

LOU BILIONIS, Editor

CHUCK ALSTON, Managing Editor  
DON WOODARD, Associate Editor  
DAVID MCKINNON, Associate Editor

BERNIE RANSBOTTOM, University Editor  
MARY ANNE RHYNE, City Editor  
DAVID STACKS, State and National Editor  
RICHARD BARRON, News Editor

BETSY FLAGLER, Features Editor  
MARK SCANDLING, Arts Editor  
LEE PACE, Sports Editor  
ALLEN JERNIGAN, Photography Editor

# The Daily Tar Heel

86th year of editorial freedom

## Prisons: a reprieve

North Carolina's correctional system has long been plagued with problems, and its recent history bears no exception. More than a year ago, legislators were told that the state's prisons faced federal takeover unless necessary improvements were made. Such deficiencies, which, under the Eighth Amendment, neglect a prisoner's right to humane treatment, came as no surprise to Lee Bounds, former commissioner of corrections. Bounds says he pointed out impending problems to the courts eight years ago.

Promises were made and rhetoric filled the legislative chambers, but once again the inhumane treatment of state inmates has raised its head.

A rebirth of the issue was initiated by the Supreme Court last Monday when the justices upheld an appellate court's decision to recognize a lawsuit filed in 1976 on behalf of all state prisoners. Originally the suit had been dismissed by U.S. District Judge Woodrow W. Jones, who said he felt he lacked the authority to hear the case.

The subject of the inmate's complaints are familiar; crowded conditions, censorship and interference with intimate mail and inadequate recreational and educational facilities head the plaintiffs' list.

And while the Supreme Court's ruling carries some hope for North Carolina inmates, a distressing fact remains. The principal character behind the obstruction philosophy of revamping the correctional program is N.C. Attorney General Rufus Edmisten, the state's top law enforcement officer.

For the courts to consider the prisoner's gripes, said Edmisten, "is counter to judicial efficiency and economy by requiring that the time of the courts and the money of the taxpayers be expended in responding to pleadings which have no factual allegations."

The attorney general's conception of the courts' role (in this case, a nonexistent one) would be legitimate if the inmates' complaints were limited to personal conflicts between fellow prisoners or a desire to extend the "lights out" hour. An Inmates Grievance Committee, set up through the corrections department, was established to handle such internal matters.

But the issue at hand concerns a question of constitutionality. The charges brought forth against the state's correctional system regard the violation of humane treatment as spelled out specifically in the law.

Beyond recognizing the courts' duty to rule on the lawsuit, it should be noted that the only legitimate plaintiffs in the case are the inmates themselves.

Clearly the struggle for proper rehabilitation within the correctional program has been one full of setbacks. To shift the responsibilities of its improvement into the courts' hands won't guarantee success. But at least the question of unconstitutional practices within North Carolina's prison system is going to be addressed.

## Derby madness

If things come off like they have the last two years, the Polk Place lawn will be getting pretty crazy sometime today. In a UNC version of Sadie Hawkins Day, a bunch of wild-eyed women decked out in Greek-lettered jerseys will attempt to chase down Sigma Chi brothers and remove their derbies.

There is, however, a method to this madness, and it goes by the name of Derby Day. Actually, Derby Day is a week-long string of fund-raising events benefiting the Children's Cancer Committee of the American Cancer Society. Projects such as publishing informative articles about cancer and establishing a home visitation program for children suffering from the tragedy of cancer will be the endpoint for the monies.

The Sigma Chi brothers, sponsors of all this fund-raising fun, were able to raise more than \$5,000 for charities last year, a figure which they hope to more than double this year.

With active student participation that goal can be reached. And to the brothers, and sisters, we doff our hats, er, derbies.

## The Bottom Line

### Chessie

"It was dark looking and moving against the tide," according to Willie Hudgins.

"It looked like a great big oversized snake," according to Myrtle Smooth. And a retired CIA official with a great eye for detail said, "It looked like a big snake, 20 to 30 feet long and with a head the size of a cantaloupe."

What it is—or might be—is "Chessie," the latest in the fine old tradition of deep-water monsters, and there are about 30 people who claim they've seen the thing in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay since June.

There are, of course, the skeptics. Always, it seems, there are skeptics. And unfortunately for all you freak fans, the skeptics in this case are the University of Maryland's marine biology lab, who say they've had research boats on the bay for the last 50 years, and have yet to spot any "Chessies."

This information comes to us courtesy of the *New York Times*, by the way, which took a terrific beating a few years ago when it sponsored a spectacularly unsuccessful hunt for the Loch Ness Monster, "Nessie." We imagine "Chessie" has simply exercised the same good sense in staying away from the Maryland lab boats all these years. And we swear that we never will conduct a deep-water monster hunt.

Unless they start messing with us.

### Unanswered questions

Chapel Hill is generally a good place to get information; some 20,000 students return to the University every August to do just that. But occasionally, nagging, perplexing questions arise. And no one, but no one, seems able to offer a satisfactory answer.

For example:

What does a provost do? UNC has a provost; in fact, the provost has an assistant provost. Which leads to a second query: What does the assistant provost do?

Why does Raleigh Street become Hillsborough Street at the corner of Franklin?

What was O. Max Gardner's first name, and did he like it?

Who is the cruel soul who plunks quarter after quarter into the snack bar jukebox to hear "Boogie Oogie Oogie"? What will everyone else do to him once his identity is exposed?

Where are Nash and Person halls? Bonus question: Where is Evergreen House, and what goes on there?

Why is the shortest distance between two points not a straight line in the health center?

How do you pronounce Van Hecke-Wettach Hall? Where is Emerson Drive? Lenoir Drive?

How does Harvey do it? Why are there only three stalls in the busiest men's room in the Carolina Union, while the basement bathroom in Wilson Library features an uncountable number?

And while on the subject, why, after all these years, has the Union parking lot never been paved?

Why did the flower ladies move out of Amber Alley?

How many layers of paint are on the Cube? Are they latex or oil-based?

What inhuman task has been able to keep a road crew posted at the corner of Rosemary and Hillsborough, in front of the Pi Beta Phi house for nearly a year?

And why is this column called the Bottom Line?

We need some answers. And that's the bottom line.

## letters to the editor

# Will State-style brickwork overwhelm us?

To the editor:

I heartily agree with Maury York's letter ("Charm destroyed," *DTH*, Oct. 3) lamenting the new brickwork behind Gerrard Hall. Now I see that the masons are moving south into Polk Place, constructing a brick "corner" along the sidewalk near Bingham Hall. I suppose this is an emphatic way of saying "Keep off the Grass," or perhaps merely another unnecessary attempt to provide seating other than the green ground. Whatever the intention, it certainly interrupts the open flow of land in one of the campus' most beautiful quads. (Frisbee flingers, watch those shins!)

Such brickwork is more than just a nuisance, however; the long-range aesthetic effect could be disastrous. When you combine these little victories of brick and mortar with a large-scale intrusion like that of the proposed new library, this campus would very well look like N.C. State in five or 10 years, where the grounds policy seems to be, "If they might walk there, brick it." The Pit is bad enough; but can you imagine McCorkle Place a brickyard?

To whomever is responsible for this recent rash of "improvements": please stop cluttering our campus.

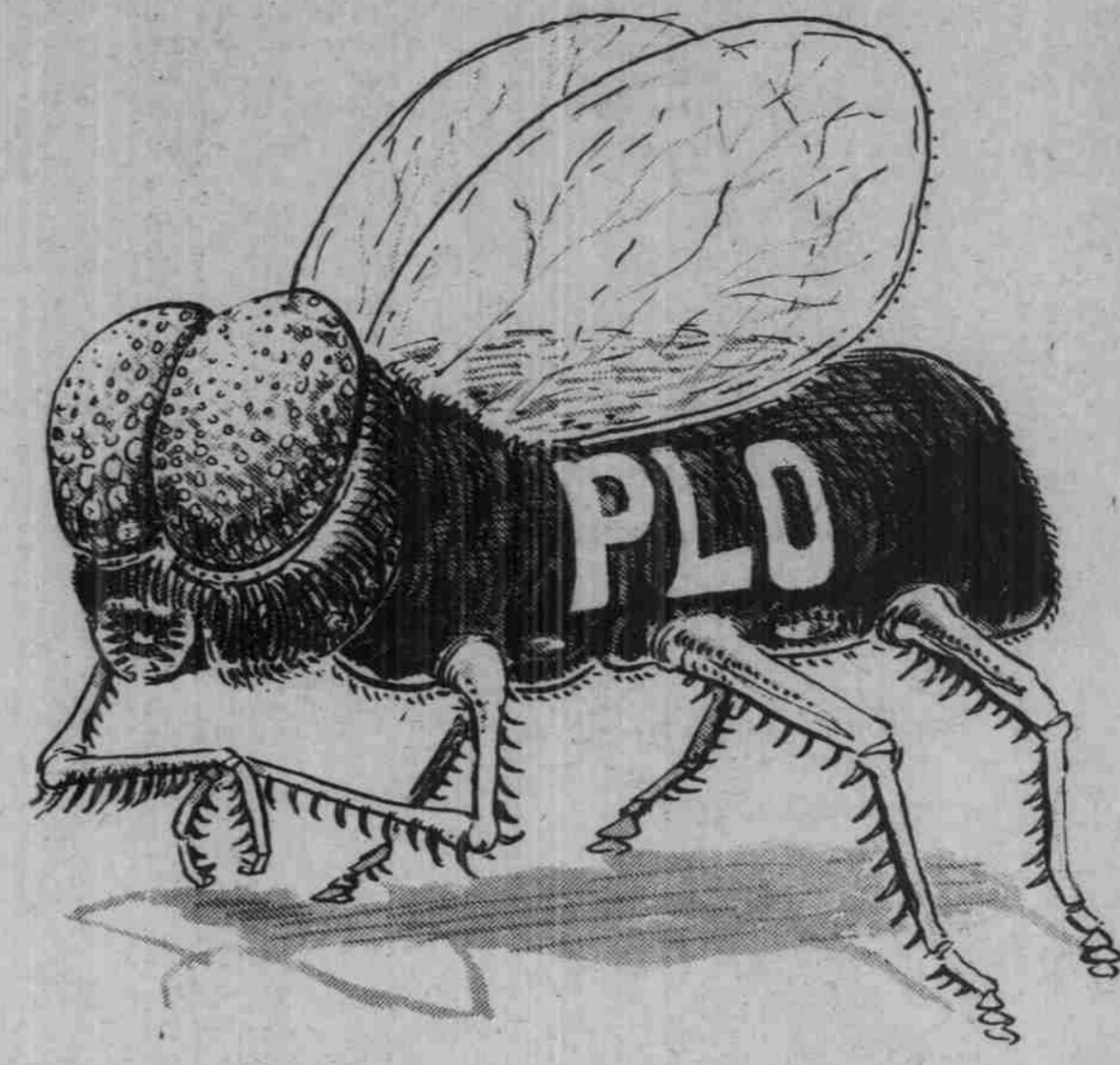
Michael McFee  
405 Greenlaw

### Tired of negative campaign

To the editor:

Richard Smyth, the Republican candidate for the state Senate, has been running a series of ads in the *Daily Tar Heel* attacking Sen. Charles Vickery, the Democratic incumbent. If Smyth's research and accusation in last Thursday's ad are indicative of his campaign, this should be an interesting election.

In the ad Smyth asked, "What is phenology?" and, "Why did Charles Vickery put through a bill making



Orange County the only county where phenology is legal?" Smyth answered the first question adequately, but he answered the second question "Who knows?"

I know. In the first place, the bill didn't make Orange County the only county where fortune telling is legal. In fact, there are 34 counties in the state where it is legal, but Mr. Smyth didn't bother to check. In any case, the bill was introduced

in the General Assembly at the request of the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen and the Orange County Commissioners and because a man wanted to open a fortune telling business on West Rosemary Street.

Charles Vickery has served our district well by voting for ERA, against the death penalty, for elimination of jail sentences for possession of marijuana, for repeal of the sales tax on food, for a bill to end

discrimination by insurance companies against young people and against a bill to strip Insurance Commissioner John Ingram of his powers.

Smyth's ads, on the other hand, don't tell us how he would vote on these controversial issues, and he seems afraid to mention in any of his ads that he is a Republican. I'm tired of his negative campaign.

Joe Herzenberg

# Triangle gets the latest thing in think tanks

By ANNETTE FULLER

They came of age in the '60s, not long after John F. Kennedy brought the best and the brightest to the nation's capital.

Think tanks became asylums for the nation's—and the world's—finest minds. They sequestered and well-appointed environments guaranteed their scholars all the information they could need, and all the peace and quiet their work required. And whether their work was sponsored by government or by foundation grants, the scholars at such institutions have come to form one of the vanguards of the modern search for knowledge.

The newest and potentially one of the finest examples of what have been called the "modern monasteries" for organized high-level research is the National Humanities Center in the Research Triangle Park between Chapel Hill and Durham. In its first year of operation, the Center is the daytime home-away-from-home for some 26 humanities scholars.

While most think tanks conduct research primarily in the social sciences, and especially encourage government-contracted research, the NHC is one of the very few institutes across the country which sponsors research solely in the humanities.

According to the NHC's promotional pamphlet, "The center is a response to give the humanities renewed emphasis and visibility and to the growing recognition within the country at large that the humanities offer resources for public enlightenment and the imaginative understanding of public issues."

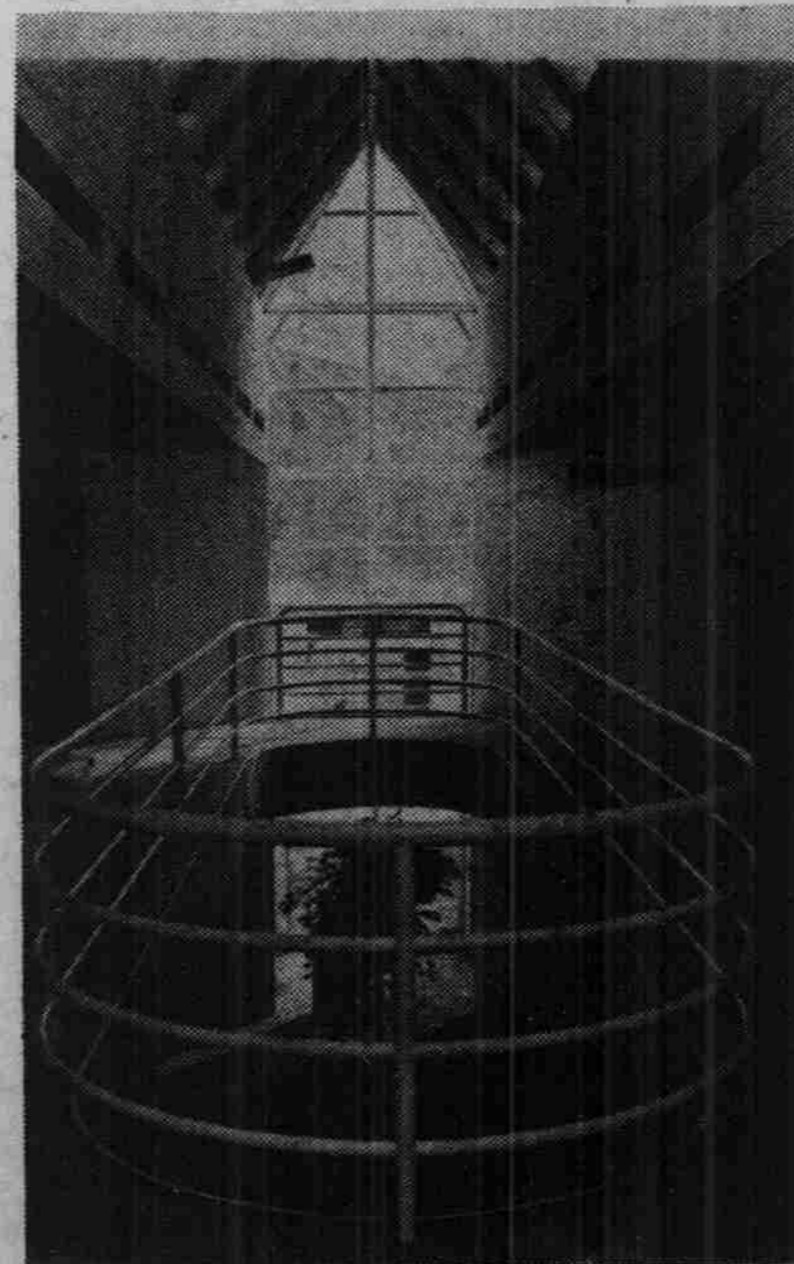
William Bennett, who supervises the administrative staff of 12 at the center as executive director, said institutions like the NHC are extremely difficult to establish. With a working budget of \$3.5 million, the NHC now hosts 26 scholars, but administrators expect 35 by next September,—the full number for which the Center was designed—and 45 to 50 by the next fall.

If the term "modern monastery" brings to mind a spare cell and spartan regimen for the single-minded scholar, the NHC is something of a surprise. While most of the fellows' work is indeed carried on in solitude in individual carrels, life is not all work and worry for the scholars.

The carrels, which are set off from the main room (where the scholars gather for lunch), give off both a smell of newness and an impression of understated comfort.

"We worried about making sure those individual studies were sufficiently private and sufficiently sequestered so that when one is in there, one is ready for work," Bennett said.

Each carrel contains a desk and chair, filing cabinets, shelves and a sliding glass door leading to a brick terrace.



Modern, industrial look highlights center

About 10 feet beyond the terrace, the woods that surround the center begin.

A traveling library delivers books the scholars request for their studies, and there is even a typing pool to lend assistance to the scholars in preparation of manuscripts and reports.

The structure itself was built along rather dramatic modern lines, with tall white archways. The building was designed by Hartman-Cox of Washington, D.C., and Claude McKinney of the N.C. State School of Design with solar energy technology in mind. The walls are transparent panels that allow for optimal heating and cooling, (as well as an excellent view of the surrounding woods) and the main room features a skylight.

But the mood at the NHC is decidedly studious; and not surprisingly, since the center has succeeded in bringing together some of the nation's most serious minds for research into some of the day's most serious questions. Each prospective scholar's publishing record and letters of recommendation were reviewed carefully by both independent selection juries and the center's Board of Trustees (which includes UNC President William C. Friday, C. Hugh Holman, a professor of English at UNC, and Vermont Royster of the UNC journalism school.)

The scholars will study at the center for a nine-month period from September to May. Most of the scholars' researches this year will be concerned with one of the center's four seminar topics. "Man and Nature" will study such topics as environmental protection and medical intervention in the life cycle. "History and the History of Ideas" will examine the implications of theory in history. "The Foundation of Polity" includes a study in human rights, equality, and democracy and its civil morality. And "Ideals of Education" will center on a study of the changed position of the humanities in a world of constant learning.

Some of the scholars may be available for lectures at nearby universities, according to Bennett. "That will be totally up to them individually," Bennett said. Results of the scholars' work may show up in books and articles published as early as next summer and fall.

Individually, the scholars have little but praise for the new Humanities Center.

"This place is peaceful and exciting at the same time," John Agresto, a political historian from Kenyon College in Ohio, said. "It is absolutely beyond my wildest imagination."

Agresto is investigating the consequences of a nation dedicated to democracy and will examine America as it fits in its role of a liberal democratic society.

"Nations are no longer choosing democ cy. America is getting criticism from all over about being a morally shallow, self-centered society. I want to understand what it is about democratic societies that is bringing this type of comment," Agresto said.

When asked how he felt about the comment that the center was a modern-day monastery, he said, "No monk ever had it so good."

Hunter Dupree, a historian from Brown University in



William Bennett

Providence, R.I., who is examining the role of measurement in history, has been especially impressed by the opportunities offered by the NHC.

"The great thing about the center is the high degree of freedom and community. I think it is fair enough to say that although the monastery is bounded off from the world, it is still very much a part of the world in terms of the mind. If you look at it in that active state, then and only then is it fair to say that the Humanities Center is a modern day monastery," Dupree said. "We step out from the world in order to contemplate the world in a larger sense."

And Dupree, like the other scholars, is aware of the privilege of being chosen to work in such distinguished company, and in such surroundings.

"It was a great honor to be chosen, but the ranking should now be forgotten. I think that all of the scholars should leave their reputations at the door."

Annette Fuller, a junior journalism and religion major from Pfafftown, is a staff writer for the *Daily Tar Heel*.

## Think tanks not a new thought

While the focus on humanities makes the National Humanities Center different, the concept of the think tank is not unique. The American academic landscape already is dotted with several think tanks, most famous among them are the Brookings Institute in Washington, D.C., the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University, and the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, N.J.

Of these the NHC seems to have more overt connections with the Princeton institute. The institute, which—oddly enough—is not connected in any way with Princeton University, has been called the world's finest mathematical study center. It was credited with moving the world center of mathematical thought from Germany to the United States in the years following its founding in 1930. Its scholars have included Albert Einstein (1933-1946) and John von Neumann (1933-1957). Currently, there are 28 permanent faculty members at the Princeton Institute—10 mathematical and six natural scientists, 10 historians and two social scientists. Some 150 scholars visit the facilities for one-year stays.

The institute has something of an ivory tower reputation, but it is known as well as a bastion of independent scholarship. It does not, for example, grant degrees or even schedule courses or laboratories.

In contrast to the Princeton Institute, the Hoover Institution at Stanford identifies itself very strongly with

a particular brand of political thought. It has been said, in fact, that the Hoover Institution does for conservative thought what the more well-known Brookings Institute does for liberalism.

Hoover recently has taken credit for the passage in California of Proposition 13. Conservative economist Milton Friedman, an enthusiastic backer of Proposition 13 and a recent Nobel prize winner, is himself a Hoover scholar. The institution's political bent also has included support for Allan Bakke in his recent Supreme Court battle to gain entrance to the medical school of the University of California at Davis on the basis of reverse discrimination.

Unlike both the Princeton institute and the NHC, scholars at the Hoover Institution are very active as advisers to governmental agencies in Washington. Recently the institution has advised the Carter administration both on governmental interference with business and on a national health-insurance package.

Like the institute at Princeton, and in contrast to Hoover and Brookings, the NHC has set an openly non-partisan policy, and does not contract for governmental research. "We will not make any institutional statements of any kind," said William Bennett, executive director of the center. "Our fellows have a whole range of viewpoints, so I doubt if we could all come together on issues."

—ANNETTE FULLER