

From: James Moeser  
To: Nazi Kite  
Subject: Response to your March 11th letter

March 16, 2006

Mrs. Nazi Kite  
President of Board of Directors  
Iranian Cultural Society of North Carolina  
nazi@icsnc.org <mailto:nazi@icsnc.org>

Dear Mrs. Kite:

Thank you for your thoughtful expression of support for those injured in the attack on campus March 3rd. We are indeed fortunate that no one was seriously injured. All six of the people who were taken the hospital were released that evening.

Our campus has been at the center of several controversies involving religion and academic freedom in recent years, including the attention we generated by our summer reading book selection in 2002, *Understanding the Qur'an*. We are fortunate that most North Carolinians embrace their public universities and believe that the university is a place to have civil discourse about difficult topics, but is also a place where we should respect all cultures and religions.

I am glad to hear that March 20th has special significance for the Iranian-American community. Our student leaders are planning an event in the Pit on that day to bring the campus community together and reclaim the space as a communal gathering place. I understand they plan to have a moment of silence, but also want the event to be celebratory. It is therefore appropriate that this will occur on Norooz, a day of healing, tolerance, respect and understanding.

Sincerely,

James Moeser

c: Ryan C. Tuck, editor, The Daily Tar Heel