

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## SOLIDARITY

COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOIN HANDS TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST HATE

BY JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

As hordes of community members, bound not by sexual orientation but by compassion, marched past Silent Sam on their way to Franklin Street, they sent a message that they — unlike the statue — will not remain silent.

Once the crowd reached its destination, the site of Friday morning's hate crime, hundreds of candles lined the street, each one signifying a glimmer of hope that the assault will lead to much-needed change.

Amid supporters stood junior Thomas Stockwell, the victim of the attack.

Humbled by the hundreds of people who came to show solidarity, Stockwell said afterward that he was compelled to speak when some media outlets released his name.

"I didn't want to be portrayed in a certain way because I hadn't been talking," he said in a phone interview Tuesday night. "I didn't want to come across as victim because that's not what I am."

His identity revealed, Stockwell imparted his version of the attack that he maintains occurred at the hands of a group of unidentified men.

"It was unprovoked, and I did fight back," he said. "There's only so long that you can fight off a pack of wolves. ... I don't want to be construed as being weak."

Members of the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender-Straight Alliance, as well as Amnesty International, organized Tuesday's speak-out event to provide the community with a forum and a direction.

The event began in the Pit, as top University administrators, elected town officials, student leaders and other notable public officials — who often battle each other on public policy issues — stood as one community.

Chancellor James Moeser was the first to deliver prepared remarks

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DTH FILE PHOTO/BRANDON SMITH  
Student Body President Matt Calabria spoke at the State of the University address on Tuesday.

## Talks target UNC's future

Leaders reflect, share guidance

BY CAROLINE KORNEGAY STAFF WRITER

As one of their few remaining duties, student government leaders stepped up to the podium Tuesday and reflected on their impact at the University.

An intimate and interested crowd of students and administrators gathered for the State of the University Address.

The four speeches, one from each of the four branches of student government, centered on the strides leaders said they had made to improve student life.

The addresses were a chance to look back on and organize their thoughts for the next generation of leaders, said Student Body President Matt Calabria.

Students' commitment to improvements will shape the future of the University, he said.

"Excellence requires no more than the raw materials that we already have at this University," he said.

Calabria stressed the importance of continuing the work started during his term. He also highlighted key initiatives completed during his tenure, from the free, legal music-downloading pilot programs to added safety lights around campus.

Calabria also spoke of this year's tuition battle, noting that students

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Junior Nick Shepard looks toward the sky with tears in his eyes while listening to community members speak out against homophobia and hate during Tuesday's event in the Pit. DTH/BRIAN CASSELLA

## CAMPUS LOOKS BACK

BY LINDSAY MICHEL ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

When UNC graduate Ian Palmquist returned to the speak-out in the Pit on Tuesday night, an unpleasant sense of familiarity washed over him.

Almost seven years before, he had stood on the same bricks during a vigil in honor of hate crime victim Matthew Shepard.

"I'm so pleased that we don't have another death tonight," he said. "But I'm outraged that it's been six years, and I feel like I'm making the same speech."

Although several steps have been taken at UNC to improve the climate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer students since his college years, Palmquist's words and the recent attack on a UNC junior are testament that an ideal climate has yet to be discovered.

"We've now sort of hit a hiatus, and we need to go back and revisit this report,"

said Provost Robert Shelton in reference to a 2002 LGBTQ climate evaluation report. "It's a good time to take stock and see where we are and look at our progresses and re-energize."

The report, a result of a yearlong effort to evaluate the needs of UNC's LGBTQ community, laid the foundations of today's support network.

Of the LGBTQ students who were surveyed during the investigation, more than half said they had been verbally harassed on campus. Though only 6 percent admitted to being a victim of physical harassment, all respondents said they had been "given the cold shoulder" because of their sexual orientation.

The Provost's Planning Committee compiled the results and recommended the creation of an LGBTQ office within the Division of Student Affairs, as well as the addition of a sexuality studies curriculum.

Ten months later, on Feb. 17, 2003, the LGBTQ Office opened its doors full-time.

Since its opening day, the office has worked to promote programs such as Safe Zone training and "Social Hour and A Half" to increase the sexual minority community's visibility. These programs also have provided LGBTQ students with a place where they feel safe and can find support, said Stephanie Chang, coordinator for LGBTQ programs.

"The combination of our office's programs and the (Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender-Straight Alliance's) programs are saying to students, 'There is an outlet here for (them),'"

she said. Jermaine Caldwell, who has been an active student in the LGBTQ community at UNC since 1999, said he has experienced the changing face of his community

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#### ONLINE

A multimedia slideshow with additional photos from Tuesday See www.dthonline.com

## Officials react to faculty protest

BY SHARI FELD STAFF WRITER

University administrators said Tuesday that they were not surprised by the sharp criticisms expressed in a letter that denounced a lack of transparency in the process of negotiating plans for a new program in Western civilizations.

Officials said that negotiations with the John William Pope Foundation have been open and that accepting the funds will not compromise the integrity of the University.

"The source of the money will not determine its use," said

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UNC Dean Bernadette Gray-Little said concerns are unfounded.

### CLIMATE AND CHANGE ON CAMPUS

<b>OCT. 13, 1998</b> A crowd of about 200 participates in a vigil to mourn gay college student Matthew Shepard.	<b>APRIL 2002</b> UNC's Provost's Planning Committee on LGBTQ Climate releases a report, suggests changes.	<b>FEB. 17, 2003</b> LGBTQ Office, one of the report's recommendations, opens in Division of Student Affairs.	<b>FEBRUARY 2004</b> UNC lecturer scolds a student via e-mail for expressing anti-gay sentiments. Debate ensues.	<b>FALL 2004</b> A new minor in sexuality studies, another report recommendation, is offered at UNC.	<b>FEB. 25, 2005</b> A 21-year-old UNC junior is attacked on Franklin Street in what police label a hate crime.
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### ONLINE

Study: Youth are least discriminatory group  
Speaker says Palestine has chance at peace  
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New art exhibit in Student Union honors members of the armed forces who lost their lives PAGE 3

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