

The Daily Tar Heel

INSIDE
THURSDAY
MARCH 28, 1996



Employment Opportunities

A new center on Franklin Street will help improve job training. *Page 2*



Makin' Copies

The number of double-sided copiers for student use will increase to save paper. *Page 2*



Hooker Pulls About Face on New Deck

UNC is not likely to build a parking deck on the intramural fields. *Page 3*

Today's Weather

Rainy and cloudy; high upper-40s.

Friday: Overcast; high 60s.

103 years of editorial freedom
Serving the students and the University community since 1893
News/Features/Arts/Sports: 962-0245
Business/Advertising: 962-1163
Volume 104, Issue 20
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
© 1996 DTH Publishing Corp.
All rights reserved.

Hate Crimes Draw Tougher Sentences

■ As states begin to collect data on hate crimes, new laws impose harsher sentences on offenders.

BY ANDREW PARK
STAFF WRITER

As the debate over hate crimes on campus unfolds, the University can look to the state of North Carolina for guidance.

Since 1991, ethnic intimidation has been a serious crime in North Carolina, serious enough to warrant the toughest misdemeanor punishment available from state courts.

State statutes do not prohibit hate speech. But prosecutors can pursue criminals who are motivated by racial, religious or ethnic bias when committing common crimes. And if convicted, they face harsher sentences than criminals who were not ethnically motivated.

The law was the product of five years of discussion between a governor's task force and the N.C. General Assembly.

In the mid-1980s, communities nationwide were outraged by hate crimes, and many states were legislating harsher penalties for perpetra-

tors. White supremacists were at the top of their lists.

"A hate crime has two victims: the individual involved in the specific incident and the community to which that individual belongs," a brochure from the N.C. Attorney General's office states. "A hate crime incident can precipitate a series of similar attacks on victims who are identified with the original target group."

The list of hate crimes includes petty misdemeanors such as trespassing and vandalism, more serious misdemeanors such as assault, battery and stalking, and the most serious felonies — arson, maiming and murder. Almost every common crime can be upgraded to ethnic intimidation if the state can prove that the criminal was motivated by ethnic bias.

And some less common crimes are also prosecuted this way — cross burning, carrying a weapon at a parade and obstructing a place of public worship. Since 1993, it is also a crime in North Carolina to assemble with one or more people to teach people how to commit hate crimes.

While these laws don't make ethnically offensive acts criminal by themselves, they did make prosecution of hate-motivated criminals more serious and more vigorous, said Brooks



SOURCES: FBI, SBI

DTH/CHRIS KIRKMAN

Skinner, an attorney in the citizen's rights division of the attorney general's office. "Law enforcement agencies have certainly heard from us that it's important," Skinner said.

In Chapel Hill, police have made arrests in hate crime incidents. On July 9, 1995, vandals defaced Sylvia James' car at 126 St. Andrews Lane, painting "KKK" and a cross on the door and pouring more paint down the side of the door, said Jane Cousins, spokesperson for the police department.

On June 12, 1995, a white man was assaulted by four black men who shouted slurs, threw rocks and hurled sticks at him as he walked near the corner of Merritt Mill Road and Cameron

Avenue. One rock hit the victim in the left forearm.

Chapel Hill police are also reporting hate crime statistics to the State Bureau of Investigation as part of a nationwide program to increase awareness of bias and prejudice. Cousins said her department reported five hate crimes last year.

In one of those incidents, a person was charged with intimidation of a homosexual male. Although the intimidation was recorded statistically as a hate crime, the offender was not given a stiffer penalty because North Carolina law does not single out crimes motivated by sexual orientation. "Gay-bashing" is not addressed in North Carolina's ethnic intimidation law.

Currently, 50 of the state's 450 law enforcement agencies were trained to report on hate crimes, including the University police and six other police departments in the UNC system, said Julia Nipper, a State Bureau of Investigation statistician.

With so few agencies able to count hate crimes, North Carolina has reported low numbers so far. The SBI knew of 10 reports in 1993 and seven in 1994, Nipper said.

Nationally, almost 6,000 hate crimes were recorded in 1994, said Harvey Rosenthal of the FBI.

Coalition Calls for Improved Working Conditions at UNC



Members of the Coalition for Economic Justice hold up signs on the steps of South Building on Wednesday protesting a proposal to contract out housekeeping jobs to a private corporation.

BY SHENG LEE
STAFF WRITER

Chancellor Michael Hooker must take more action to improve working conditions for the lowest-paid members of the University staff, particularly housekeepers, student members of the Coalition for Economic Justice said at a press conference Wednesday.

Coalition members responded to a memo issued Wednesday morning by Hooker in which he wrote that he believed the University could address housekeeping concerns without turning the service over to a private company.

The response came hours after the coalition hung posters around campus asking "Have You Seen Our Chancellor?"

"The chancellor, like the groundhog, has made an appearance," senior Fred Wherry said to about 20 people on the steps of South Building. "We wonder if his shadow will scare him and bring about six more weeks of cold weather. If not, perhaps it is springtime again at Carolina at last."

The General Administration is considering ways in which the 16 UNC-system schools could privatize housekeeping services. The study was mandated last summer by the N.C. General Assembly and a final report is expected to be issued April 16.

Hooker's memo was a response to a Feb. 8 memo from the coalition. But Wherry said five principles on which the group had demanded a response still had not been addressed. The five principles outlined by the coalition requested that Hooker:

- affirm that changes made within housekeeper contracting policies will not affect the workers negatively
- establish a fair representation of faculty, students, staff and housekeepers in the study on contracting out
- make sure all forthcoming issues that affect the University

See RALLY, Page 2

Power Plant Meets Noise Ordinance

■ UNC officials responded to complaints of power plant neighbors and took steps to reduce the noise level.

BY LOU RUTIGLIANO
STAFF WRITER

Peace and quiet might finally come to the neighbors of the UNC power plant now that it has met the requirements of the town's noise ordinance.

Residents hope that this latest development will mean an end to the noise pollution that the plant, located on Cameron Avenue, brought to the community.

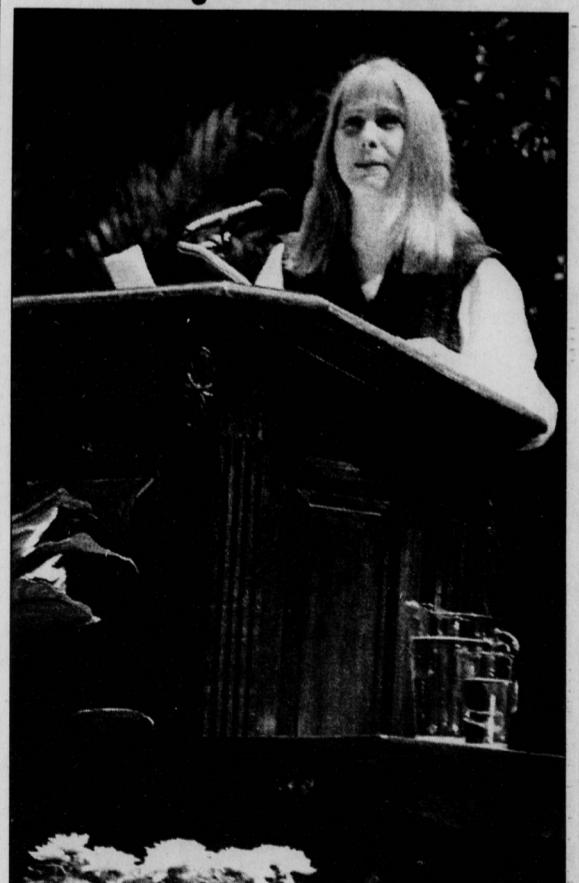
The plant has finished building roofs to enclose the machines that had been the loudest offenders. A noise consultant was then hired by the University to test the plant's noise levels. With the roofs in place, those levels now comply with the standards set by the town.

"We are in full compliance with all portions of the special-use permit," said Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for facilities management for the University.

The permit requires that daytime noise levels not exceed 60 decibels and nighttime levels not exceed 50 decibels.

Complaints about the noise began during the plant's construction and led residents to organize a group called the Power Plant Neighbors in 1992. Problems persisted after the plant was completed in 1993. Six neighbors sued the University

Straight From the Heart



Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Beth Henley speaks Wednesday in Memorial Hall. See story, page 3.

TOBACCO LAWSUIT NO-GO

■ North Carolina will probably not join other states in suing tobacco companies for the cost of tobacco-related illnesses.

BY JENNIFER M. WILSON
STAFF WRITER

Although North Carolinians shell out more than twice as much money each year to treat tobacco-related illnesses as the state generates in tobacco sales, officials say North Carolina has no intention to join the growing number of states filing suit against tobacco companies.

North Carolina's hesitancy can be traced to the fact that tobacco is one of the state's most prosperous agricultural products, say some observers.

"I can't imagine we would be involved in a tobacco suit because tobacco is North Carolina's most important industry," said Clay Johnson, Gov. Jim Hunt's deputy press secretary.

Florida, Mississippi, Massachusetts, West Virginia, Louisiana, and Minnesota have all filed class-action suits against tobacco companies for billions of dollars to cover Medicaid costs caused by tobacco-related illnesses. They are also charging that cigarette companies set out to addict smokers while concealing tobacco's addictive properties.

N.C. Attorney General Mike Easley attended a national convention of attorney generals Monday during which President Bill Clinton urged the group to make cigarettes less accessible and stop tobacco companies from targeting children with their advertising campaigns.

However, Greg Rideout, a spokesman for Easley, said, "North Carolina has no plans to file suits similar to those that other states have filed."

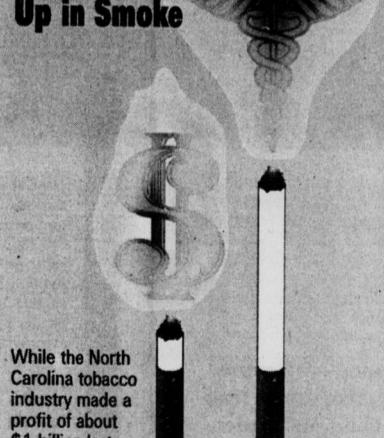
Tobacco sales and production made up 18 to 22 percent of North Carolina's agricultural production and about 12 percent of the state's total revenue, said Carl Sofley, tobacco specialist for the N.C. Department of Agriculture.

Sofley said the chances of North Carolina filing a suit against tobacco companies would be "very slim to none."

"It would be political suicide (to file a lawsuit against tobacco companies) because so many people in North Carolina are dependent upon tobacco," he said.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Richard Vinroot also

Tobacco Profits Go Up in Smoke



While the North Carolina tobacco industry made a profit of about \$1 billion last year, tobacco-related illnesses cost state residents nearly twice as much in medical bills — \$2.1 billion.

SOURCE: N.C. MEDICAL JOURNAL/N.C. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE DTH/DANIEL NIBLOCK

He said he would not support litigation against tobacco companies because of the crop's major role in North Carolina's industry.

"I am pro-business, pro-jobs and pro-economic development," Vinroot said. "I am very protective of tobacco. I would not let down the barriers of defense of that industry."

The total revenue from tobacco leaf sales in North

See TOBACCO, Page 2

See POWER PLANT, Page 2

Art is I; Science is We.

Claude Bernard