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Transition Time

With the closing of the Undergraduate Library for renovations, Davis Library should ensure it caters to all students' study habits.

With the closing of the Undergraduate Library, Davis Library will have to accommodate a larger crowd of students than usual. Up until now, a sort of gentlemen's agreement has separated the two types of students that use the libraries. While the more laid-back students study in the Undergrad, the less laid-back students study in Davis. The two groups will be studying side by side, so compromise will have to be a major theme during this time of inconvenience. It's unfortunate that a negative stigma has been attached to the group of students that studies in the Undergrad. An invasion of Davis by the "Undergrad" crowd does not mean that there will be a rash of delinquent food consumption or turn the library into an episode of MTV's "The Grind." A more relaxed atmosphere at the Undergrad does not necessarily imply a rowdy environment that is not conducive to studying. The noise level in the Undergrad is just slightly higher than that in Davis. All students study in different ways, and the Davis administration should accommodate this different study style until the Undergrad reopens.

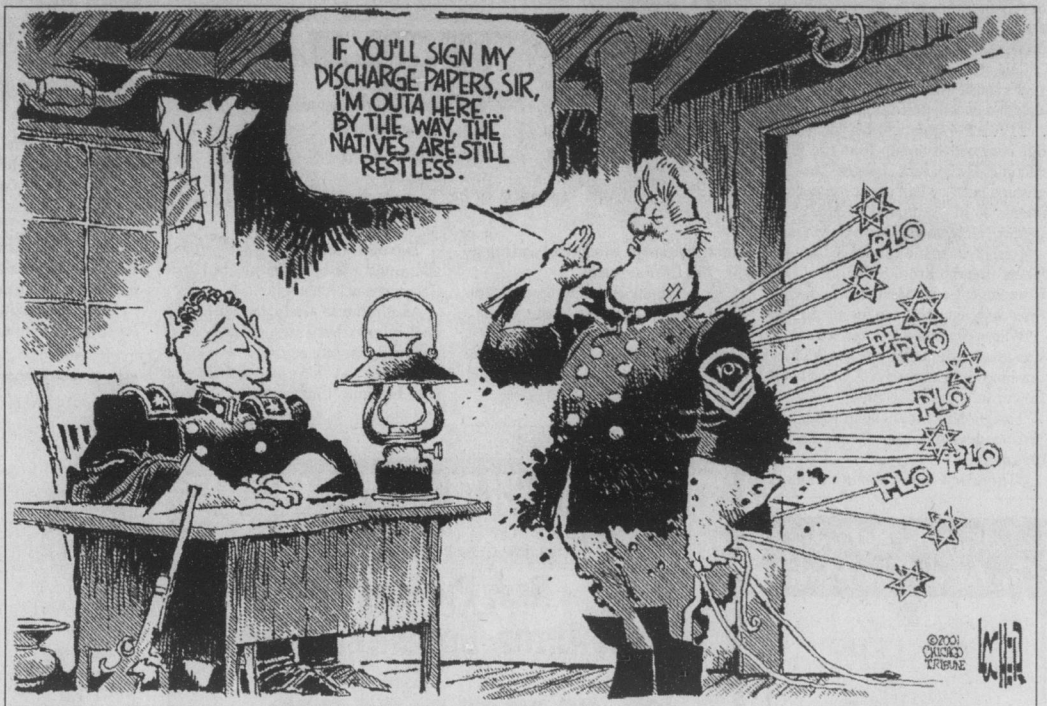
Davis officials plan to add more security to enforce strict food and noise policy. But dogmatic rules are not the answer to increased traffic into Davis. These rules will only restrict those students who study better in a more relaxed setting. The increase in spending to boost security could be put to better use than patrolling for all of those miscreants munching on Cheetos in some remote corner of a study carrel. Davis officials have said they will do their best to accommodate the needs of students. That has to happen, since Davis will become the only library with student-friendly late night hours. Students should keep in mind that there are options other than Davis Library available for studying - such as Wilson Library and the newly renovated James M. Johnston Center. But both of these places still have the more formal atmosphere that some students find hard to study in. This is just the beginning of headaches caused by construction. How library officials handle this transition can set a positive precedent for future inconveniences. Davis officials should follow through with their promise and accommodate all students.

Out in the Open

U.S. Rep. David Price is again pushing his campaign reform bill. His colleagues in Congress should see that it becomes law.

What's good for the goose is good for the gander, and what's good for state political campaigns might also be good for national ones as well. But it will be a hard struggle to put that theory into practice. On the first day of the new Congress, U.S. Rep. David Price reintroduced a bill he has been pushing since 1997. Known as "Stand By Your Ad," the bill is similar to a law that took effect in North Carolina last year. It requires candidates for state office to appear on screen in all television advertisements and tell viewers that they sponsored an ad that mentions their opponents. This is the third time Price has introduced the bill in Congress. Twice before it was incorporated into larger campaign finance bills that passed the House but died in the Senate. Price said he is optimistic about the bill's chance for success, given the increased momentum of campaign finance reform triggered by U.S. Sen. John McCain's run for the presidency. Whether that optimism is warranted is questionable. What's unquestionable is the fact that this bill is a no-brainer that should have been passed a long time ago. The problem of campaign finance reform is a multifaceted one requiring a broad solution. The Price bill is a small but vital part of that solution.

Until this year's state elections, candidates were able to cloak their connections to particularly nasty attack ads, allowing their hatchmen to tear into their opponents without restraint. Only a small blurb at the bottom of the screen hinted at the source of the ads. While the new law might not have ended the era of negative campaigning in North Carolina, it did make it somewhat more palatable. When a candidate is required to stand in front of a camera and proclaim his connection to the ad, the propensity for character assassination and cheap shots is diminished. The ads weren't objective examinations of the candidates' positions, but they weren't unrestrained mudfests either. Not only has the law improved the tone of political advertising, it also has left the viewers better informed about who is responsible for what they see on television. A better-informed voter base benefits everyone involved. With the obviously urgent need for campaign finance reform in this country, the only reason politicians would kill such a bill would be out of simple self-interest. That's what prevented campaign finance reform from being discussed for so long. But lawmakers like Price and McCain have inspired a new revolution of sorts, and their colleagues need to either get behind it or prepare to be overwhelmed by it.



Join Me for an S&M Relationship?

Introductions can be awkward. No matter how high your confidence, everyone gets a little damp in the pants when it comes to meeting someone new. Whether it's impressing a potential boss or working on getting a more exciting kind of job in the club scene, beads of sweat trickle down your spine all the same. And a new semester of columnists should at the very least spark some feelings of unease. Although I can't speak for the rest of the gang, I can guarantee that my own weekly spot will cause more than just a little discomfort for the average bear. But, since I already value your thoughts and attention so much, I figured I would start the semester off with this very formal handshake-like gesture to ease you up. Here's a glimpse of what's to come, so just relax ... Every Friday, you'll be bombarded with loads of tasteless smut. From time to time, I'll give you something keen to chew on, but don't expect anything too ritzy. It's nice that this columnist job worked out, but my main priority as a weekly writer is to have a blast. And I can only hope that you'll get off as well. But never fake it, please. Following my column will be like participating in a sadomasochistic sexual encounter. In other words, it's going to be rough, but strangely exciting at the same time. I'll take you places you only secretly fantasize about. But you can trust me. After all, within an S&M partnership, there's gotta be a lot of trust involved. Think about it. Do you want someone to just randomly beat you or degrade your character by making you lick the bottom of his or her oh-so-shiny leather boot? No way. But sometimes, you do yearn for something different. And even though S&M isn't everyone's cup of tea, don't knock it till you try it. The best way I can describe the mentality behind sadomasochism is to steal a metaphor



CAMERON MITCHELL
GETT OFF

from a classic movie. In the film, a dominatrix says the whole rough sex ordeal is sort of like stealing strawberries. To get to the fruit, you first have to climb over a high fence. Then you find yourself in a thorn patch. You can see the strawberries and are close enough to smell their sweetness. The thorns almost hold you back as they dig into your naked legs. But at last you reach the berries and take a bite of one. Its taste is ecstatic and so much sweeter than a fruit you could have just bought at the market. And intruding on someone else's strawberry patch makes you feel just a little naughty. Everyone wants to be naughty. And besides, it's just a strawberry or two you've taken. According to the dominatrix (and if you can name the film she's from, give me a ring!), the reasons why people participate in S&M are very similar. They voluntarily experience a little pain to reach the ultimate pleasure ... and I can only hope my columns will serve the same function. They're going to be hard to swallow at times, but when May rolls around, you'll be glad I was here to play. And if you can't take everything down, just spit some of it back out. But don't be so timid as to avoid the coming explosions altogether. Who learns anything that way? Never think that I'm all that or anything. It's not like I'm offering some sort of grand enlightenment bullshit. But I do plan to take you on a journey or two ... like to my hometown for instance. Let me tell you, Burnsville, North Carolina

is one messed up town. Never doubt it - even if tiny Burnsville-ites beg to differ. They're just rude and have to compensate for being so small - in every sense of the word. But I love Burnsville. In fact, I love it so damn much, I'll offer you moral Burnsville tales throughout the semester. The knowledge I've gained from growing up in that weirdo little place has molded me into the hardass son-of-a-bitch I am today. Now I realize that every town has its secret scandals, but I like to believe my hometown is really special. We have sheriffs and mayors and stuff, but they're just sort of like pawns that can be bought and sold at the drop of a dime. You got some cash or hard-core liquor? If so, you have our town leaders in your pocket. Understand that Burnsville has much to do with my overall strange aura. It's just plain different. But so many valuable lessons can be learned in my little safe haven. And I hope those lessons will shine through my very inadequate words and give you something to turn over. This very column you're holding in your hands is all about learning. And I promise you that the lessons I'm about to share won't be limited to my experiences of surviving a redneck upbringing. I might never explain the meaning of life or how such a dope as George W. Bush captured the presidency, but I'm sure to push a few buttons. And I think you want and need those buttons pushed. But as stated earlier, I'm all about having a good time. You're about to receive an eclectic mix of fun and education in the columns to come. It's going to be a rough ride, but I'm sure to get off and be happier for it. Let's play. Cameron Mitchell is a junior journalism and mass communication major from Burnsville. Reach him at mitchel6@email.unc.edu.

BAROMETER

Slowly, But Surely
By inauguration day, Gov. Mike Easley had named no Cabinet members. Since he did not have to go before the Supreme Court, what is his excuse?
Decisions, Decisions
Major choices concerning UNC's labor affiliations are on the horizon. Maybe the University will finally decide which of the labor monitoring groups it wants to give thousands of dollars to.

Taking the Stand
Former Missouri Sen. John Ashcroft, President-elect Bush's choice for attorney general, will face a difficult task next week: making it through the Senate confirmation hearings intact.
Meet and Greet
UNC's new head football coach, John Bunting, started his career off on a positive note by greeting students at Student Stores this week.

TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

"What he was trying to make clear is that the University is a state institution with statewide responsibilities, and they go beyond the town of Chapel Hill."
MASTER PLAN DIRECTOR JONATHAN HOWES
You mean there is a world outside of Chapel Hill?
"Tobacco has made it possible for our ... farmers to make a good living with small acreage."
SENATOR HAMILTON HORTON, R-FORSYTH
And it has made it possible for our hospitals to make a killing off of cancer patients as well.

"If there's one thing N.C. WARN is good at, it's generating soap box events. It's never mattered what the truth has been."
CP&L SPOKESMAN MIKE HUGHES
You're so right Mike. Who knows more about bringing out the truth than large corporations?
"I think we will have very few people who are willing to do what I did."
LINDA CHAVEZ
On her lost battle to become labor secretary. And people wonder why Washington has fewer qualified public servants and more Janet Renos.

READERS' FORUM

UNC Professor Offers Some Helpful Advice To Athletics Officials

TO THE EDITOR:
In order to cultivate our newest Carolina tradition of class and integrity in athletics department personnel decisions, I have a proposal: fire Elmar Bolowich, Matt Doherty and Anson Dorrance. Bolowich? His team was seeded number one in the NCAA tournament but didn't win. Best Carolina soccer season ever? So what? Obviously overrated. Doherty? He's hardly even arrived and already he has lost multiple games. Obviously not our man. Dorrance? He lost an unprecedented three regular season games this year. Obviously over the hill. Terrific late season surge, excellent scholars on the team, another (ho-hum) NCAA title? Irrelevant: this season I have personally, on more than one occasion, seen empty seats at Fetzer Field! We need a coach who can put cash customers in those seats! So I say to our new Phanariot Hospodar, James Moeser and his Director of Athletics Richard Baddour: in the great tradi-

tion of the abscission of Carl Torbush, can these guys. Or maybe, Hospodar Moeser, you should re-evaluate the man who has permitted these three to remain employed at Carolina ...

James W. White
Professor
Department of Political Science

Mayor, Chancellor Swift to Address 'Beat Dook' Incident

TO THE EDITOR:
I am writing to express my appreciation for Chancellor James Moeser and Mayor Rosemary Waldorf's swift and effective responses to the profoundly disturbing parody of a person being dragged by a chain behind a pick-up truck that was part of the "Beat Dook" parade which took place Nov. 17. Their investigations and clear statements of dismay, disappointment and denunciation will prevent this incident from festering into a symbol of callous insensitivity, or worse, on the part of the University and the town of Chapel Hill. Dr.

Ervin informed me that the students involved have apologized and are taking steps, with University officials, to prevent any similar occurrence from taking place. I hope that the town and UNC students will still be able to join together to "Beat Dook" in the future. In resolving this matter, I am especially grateful for the moral clarity of Town Manager W. Calvin Horton, Dean Susan Kitchen, Dr. Archie Ervin, Mayor Aaron Nelson, Professor Sue Estroff, Professor Joel Schwartz, the Reverend Steven Stanley, Professor Chuck Stone and Dean Harold Woodard.

Reginald F. Hildebrand
Associate Professor
Department of African & Afro-American Studies

Got an Opinion?

Write an op-ed column for The Daily Tar Heel. Op-ed submissions appear on the Monday Viewpoints page, should be roughly 800 words and are due by noon the Wednesday before it is to run. Got questions? E-mail Editorial Page Editor Jonathan Chaney at jchaney@email.unc.edu.



The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticism. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 300 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 space, clarity and vulgarity. Publication is not guaranteed. 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: editdesk@unc.edu.