

# The Daily Tar Heel

96th year of editorial freedom

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## Make a cultural commitment

The next time you walk by the Student Union on the side facing the Pit, walk just inside the main entrance and immediately turn right. You will see a modest room enclosed by glass. And if you haven't seen it before, you probably will be surprised. This is UNC's Black Cultural Center (BCC).

UNC is the flagship school of the state university system. Policies and decisions made here serve as models for other schools and send messages to students statewide. With respect to the current status of the BCC, the message being sent is clear: the concerns of minority students at Carolina don't matter much.

Early last week, Black Student Movement President Kenneth Perry voiced his concerns for the situation, saying, "There's no way in the world you can call what we have a 'Black Cultural Center.'" He's right.

When compared with similar centers at other large universities, Carolina's BCC doesn't measure up. Perry said the current BCC is the size of the library at Purdue University's center for black culture. But more importantly, the BCC is not meeting the expectations of black students at UNC. Needs are left unfulfilled.

For starters, the center needs more room. Originally the center was to include a meeting room, a library, a

music room and a dance studio. If the center is to provide services for all of Carolina's black students, it must have a larger space. Also, the location is inadequate because of its position above the Union Cabaret. The noise level often interferes with BCC activities and affairs.

While no plans exist for a permanent location for the BCC, administrators are aware of the problem. Donald Boulton, vice chancellor and dean of student affairs, said that new BCC director Margo Crawford is forming a committee to look into the available options.

But this is an excellent opportunity for students to provide the impetus for change. Concerns have been raised, prompting administrators to begin the process. Students must continue to apply pressure to ensure that a permanent location is selected with alacrity and with the needs of the student in mind.

The BSM should draft a solid proposal for the location of the new BCC soon, and administrators should consider the proposal seriously before making a decision. Establishing a center that is responsive to the needs of black students would demonstrate the University's commitment to minority recruitment and retention. — **Louis Bisette**

## Hoping for a fiery comeback

Working as a forest ranger at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming must rank as one of this year's worst summer jobs. Watching fires rage across 1.6 million acres of the 2.2 million-acre park had to be a terrible experience.

But all is not lost, and park officials are demonstrating a good deal of spunk and a refreshing dose of optimism in the aftermath of the fire storm, which garnered worldwide attention for the park.

Officials estimate that 50 to 60 percent of the area touched by fire actually is blackened. And no one disputes that the fires have altered the park's landscape for generations.

But the park's value as a tourist attraction will not diminish; if park officials have anything to say about it, the tourist business may even improve.

Now, visitors have the opportunity to see the world's first national park in action — rejuvenating action, that is.

Rather than lament their losses and mourn the scorched earth, government officials are emphasizing the positive side of the fires. They're hoping that others will follow suit and take advantage of this rare opportunity to watch nature rebuild itself after such wholesale destruction.

"We expect to have our best year ever next year," said George Robinson, the chief naturalist for the park.

"People are curious. They want to see what happened to their park."

The park plans to open new interpretive sites and hiking trails in burned-out areas, explaining the fire's devastation as part of the dynamics of nature. Officials are billing Yellowstone as nature's laboratory — the New York Times News Service described it as "a sort of Mt. St. Helens with geysers and abundant wildlife."

When Mt. St. Helens was just a beautiful mountain, few tourists bothered to make the trip there. After it erupted eight years ago, the barren volcano became one of Washington state's top tourist attractions.

The positive attitude at Yellowstone already seems to be paying off. Tourists have continued to arrive from around the world, even as Army helicopters fly overhead and smoke hangs in the air.

The tragedy of the raging fires was beyond human control. The next possible tragedy — that Yellowstone will be shunned by outdoor enthusiasts who think that everything worth seeing in the park has burnt up — is not beyond human control at all.

Got some free time in the coming year? Take a trip to Yellowstone and prove that we won't ignore a national treasure just because we might have to do more than gaze at a picture-perfect landscape to appreciate it. — **Jean Lutes**

### the last word

Is that stuff really true?

That's what people usually ask me when they find out I'm the one who's responsible for putting together Police Roundup. And the answer is, of course, that it's all completely factual. As someone said long ago, truth is stranger than fiction.

Police Roundup started last year when The Daily Tar Heel decided that students needed to be better-informed about the crimes that were taking place in our fair city.

The information in Police Roundup is taken from arrest and incident reports that can be found at the Chapel Hill Police Department on Airport Road. You don't have to be an elite member of the media to see these reports; anybody with the inclination can go down and check these reports out.

Police Roundup was not originally intended to be strange or amusing, but after looking at police reports for a while it's hard to deny that strange and amusing things do sometimes happen in Chapel Hill. Some may question putting events that don't have much news value — other than being bizarre — in a serious newspaper. But I think these items have definite merit, and will do everything I can to see that Police Roundup does not lose them.

First of all, we are a college newspaper, so I think we are supposed to be a little

bit more irreverent, and don't have to take ourselves quite as seriously, as "establishment" newspapers.

But much more importantly, I hope the entertaining items attract more readers to the roundup; readers who might otherwise pass right by a "normal" police summary. These people might start out looking for something funny, but they have to read through the serious items to find them.

So Police Roundup is based loosely on the Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids philosophy: you can have a good time, but if you're not careful, you might learn something.

And what I hope you learn from Police Roundup is that Chapel Hill is not all peaches and cream, wine and roses, bedknobs and broomsticks. There's crime out there, folks — maybe not as much as some major metropolitan statistical areas, but it's definitely out there.

So lock your doors, lock your windows, be on your guard. It's amazing how many of the crimes reported to the police occur because people left their cars or their homes unlocked.

And one more thing. Give the police a break. It's amazing the things they have to do to serve and protect us. I don't think we realize what a good job they do.

That's about all for now. See you tomorrow in the roundup. — **Will Lingo**

## Dukakis emerges as victor in first debate

Editor's note: Hathaway is a co-coordinator for the Carolina Campaign for Dukakis-Bentsen.

Gov. Mike Dukakis won last night's debate against Vice President George Bush, and his victory should give him enough boost in the polls to make the race a virtual dead-heat.

The most recent nationwide poll before last night's debate had the vice president leading Dukakis 46 percent to 40 percent, with a 3 percent margin of error. The impact of the candidates' meeting will be seen in regional and national polls, with each camp seeing a slight rise in their support; but the Dukakis campaign should see the greater gain.

Looking comfortable and knowledgeable, Dukakis answered most questions as soon as they were completed. Though at times repetitive, Dukakis responded with an air of confidence and authority. Sometimes Bush appeared relaxed and in control, but at other times he seemed anxious and over-zealous, like a schoolboy trying to answer the question asked correctly.

Though it was obvious that both candidates had done their homework, it was Dukakis who hit — and laughed — the hardest. In a discussion of health policy, Dukakis stated that Bush had previously branded Dukakis' business health proposal as "socialized medicine," adding that, in 1964, Bush had described Medicare in those exact terms.

At another point, after Bush asked rhetorically where he was after the debate moderator had stopped his response too

### Stuart Hathaway

#### I Spy

early, Dukakis was quick to capitalize with the comment, "It's the 25th of December, Mr. Vice President," making a reference to Bush's earlier confusion of the anniversary month of Pearl Harbor.

The candidates covered a lot of ground in the course of the debate, unfortunately not including the environment or education. Dukakis was more often than not able to give the forceful responses that make the greater impression on the viewer, for instance when discussing the qualifications of his running mate, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D-Tex.), and that of Bush's, Sen. Dan Quayle (R-Ind.).

Though both candidates, perhaps too infrequently, used facts and figures supporting their contentions, Dukakis did so with more proficiency. While Bush pointed to high interest rates at the end of the Carter administration, Dukakis gave numerical significance to issues such as the drug problem and the homeless.

Both candidates showed their best and their worst tactics. Dukakis again blamed the Reagan-Bush administration without giving them credit for much of anything. And Bush had the really annoying habit of taking credit for the success of federally funded projects while blaming Congress for spending money on the programs he didn't like.

But higher debate points are not

necessarily translated into proportionate higher polling percentages. Bush has the advantage of low expectations. Many people were fearful that he would make one of his infamous gaffes in front of the whole nation. Although he stumbled around a bit, the dreaded misspeak did not occur. Bush will be given much credit for being adequate.

Many political commentators will be pointing out the impacts of the debate. Some will point to changes in national polls to support their interpretations. National polls, however, are misleading. Because the electoral college actually elects the president of the United States rather than a direct national vote, national poll figures do not accurately predict which candidate is more likely to win in November.

Because the electoral college's composition is based on the states' individual populations, the ambiguity of national polls become particularly acute in a close race such as this one.

The most significant effects of the debate will show up in the most populous states, where Dukakis must do well to win the election. The short-term effect will probably be to swing undecided voters into their campaign — which amounts to 57 percent of voters, according to a New York Times survey. The critical step will then be solidifying that support. With only a little more than a month before the election, the debate may well have decisively tipped the balance in Dukakis' favor.

Stuart Hathaway is a junior political science and history major from Charlotte.

## Readers' Forum

### I'd prefer doodles

To the editor: I'd rather see blank space titled "Doodle Column" than the type of filler-rehash column that John Hood contributed to Wednesday's paper. ("Freedom of expression a right for all," Sept. 21.)

The headline sounded grand and the opening quote from Thomas Jefferson was a super hook. However, Hood brought nothing new to the debate but a grossly pretentious tone.

A nice try, though: he was less than a week behind the editorial writer who had already competently covered the issue.

In some cases, a reluctance to think for oneself can lead more quickly to danger than the type of hypocrisy Hood condemns in McKinley.

REX BIBENS  
 Junior  
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### CIA decisions up to students

To the editor: Should the CIA be allowed to recruit UNC students on our campus? Should a very small group of students be allowed to stop them? These questions have been debated on campus ever since the CIA Action Committee chased away a CIA recruiting agent last spring. John Hood recently addressed these same questions in the Sept. 21 issue of the DTH. ("Freedom of expression a right for all.")

In a rather weak argument, Hood charges Dale McKinley and his associates with —



besides having bad haircuts — trampling basic human rights in the name of human rights. Hood points out that the CIAAC has violated the freedom of speech guaranteed to the CIA and in so doing has denied students the right to speak with and to work for whomever they please.

Hood is correct in his assessment. McKinley and the other CIA protesters should be admonished for their actions. However, the CIAAC should also be applauded for raising this issue and creating the current level of debate.

Apathetically allowing the CIA to come to our campus is every bit as wrong as chasing them up I-40. The Board of Governors must not be allowed to force us to accept the presence of the CIA on our campus. We must decide for ourselves.

All sides of this divisive issue must be presented. There must be a number of learned experts at UNC on the history and operations of the CIA. Gather

them for a forum. Invite scholars from Duke, Wake Forest and even N.C. State. Invite reporters and our congressmen and our senators. Invite U.S. Speaker of the House Jim Wright — he seems to know what the CIA is up to, in Nicaragua at least. Invite representatives of the CIA to tell their side of the story. Hell, why not invite the CIA's director, William Webster?

Oh, yes. Invite Dale McKinley and the CIAAC so that they may explain why they risk expulsion and imprisonment to protest what they perceive as the atrocities of the CIA. Finally, invite the Board of Governors so that they may tell us why they allow the CIA on our campus.

But remember: this is our campus, and we must decide.

SCOTT LANDIS  
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### Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticisms. When writing letters to the editor, please follow these guidelines:

■ All letters must be signed by the author(s), with a limit of two signatures per letter.

■ Students should include name, year in school, major, phone number and home town. Other members of the University community should include similar information.

■ All letters must be typed and double-spaced, for ease of editing.

■ Place letters in the box marked "Letters to the Editor" outside the DTH office in the Student Union.

■ The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.

## Vomit, bones and liberal communists

### Week in Quotes

"Are there any more questions, besides the ones from the liberal communists?" — Conclusion to a presentation in the Pit on the Strategic Defense Initiative by George Urbide, field director for Students for America.

"Nothing formal has changed... A lot of the tension has subsided. Sure there's discrimination anywhere and everywhere in the county." — Brian Brooks, a senior from Robeson County, on the racial conditions there since the establishment of the governor's task force.

"It's a sad fact that there are different levels of existence today. The idea that it can be acceptable that there are two classes in society, sad to say, is still accepted." — David Hammond, director of PlayMakers production of "Figaro," on the play's applications today.

"If people have a difficulty in getting around, they have bad feelings toward the state, and they may not come back." — David Little, spokesman for the N.C. Department of Transportation, on the value of I-40 to the state.

"I would question the wisdom of putting forth planning money and then changing your mind. Once they have agreed that

the project is worth consideration, it would not be wise to say 'We really didn't need that.'" — Jay Robinson, vice president for public affairs for the UNC General Administration, on the proposed construction of a new performing arts center.

"We simply don't know much about it and don't feel we were consulted much about it." — Harold Andrews, director of undergraduate studies for the Department of Music, on the proposed performing arts center.

"If you took a look at the budget like I have you'd vomit." — Tom Fetzter, Republican congressional candidate, on "big-spending liberals."

"This has to be one of the best deals in the country." — Dennis O'Connor, acting provost, on the cost of an education at UNC.

"We were under the impression that all parties involved knew that fares would be charged. It was never set up to be a fare-free service." — John Gardner, transpor-

tation planner, on the misunderstanding between Student Government and the Department of Transportation and Parking Services over the late-night L Route.

"Our experience in a lot of places is that they (DOT officials) drag their feet until someone is killed." — Persis Van Wyk, an advocate for the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Mason Farm Road and the U.S. 15-501 bypass.

"There are a lot of factors involved in my situation right now, but I would have to say that my status here is very questionable." — Todd Schroeder, a junior swimmer, on his petition for a medical redshirt. Schroeder fears he is over-exerting himself and wants to be in top form for upcoming Olympic trials.

"Something happens here like nowhere else in the world — these people order bones. We can't keep enough bones." — Vince Credle, third-shift manager of Time-Out, on students' late-night cravings for chicken bones.

Compiled by associate editor Laura Pearlman.