

# County residents participate in nontraditional forum

### Cedar Grove residents mingled with the candidates for board of commissioners.

BY NICOLE WHITE  
STAFF WRITER

Orange County Commissioner candidates got relief from formal elections forums during a down-home meet-the-candidates reception at the Northern Orange Family Resource Center on Thursday.

chance to speak their mind," said Bessie Wiggins, coordinator for the center. "The last time we went to the polls, this area had a very low turnout, and I think it was because some of them just didn't know all of the candidates."

Candidate Wes Cook said he enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere but that a more traditional format would have been more informative.

county will find out more about where you stand on the issues if they ask questions," he said.

Incumbent Alice Gordon said she enjoyed the variety that the forum provided.

"For people who aren't comfortable talking in a group, it gave them a chance to just talk to us if they want to," she said.

Several candidates said the new approach was appropriate for the area because it was a return to hometown politics.

Incumbent Stephen Halkiotis said he did not become involved in politics

because of big issues.

"Bathrooms," he said. "I got involved so the young people of this county — black, white, yellow and red — would have a place to go to the bathroom."

Halkiotis said an effort to install bathrooms near baseball and softball fields at a local school inspired him to run for county commissioner.

Each candidate for county and state offices was allowed two minutes to state their qualifications and platform before adjourning to a reception where local residents could meet them face-to-face and ask questions.

Incumbent Bill Crowther said the

Center was an appropriate place for a forum.

"We're coming to a place that is at the heart of the challenge we face as county commissioners," he said.

Candidate Barry Jacobs said the center was a good location to discuss the issue of representation.

"I think we need to do a better job of advocating equally for the northern and southern sides of the county."

Thorne said he enjoyed visiting the center and the break from the traditional format of the other forums.

"This is a good forum to have in the middle."

# SEAC hosts presentation on rainforests

### Experts said the destruction of rainforests was a complex problem.

BY BETH HATCHER  
STAFF WRITER

Contrary to popular belief, logging is not the only culprit of rainforest destruction, a graduate student in ecology said Thursday.

At a presentation sponsored by the Student Environmental Action Coalition, Greg Gangi spoke about the problems of rainforest destruction by colonization.

Gangi, who is chairman of the local Sierra Club chapter, lived with the Witoto people in the Amazon Basin of Columbia from 1992 until 1995. "Cultures and environments all over the Amazon are under pressure (of destruction)," Gangi said.

Jessica Warshaw of SEAC said the presentation's purpose was to focus on the suffering of the rainforest's inhabitants as well as its land. "We want to zoom out and look at the problem in a broader sense," Warshaw said.

Gangi said many more issues contributed to the destruction of the rainforest and its inhabitants than most people realized. He said colonization caused the majority of rainforest destruction in the Amazon basin.

Many South American countries allow citizens to colonize the rainforest, Gangi said.

He said these people had little knowledge of how to live in the rainforest and employed slash-and-burn farming methods that destroyed the land.

"Over 95 percent of destruction in the Amazon basin is currently caused by burning," Gangi said.

Rick Spencer, a member of Earth Culture, an environmental group in Greensboro, also spoke at the presentation. He said that while he agreed most people oversimplified the problem, he believed logging was the main factor of rainforest destruction.

He said the logging industry hit many rainforests besides the Amazon basin. He urged people to hit the furniture and logging industries in their pocketbooks by boycotting their products. "We can use our buying power to affect change," Spencer said.

He said he refused to believe the problem was hopeless. "You get a lot of that hopeless stuff from people in the industry," Spencer said.

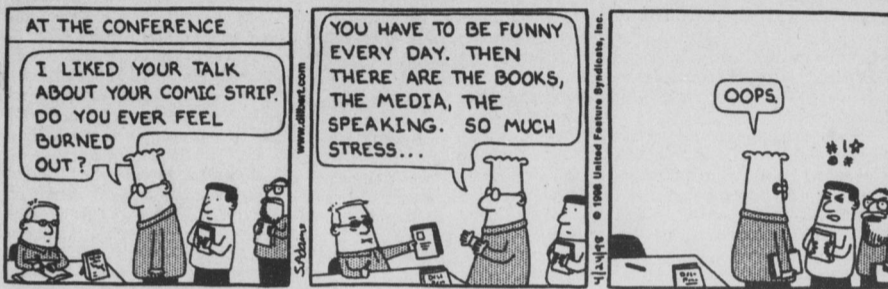
Gangi said the problem was not hopeless but offered no easy solutions. With the destruction of their forest, the more than 65 cultures of the Amazon basin were also dying out, said Gangi.

"As settlements become sparse, there's rapid decline in traditions."

### Watered Down by Brad Christensen



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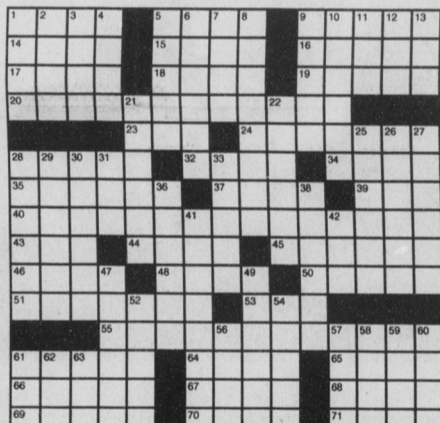


### THE Daily Crossword

By Dorothy B. Martin

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Activist
  - 5 Male deer
  - 9 Get lost!
  - 14 Comparative phrase
  - 15 Singer Guthrie
  - 16 Classic Tierny film
  - 17 Hanging to one side
  - 18 River duck
  - 19 Dark yellow
  - 20 McMurtry's Pulitzer-Prize western
  - 23 Lennon's widow
  - 24 Sheena
  - 28 Libreville's country
  - 32 Eurasian deer
  - 34 Son of Judah
  - 35 One-eighties
  - 37 Heavyweight champ of 1934
  - 39 Spanish uncle
  - 40 Sequel to 20A
  - 43 Broadway smash
  - 44 Planar or poplar
  - 45 Frightened
  - 46 Cupid
  - 48 Orient
  - 50 Stravinsky and Sikorsky
  - 51 Act of starting
- DOWN**
- 1 Clock face
  - 2 Scandinavian capital
  - 3 English boys' school
  - 4 Early Hitchcock film
  - 5 Squelched
  - 6 Vibration
  - 7 Having wings
  - 8 Thin, foil decoration
  - 9 Some Eastern Europeans
  - 10 Revived
  - 11 Use elbow grease
  - 12 Exist
  - 13 Besmirch
  - 21 Poem of 14 lines
  - 22 European water birds
  - 25 Intestine: pref.
  - 26 Shark in business waters



# Ethnic clashes in Yugoslavia result in 23 Albanian deaths

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
PRISTINA, Yugoslavia — Government troops killed as many as 23 ethnic Albanians in a series of clashes in the embattled Kosovo province, Serb officials said Thursday.

Officials speaking on condition of anonymity said soldiers fought an all-night battle with some 200 ethnic Albanian militants trying to cross into the Serbian province from neighboring Albania.

State radio put the toll at 16. There was no way to resolve the discrepancy late Thursday night.

Details on the clashes were released by the Serb Media Center in the provincial capital of Pristina shortly after polls closed in a referendum asking Serbs whether they want foreigners to mediate talks on Kosovo's future. The ethnic Albanian majority in the province is seeking independence.

With about 20 percent of Serbia's 189 voting districts reporting, 97 percent of the voters opposed outside mediation, referendum commission secretary Nebojsa Rodic told reporters at around midnight Thursday.

Rodic said final results expected Friday would likely show a similar result. Ethnic Albanians boycotted the referendum.

The toll was the biggest since a sweep by Serbian police in early March left more than 80 ethnic Albanians dead. With tensions already high, the deaths

of several more Kosovo Albanians were bound to further damage relations between Serbia's government and the province.

Despite the unrest, Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic remained firmly opposed to foreign mediation in the talks.

"This referendum is for Serbia to decide about Serbia," said Milosevic in an emphatic message after casting his ballot.

"I believe we can solve all these current worries of ours."

Milosevic is seeking public backing for his defiant policies over Kosovo. The vote will be valid if more than half of Serbia's 7.2 million voters cast ballots. Officials said initial reports showed about 75 percent of eligible voters turned out.

The voting took place against the troubling backdrop of new violence. An army statement said troops blocked the insurgents from crossing into Yugoslavia at daybreak Thursday.

The Yugoslav Foreign Ministry lodged a formal protest with the Albanian Embassy in Belgrade, complaining about "systematic armed provocations." Albania denies stoking the Kosovo independence movement.

Ethnic Albanian villagers in Batusa, in a border area with neighboring Albania, said they heard artillery fire for most of the night and saw helicopters flying overhead.

### Campus calendar

**Friday**

noon — The UNC Curriculum in Genetics and Molecular Biology will present a seminar in 321 MacNider Hall titled "Signaling Pathways Regulating Chemotaxis and Morphogenesis: Insights from Dictyostelium," featuring Richard Firtel of the University of California-San Diego.

8 p.m. — The Presbyterian Campus Ministry will host a contra dance at the PCM located off Henderson Street behind Cafetrio. A \$2 donation is requested.

8 p.m. — The Duke University Music Department will present drummer Carl Allen and the Duke Jazz Ensemble as part of the 15th Annual N.C. International Jazz Festival in Baldwin Auditorium on Duke's East Campus. Tickets are \$12 for students

and \$15 for the general public and will be available at the door.

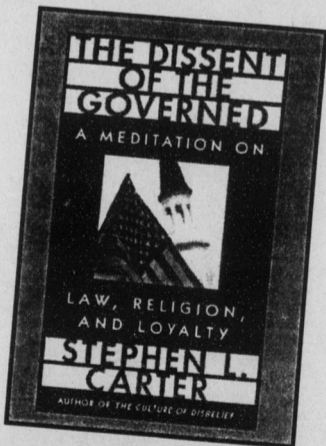
### Items of interest

The Black Student Movement will sponsor a basketball tournament Sunday at Fetzer Gym A. Registration is at 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$10 per team of three and \$5 per person individually. There will be prizes!

### For the record

Wednesday's article, "Court rules primaries must be split," should have stated that the primary elections to be held Sept. 15 are for U.S. congressional races. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

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—from *The Dissent of the Governed*



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