



FRANCESCO PALERMO, a freshman in First Year College, paints in the **FREE EXPRESSION TUNNEL** for Guy Fawkes Day at midnight Nov. 5, 2010. Photo by Luis Zapata



AARON HAMPTON, a sophomore in animal science, paints an advertisement for the **PHI GAMMA DELTA** fraternity. Photo by David Mabe

THIS IS WHAT I PAINTED IN THE TUNNEL:



Leave a painted fingerprint here.

FREE EXPRESSION TUNNEL

Express yourself

THE FREE EXPRESSION TUNNEL IS ONE OF FOUR THOROUGHFARES THAT ALLOW students to pass under the railroad tracks that divide Central Campus from North Campus. Constructed in 1939 as a Public Works Administration service project, the tunnel was first painted in 1968, when it was painted red and white to celebrate the military veterans of North Carolina. In the 1960s, the University promoted it as a place for students to spray paint without interference in an effort to cut down on illegal graffiti around campus. Painting the tunnel evolved into a tradition where students, organizations and others can paint advertisements or just leave graffiti.

The tunnel was renovated during the 2005-2006 academic year to improve its accessibility and overall appearance. After the renovation, the Free Expression Tunnel project won the North Carolina Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects' Award of Excellence. ■