

The Daily Tar Heel

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www.dailytarheel.com

Pit driver hits heart of campus

Perceptions of safety varied as community looks for answers

BY BRIAN HUDSON
NEWS EDITOR

When a Jeep careened through the Pit on Friday, it struck at the heart of campus — in more than just a literal sense.

Many voiced concerns that Mohammed Taheri-azar's assault would disrupt the atmosphere of

the University and increase worries about safety on campus.

Days later, as the weather becomes more temperate, students still are called to the Pit, though some say the atmosphere indeed has changed.

"We still jump when we hear construction sounds after what

happened on Friday," freshman Kristi Boykin said while in the popular gathering spot Wednesday. "Today, of all days, there was a construction sound."

"We all jumped." In spite of recent tensions, students say they are resolved to continue their daily routines.

"If you live your life thinking that someone's always going to be coming up behind you, then that's no life at all," freshman Jessica Scott said while in the Pit.

It seems that for many students' parents, generally the most worried, there is little reason to be more concerned.

Since Saturday campus administrators have underscored that authorities have every reason to believe that Taheri-azar acted alone, a realization in which many have found comfort.

Deborah McNeill, whose daughter Anna is a UNC sophomore, said that based on the facts that have been presented, she is no more con-

cerned now than before Friday.

And while many have called for the University to label the attack as terrorism, administrators have opted not to do so.

Ken Lucas, FBI spokesman in Charlotte, said that the case is still under investigation and that reports that federal charges are being drawn up at this point are false.

"I think it's an isolated incident," Deborah McNeill said.

SEE CAMPUS SAFETY, PAGE 9

ONLINE POLLS:

Looking for a reason
Should Mohammed Taheri-azar be considered a terrorist?

Go to: www.dailytarheel.com

Habitat Homes

Poll results: Would you support having a Habitat for Humanity home in your neighborhood?

yes 61% no 39%
859 votes 542 votes

This poll is not scientific and reflects the opinions of only those who have chosen to participate. The results do not represent the opinions of Internet users in general, nor the public as a whole.

Council flooded by fund requests

Departments log various demands

BY TED STRONG
SENIOR WRITER

The Chapel Hill Town Council on Wednesday night considered the latest permutation of what eventually will become the town's budget for fiscal year 2006-07.

Town staff members emphasized the tentative nature of the latest proposal.

"Please don't become either exultant or distraught over what you see," said Kay Johnson, town financial director.

Town Manager Cal Horton explained that he would work with council members to develop a budget that includes as many as possible of the staff's requests, which were presented Wednesday, while still providing a financial outlook the town can withstand.

"What we've got to do is work with you to figure out a balance that is sustainable for the community," the retiring town manager said.

The council will next meet to discuss the budget March 22 at a public hearing open to all residents.

Next fiscal year's budget will go into effect July 1.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The council heard from Bruce Heflin, assistant town manager, about the town's capital improvement plan.

Heflin said the plan included funding for projects such as improvements to increase access for disabled individuals, a town pool and improvements to Town Hall's heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

Horton broke in to avow that the buzzing noises from the HVAC system that plagued the meeting were purely coincidental.

SEE REQUESTS, PAGE 9

"I feel really great about the work we did." SETH DEARMIN, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT, AT HIS STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS



DTH/WILL MAVRONICOLAS

As his term comes to a close, Student Body President Seth Dearmin reviews his term in office Wednesday in the State of the University Address in the Union Auditorium.

UNION GIVEN GOOD MARKS

BY WHITNEY KISLING
STAFF WRITER

In one of his last speeches to the University community, Student Body President Seth Dearmin outlined the efforts of this year's executive branch and offered his expectations for next year's administration.

During Wednesday's State of the University Address, Dearmin said facilitating student organizations, streamlining resources and keeping student government accessible have been the keys to success of student representatives.

"The last year has really been a team effort," he said.

Among the list of accomplish-

ments Dearmin listed were making tuition more predictable, creating Slice — an online comprehensive campus calendar — building a relationship between administrators and students and maintaining seniority in recontracting.

During last year's campaign, Dearmin promised to push for a locked-in tuition plan to keep hikes predictable.

In a move that was unpopular with some students, the campus approved in January a \$1,100 tuition increase for nonresident undergraduates and \$250 increase for resident undergrad-

SEE DEARMIN, PAGE 9

Branch leaders sing praises

BY ROBBY MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

There weren't multiple standing ovations and no First Lady was in attendance — but Wednesday's State of the University Address showcased more than just the president.

Top student government representatives from all three branches came together to deliver summaries of their administrations' accomplishments, downfalls and goals for the future.

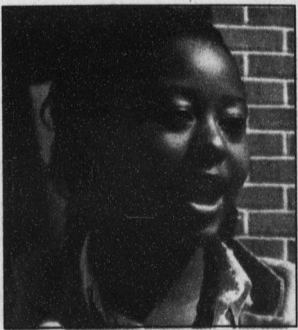
The speeches were upbeat and filled with thanks more than anything else.

In his speech, Graduate and Professional Student Federation President Mike Brady highlighted the positive aspects of his term.

"This was a good year," he began. "Graduate students have taken great strides to integrate themselves in the University."

His address touched on issues such as basketball tickets for spouses of students and the graduate honor court — areas which he said saw considerable success this year.

SEE ALL BRANCHES, PAGE 9



Sophomore Renae McPherson (left) and junior Angelia Duncan campaign for votes Wednesday in the Pit. McPherson was elected BSM president by 14 votes.



DTH/WALLISON MILLER

McPherson, Wilson to lead BSM

BY KATE SULLIVAN
STAFF WRITER

The younger class trumped their seniors Wednesday, as two sophomores were elected to lead the Black Student Movement next year.

Sophomore Renae McPherson will be next year's BSM president, accompanied by sophomore Scott Wilson, the vice president-elect.

The new officers were announced late Wednesday after a week of campaigning.

McPherson garnered 14 more votes than junior Angelia Duncan.

Wilson edged junior Ben Kaplan-Singer by 11 votes.

McPherson, a history and education double major, has big plans for expanding the scope of BSM on campus, she said. Her platform focuses on increasing BSM's voice within the campus community.

"The first thing I'd like to implement would be getting better campus relations with the BSM," McPherson said. Advocating relations between the administration

SEE BSM ELECTIONS, PAGE 9



Scott Wilson was elected vice president of BSM as a sophomore.



Ben Kaplan-Singer narrowly lost the race for vice president.

BSM PRESIDENT RESULTS

Renae McPherson 104 votes ✓

Angelia Duncan 90 votes

VICE-PRESIDENT RESULTS

Scott Wilson 101 votes ✓

Ben Kaplan-Singer 90 votes

incorrect article

ACC article OK online
Derek Howles' ACC Preview article, "Overachievers," had an incorrect jump section in Thursday's edition. The right version is online under Sports.

online | dailytarheel.com

WATCH WHAT YOU EAT City schools kick off nutrition month celebrations
SEXUAL LIBERATION Films examines gay sex as part of GLBTSA week of events
OPINION BLOG Men's groups launch abortion-rights campaign in Michigan

dive | page 5-8

INTERACTIVE TRIANGLE
Read about the host of video-game development companies that have set up roots in and around Research Triangle Park.

sports | page 11

SINGLES ONLY
The UNC baseball team pulls out a 6-4 victory against Appalachian State on a night in which Tar Heel bats only connected for 12 singles.

sports | page 8

MARCH 9, 1960 ...
Unsatisfied with The Chapel Hill Weekly's coverage, UNC faculty members challenge the staff in a license plate-changing contest.

weather

Partly Cloudy
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