

# The Daily Tar Heel

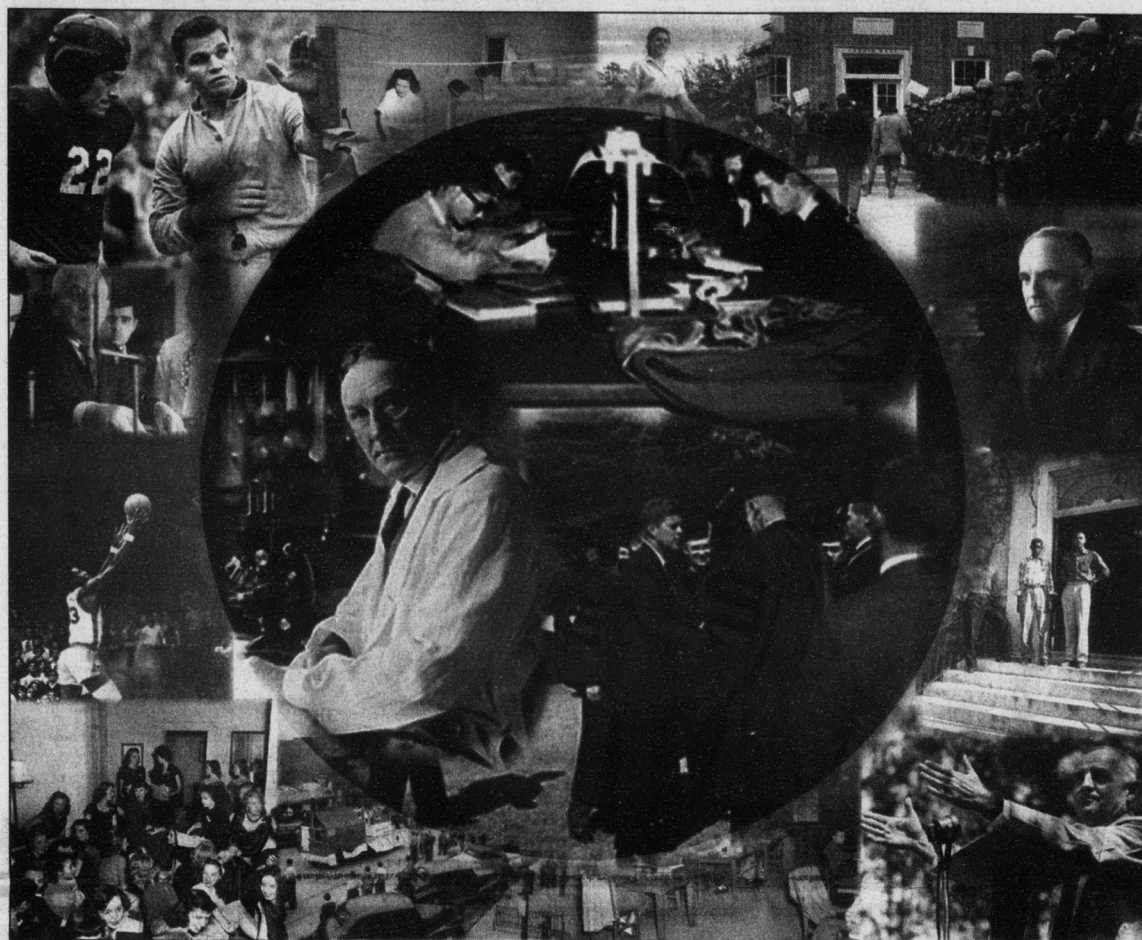
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UNIVERSITY DAY 2006 CELEBRATING 213 YEARS

## A UNIVERSITY of the people



DTH PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/KURT GENTRY; PHOTOS COURTESY OF WILSON LIBRARY

BY ASHLEE SADLER STAFF WRITER

Forty-five years ago today President John F. Kennedy came to Chapel Hill to continue a long-standing tradition — University Day.

He spoke to a crowd of 32,000 in Kenan Stadium in the midst of the Cold War.

"This is a great institution, with a great tradition and with devoted alumni and with the support of the people of the state," Kennedy said in 1961.

Today the next chapter will be written when campus leaders gather, some dressed in academic regalia, to mark the University's 213th birthday.

Gov. Zebulon Vance declared University Day on Oct. 12, 1877 to commemorate the laying of the cornerstone of Old East in 1793.

The day has seen chancellor convocations and two presidential addresses. N.C. governors have made it a tradition to speak at University Day following their election.

UNC-system President Erskine Bowles, who is in the first year of his tenure, will speak today at Memorial Hall. The ceremony starts at 11 a.m.

Classes are canceled from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. so that the community can celebrate the day.

But Student Body President James Allred said students often don't use the time as it's intended.

"It's different because it's never been seen as a time to do a major performance or something that's entertaining," Allred said. "It's maintained this austere mood to it — which makes it, to a lot of people, boring."

Freshman Adam Tosh said he had to do some research to find out why Oct. 12 was an important day.

"I looked it up on Google — University Day at UNC," he said. "I was like 'Oh, that's what it is.' I haven't heard too many announcements about it."

Students are encouraged to attend a birthday celebration for Old East later in the day, an event sponsored by the Residence Hall Association.

Allred said he will blow out the candles on the University's birthday cake at the bash.

The birthday party and the speaker choice might drive students and faculty to come to the event, Allred said.

Chancellor James Moeser also will help reveal a virtual museum of University history at 3 p.m. today at a public symposium in Wilson Library.

The museum is a Web site that is organized like a physical museum, said Harry Watson, director of the Center for the Study of the American South. The site documents the events of the University since its founding.

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### Old East ever-changing

BY KELLY GIEDRAITIS STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 12, 1793, pomp and ceremony came to a halt as William Davie laid the cornerstone of what is now the oldest public university building in the United States — Old East Residence Hall.

Two years and 350,000 bricks later, the building was complete at a total cost of \$5,000 — almost \$100,000 today.

In its original version, Old East rose just two stories, contained 16 rooms and spanned only two-thirds its current length.



COURTESY OF WILSON LIBRARY

An artist rendering depicts William Davie helping lay the cornerstone of the University's first building, Old East Residence Hall, in 1793.

#### Early student life debugged

Sans air conditioning, toilets and housekeeping services, Old East provided only the bare essentials.

Washing facilities consisted of iron troughs in the corridors with cold water taps above them, and students were required to cleanse

their beds and rooms of bugs every two weeks. Students gathered their own firewood to heat their rooms.

Overcrowding was such a problem that students set up shanties inside the walls of the then incomplete South Building.

Since 1795 Old East has been expanded, renovated, condemned and re-renovated.

In May 2008 the building will close for a year to undergo more

SEE OLD EAST, PAGE 10

### University holds fast to its mission

Values research, teaching, service

BY ASHLEE SADLER AND ERIN ZUREICK STAFF WRITERS

A university is an evolving entity — constantly seeing new life breathed into it — whether it comes in the form of new students, faculty or campus buildings.

Though the faces passing by the stone walls continue to change, the University has remained committed to three founding principles: teaching, public service and research.

And though they are distinct ideas, the goals are intertwined.

As the University celebrates its 213th birthday, campus leaders

will gather to recognize these connections and remember the past.

"I think we do it better than anyone," said Paul Kapp, campus historic preservation manager, noting the importance of balancing the past with the present.

"We have a great reverence to our history."

#### In the classroom

Since the University's first student, Hinton James, made the trek from Wilmington to Chapel Hill in 1795, education has been a focal point at UNC.

But since its founding, the face of those the University educates has changed markedly.

In its early years, UNC served

SEE MISSION, PAGE 10

#### UNIVERSITY DAY EVENTS

##### UNIVERSITY DAY ADDRESS

When: 11 a.m.  
Where: Memorial Hall  
What: Speech by UNC-system President Erskine Bowles and an awards presentation

##### PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM

When: 3 p.m.  
Where: Wilson Library Pleasants Family Assembly Room  
What: Chancellor James Moeser will unveil a virtual museum of university history

##### OLD EAST BIRTHDAY BASH

Old East Birthday Bash  
When: 5 p.m.  
Where: outside Old East  
What: Eat cake and listen to the Bell Tower play "Happy Birthday"

### N.Y. crash evokes Sept. 11 fears, memories

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

When the first reports were released of a small plane crashing into a New York high-rise apartment Wednesday afternoon, the initial reaction evoked thoughts of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"My first thought was déjà vu all over again," Chapel Hill resident Fred Hall said.

Information filtered through the media during the day concluded that the four-seat passenger airplane burning in a 40-story skyscraper on Manhattan's Upper East Side was owned by N.Y. Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle. Lidle is believed

dead though city officials have yet to confirm.

One other person was confirmed dead.

And while the situation is tragic, several expressed relief the event was not caused by terrorists.

"Pilot error is a less significant deviant of the norm than a terrorist attack," UNC sophomore Alex Pomer said. "We can fix pilot error easier than fixing terrorist attacks."

Wil Weldon, a second-year journalism graduate student, said that even though the incident had little to do with Sept. 11, the location of the crash resonated nationwide.

"People see Manhattan, a plane and a building, and they immediately think terrorism," he said.

Although the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security quickly dismissed terrorism as the cause, within 10 minutes of the crash, fighter jets were sent over several cities, including New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and Seattle, Pentagon officials said.

"I think it's still pretty surprising that he crashed into the New York City skyline — pretty coincidental," said UNC senior Chris Mavrogordato.

Lidle was an avid pilot who used

last year's off-season to earn his flying license.

He repeatedly had dismissed reporters' questions about the safety of flying, although Yankees' catcher Thurman Munson died when he crashed his aircraft in 1979.

"I'm not worried about it," Lidle told The Philadelphia Inquirer this summer. "I'm safe up there. I feel very comfortable with my abilities flying an airplane."

A Washington, D.C. law enforcement official who spoke

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A fire burns Wednesday after a small plane believed to be carrying N.Y. Yankees' Cory Lidle crashes into a Manhattan high-rise apartment building. AP PHOTO

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**GLOBAL RELIGION** Groups will host a discussion on Latino Muslims

**NO LATCH-KEY KIDS** City schools will honor after-school programs

**WANTING THE WIN** UNC plans a defensive strategy against USF

**RADIO REVOLUTION**

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#### RADIO TAKEOVER

Diversions offers a look at Internet radio sites and their potential impact on the music industry, along with a host of music and movie reviews.

state | page 13

#### THINKING BIG

N.C. State University partners with Chinese universities in an effort to prepare its students and the state to compete in the global economy.

this day in history

OCT. 12, 1968 ...

Ten employees at Lenoir Dining Hall are laid off for an indefinite period as a result of a water shortage. All were earning \$1.60 per hour.

weather

Sunny  
H 74, L 48

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