

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Rising building costs save West House

DECK PLANS DELAYED, HOUSE SPARED FOR NOW

BY KELLY OCHS  
SENIOR WRITER

Unforeseen building costs have spelled the end of an underground parking deck and sparked hope surrounding preservation efforts for a campus fixture.

In response to rising building costs, University planning officials announced Monday that they have scrapped plans for the North

Campus deck.

The lot would have been a part of the construction of the Arts Common, a redesign of a portion of North Campus to include expanded facilities for the campus arts.

Arts Common construction is set to begin in September.

The construction of the underground parking deck is not financially viable, said Bruce Runberg,

associate vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction.

There has been a 10 percent to 20 percent increase in construction material prices — especially for steel and concrete — in the past year, he said.

"It pushed it to the point where it's just not viable to construct the deck," Runberg said.

Carolyn Elfland, associate vice

chancellor for campus services, said the cost of demolishing the buildings on the deck's proposed site and moving key utility lines that cross the area proved too expensive.

The cancellation of the project means that many of the buildings located in the area have been saved temporarily from demolition.

The decision marks a brief respite for the West House, a nearby building that many students fought to preserve last year.

"It's too early to say the West

*"It's another one of the special and unique things you can only find at Carolina."*

LUKE FARLEY, STUDENT CONGRESS SPEAKER, ABOUT THE WEST HOUSE

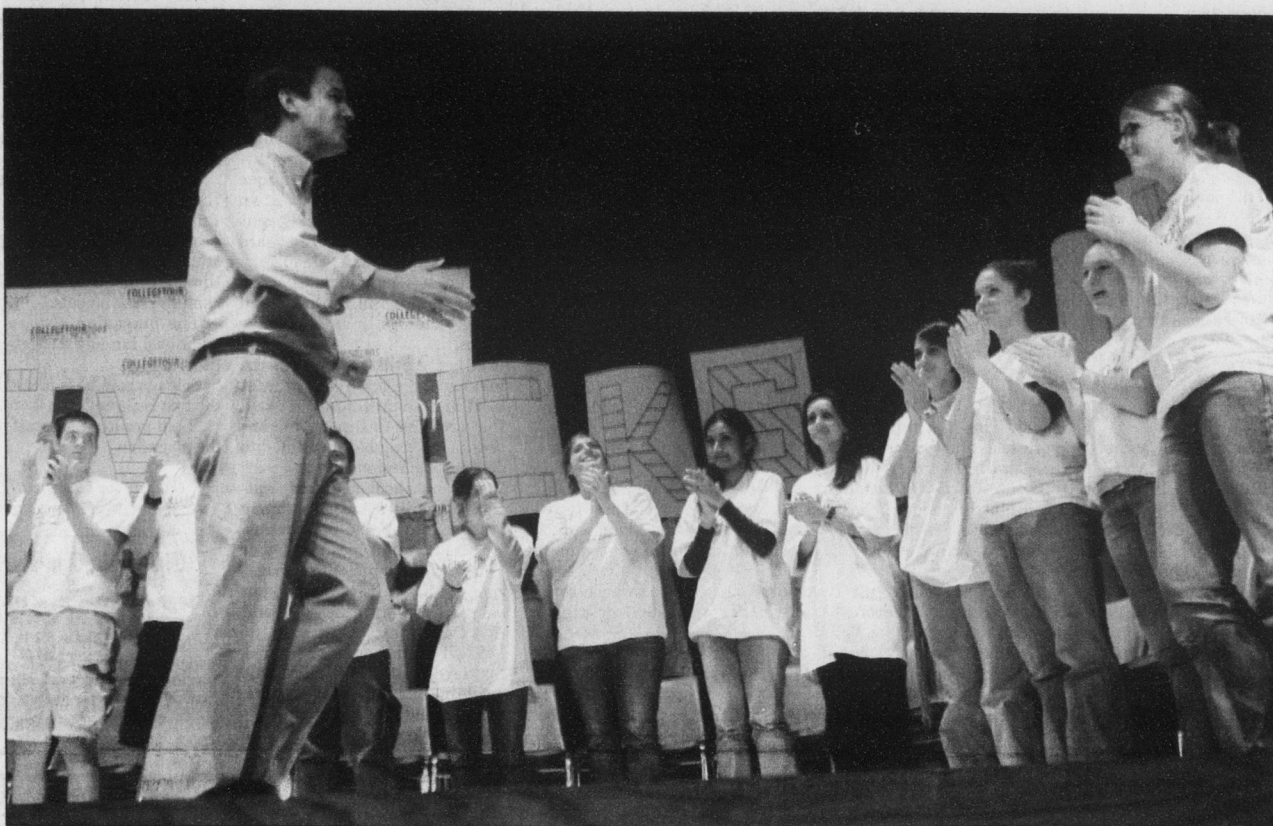
House won't be demolished, but the immediate cause of its demolition has changed," said Anna Wu, director of facilities planning.

The house was built in 1935 by an alumnus for his son and other relatives to live in during their time at UNC. The house was built on the

edge of Old Fraternity Row and has housed nursing students, the computer science department and now the Asian studies department.

The new plans for the Arts Common, which still might involve

SEE WEST HOUSE PAGE 4



DTH/RICKY LEUNG

Former U.S. Senator John Edwards greets students during his talk about the new program Opportunity Rocks in the Great Hall of the Student Union on Monday. The nationwide program is targeted at getting college students involved in the fight against poverty. UNC is the first stop on Edwards' tour of 10 university campuses.

## EDWARDS ROCKS UNC

Nationwide tour of campuses to raise poverty awareness launched Monday

BY ERIN GIBSON ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Former U.S. Sen. John Edwards kicked off the Opportunity Rocks campus tour at UNC on Monday afternoon.

The event, hosted by the UNC chapter of Student Poverty Reduction Outreach, was the first of 10 stops on Edwards' nationwide tour to get students involved in the fight against poverty.

The tour will next stop at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

"We need a movement against poverty in this country,"

Edwards said. "It starts with people like you."

He told the crowd of more than 600 students and community members that he has seen many movements start on college campuses where people are willing to fight for something even when it is not the popular thing to do. He said he hopes poverty will be the moral issue of this generation.

Edwards said that there are not enough opportunities in the world for people to seize and that he wants to help create that chance for people through organizations such as Opportunity Rocks.

"It's not something we do for them," he

said. "It's something we do for us."

He said America as a whole is better and stronger when everyone works together to lift up the poor and disadvantaged so they can thrive in society.

Those who attended the event Monday supplied contact information to members of SPROUT who now will work to organize everyone into a separate campus group — Opportunity Rocks.

The leaders of SPROUT said they hope to develop a symbiotic relationship between the

SEE EDWARDS, PAGE 4

## Young voters still defy pollsters

Despite activism, numbers still low

BY MEREDITH KING  
STAFF WRITER

Despite efforts to register college-aged voters, municipal officials might not see as many new faces at the polls this year in comparison to 2003.

As of 3 p.m. Monday, the Orange County Board of Elections had processed registration forms from 1,218

Half of voters aged 18 to 22 registered this year compared with 2003.

ONLINE forms from 1,218 voters between 18 and 22 years old.

The deadline for registration for the upcoming election was Friday, and officials said they still have to count a few hundred forms that came in at the last minute.

This year's recruitment is a decrease from the last municipal election in 2003, for which 2,300 college-aged voters registered.

The leaders of many student groups that hosted registration initiatives said they were not surprised by the low turnout.

SEE REGISTRATION, PAGE 4

### Voter registration

Number of Orange County voters registered as of 3 p.m. Monday:

94,309 total voters

10,189 voters aged 18-22

4,319 registered from Nov. 2 to present

1,218 voters aged 18-22 registered from Nov. 2 to present

SOURCE: ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

DTH/MCLEAN

## Experts swear profanity is OK

Swearing sees storied development

BY ADAM RODMAN  
STAFF WRITER

Howard Stern wouldn't have turned a head back in the 14th century.

Medieval English shock jocks would be more likely to incur the wrath of the powers that be with "zounds" or "golly" than any of comedian George Carlin's seven dirty words — many of which were already in common use.

Fast forward 600 or so years. America's broadcast power, the Federal Communications

Commission, has ruled that the F-word is acceptable as an interjection, an adjective or an adverb, but the verb form is a big no-no.

In March, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that would charge broadcasters \$500,000 per obscenity. It is now up for consideration by the Senate.

But lawmakers might be missing the point, some social scientists say. Swearing is practically universal and stretches back to the beginnings of language.

It might even do us some good.

"The point is that cursing expresses our emotions in a deeper way than any other in a language," says Timothy Jay, professor of psychology at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and author of "Why We Curse" and "Cursing in America."

"If you can think of another way to say (expletive deleted) without using that kind of language, let me know."

In fact, swearing might even be an evolutionary advantage.

Animals express their anger through physical reactions and

SEE SWEARING, PAGE 4

## Achievement gap divides candidates

BY BRIANNA BISHOP  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Despite being a top priority for half a decade, the minority student achievement gap persists in city schools.

As a result, the issue has risen to the forefront of this year's race for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education, and all four candidates seem eager to close that gap.

"I've seen tremendous change in the district over the last four years," said incumbent candidate Lisa Stuckey, the school board's chairwoman, adding that test scores in the third through eighth grades have improved during her



Wednesday: How candidates are planning to improve working conditions for teachers

tenure. "I believe we have work to be done, but I believe progress has been made."

While strides have been made, achievement levels, especially in the high schools, remain problematic.

"We ... need to work on raising kids from a minimum level of proficiency to a high level of performance," said Graig Meyer, coordinator of the Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate Program.

Meyer's group works closely with students, and the group will be providing volunteers at the fourth annual Minority Student Achievement Education Summit on Oct. 25 — a meeting held to provide parents with information about encouraging academic excellence from their children.

Meyer said he continues to hear the same things from students year after year and would like to see the school system better involve parents.

"I would like to see the schools be a little more proactive in working with families of kids who are

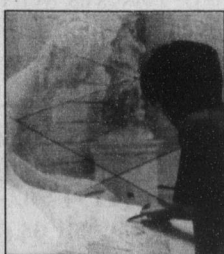
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**AND IT'S ALL GONE** Amendments to federal bankruptcy laws started Monday

**NOT VERY MEEK** Young Democrats host the N.C. Democratic Party chairman

**A LIL' TOO MUCH** ALE officers hand out bevy of citations to Duke undergrads



arts | page 8

### DOUBLE TAKE

CUAB's latest exhibit in the Student Union features photography by Peter Filene, who combines art and everyday life in his images.

city | page 9

### A LITTLE OFF

Rumors that the Off Franklin Bar & Grill soon would close down are refuted by the ownership, though they soon will turn the bar over.

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### ANOTHER ROUND

The Davidson County Board of Commissioners appeals a case to the Supreme Court that tugs at the question of separating church and state.

weather

Sunny  
H 82, L 53

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