

Internet activism alive but not kicking

Each year I've been a student here, I've walked through the Pit and seen more and more rallies and protests to last me a lifetime. No doubt, UNC is one activist campus.

A similar situation occurs on the Internet: lots of groups fighting to make their voices heard, but with less fanfare. After scouring the World Wide Web for activist sites, I discovered one thing: there is a web page for every activist cause out there, but their methods of increasing involvement leave more to be desired.

The most inspiring of the ones I unearthed was the Blue Ribbon Free Speech campaign at <http://www.eff.org/blueribbon.html>.

The "sixth most linked page in the world" raises awareness of free speech on the Internet by disseminating its blue ribbon icon to web page authors. The site also lets the browser sign a petition to protest Congress' 1996 Telecommunications bill, which bans "indecent" material from the Internet. And just to get the point across, a link shows what kinds of sites have banning potential: the Louvre's Venus de Milo, the Sistine Chapel and Huckleberry Finn.

Most other activist sites are informative but are visually unappealing. They contain plain lists and text, two characteristics that don't necessarily incite the

online activist to actually take action. Nevertheless, the data is useful if you don't mind lots of word-scrolling.

The Greenpeace site at <http://www.greenpeace.org> uses icons to guide you to their main campaigns. Click on the desired campaign and read Greenpeace's position through press releases. The one aspect activists might like, once this feature is finished, is a chat discussion forum about the issues.

On to less greener pastures, The Human Rights Web home page at <http://traveller.com/~hrweb/hrweb.html> contains interesting content about various human rights emergencies. A short history of the human rights movement and biographies of prisoners of conscience add to the cause.

The provided Human Rights Resources list is extensive, and I automatically went to the Amnesty International page at <http://www.igc.apc.org/amnesty>. This site contains current happenings involving various causes. Different campaigns are mentioned and the international organization encourages student

chapters to register themselves. For just plain activism clearinghouses, the two I found most useful are the Political Activism resource list at <http://www.c.c.u.t.a.h/~sm1968/resources.html> and PeaceNet at <http://www.peacenet.apr.org/peacenet>.

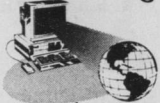
The first is one of those despised plain-text ones—a lengthy chart broken down by category. Political campaigns, cyber rights and womens' issues are just a few of the subdirectories. With a total of 115 links, if the online activist doesn't find his or her cause here, then you're out of luck.

PeaceNet, slightly more attractive, is a "worldwide computer network dedicated to peace, social and economic justice, human rights and the struggle against racism." The site requires subscribers for some of the features, but the nonsubscriber can access data from the LaborNet, EcoNet and WomensNet sections.

It was interesting to find such a spectrum of causes, but I was disappointed that the sites weren't more interactive. To drum up a following for the cause, the sites' authors should start acting up in site as well as sight.

Don't forget to submit your favorite web sites for the future DTH Internet site. Suggestions can be dropped off at Suite 104 of the Student Union or e-mailed to dth@email.unc.edu.

Site Seeing



by Jessica Banov

Haislip

FROM PAGE 1

Emily Wilmarth, Haislip's mother.

When Wilmarth came home Sunday evening, she said she noticed three police cars that had been called after neighbors saw Haislip climbing through the bathroom window. After talking with her, Haislip, who had locked himself in his room, agreed to go back to the hospital, Wilmarth said.

Horney said Haislip did not return to the deaf unit Sunday night. Instead, officials placed him in a more secure unit.

Haislip has a history of mental illness. He spent nearly two years in Dorothea Dix after being found mentally incompetent in 1991 to stand trial on four counts of indecent exposure.

Haislip was again found incompetent to stand trial following charges on two counts of indecent exposure and one count of stalking a 7-year-old girl in August. He returned to the hospital, where he will remain for treatment until a mental health judge deems him competent to stand trial for the latest charges.

Haislip's case has sparked more debate about the N.C. law that deals with the mentally incompetent.

If found competent to stand trial, defendants can receive a verdict of guilty, not guilty or not guilty by reason of insanity.

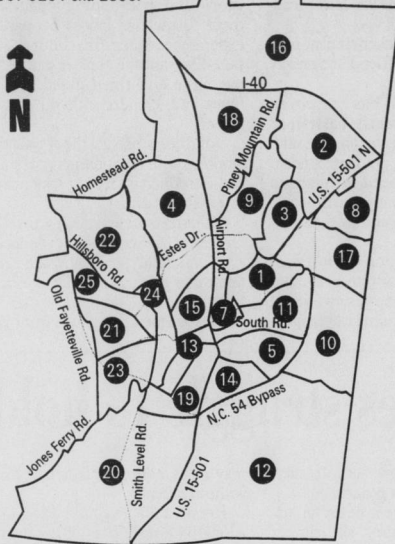
N.C. Sen. Mark McDaniel, R-Forsyth, is co-sponsoring a bill to implement a guilty but mentally ill verdict. Defendants would receive treatment in prison. "Society would be protected and these individuals would get the help they need."

Bizarro



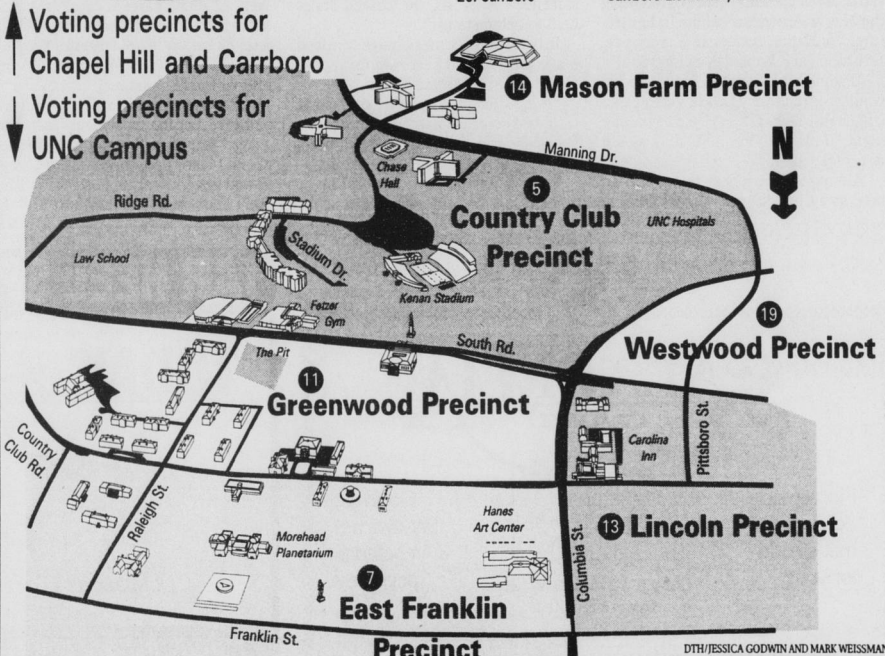
Where you can go to vote

Students who need more information regarding districts and poll sites can call the student government elections hotline at 962-5201 or the Orange County Board of Elections at 967-9251 ext. 2350.



Poll sites in Chapel Hill and Carrboro

Precinct	Poll site
Chapel Hill	
1. Battle Park	Chapel Hill Community Center
2. Booker Creek	American Legion Building
3. Coker Hills	Church of Reconciliation
4. Colonial Heights	Elizabeth Seawell Elementary School
5. Country Club	Fetzer Gymnasium
6. Transfer Voters	Chapel Hill Police Station
7. East Franklin	The Lutheran Church
8. Eastside	Ephesus Road School
9. Estes Hills	Chapel Hill Public Library
10. Glenwood	Glenwood School
11. Greenwood	UNC General Administration Building
12. King's Mill	Aldersgate Methodist Church
13. Lincoln	Lincoln Center Administration Building
14. Mason Farm	Community Church Building, Purefoy Road
15. Northside	Chapel Hill Town Hall
16. Patterson	New Hope Community Center
17. Ridgefield	Binkley Baptist Church
18. Weaver Dairy	Fire Station, Weaver Dairy Road
19. Westwood	Frank Porter Graham School
Carrboro	
20. Dogwood Acres	Grey Culbreth School
21. Lion's Club	Lion's Club Building, Carrboro
22. North Carrboro	Homestead Road Community Center
23. OWASA	OWASA Administration Building
24. Town Hall	Carrboro Town Hall
25. Carrboro	Carrboro Elementary School



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