

The Daily Tar Heel

106 years of editorial freedom
Serving the students and the University
community since 1893

Thursday, September 23, 1999
Volume 107, Issue 80

News/Features/Arts/Sports 962-0245
Business/Advertising 962-1163
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
© 1999 DTH Publishing Corp.
All rights reserved.

Historic Aid Proposal Set for BOG

The Task Force on Student Financial Aid will include graduate and professional students in its proposal.

BY ALEXANDRA E. HOERI
Staff Writer

A UNC task force charged with the project of crafting a proposal for North Carolina's first-ever state need-based financial aid program ironed out the kinks in its final report Wednesday.

The Task Force on Student Financial Aid, which was formed this summer, has developed a program that would offer aid to financially disadvantaged in-state undergraduate, graduate and professional students as early as the 2000-2001 academic year.

The next step for the proposal will come at the Board of Governor's October meeting, where BOG members will participate in a workshop outlining the program, said Jeff Nieman, a non-voting BOG member who served on the task force.

Nieman said the full BOG would then vote on the aid program in its November meeting, after which the pro-

posal would be sent to the N.C. General Assembly for funding.

Gary Barnes, task force chairman, said he estimated that the panel's recommendation to the BOG would request between \$32 and \$38 million for aid.

He said he thought both the



BOG member Jeff Nieman said the new aid program could help UNC students.

BOG and legislators would be receptive to the request because the program would provide low-income students access to higher education.

UNC Graduate and Professional Student Federation President Lee Conner said he was pleased graduate and professional students would be able to apply for aid under the proposal the task force will present to the BOG.

He said graduate students' inclusion came as a relief because some task force members had suggested that the program be limited only to undergraduates.

"I'm very happy about that," Conner said. "You at least want to give (graduate

and professional students) a chance."

But Barnes said funding limitations might cause the program to be phased in, instead of enacted all at once.

In this case, Nieman said freshmen would receive first priority to acquire aid and graduate students last.

Conner expressed concern that graduate students would be the fifth and final group to receive aid. But he said he was pleased with the task force's final decision. "If (graduate and professional students) are not allowed to ride in the car now, we are never going to leave the

See TASK FORCE, Page 15

Disaster Cleanup Continues

State officials address the potential hazards posed by hog waste and pollution released by floodwaters.

BY MARC COCHRAN
AND BRENT KINKER
Staff Writers

The environmental devastation caused by Hurricane Floyd's floodwaters could wreak long-lasting havoc on the state, officials say.

"This has the potential to be the worst environmental disaster in the United States' history, but only the potential," said Rick Dove of the Neuse River Foundation. "Just pray that it turns out better."

The waters have engulfed junkyards, hog-waste lagoons and sewage-treatment centers, officials said.

Until the flood levels drop, officials say no exact numbers for animals killed by the storm or the amount of pollutants released would be available. They can only speculate on the actual damages incurred and are hoping for relief efforts to curb the potential effects.

The University aided the relief effort Wednesday when experts from various fields, such as communicable diseases, water safety and mental health assembled to provide information to communities struggling with Floyd's aftermath.

Representatives from 10 areas affected by the flooding participated in a teleconference titled "Hurricane Floyd: Information for Health Providers," held at the Mayes Telecommunications Center in the School of Public Health.

N.C. Health Director A. Dennis McBride said he hoped the participants would realize that a host of state resources were willing to help.

"We want the people to know that they are not alone," McBride said.

All state agencies are doing their best to help the victims, officials said. The efforts mainly focus on shelter, security, medical services and search and rescue.

Dove said animals killed by the flooding could pose a severe environmental problem. "There are hundreds of thousands of dead hogs that need to be disposed of," Dove said. "It will take a long time to get rid of them all."

He said incinerators were being brought in to dispose of livestock car-

See CLEANUP, Page 12

Drawing the Battle Lines

'It's the Price to Pay for Justice'

BY JENNIFER CHAN AND LANI HARAC
Staff Writers

As a convicted double murderer awaits lethal injection on death row, his looming execution has ignited the support of death penalty advocates statewide.

Harvey Lee Green faces execution 2 a.m. Friday while two other convicted murderers, one in Delaware and one in Florida, will be executed the same day.

And while death penalty opponents light candles in vigils for the convicted murderer, supporters applaud the theory behind his death, saying it is a racially fair and cost-effective system.

Death penalty proponents reject the idea that murder does not justify a state-sanctioned death. They say capital punishment is a morally acceptable penalty for murder.

Eye for an Eye

"(Execution) is as moral as the act done that warrants it," said N.C. Sen. Robert Rucho, R-Mecklenburg.

Steven Myers, president of UNC's College Republicans, echoed Rucho's sentiment.

"When an individual takes another life, it is such a violation of the moral code that it demands equal payment," Myers said.

One in 1,000

Supporters of capital punishment also do not consider concerns such as wrongful execution a problem.

Rucho said technological advances in criminal investigations narrowed the chances of innocent victims being executed.

"God forbid we make a mistake," he said, "but the chances are not as likely today."

Tim Helms, who successfully sponsored a bill supporting the death penalty in Aberdeen, said the chances of wrongful exe-

See PROS, Page 12

'Pushing Christian Ethics to the Limit'

BY SHARON LIAO
Staff Writer

Protesters continue to fight against the death penalty while a convicted murderer awaits lethal injection Friday.

The impending execution of Harvey Lee Green, the first of three death row inmates scheduled to die in North Carolina, has prompted a slew of vigils, rallies and requests for clemency by the inmate's family and supporters.

And while death penalty supporters call Green's approaching death a vindication, protesters say execution is immoral and perpetuates racism and social injustice.

Inmates' poverty often results in poor defenses, said Ken Rose, director of the Center for Death Penalty Litigation.

Inmates cannot afford lawyers who can make or break a trial, he said. "I never heard of a rich person put on death row," said N.C. Rep. Mickey Michaux, D-Durham.

Two Wrongs?

Michaux said that beneath the statistics laid an ethical reason for his opposition to capital punishment. "You just can't punish murder with legal murder," he said.

Vengeance is the reason for the death penalty, said Dan Pollitt, a former UNC-Chapel Hill law professor. "People feel better when they get some son-of-a-gun that commits an atrocious crime and execute him," he said.

Journalism Professor Chuck Stone said he opposed it because of his Christian beliefs, coupled with an imperfect criminal justice system. "This issue pushes Christian ethics to the limit. Sometimes it's tough being a Christian."

Point of No Return

Recent scientific innovations such as DNA testing have proved numerous death row inmates innocent, Stone said. Since 1972,

See CONS, Page 12

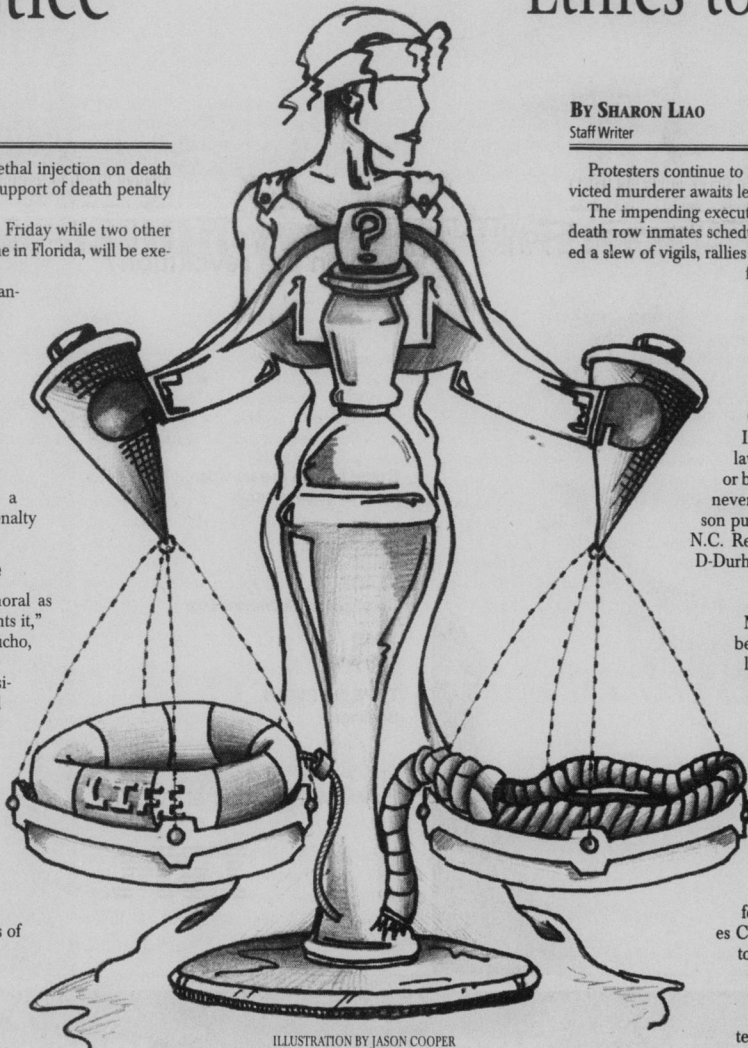
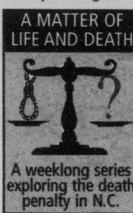


ILLUSTRATION BY JASON COOPER



A weeklong series exploring the death penalty in N.C.

UNC Professor Receives Presidential Recognition

President Clinton will award Professor Jacquelyn Hall with a National Humanities Medal on Sept. 29.

BY DERICK MATTERN
Staff Writer

A UNC historian will receive national recognition from President Clinton

next week for tracking the oral history of the neglected South.

The National Endowment for the Humanities announced Wednesday that Professor Jacquelyn Hall would be given a National Humanities Medal. The award will be presented Sept. 29 by President Clinton at the White House.

Clinton chose all eight of this year's winners, which include producer/director Steven Spielberg and best-selling author Garrison Keillor, based on the

recommendations of the National Council on the Humanities.

Hall is the director of the Southern Oral History Program, which records the history of the 20th century in the words of laborers and everyday citizens. "I am very pleased," Hall said.

"This is a great honor not only for me but for the program. The work was done by many people."

Her work in Southern history deals with all aspects of life, but focuses on

labor and women. Her topic of study is women since they gained the right to vote in 1919 and the diversifying population of North Carolina.

"(We're) looking at the re-peopling of North Carolina," she said.

Hall considers the medal to be a recognition of her, and thus women's, scholarship as well.

"I am proud and feel lucky to be (part of) the first generation of women to write women's history," she said.

John Reed, director of the Institute for Research in Social Science, said her scholarship was a reason for her selection.

"(She's) a heavy hitter in her field," he said. "This is great for the University, the South and the country."

Other UNC faculty also said they thought highly of Hall.

"I think it's richly deserved," said

See HALL, Page 15

As men, we are all equal in the presence of death.

Publius Syrus

Death Toll Rises In Floyd's Lethal Aftermath

See Page 4

INSIDE Thursday

Race Hits Center Stage

PlayMakers Repertory Company's first play of this season profiles the life of the civil rights activist Ida B. Wells. The show marks Tazwell Thompson's move from director to writer. See Page 5.

On the Stands

Applications for the Joanna Howell Fund, which honors the memory of a DTH editorial writer who died in the 1996 Phi Gamma Delta fraternity fire, will be available at the DTH front desk in Suite 104 of the Student Union and are due by Oct. 4. The fund provides \$250 for a student to write an in-depth article about an issue affecting the University community.

Today's Weather

Sunny;
Mid 70s.
Friday: Sunny,
Low 80s.