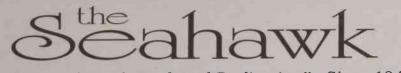
OPINION/EDITORIAL

January 12, 2000• the Seahawk



"Excellence Through Truth and Dedication"...Since 1948

THOMAS M. RUYLE - Editor-In-Chief LYNDSEY M. BLAND - Managing Editor MARTIN J. SMILEY - Advertising Director HEIDI BING - News Editor MEGAN O'BRIEN - A & E Editor HUGH FISHER - Sports Editor JAMES FLINT - Photo Editor MIAI HAMRICK - Copy Editor HANK MCCAULEY - Webmaster **KEVIN KNIGHT - Adviser BILL DINOME - Student Media Coordinator**

News Staff Writers: Allison Biggar, Paul Blackmore, Somer Stahl, Rachel Healy, Shane McConnel A & E Staff Writers: Jeff Grissett, Tori Boone, Natasha Malinsky, Kristi Singer Sports Staff Writers: A. Scott Taylor, Kevin Farmer, Jon Page, Wes Melville, Erica Pittlekow, Amanda Breedlove, Rosa Tysor Photographers: Dana Hurley, Kelly McCallister, Kathryn Schley, Christine Stahl Layout/Production: Lisa Williams, Lindsay LaClair Advertising Staff: Keith "Huck" Huxley, Kim Byrd, Adam Wright Disribution: Angela Bjork, Jeff Durham-Mgr., Lex Fennell

The Seahawk is published by the students of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, as a source of news for the University and surrounding community. As a forum for free expression, The Seahawk and its staff operate with editorial freedom; the views contained within The Seahawk are those of its staff and do not represent those of the University. Material in the paper is produced, selected, and edited by the editorial staff and writers of The Seahawk. Unsigned editorials represent the opinions of the editorial board. Signed editorials are the opinion of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of The Seahawk staff. Advertising content does not constitute an endorsement of the service by members of The Seahawk staff. The Seahawk is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press. Individual staff members are affiliated with the Society of Professional Journalists and the National Federation of Press Women. The Seahawk utilizes the Associated Press Newsfinder Service and Tribune Media Services for portions of content.

Thomas M. Ruyle

"View From the Dodo's Nest"

Equality = Equality. Nothing more, nothing less.

Luther King, Jr. stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, our nation's history and conscience:

"I have a Dream...we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children - black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics - will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

It has been over 36 years since Dr. King spoke those words. A lot has changed for the better in America since then...yet the more things change, the more they stay the same.

On August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin munity, I could not allow this announcement to be published.

The Seahawk supports diversity, both DC, and spoke words immortalized in on the UNCW campus and throughout the nation. In keeping with the progress that has been made since the days of Dr. King's speech, not supporting diversity - of race, religion, handicap, gender, sexual orientation, etc. - would be foolhardy indeed.

> But along with the idea of diversity goes the ideal of equality - an ideal that is slipping by the wayside in the name of vague "political correctness" that pervades our society and day-to-day individual thought. Equality, it seems, applies more for some than it does for others these days. Could anyone imagine a job opportunity advertised as open to 'whites only?' Of course not, and such a thing certainly would not run in the Seahawk, for the exact same reason as the 'minorities only' advertisement, or a similar 'gays only' or 'Jewish only' or any other announcement aimed at a specific/vague sector of American culture. It just does not add up to equal opportunity, period. Equality means that the opportunities are open to ALL people in America, regardless of their history, individuality or unique circumstances.

Editorial Viewpoint...

Are we the future sheep?

This is it...the UNCW Board of passed at several other N.C. schools, Trustees (BOT) and the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) are meeting this week to decide the future of our tuition rates. The Seahawk will be watching very closely - both to cover the event and to ance at the meetings.

Basically, the BOT has decided that in-state students need to pay \$235 more in tuition per year; out-of-state students will pay \$400 more per year. The next step in this process is seeking approval of the hikes from the BOG and UNC General Administration, then on to final approval from the North Carolina General Assembly.

Sure, the extra income (about \$2.3 million per year) for the University will go far in retaining the best possible faculty. Needless to say, anyone who values his/her education wants it to be delivered by the best available scholars.

And if the increase does pass, Financial Aid availability will increase accordingly - no one will be financially "shut out" of UNCW. Administrators say that some of the extra funds generated will actually enable more disadvantaged southeastern North Carolina students to attend UNCW. Very noble, indeed – everyone deserves a shot at a college education.

most notably Chapel Hill, where many students protested the increase loudly and fervently. In other words, they stood up and made their voices heard.

We have yet to see that here. It seems see how many students make an appear- as if the idea of speaking up or speaking out against an administrative idea is taboo here, even in the name of getting the facts and stimulating dialogue between the students and administration . Chancellor James Leutze confirmed that he has not heard one bit of feedback from any students with regard to the tuition issue.

> Is that how we want to be remembered at UNCW? As the 'quiet' student body? If we are the 'quiet' students now, we'll wind up being the sheep of the future...the ones who get walked on.

> Keep in mind that nothing is certain. This being a major election year, not too many politicians want to be known for raising tuition. Even Leutze has told the Seahawk that he is not optimistic the tuition increase will pass.

> But a matter such as this requires the students to speak out and make their opinions known. Most of the meetings, including the main BOT meeting at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Madeline Suite, are open to the public.

So exercise your right to be there -Similar increases in tuition have been and let your voice be heard.



I received an email recently from an assistant editor of a newspaper in the Midwest; the gentleman was asking the Seahawk to place an announcement for an upcoming journalism internship opportunity in this week's issue. While the Seahawk is more than happy to let the UNCW community know of such opportunities, there was one problem: the internship was open to minority students only.

Minorities only? You've got to be kidding me! As the editor of a newspaper that is aimed at all UNCW students, faculty, staff and the surrounding com-