



ASHLEY STEPHENSON

Where Do I Fit Into Campus Race Debate?

This is a hard column to write. I had planned to take a side on the blistering debate surrounding David Horowitz's ad, the protests against the naming of Saunders Hall and the charges that institutional racism at UNC is alive and well.

I'm having a hard time doing it — mostly because I'm white. And because of that, it's hard to figure out my place in this debate. It's hard to figure out what I have a right to think and say because I'm white. It's hard to comment on racism when you haven't been the victim of racism.

My closest experiences have been through friends — watching a Radio Shack employee at University Mall follow my friend around while she browsed, or my landlord's suspicions about my new roommate.

It sure as hell doesn't make me an expert, and it only gives me a mere glimpse of what other students on this campus have gone through every day of their lives.

But at the same time, I'm a part of this equation. There has to be a place for my voice. I'm just not sure where it is.

I watch my words whenever the topic is broached, be it conversations with friends or discussions in class.

Because there are few words that sting like "racist." Most times I find myself on the defensive, trying to avoid the pitfalls of making assurances like, "Hey, I have black friends."

I struggle with the fear that if I disagree with these protesters, I incriminate myself. If I express my sympathy for their plight, I'll be perceived as patronizing.

And that fear hinders the dialogue that could be the next step to making things better. My best experiences discussing racism have been one-on-one, with people who knew me well enough that we could duke it out without judging one another or hurling convenient stereotypes.

I defend this paper's right to publish Horowitz's words without branding itself racist. This column isn't a one-on-one forum, so I'm taking a risk.

I give my weekly kudos to the On the Wake of Emancipation Campaign. I've been begging for a demonstration from anybody all year. OWEC is the first that has gotten truly hyped and bucked the apathy trend at this University. And that's what it takes to get our administration's attention.

I support the idea that a plaque should be added to Saunders Hall, revealing Col. William Lawrence Saunders' involvement in the Ku Klux Klan.

But when the debate turns to the monument of Silent Sam, as it has nearly every year since I've been here, I stand my ground. The statue is dedicated to the men of the University who died during the Civil War, the ones who learned that duty "is the most sublime word in the English language."

Those advocating the bulldozing of said statue contend that it is a monument to slavery. Confusing the issue are those calling for its destruction while arguing that the Civil War was not fought over slavery.

A part of me is scared to admit that I believe Silent Sam is a monument to men who loved their country enough to die for it and nothing more. It surely means something else to others.

But tearing down such structures does not erase these facts and the sentiments surrounding them. Hiding ugly truths won't change a damn thing on this campus.

Instead, in likeness to placing an additional plaque on Saunders, monuments should be constructed to celebrate the efforts of those who haven't been acknowledged.

In the meantime, I hope these debates and discussions don't lose their fire. Because like it or not, such demonstrations are bringing to light problems on this campus that aren't as apparent as Union construction.

It's going deeper into issues that most of us don't know about and some know all too well.

The protesters have raised the racism question again.

I'm eager to see how the Big Meese, and the UNC campus, answers it.

Columnist Ashley Stephenson can be reached at ashley21@email.unc.edu.

School Board Plans to Up Next Year's Budget

By ROBERT CUMMINGS
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education met Thursday to plan its 2001-2002 budget and decide how to dole out the funds.

The school board proposed a 15.5 percent budget increase that will raise it to \$40.4 million. That money will be used to help pay for a new school, increase teacher benefits and institute new programs.

Two-thirds of the school board's proposed budget is reserved for fixed costs, most of which are associated with student enrollment growth and include opening a new middle school.

The remaining third of the budget provides for several programs including

attracting and retaining teachers through increased benefits and supplements.

The new budget must be approved by the Orange County Board of Commissioners, which finances the schools.

But Superintendent Neil Pedersen proposed that nearly \$1.1 million of the increases be offset by raising the school district's special property tax by 2 cents.



Board Chairman Nicholas Didow said he was pleased with the final outline of the school board's 2001-2002 budget.

School officials suggested to the school board that the revenue from the 2-cent tax increase be used only to cover the \$1.4 million cost of opening Smith Middle School.

"One of the consequences of growth is new schools," school board member Maryanne Rosenman said.

Two of the district's other middle schools already are over capacity, and there will be a general increase in student enrollment next year, Pedersen said.

"Overall, the county and Triangle areas are growing rapidly," Pedersen said.

"Student population (in the district) is about twice the rate of the general population."

Kim Hoke, spokeswoman for the

school system, said the district is enrolling more students than any other in North Carolina.

"We are the fastest growing district in the state, percentage-wise," she said.

Besides an increase in students, there are also state-mandated increases in teacher salaries, the costs of health insurance and the increases in the state retirement plans that comprise the rest of the two-thirds fixed cost.

Nicholas Didow, chairman of the school board, said the budget was within the target range that the board had outlined in February.

"I'm quite pleased with what was brought forward," Didow said.

But one critical issue that many school board members said they felt was left out concerned pay increases for

employees in the lowest salary grade.

This salary grade includes custodians and cafeteria workers, Rosenman said.

She and other board members stressed at the meeting that the current salaries for these workers place them dangerously close to the poverty line.

Rosenman also mentioned a need for funding "anti-bully programs" that would improve school safety and deter the violence that has afflicted some schools in the nation.

Rosenman said she had a good feeling about the pending budget review by the commissioners.

"We'll have to make some cuts, but I feel pretty comfortable."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

3-on-3 Keeps Competition, Hope Alive

The basketball tournament, which drew 3 varsity men's basketball players Saturday, raised about \$800 for cancer research.

By JENNY MCLENDON
Staff Writer

Although the NCAA tournament has come and gone, March Madness continued into April on campus Saturday with a three-on-three basketball tournament that raised funds for the Lineberger Cancer Research Center.

Carolina Cancer Focus' second annual tournament brought 22 teams to Woollen Gym to compete for prizes donated by local businesses including Bandido's, Michael Jordan's 23 and Johnny T-Shirt.

Nike also supported CCF by contributing several pairs of sunglasses as the grand prize for the tournament's winning trio. Tournament organizer Paymon Rouhanifard said he was pleased with the outpouring of interest in the event and the \$800 garnered for the Lineberger Center. "We got a lot of support from businesses and also players and volunteers," he said. "The businesses were really helpful and eager to participate, and we had 22 of the best teams you could possibly assemble come out to play."

UNC varsity basketball players Joseph Forte, Will Johnson and Jonathan Holmes showed their support for CCF by playing in the tournament. But to keep team selection fair, organizers made a rule of only one junior varsity or varsity player per three-member team.

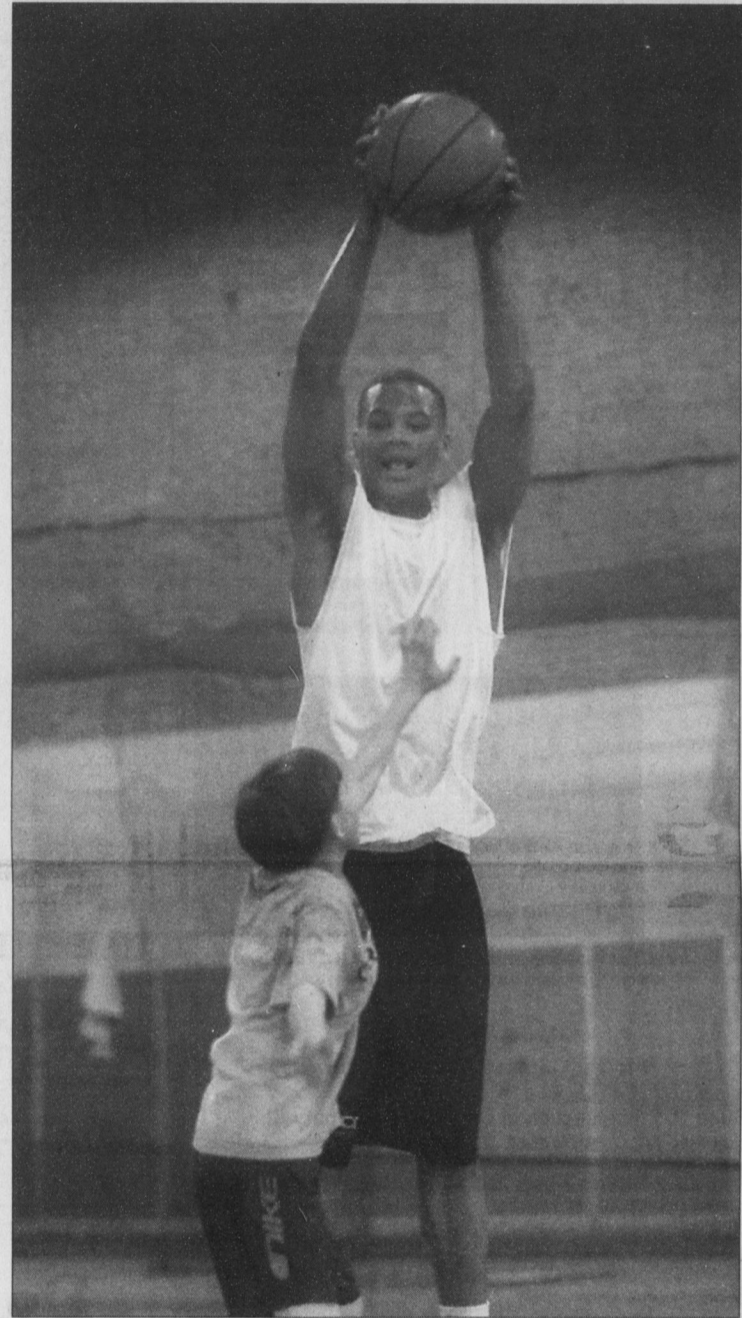
As the pool of teams narrowed to 16, eight, four and finally two, the temperature in the gym heated up — and so did the competition. "There's some pretty serious competition in here, but everyone is really here to have a good time and help the cause," said CCF Vice Chairman Michael Abel.

In the end, Jau'Ron Hayes, Reggie Gore and Matt Schafermeyer walked away with the Nike grand prize, snagging the tournament title for the second year in a row.

Kris Graves, a junior political science and economics major from Pennsylvania, played in two games and said he thinks student involvement in events like the tournament is critical. "It's important for college students to get out and get involved with causes like this and not just sit around and do nothing," he said. Ivy Spera, a junior biochemistry and music major from New York, said she enjoyed watching the tournament games. "I was actually going to play, but they didn't have enough girls' teams, so I decided to volunteer instead," she said.

As North Carolina's public comprehensive cancer center, the Lineberger Center aims to reduce cancer cases through research, treatment, training and outreach. The facility is staffed by 200 faculty scientists from 25 UNC departments, as well as 515 staff members.

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Ten-year-old Josh Chance tries to block Joseph Forte at the Carolina Cancer Focus 3-on-3 Tournament. Proceeds from the tournament will go to the Lineberger Cancer Center.

Leaders: SCRA Pleas Unrealistic

South Campus residents upset with living conditions presented their demands to the housing department.

By BRAD CHIASSON
Staff Writer

Campus leaders have made it clear that many of the goals of the South Campus Residence Alliance, which was created recently by students to voice concerns about South Campus construction, are unrealistic.

But the ones that are, officials say, will be addressed soon.

David Cooper, the new Residence Hall Association president, called the SCRA unnecessary and said the RHA could have been more effective in handling student grievances.

"It could have been dealt with a lot smoother through RHA," Cooper said. "Most of the demands they made are impossible or have been met or are in the process of being met."

Some of the demands made by the SCRA included students on South Campus getting first priority in choosing housing assignments and refunds for the hassles of construction.

But both Cooper and Christopher Payne, director of the Department of Housing and Residential Education, agreed that students on South Campus should not have first priority on housing because they all would want to move to North Campus. Payne also said moving students off South Campus would be pointless because the entire University will soon experience construction.

Cooper and Payne also said refunds would be unrealistic because there is not enough money to refund every student who has suffered due to the construction.

Max Gustashaw, co-founder of the SCRA, said he met with Payne to discuss South Campus construction issues.

"He spent a long time with us, around 2 1/2 hours," Gustashaw said. "Now that we have the reasons, we

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N.C. Senate Mulls Merits Of Character Education

By CLIFF NELSON
Staff Writer

A bill introduced Thursday in the N.C. Senate is being touted by supporters as a "character education" proposal — but its provisions go beyond teaching good character.

The Student Citizen Act, backed by 15 Democratic sponsors and publicly supported by Gov. Mike Easley, requires state schools to develop a character-education curriculum to teach students integrity, kindness and respect.

But the act also would promote civic involvement by middle and high school students.

If passed, the bill will require state schools to implement a one-week social studies unit on the law-making and voting process as well as conduct classroom discussion on current events.

It would also require high school students to write an elected official about issues important to them.

The middle school curriculum would include a tour of local government facilities such as a jail or town hall.

Students also would be required to analyze a local community problem and offer public policy recommendations on the problem to local officials, like the town mayor or council members.

Sen. Linda Garrou, D-Forsyth, a co-sponsor of the bill, said she is concerned that young people are becoming "turned off" by politics and welcomes the civics instruction proposed in the bill.

"Young folks need to know what makes North Carolina such a great state to live in," Garrou said.

She said she expects the bill to attract bipartisan support once Republican lawmakers have studied it.

"I expect a number of Republicans will sign on," Garrou said.

Sen. John Garwood, R-Wilkes, said he has not yet read the bill but that it would not necessarily garner the support of Republicans.

"A lot of schools have already implemented character education," Garwood said. "So I need to see the bill to know

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Officials Aim to Keep Well Wet

A student complaint prompted campus leaders to find ways to keep the Old Well flowing year-round.

By STEPHANIE HORVATH
Staff Writer

Students seeking a lucky sip from the Old Well on the first day of spring semester classes found the landmark's tap bone-dry.

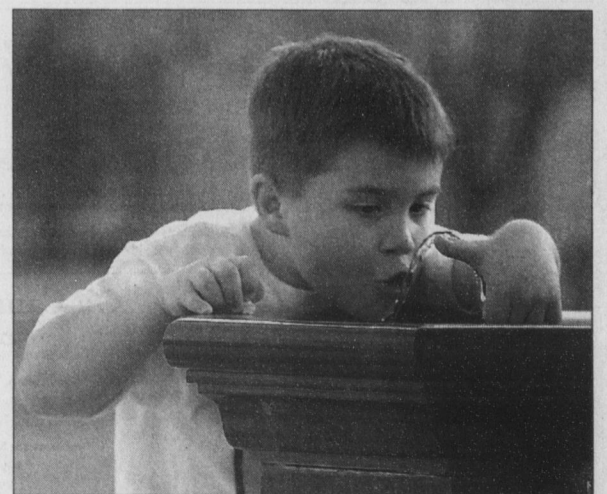
But after a student e-mail inquired about the reason behind the dry well, officials are now trying to get the fountain flowing year-round.

For the last few years, the University has cut off the water supply to the Old Well from November to March to prevent the well's pipes from freezing, said Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for facilities services.

But Runberg said the University is now planning to take steps to keep the well running all year after Chancellor James Moeser received an e-mail from a UNC graduate student concerned about the fountain being dry.

Runberg said it was the first comment on the well's inactivity he had received in his eight years on the job.

"I think it simply highlighted that this is a very important landmark, and there is the tradition associated with taking a drink on the first day of classes," he said.



Six-year-old Chase Davis takes a drink from the Old Well on Sunday afternoon during his first trip to campus.

"So we'll try to keep it open year-round so everyone can get a bit of luck year-round."

Runberg said the University is looking into installing valves that are not susceptible to freezing or strip-heaters, which wrap around the pipes and heat them with electricity.

The improvements will be made

before next winter. Runberg said it is too early to know the exact cost, but he estimated it at a few hundred dollars for each option.

The Old Well found on campus today is a renovated version of the original, built in 1898. The well was UNC

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