

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Campus reacts to Middle East crisis

BY MAC MOLLISON  
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

The recent surge of violence in the Middle East has led to evacuations on both sides of the Israeli-Lebanese border, where settlements in northern Israel have been bombarded by rockets and significant infrastructure in Lebanon has been destroyed by Israeli bombs.

And even in comparatively peaceful Chapel Hill — where the borderline of the greatest controversy might be the small,

brick wall between Franklin Street and McCorkle Place — Tar Heels are being touched by the outbreak of chaos.

Besides being host to students and faculty hailing from the area, UNC boasts a study abroad program with close ties to several universities in both Lebanon and Israel. Five students are to study in Israel, two in Egypt, and one in Lebanon this fall — but a decision about whether or not to cancel travel plans for the students is expected around the beginning

of August.

"Together, collectively, here in the office, we can process quite a lot of information from around the world to make a judgment ... about whether a particular site or a particular program is safe in light of circumstances," said Bob Miles, director of the study abroad office.

"It's conceivable that the existing hostilities may come to an end in the next week or 10 days," he said, adding that the office, which is used to considering cancellations

of programs out of concern for students' safety, is "not in a state of panic."

Clark Letterman, a junior, is one of the students planning to study in Egypt. He wasn't too daunted by security concerns.

"(Violence) is a shame," he said. "But the way I look at it is: The more we hear about it in the news and the more activity going on there, the more need there is for people to study abroad and begin to understand the dynamics of the conflict on the ground."

Val Kolko, an N.C. Hillel employee, returned from the region last weekend.

"I got back and learned that there were some cities that were threatened and attacked that I had been in earlier," she said.

"I think at least in Jerusalem, it's still a safe place to be."

Kolko added that she saw an elevated number of security guards on the cities'

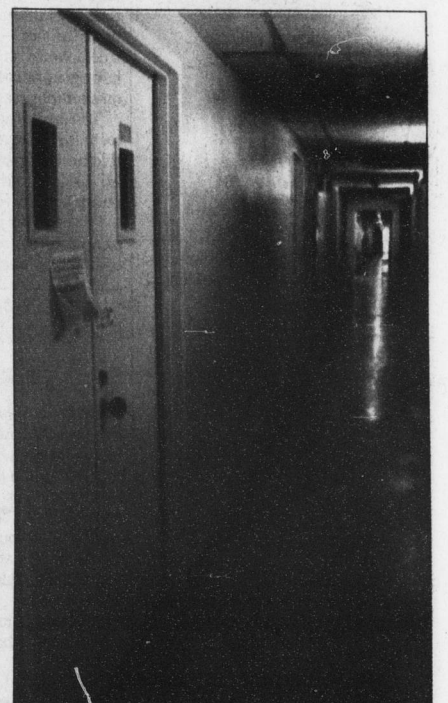
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The elevator used by students to access the basement exposes the innards of the building.



The hallway leading to "the cage" also exposes the building's plumbing — students taller than about 5 feet have to duck to get through, but they can find plenty of seemingly random scrap material.



Claustrophobia can set in when you're traveling through some of Venable's most narrow hallways.

## Venable's time is at hand

BY NICOLE DUNCAN  
STAFF WRITER

Venable Hall — well-known around campus for its one-of-a-kind and often frustrating architecture — might not be well-known for much longer.

Many students are spending their last days in the building this summer. It will completely close in September and will be demolished beginning in March 2007.

Constructed in the 1920s and later expanded in the 1950s, Venable holds laboratories, research facilities and classrooms for a variety of the physical sciences, including chemistry, marine sciences and physics.

In its place will stand New Venable Hall, which will be part of UNC's new Science Complex. The new building will preserve the namesake of Francis Venable, the famous turn-of-the-century professor

who helped identify calcium carbide and who served as UNC's president.

"All the new buildings will have modern technology in the laboratories, improved building equipment, increased floor-to-ceiling height and more lighting in the building itself," said Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for facilities construction and planning.

New Venable also will have a small courtyard that will allow much more light into the building than what gets in now.

All of that is welcome news for current and future science students, for whom the current building elicits feelings that are mixed at best.

Long, narrow hallways and low ceilings — often less than a foot above the heads of the building's patrons — lead many to liken Venable to the Labyrinth of ancient myth.

New students in particular are often heard complaining about the building's cramped spaces and confusing layout.

"The continuing need for additional research space, the lack of reliable air conditioning, the leaky roofs and vibration-prone areas are what prompted the construction of the Science Complex," said Dick Forbis, science complex facilities users coordinator, who has been involved with the Science Complex project since planning started in 2000.

"We've tried off and on to renovate it, with the last significant renovation being in the 1980s," said Holden Thorp, chairman of the chemistry department. "Venable has outlived its time as a safe place and useful science facility."

It will take about nine months for

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## Never forget those cold, clammy halls

BY SPENCER PERKINS  
STAFF WRITER

Even those who've been spared from having to set foot in Venable know it's there — that mysterious, morbidly old building sunken between two prison-like chemistry towers and the journalism school.

For those of us who have set foot there — be it for a single class or years of research in labs — it's an experience not soon forgotten. It will always be that building.

That building that almost appears to be living — and definitely dying.

That building with the heavy air — air that you think will probably put

something carcinogenic into your body.

That building littered with signs warning against radiation, lasers, bio-hazards and "flammable hydrogen."

And it will always be that building with nothing more than a single pane of glass or a wooden door between those warning signs and the very machine being warned against.

I've been a mouse wandering the maze-like halls of Venable since my freshman year, when I worked in the marine geochemistry lab. My first impression of Venable was that it had been the inspiration for a video game like "Wolfenstein"

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## Local legislative ideas fail to gain traction

BY STEPHEN MOORE  
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

While the N.C. General Assembly is pleased this summer with the generous state budget, several issues favored by officials in Orange County never made it past the drawing board.

Given the approval of salary increases for state and university employees, a minimum wage increase of \$1 and a cap on the gasoline tax, it can't be said that county residents won't be affected by this summer's work.

Yet proposal after proposal directed toward helping Orange County and Chapel Hill is foundering, most never escaping House and Senate committee meetings.

"We didn't have many local bills," said Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange. "During the short session, we don't really do major

bills."

In the end, it appears that bills to fund two new county deputy clerks, a child abuse center and a historic district in Hillsborough, a new arts center in the northern part of the county, a fire training facility and a tax for schools won't make it through.

A bill introduced in 2005 by Rep. Bill Faison, D-Orange, would have increased the number of county commissioners to seven but remained in committee through the short session.

"It's very hard," Kinnaird said. "Every county has its needs and wants."

One bill that did make it through changed the Chapel Hill charter so there no longer are term limits for the position

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## Rathskeller is set to reopen next month

BY GRAY CALDWELL  
CITY EDITOR

After a brief scare, patrons of the Chapel Hill staple The Rathskeller can rest easy. The Rat will reopen.

Owner Francis Henry said he expects the restaurant to be open by the Week of Welcome — Aug. 17 — when students arrive back at Carolina for the new school year.

"I need to be open for them," he said.

The restaurant, located in Amber Alley below Franklin Street, has served meals such as lasagna, steak and even a bowl of cheese for more than 50 years. It closed its doors about a month ago, citing the need for "long overdue repairs."

After talks with the property owners, Henry said, he can reopen the eatery.

He said some of the repairs expected to be completed before the reopening include fixing up the Cave room, which was flooded about two years ago. An artist will come to the restaurant in

the next few days and fix up "a few fine points," he added.

"Basically, we're going to try and spend this time refinishing and trying to figure out what to do with the graffiti," Henry said, clarifying that he doesn't plan to completely eliminate the markings that generations of students have made in the restaurant.

"Graffiti will never end in the Rat, but I'm gonna get it out of the front room for sure," he said. "The kids seem to enjoy it so much, but we need to make it a little more reasonable."

John Riddle, who was a graduate student at UNC in 1963, said he doesn't mind the markings.

"Normally, I don't like graffiti, but it seems to be so much of the ambiance of the place that I like it," he said. "I'll still come, but if they paint it like a hospital then it won't be the same thing."

Riddle said news of the Rat's reopen-

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The Rathskeller restaurant is closed for repairs, but it is expected to be open by the time students arrive back for school.

### CORRECTION

The July 13 article "New technologies to change campus life" states that UNC's spam filter will be incorporated into Student Central. It actually will be incorporated into the Onyen Web site.

The DTH apologizes for the error.

### that's all, folks

This issue is the last Daily Tar Heel of the summer. If you have any questions about its content, e-mail Summer Editor Chris Coletta at colettac@gmail.com.

The DTH will resume publication with a welcome-back issue on August 22.



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#### ANYTHING BUT COMMON

The University hopes that with the demolition of West House, it can move forward on \$200 million plans for a campus Arts Common.

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#### HOOP DREAMS

Former Carolina basketball standouts Sean May and Marvin Williams put up big numbers in the NBA's summer leagues.

### weather

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