

## Library Gets Sonic Link to Past

By Ashley Atkinson  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

A new instrument housed in Wilson Library will allow archival recordings that haven't been played in 50 years to make a living contribution to America's sonic history.

The library's archeophone, one of only seven worldwide, plays aging wax cylinders that are too fragile to be played on traditional cylinder phonographs.

"Nobody's been able to play and listen to these for decades," said Sound and Image Librarian Steven Weiss. "The archeophone provides a new way to play them back safely."

Wax cylinders were the first medium for recorded sound, Weiss said, predating 78 rpm records.

The Academic Affairs Library's Manuscripts Department, which houses all the library's archival material, has about 80 wax cylinders. Others are scattered throughout the University.

The cylinder collection includes valuable material like interviews with Thomas Wolfe's mother and field recordings of African-American songs

and sermons on St. Helena Island, S.C., recorded by late sociology Professor Guy Johnson in the 1920s.

"They may be among the first recordings of African-American spirituals in the country," Weiss said.

Many of the cylinders are part of the Southern Folklife Collection, one of the nation's foremost archival resources for American folk music and popular culture.

The cylinders are fragile, Weiss said, and often get moldy. They can be brittle and easily cracked, and once they are damaged they are irreparable.

The archeophone's stylus can be adjusted to place less weight on the cylinders' grooves than older players, allowing them to be played without damage.

"It's a really valuable tool that allows us to listen to these lost recordings and make them available for generations," Weiss said.

The machine also has capabilities that allow it to elicit higher-quality sound from worn or warped cylinders. "It allows you to do a number of tricks you couldn't do with the original machine to get more sound out," Weiss said.

The library had been debating the

acquisition of a new machine when the archeophone's inventor, Henri Chamoux, made an impressive demonstration at a sound archivists' conference at Wilson Library in May.

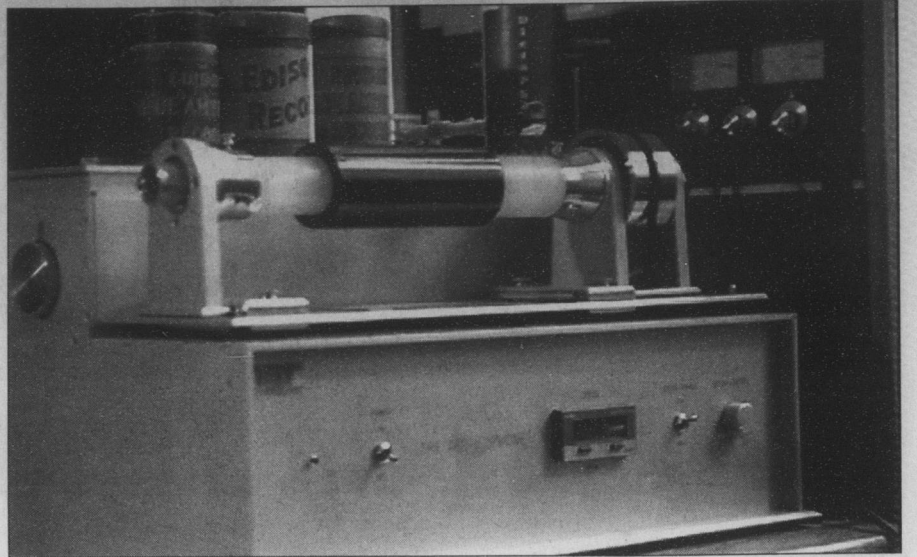
The instrument cost about \$16,000; the purchase was made possible by a gift from alumnus Ben Jones. Jones also donated funds for a workstation that digitizes audio recordings, enabling the library to transfer wax cylinders to CD and eliminate extraneous noise.

The library is using the archeophone to make copies of all its cylinders for preservation, with versions available on CD for researchers and patrons to use.

The archeophone also gives the Manuscripts Department a reason to expand its collection. "We haven't been collecting cylinders because we didn't have the playback capability," Weiss said.

The library hopes to work with other South and North Carolina institutions to preserve their wax cylinders as well.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.



DTH/EMILY NETZEL

The Academic Affairs Library recently acquired an archeophone, a device that predates records and plays old recordings on wax cylinders. The device is one of only seven archeophones in the world.

### Campus Calendar

#### Today

noon - The Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center will sponsor Around the Circle: "Criminal Justice System." Let's talk justice! Is racial pro-

fileing a problem in America? Is the criminal justice system fair? Erica Smiley will facilitate this discussion.

6 p.m. - A GRE Preparation Group initial meeting will be held in 265 Phillips Hall. The course, offered by the Learning Center, costs \$100. Call 962-3782 for further information and registration.

6 p.m. - The Globe Committee of the Campus Y and the U.N. Organization will hold a joint meeting in the Campus Y Basement to plan for Human Rights Week, which is March 26 to March 30. Members will be painting props and brainstorming ideas.

6:30 p.m. - The Management & Society Student Association will hold a meeting in Union 212.

7:30 p.m. - The APPLES Service-Learning Program is recruiting students help coordinate service-learning experiences for other UNC students for the 2001-02 academic year. An interest meeting will be held in Union 211.

#### Thursday

5 p.m. - The UNC chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will hold a general body meeting in Union 206. Come out and join the nation's oldest and strongest civil rights organization.

7 p.m. - The 3rd Annual Women in Medicine Panel Discussion will be held in the Chi Omega Sorority House at 313 E. Franklin St. A panel of female physicians and medical school students will discuss their experiences in the field of medicine. A reception will follow.

7 p.m. - Activist and producer Atallah Shabazz - a daughter of Malcolm X - will deliver the 7th annual Sonja H. Stone Memorial Lecture in the Tate-Turner-Kuralt Building

tonight. Each year, the center pays tribute to the legacy of Dr. Stone by inviting an African-American woman whose commitment to the community mirrors that of the late Dr. Stone.

### For the Record

The Feb. 27 story titled "Committee Hears Feedback on Parking" incorrectly stated that the Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee proposed a new parking deck to be constructed between Venable and Sitterson halls.

The committee is not considering construction of a new deck.

The story also states that transit improvement costs will be covered by increasing employee parking and permit fees by 12 percent.

The committee said the costs might be covered by employee parking and permit fees by 12 percent.

The article stated that employees will have to pay a flat fee of 90 cents and a percentage fee proportionate to their respective salaries.


These plans are in fact simply two alternative options.

The Daily Tar Heel regrets the errors.

### The Daily Tar Heel

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# Hold em Heels

## fountain soda special!

Carolina Dining Service invites you to take note of Duke's sorry final score on Sunday. In support of the Tar Heels, CDS will feature 20 oz. fountain beverages at the price of the final score the week of March 3rd-March 9th at Lenoir Mainstreet, South Campus Mini Mart, Café McColl and Tar Heel Café.



# GO HEELS!