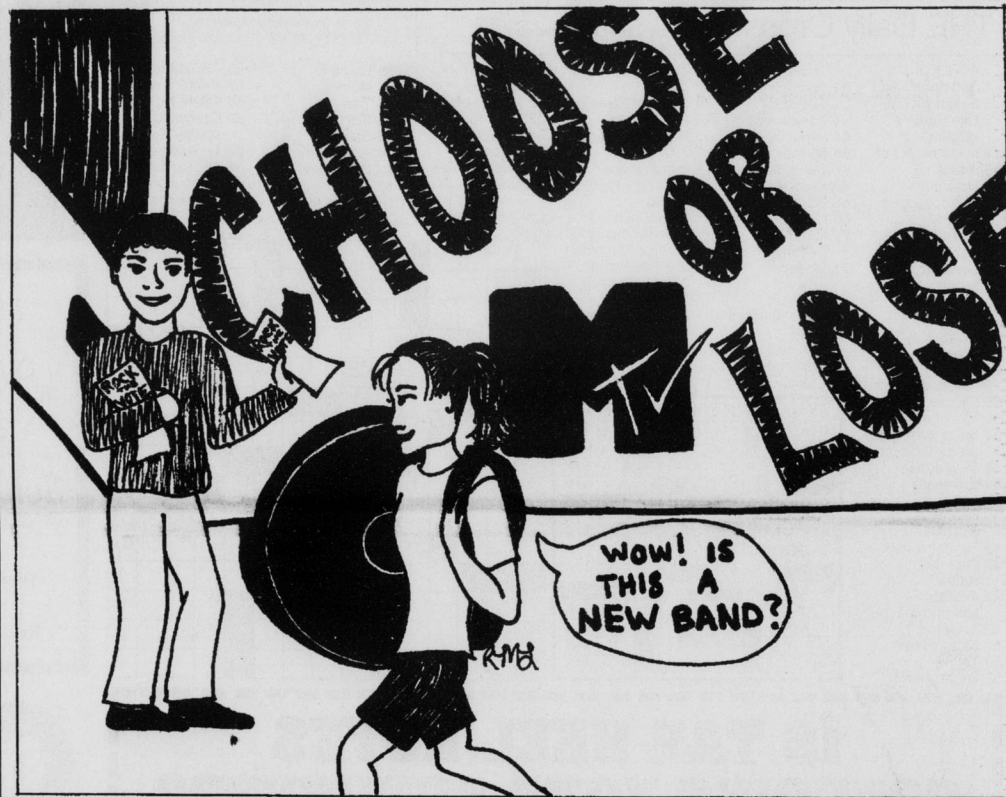
Mitsubishi itself is the trading company that deals in timber. Through substantial cross-ownership and close business ties, Mitsubishi Motors, M. Bank, M. Oil, Nikon, Kirin Brewery and many more companies are responsible for their involvement in rain forest destruction. If the Rain Forest Action Network knew, as the ad says, that Mitsubishi has "no such logging practices," then thousands of indigenous and international activists, companies and organizations would not be calling for the boycott of all Mitsubishi products.

It is hard to stay ahead of corporate lies and greenwashing. It is interesting that Mitsubishi appropriates the language of those who truly strive for sustainable living, but when they say, "We support efforts to find and develop alternative wood sources such as kenaf," they do not justify their rain forest destruction. Action speaks louder than words. Mitsubishi has yet to stop its rain forest logging and convert to "alternative sources," even though other companies are already producing hemp and kenaf and recycling paper instead of logging our rainforests.

Through boycotts, RAN and other groups help us use our power as consumers to make corporations accountable for their actions. Corporations like Mitsubishi will continue to greenwash and lie about their impact on the environment.

Boycotting has an age-old legacy; it furthered the civil rights movement and helped to end apartheid in South Africa. Please continue the boycott of Mitsubishi products until the facts do speak for themselves. When the sounds of chainsaws ripping through the rain forest cease and when the indigenous peoples and animals can hear themselves above the roar of corporate destruction, the facts will finally speak for themselves.

Andrew Pearson is a junior history major from Shaker Heights, Ohio.



BCC Fund Raising Going Well; Thanks to Those Who Helped

TO THE EDITOR:
The article entitled "T-shirt Sales Will Boost Funds To Build BCC" which appeared in The Daily Tar Heel (Feb. 23) failed to mention some key players in the planning and implementation of this fund-raising campaign.

Student Body President Calvin Cunningham and student government were involved in the initial planning of several initiatives. The design and implementation of this project was a collaborative effort between Melanie Wall of "Bread and Butter Custom Screen Printing," Mo Nathan, Ivy Farguheson, Dawnielle Gladden and myself. Wall was instrumental in helping to streamline the design and donated her time and labor.

The T-shirts are selling very well. Support from the DTH, other local media and community and student leaders has helped to sell more than 100 shirts in four days. We are planning additional fundraising with student organizations and local businesses and value the support of all participants. We hope that the entire community will continue to embrace these initiatives.

Thank you for your continued coverage and support of the Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center.

Ty Jonson
PUBLICIST
SONJA H. STONE BLACK CULTURAL CENTER

Black History Is More Than a 30-Word Blurb in Newspaper

TO THE EDITOR:
I have been reading your Black History Month Spotlight. Your effort to provide information on African Americans who have contributed to African-American and American history is nothing less than commendable. However, two have peaked my interest and concern. The spotlight on Jean-Baptiste Point Du Sable (Feb. 20) mentioned that Du Sable settled in what is today Chicago, but did not give him the credit of being the first settler of the area. The site of his home is a National Historic Landmark, designated in May 1976. The spotlight on Leroy Eldridge Cleaver (Feb. 19) was disturbing. The only information you provided was that he went to reform school in junior high school and later went to prison. You did not mention his affiliation with the Black Panther Party as Minister of Information. You failed to mention that in 1968 the Panthers joined forces with the radical white Peace and Freedom Party to run Cleaver in the

READERS' FORUM

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticism. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 words and must be typed, double-spaced, dated and signed by no more than two people. Students should include their year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff should include their title, department and phone number. The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and vulgarity. Bring letters to the DTH office at Suite 104, Carolina Union, mail them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 or e-mail forum to dth@unc.edu.

U.S. Presidential election on the platform of social revolution. You did not mention that Cleaver wrote a best selling book, "Soul On Ice," in 1968 that is considered a classic statement of African-American alienation in the U.S. These are pertinent pieces of information.

Before reading your spotlights, I knew very little about Du Sable or Cleaver, but I knew enough to realize that the information you provided was incomplete. It took me less than an hour in the Undergraduate Library to obtain this information. If your goal is to provide accurate and complete information, the resources are available and it takes little time to obtain. If that is not your goal, I would rather you not provide the information. If you would like to have more complete information on African-American history, you can start by referencing the following sources: "The African American Almanac," 6th Ed., and "Contemporary Black Biography," Vol. 1-9. Your spotlight did provoke me to seek more information on Du Sable and Cleaver and that makes me all the more educated about the history of my people. For that, I thank you.

La Shae Sloan
GRADUATE STUDENT
HEALTH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Follow Hookers' Example; Stand Up at Basketball Games

TO THE EDITOR:
To all you students who want somewhere quiet to study, I have found a new place ... the Smith Center during a basketball game. The Florida State game was the most pathetic display

of crowd support ever witnessed during the modern era. Did we forget it was the last home game of the season? Did we forget it was on national TV? Even Dickie V wanted to know why we were so quiet. Hey, Carolina Fever, you're supposed to be the loud ones. I couldn't even tell where your section was because you weren't even wearing the same color shirts. Dr. James Hile, where did you go in the second half? We desperately needed your help! I could not believe that with three minutes go — down only by five — nobody was making any noise. I hate to say it, but we are a wine and cheese crowd. There was one positive note, however. Chancellor Michael Hooker and his wife were standing up and cheering. Even from section 210, row R, they were the only two people standing in their half of the Dome. Let us all follow the example of our chancellor next year. Please. Thank you.

David Shapiro
SENIOR
CHEMISTRY

Religion Is Not a 'Crutch,' Can Be Used to Examine All Issues

TO THE EDITOR:
Tara Servatius claims that "pre-packaged" religion works well in dealing with life's tough questions ("Religious Belief Is Choice Between All or Nothing" Feb. 19). I disagree with this assumption that if you subscribe to a religion, you have closed your mind. As a sincere Christian, I agree that my faith is "all or nothing." However, I do not hide behind a doctrine.

While God is a huge support in my life, I completely disagree that my faith is a "crutch." My faith is based on my understanding that I need God and am incomplete without Him. Ms. Servatius may find this dependence unacceptable, but it does not provide an easy answer. I have not blindly accepted what I've heard at church or read in the Bible. I have prayed, read, talked and thought very hard about my convictions. I continue to examine my beliefs, and my faith and experience have shown me that my relationship with Christ is real. Ms. Servatius claims that her family used Christianity to avoid sensitive issues; this is not always the case. Christian friends and I often struggle over difficult issues, including sexuality, racism and relationships. Our beliefs influence the way we approach problems, but they don't provide simple solutions. My life goes much smoother when I am depending on God, but it isn't always easy, and does not involve hiding from life.

Jason Roth
SENIOR
ENGLISH EDUCATION

