

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Pit attack leaves wake

### Taheri-Azar slated for court Tuesday

BY SHANNAN BOWEN  
INVESTIGATIVE TEAM EDITOR

As violence and hostility persist across the Islamic world, local Muslims have been facing a battle of identity and portrayal stemming from an attack on UNC soil that was said to have been made in the name of their God.

Mohammad Taheri-Azar, the UNC alumnus who admitted driving a Jeep Cherokee through the Pit in an attempt to run over people to avenge the deaths of Muslims worldwide, will appear Tuesday in Orange County Superior Court.

District Attorney Jim Woodall said that he isn't sure what will happen at the hearing, but that he expects the judge to ask if Taheri-Azar has been psychologically

evaluated.

At his last hearing June 21, Taheri-Azar initially voiced a request to represent himself and dismiss James Williams, his court-appointed public defender. Judge Carl Fox told Taheri-Azar he would have to undergo psychological evaluations in order to represent himself, and Taheri-Azar agreed to keep his legal counsel.

Since the March 3 attack, Taheri-Azar has been held in Raleigh's Central Prison in lieu of \$5.5 million bail.

He is charged with nine counts of attempted first-degree murder, five counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious injury, and four counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill — all felonies that could cost him 150 years in prison if found guilty.

Taheri-Azar has used the Quran

to defend himself, leaving members of the UNC Muslim Students Association and other local Islamic groups attempting to dispel religious myths using the same holy book.

While in prison, Taheri-Azar has written more than 30 letters to The Daily Tar Heel describing his unguided quest into Islam and the religious book he says grants him permission to kill.

Nine people were injured when Taheri-Azar drove the rented jeep through the central gathering place on campus just before noon. He turned himself in to police shortly after the attack, declaring that he had done justice in the name of Allah.

Taheri-Azar has yet to enter a plea.

In a letter dated May 23, Taheri-Azar writes he will plead not guilty, and he will never carry out additional attacks and hopes to continue working in the country.

"Whether I intend to uphold the promise is something known to

myself and Allah, which I can neither confirm nor deny, for the court," he writes in a letter dated May 30.

But Taheri-Azar announced at his last court appearance June 21 that he would enter a guilty plea.

Woodall said he will ask the judge Tuesday to set a date for the arraignment.

### Dispelling myths

In the wake of Sept. 11 and the start of the war in Iraq, Muslims worldwide have defied stereotypes, faced allegations and defended their religion.

When Taheri-Azar claimed to have planned an attack on UNC because Islam granted him permission to do so, Muslim groups in North Carolina were quick to denounce his actions.

Vigils were held on campus to support Muslims, and groups, including the Muslim Students

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### Taheri-Azar letters

Mohammad Taheri-Azar has written more than 30 letters to The Daily Tar Heel since May. In the letters, he explains his motivations for the March 3 attack.

May 2

Myyal for the attack of UNC-CH on March 3, 2006 was to retaliate against United States troops (which I also consider to be part of the government since their tax money keeps it in power) for their responsibility in the evictions, tortures, and killings of Allah's followers in the Middle East and elsewhere by Israel and its allies.

May 23

You may announce to the public that I intend to make only two statements to the court in my defense, and that I have no intention of raising any issues from the Quran or my Meditation III in the courtroom, and I intend to plead "not guilty."

Statement 1) I promise not to plan or carry out any additional attacks on Americans.

Statement 2) If the court finds me "not guilty," I intend to continue living in the U.S.A. and working full-time.

June 3

I by all means therefore discredit the "UNC-CH Muslim Students Association" as a U.S. government-supported organization aimed at falsifying people's understanding of Islam. As George Orwell would call it, a "Ministry of Lies," is the proper name for all government-sponsored Muslim organizations in the United States of America, all dedicated to mass distribution of falsehood.

Go to www.dailytarheel.com to read the full text letters from Taheri-Azar.

## Council to weigh apartment future

### Developers aim to ax Town House

BY JESSICA SCHONBERG  
CITY EDITOR

Students have their chance to give their input about a proposal to tear down Town House Apartments on Hillsborough Street at a public hearing tonight.

Ram Development Company submitted a concept plan to the town to build 332 new units in place of the current 111-unit complex.

The hearing will give developers a chance to hear concerns of students, residents and the Chapel Hill Town Council before they submit a formal application for The Residences at Grove Park.

The application then will go through a long review process before the council votes on approval.

The apartments long have been a hot spot for students seeking affordable housing near campus.

According to the complex's Web site, rent prices range from \$625 to \$1050 for the two and three bedroom apartments.

John Florian, Ram Development's vice president of development in Raleigh, said that he is not oblivious to Town House's popularity but that

### The future of Town House Apartments

**What's happening?** Florida-based Ram Development Company has submitted a concept plan to tear down the complex and build 332 units for sale in its place.

**What can I do about it?** The Chapel Hill Town Council will hold a public hearing about the concept plan at 7 p.m. tonight at Town Hall. Everyone is welcome to speak at public hearings. The developers can take feedback from the hearing and incorporate it into their official application to the Town Council.

he thinks the change would affect only a small portion of students.

"I think that the important part is that we're really looking for the right housing options and the right locations for both students and residents who want to move closer to downtown and support downtown," Florian said.

The one, two and three bedroom condos and town houses would suit a wide range of people, but none of the units would be rentals, he said.

The proposal has drawn criti-

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Natalia Smith, a senior cultural anthropology major, has seven tattoos from various artists around the country. Smith says it's OK to like a tattoo because it's beautiful; there doesn't always need to be a deeper meaning. She says her tattoos are a sort of art collection.

## PERMANENT MARKERS

BY MONIQUE NEWTON  
STAFF WRITER

When senior Natalia Smith wears pants and a long-sleeved shirt, all of them are hidden.

But if a warm afternoon calls for lighter attire — say a tank top and a skirt — they're everywhere.

She has seven tattoos. Ink decorates portions of her arms, calves and one shoulder.

And she doesn't sail the seas or call prison home.

"I feel like it's like a personal art collection," Smith said. "It changes with you and kind of becomes a part of who you are."

According to a study conducted in 2004 and published this year in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, an increasing number of people are acquiring such personal art collections. Thirty-six percent of 18- to 29-year-olds have at least one tattoo.

"It's not as taboo as it used to be," said senior Mike Roberts, who has 10 tattoos. "But it's still kind of going against the norm, kind of making a statement."

Young adults aren't the only ones with tattoos. Twenty-four percent of Americans ages 18 to 50 have been inked at least once — an increase from about 15 percent in 2003.

"I've tattooed on everybody from college kids to elected officials," said Paulie Andrews, a tattoo artist at Glenn's Tattoo Service in Carrboro.

"Middle class, working class, white-collar, blue-collar, educated through secondary and noneducated — there is no demographic for tattooing," he said.

Inking has been on the rise for the last decade. The tattoo industry was the sixth-fastest growing retail business in 1996, according to U.S. News & World Report.

There's a variety of reasons people are getting inked. "I think I did it because I wanted to do something that people would never expect of me," said Parker Wood, a junior with a half-

### A tattoo in the making

#### 1. Preparation

Once the paperwork is completed, the desired tattoo area is cleaned with rubbing alcohol and shaved if necessary.

#### 2. Stencil transfer

A thermal fax machine is used by most tattoo studios to create their stencils. Eliminating tracing of the design, the machine prints on thermal paper which is then stuck to the skin to transfer the design.

#### 3. Line work

After cleaning the equipment and preparing the ink, the artist begins the line work. An ointment is rubbed over the area to keep the needle sliding smoothly, making the subject more comfortable. The line work consists of tracing the lines of the entire design.

#### 4. Shading and coloring

The artist completes the tattoo using magnums, a set of needles designed specifically for shading and coloring.

#### 5. Cleaning, bandaging and aftercare instructions

The tattoo needs cleaning and dressing before the process is complete. Protective ointment and bandaging is applied, and aftercare instructions are given to prevent infection.

SOURCE: WWW.ABOUT.COM

DTH/KURT GENTRY

sun and half-moon on her lower back.

Several of Roberts' tattoos have special meaning, he said. He's been doing martial arts since 1995, and the dragons on his body are powerful symbols in the martial arts world.

But not all designs have significance for the person sporting it. "A lot of people have these deep, meaningful reasons for getting tat-

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## School to chronicle its 75-year history

### Program still at the forefront the field

BY KATHRYN BALES  
STAFF WRITER

The School of Information and Library Science has been ahead of the game from day one.

The program was the first library school at an institution of higher education in the South and has been accredited continuously since 1934. It has been ranked No. 1 by the U.S. News and World Report since 1999.

Starting today the school will kick off celebrations for its 75th anniversary.

"Leadership implies responsibility," said Jose-Marie Griffiths, dean of the school. "The hardest place to be is at the top. Everyone looks up to you for an example."

The school began in 1931 with just 37 students enrolled.

Today the school offers multiple degree programs — including a doctoral program, an undergradu-

ate major and minor and master's programs — to its almost 350 students.

After attending the school students go on to careers with corporations, government, hospitals, publishing companies and consulting firms.

Gary Marchionini, a library science professor, said a strong faculty that fosters international communication and students who get notable jobs keep the school at the top.

"One of the reasons we keep showing up is that our students are out there in leadership positions," he said. "They go to the best places, and those are the places that U.S. News and World Report call."

Griffiths attributes these accomplishments to an emphasis on attracting the best faculty possible.

She said the field has a shortage

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Students and locals show off their tattoos in a slideshow

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**ON THE ROAD AGAIN** Sensors allow motorists to gauge travel times, PAGE 7

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**AROUND THE CLOCK**  
Dirty South Improv puts on its annual 24Live event featuring a variety of performers and onlookers who battled fatigue through the wee hours.



### campus | page 7

**OFF AND RUNNING**  
Under new leadership, the Faculty Council kicks off the year by honoring outstanding contributions and setting a plan for the months to come.

### this day in history

**SEPT. 18, 1968 ...**  
For the first time, students wishing to drop and add classes can complete all of their schedule changes at one time in one location — Woollen Gym.

### weather

Sunny  
H 88, L 67

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