

Andrew Perrin (left), a UNC associate professor of sociology, and Elizabeth McCain (right), a junior history major, co-president of Campus Y and moderator of the program, host a panel on civil discourse on Tuesday.

# Panel calls for civil discourse in politics

## Builds toward speech by Park51 imam

#### **JOSH CLINARD** STAFF WRITER

Working as chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Alex McMillan, R-N.C., Frank Hill remembered a constituent's phone call in which he heard curse words he had never heard before.

It wasn't a product of today's partisan discourse. That, he said, was more than 15 years ago.

"I don't know the period where we were so good to each other," he democracy of incivility, he added, said Tuesday in a panel discussion including the Civil War and presion the state of civil discourse in the dential assassinations.

Hill told the audience to turn off the hate-spreading television that is filled with out-of-context sound bites and instead read a book on historical political science.

Guillory said a renewal of professional journalism needs to occur, one that focuses on a renewal of strong, independent opinions.

The United States has had a long tradition of a boisterous

"We're connected to the world and not talking to each other."

FERREL GUILLORY, JOURNALISM PROFESSOR, AFTER SAYING IT MATTERS HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER

we treat each other. We're connected to the world and not talking to each other.'

Joshua Miller, a graduate student in political science who attended the forum, said he wished more students would take advantage of forums provided by the University.

## DPS hears complaints for transportation plan

### Students, staff voice opposition

#### **BY ASHLYN STILL** STAFF WRITER

Concerned members of the University community voiced opposition to increased parking fees ordered by the new five-year plan Tuesday at a forum hosted by the Department of Public Safety.

Students and faculty complained primarily about two proposed changes: a \$9 hike in student fees to cover nighttime parking costs and the introduction of a \$250 permit for the Employee Commuter Alternative Program.

The plan would also raise the transportation fee from \$73.50 to \$142, an increase of 93 percent, during the next five years.

Explaining that the fees are necessary to offset a \$6.1 million increase in transportation costs by the 2015-16 fiscal year, DPS Chief Jeff McCracken said the department is primarily targeting those who don't already pay for parking to shoulder some of the burden.

"The plan is really designed to meet our financial obligations, McCracken said.

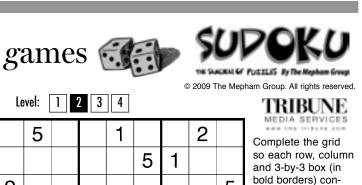
"We are not attempting to regulate parking through this," he said. 'We are just trying to create revenue from those not paying."

Students also expressed concern about overcrowding in parking decks after 5 p.m.

But Cheryl Stout, assistant director for parking services, said the proposed five-year plan will not seek to remedy that concern.

Faculty members protested the change to the Commuter Alternative Program, which currently provides employees a free space in park-and-ride lots.

The five-year plan would require users of the park-and-ride lots to purchase permits for \$250, said



DTH/MARY KOENIG

Jeff McCracken (left) and Dean Penny discuss their new five-year plan for UNC's transportation and parking at the Tuesday morning forum.

Dean Penny, a consultant with can't use the occasional permit and firm hired by DPS to help organize the plan.

go into effect in 2013.

"It's the most expensive component of the system," Penny said.

"It's over \$3 million to provide parking for the park-and-ride lots, and there's no revenue there."

Deannie Holt, registrar and assistant director for enrollment management at the School of Nursing, said she disapproved of

the change. "I think it stinks," she said. "I

Kimley-Horn and Associates, the I'm not going to pay \$250 a year for the park and ride." Penny said the average annual

This portion of the plan would cost per space on campus is \$650, making the University's parking costs comparable to those of University of California-Los Angeles and Harvard University.

We just know the costs we have now and the obligations we have to meet," McCracken said. "Will we adjust the system?" 'Sure.'

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

#### Calling all nurses

Budget cuts to the nursing school aren't changing the demand for nurses. See pg. 1 for story.

#### 'Eating Animals' picked

The University has selected this year's summer reading selection. See pg. 1 for story.

State of the ArtsCenter

United States.

journalism professor, and Andrew Perrin, a sociology professor, in part one of a three-part panel series entitled "Civil Discourse in American Society."

The discussion, led by Elizabeth McCain, co-president of the Campus Y, sought to explore the current political climate, past trends in bipartisanship and to recommend ways to improve the state of civil discourse. About 15 people attended.

The discussion of current problems pointed to the media as a culprit, where political discourse is rampant in what Guillory called "yell television."

"If you read about the forming Hill joined Ferrel Guillory, a of the Constitution, those guys that went to Philadelphia did not agree with each other," Hill said. "Somehow, out of the magic of it, they went to the bars together, smoked together ... and were able to compromise."

> Hill said he recommends that all people, whether politically active or inactive, invite another person out to a bar and have a social dialogue. "It's hard to agree with someone

if you hate them," he said. Guillory then pointed the finger to individuals, emphasizing the

importance of compassion. "Ideas matter," he said. "Words

matter. "But what really matters is how

Higher cigarette tax favored

Poll shows state approval of \$1 hike

'These forums are more educational than classrooms because it brings together such a rich community of scholars," he said.

Part two of the series, "Religious Pluralism in American Society," will take place March 1. The series will culminate in the March 16 Weil Lecture on American Citizenship. which will be delivered by Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, the controversial Islamic leader heading the promotion of Park51, commonly known as the "Ground Zero mosque."

Contact the University Editor

at university@dailytarheel.com.

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Carrboro's ArtsCenter is trying to get back on track after cutting jobs. See pg. 3 for story.

#### **Hate sandwich**

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Students across the country are accusing Chick-fil-A of promoting homophobia. See pg. 4 for story.

#### Smacking the Pack

The men's basketball team will try to extend its winning streak against 9 6 8 N.C. State. See pg. 5 for story.

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#### Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

#### **BY MATT STEYL**

STAFF WRITER

A majority of North Carolinians support raising the cigarette tax to help offset the state budget deficit, according to the results of a poll released Monday.

The N.C. Alliance for Health found 66 percent of 500 poll participants approved increasing the tax by \$1 per pack to relieve some of the deficit. The alliance is an advocacy organization dedicated to reducing tobacco use and battling obesity.

The poll's participants are likely voters in the election, said Peg O'Connell, chairwoman of the alliance's tobacco prevention policy committee.

She said North Carolina's current tax on cigarettes is 45 cents per pack, the seventh lowest in the nation. Raising the tax to \$1.45 would make the state's tax equivalent to the national average.

However, doing this might have negative consequences for one of the state's largest industries.

"When consumption decreases, the tobacco companies will cut back on contracts to farmers who grow tobacco," said Brian Long, director of the public affairs division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.

Income for tobacco farmers would decrease, as well as the revenue collected from taxes on this income, Long said.

UNC political science professor Tom Carsey said there is no one solution to the budget deficit, but raising taxes would be a start. Carsey also said he was not sure a cigarette tax would be the best solution.

Last year, South Carolina increased its cigarette tax from seven cents to 57 cents.

North Carolina's \$1-per-pack increase would provide about \$338.4 million in revenue to the state in the first year, O'Connell said. She said this revenue might help prevent education cuts and she hoped members of the university community would participate in advocating for the tax.

Long said the decrease in revenue for tobacco companies would also decrease the companies' payments to fund certain state programs.

A 1998 settlement between the four largest tobacco companies in the United States and the attorney generals of 46 states required the companies to fund the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund, the N.C. **Tobacco Trust Fund Commission** and other organizations that promote job growth within the state.

Gov. Bev Perdue did not include a tax increase on cigarettes in her recent budget proposal, and O'Connell said the governor missed the opportunity to earn almost \$400 million for the state.

Carsey said he is not sure why the governor did not include

"When consumption decreases, the tobacco companies will cut back on contracts to farmers."

#### BRIAN LONG, N.C. AGRICULTURE

the tax increase, but he does not believe the Republican majority in the N.C. General Assembly would increase the tax, even if Perdue had included it in her proposal.

Long said the N.C. General Assembly has shown that it is not interested in any kind of tax increase.

Still, O'Connell said the tax night be a possibility.

"We are still hoping that they will consider this," O'Connell said.

Contact the State & National Editor at state@dailytarheel.com.

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| 43 Kitchen areas, perhaps     | J        | 0<br>T | E      | S           |
| 45 Fastening pin              | M        | -      | B      | 1           |
| 46 Cereal grain               | в        | Ē      | -<br>A |             |
| 47 Also                       |          |        | R      | С           |
| 48 Sponge for grunge          | Z        | _      |        |             |
| 51 Play a round               | E        | X      |        |             |
| 52 Timing lead-in             | <u>A</u> | Ρ      | S      |             |

55 "The Time Machine"

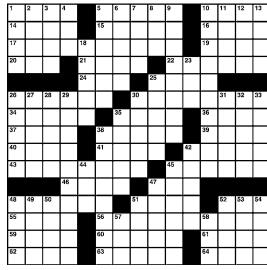
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18 2009 Series winners

opera 42 Explode 44 Padre's hermana 45 See 33-Dowr 47 Memento 48 Pre-Easter period 49 Hodgepodge 50 "Uh-oh, I dropped it!" 51 Big smile 52 Crisp, filled tortilla 53 Sot 54 First-year law student 57 Ring icon 58 Sylvester, e.g ": Wagner





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