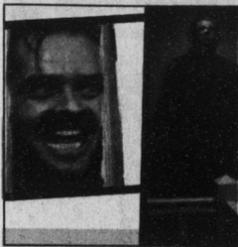


# The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 116, ISSUE 102

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2008

www.dailytarheel.com



diversions | page 5

### HALLOWEEN TOP FIVES

Diversions has top-five lists of the best movies, drinks and things to do — all you need for a spook-tacular Halloween.



features | page 3

### JUST DANCE

Students danced with iPods in a silent disco on Polk Place. Such parties are growing in popularity nationwide.

national | page 9

### ON THE ISSUES

See where presidential candidates stand on economic issues.

### CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, Wednesday's pg. 1 story, "Congress rejects ethics query in display funds," misidentified where concerns with last week's anti-abortion display were voiced. Ryan O'Quinn addressed his concerns during Congress' student affairs committee meeting. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.



ELECTION COUNTDOWN

# 3

days left of early and one-stop voting. For Orange County locations and times visit [co.orange.nc.us/elect/onestop.asp#locations](http://co.orange.nc.us/elect/onestop.asp#locations).

ELECTION DAY: NOV. 4

### this day in history

OCT. 30, 1989 ...

UNC senior Jerry Jones climbs halfway up the WCHL radio tower to protest CIA recruitment on campus.

### Today's weather

Sunny H 59, L 35

### Friday's weather

Sunny H 66, L 40

### index

- police log ..... 2
- calendar ..... 2
- sports ..... 10
- nation/world ..... 11
- crossword ..... 11
- opinion ..... 12

## Campus lighting questioned

BY MARY COLE ALLEN  
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Lydia Lewallen walks through McCorkle Place at night several times a week and said she is freaked out every time.

"The eerie fluorescent lighting juxtaposed with stuffy academic architecture creates something that looks like it's off the science fiction channel," Lewallen said.

Students' and administrators' concerns about the lighting in McCorkle Place during Tuesday's campus lighting tour raised questions about the decision to install such lighting last summer.

Installing the new lighting in McCorkle Place cost the University \$187,000, said John Laetz, manager of electric distribution systems, who installed the lights.

The lights in McCorkle Place are placed about 40 to 60 feet apart along the sidewalk areas.

"They're placed this way so that the lights merge, but there are about 20 feet of low-light area between posts," Laetz said.

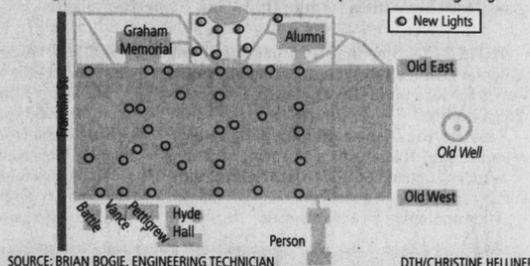
He said the new lighting in the quad is different from before, but it is not necessarily bad.

"There used to be area lighting

SEE LIGHTING, PAGE 4

### Lighting in McCorkle Place

Complaints of poor lighting in McCorkle Place pushed campus officials to add more lights to the area last summer. Below is a map of the current lighting.



SOURCE: BRIAN BOGIE, ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN

DTH/CHRISTINE HELLNER

## Traffic pattern causes concern

### Residents call for new precautions

BY EVAN ROSE  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

A young woman in dark purple scrubs paid her respects Wednesday evening to a knee-high cross on the corner of South Columbia Street and Mason Farm Road.

This intersection is where UNC Hospitals radiology imaging specialist Valerie Hughes, 33, was struck and killed by a Chapel Hill Transit bus Monday afternoon.

It's also one of the most dangerous in Chapel Hill, pedestrians and officials said.

Traffic signaling at the intersection simultaneously indicates for pedestrians to cross and vehicles to turn onto Columbia.

It's often unclear that vehicles are legally required to yield to people crossing.

Passengers on the bus that struck Hughes said it was turning left onto South Columbia from Mason Farm and hit her in the crosswalk.

"I've walked across there many times, and I've had to stop because somebody is about to run me down," resident Richard Steele said. "They blow the horn at me like I'm the person that's doing something wrong."

Residents said the intersection is dangerous because so much traffic turns left onto South Columbia, instead of going straight across the intersection onto small, unmarked Westwood Drive.

Most four-way intersections in the state operate the same way, said Kelvin Jordan, a traffic engineer at the N.C. Department of Transportation who coordinates with Chapel Hill.

But because so little traffic continues onto Westwood, there isn't a left turn signal that holds traffic so pedestrians can cross freely, said Kumar Neppalli, Chapel Hill's engineering services manager.

The South Columbia and Mason Farm intersection has been under review and was already planned to be modified next year, he said.

He said his department hung up a large "yield to pedestrians" sign in response to multiple telephone and e-mail complaints about safety at the intersection.

But residents said the sign often goes unnoticed by preoccupied drivers and pedestrians.

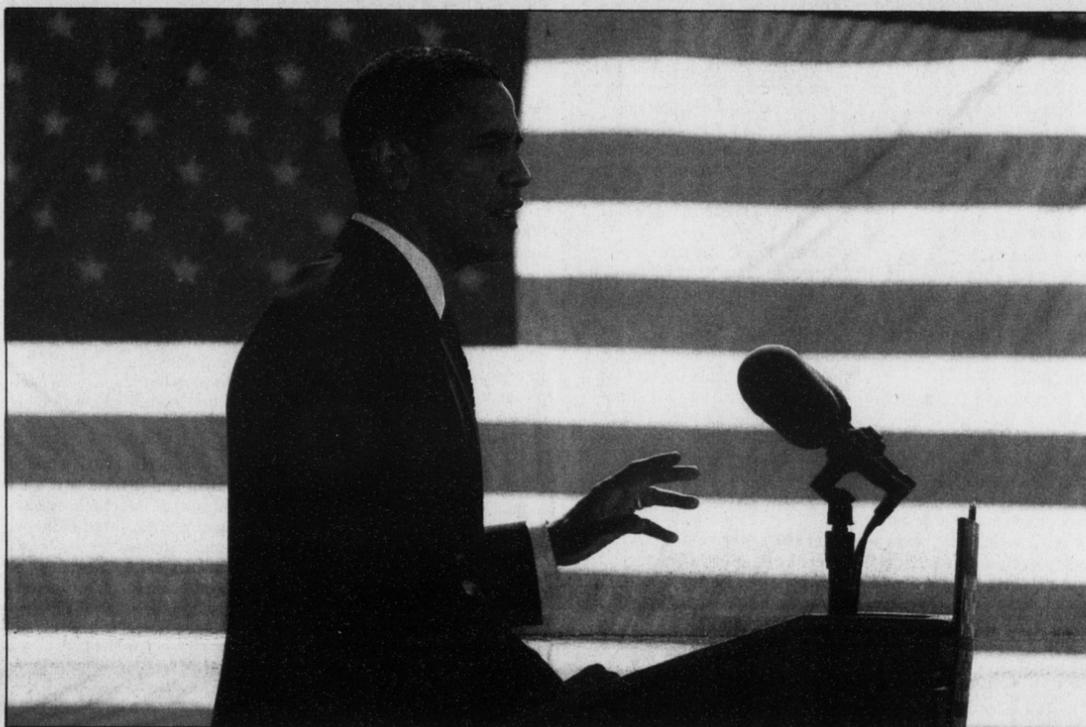
Resident Karen Hurka-Richardson said the intersection has put her in danger countless times.

"I wish I had contacted Chapel Hill earlier," she said. "I feel like that death could have been prevented."

The N.C. Department of

SEE TRAFFIC, PAGE 4

## A CLOSING STATEMENT



DTH/ANDREW DYE

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama speaks to a crowd of supporters in Raleigh on Wednesday afternoon. Obama emphasized the importance of North Carolina to a victory for his campaign. The state has been swarmed by both campaigns in the weeks leading up to Nov. 4.

## Obama returns to N.C. for a last pitch in final stretch

BY KELLEN MOORE  
SENIOR WRITER

RALEIGH — With only days left until Election Day, Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama made one last plea to N.C. voters Wednesday.

"North Carolina, I've got two words for you — six days," Obama said to the 25,000 people who attended the rally at Halifax Mall.

"If you'll knock on some doors for me, if you make some calls for me ... If you'll fight with me, I promise we won't just win North Carolina. We will win this general election," he said.

His status as the presumed

DTH ONLINE: Watch Barack Obama's wife, Michelle, speak at a Wednesday rally in N.C.

leader in the presidential race is a far cry from where he stood when he began his campaign 21 months ago as the underdog.

The rally was part of a final whirlwind tour of several swing states as Obama makes his last appeals before Election Day with his usual mix of campaign rhetoric and specific promises.

His wife, Michelle, also stopped in the state Wednesday with a rally in Rocky Mount.

At this stage of the game, it's probably too late to woo many voters with television commercials or new policy emphases, said Ferrel Guillory, director of the UNC Program on Public Life.

DTH ONLINE: Read about Michelle Obama's rally in Rocky Mount at [blogs.dailytarheel.com](http://blogs.dailytarheel.com).

Instead, this big-picture campaign has turned to an all-out blitz to get voters to the polls.

"He didn't say anything particularly new," Guillory said. "It was just to re-emphasize to his own supporters and potential voters why he sees this state as important, to keep them motivated and keep their morale up."

Cheers and sign waving showed supporters' zeal as Obama touched on some of his now-familiar talking points: economic improvement, appeals for national unity and attempts to link Republican candidate John McCain with President George Bush.

Obama sought to defend himself

DTH ONLINE: Mike Huckabee campaigned for John McCain in Raleigh.

against McCain's accusations of socialist economic policies.

"By the end of the week, he'll be calling me a secret communist because I shared my toys in kindergarten," Obama said. "I shared my peanut butter sandwich."

Obama's persuasive side took the backseat to his requests for help to win the state.

"Don't believe for a second this election's over," Obama said. "Don't think the power will go without a fight."

His pleas demonstrated to some who attended that the battle is not yet won in North Carolina.

SEE OBAMA, PAGE 4

## University PAC ups election funds

### Members include alumni, trustees

BY BRENDAN BROWN  
PROJECTS CO-EDITOR

A controversial political action committee run by UNC-Chapel Hill trustees has raised its standing as one of the state's largest lobbying groups.

Though still trailing the interest groups for realtors and trial lawyers, Citizens for Higher Education increased its contributions to state legislators by 14 percent this election.

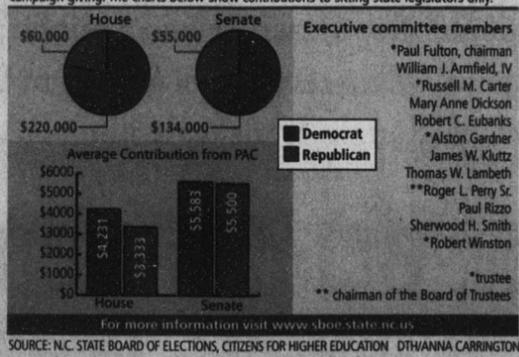
The group has given \$485,000 so far, according to campaign finance reports filed this week with the N.C. State Board of Elections.

At this point in the last election cycle CHE had given \$425,000. In addition, the PAC has raised almost 14 percent more money from its members than it had by this time last election, putting it on track to reach the \$700,000 mark by year's end.

That growth has been spurred by a number of high-profile legislative victories in recent years, including a \$50 million annual

### UNC lobbying group gives to both parties

So far this election cycle, Citizens for Higher Education has contributed \$485,000 to more than 100 candidates for the state legislature. The political action committee is most supportive of the state's Democratic leadership but has given to Republicans as well. Five current trustees serve on the PAC's executive committee, which makes decisions about campaign giving. The charts below show contributions to sitting state legislators only.



SOURCE: N.C. STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS, CITIZENS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION DTH/ANN CARRINGTON

appropriation for cancer research at the University.

"If I can get somebody on the phone, it's an easy sell," said Paul Fulton, the UNC-CH trustee who leads the PAC.

Fulton has set a goal of 200 members, each of whom typically gives

\$2,500 per year. The group now has about 165 members, including prominent alumni and current or former UNC-CH trustees.

Fulton said he is trying to recruit younger members, particularly

SEE PAC, PAGE 4

## Economic fears may slow Carolina North progress

BY ANDREW CUMMINGS  
STAFF WRITER

The economic state of the country could cause the development of the first building at Carolina North to be delayed far beyond previous expectations.

The real estate company that UNC contracted to build and manage the Innovation Center, a business incubator meant to facilitate start-up companies based on UNC research, is worried about being able to find tenants.

"I think they're concerned about in this environment whether they could fill up the building right away," UNC Chancellor Holden Thorp said. "They might want to wait for a time when we're more likely to be producing tenants for the Innovation Center than we are right now."

Thorp said venture capitalist firms tend to hold their money back from investing in new companies when funds are tight.

"So you just need things to loosen up a bit," Thorp said.

The Chapel Hill Town Council was scheduled to vote Monday on the special use permit that would

*"Everything that we want to do is likely to take longer than we thought it was going to six months ago."*

HOLDEN THORP, CHANCELLOR

have allowed the center's construction to begin, but University officials asked for the vote to be deferred to a later date.

Mayor Kevin Foy said he wasn't notified that the University wanted to postpone until hours before the meeting.

The council delayed the vote until Nov. 24, but Thorp said they could ask to defer the vote again if the economy doesn't turn around.

Thorp said the construction could conceivably be pushed back until even after the development agreement is completed for the entire 250-acre research campus, which would happen in June 2009 at the earliest.

SEE INNOVATION, PAGE 4