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The Daily Tar Heel

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Play time is over

In a little more than a week, students will have the opportunity to clear out the stables of Student Congress.

It's more important this year than ever before for students to take care to elect the best UNC has to offer. It's important because this year congress has outdone itself when it comes to making games out of serious business.

The shenanigans are entertaining but they make congress look like a Calvin and Hobbes playground nightmare. The professional clowns not only often manage to outmaneuver those representatives who are responsible, but their high-wire circus acts also overshadow the noble and sincere efforts of the grown-ups in their midst.

UNC-CH is the only school in the 16-campus UNC system at which students exercise control over a substantial portion of student fees. At the other schools, and at the overwhelming majority of universities nationwide, the chancellors or presidents allocate funds to student groups. UNC-CH students have been entrusted with a great responsibility. In the last few years, our representatives have not lived up to this trust.

If congress members aren't careful, state lawmakers may renew their call for Chancellor Paul Hardin to take control of student fees — in effect, terminat-

ing Congress' reason to exist.

The only way to avoid having Papa Hardin essentially send UNC students to bed without supper and take their allowance is to change the face of congress. But don't vote for a new face just because it's new. Some incumbents are mature and take their responsibility seriously. Sorting them out may be difficult, but it is crucial.

The burden is upon every student to learn about the candidates in her district. Examine their positions, attitudes and accessibility (because, shamefully, some members of this year's congress maintain unlisted and unpublished phone numbers).

And then vote. A voter participation rate of 10 percent is not enough. Students must recognize that fee allocation affects everyone. It's much better for an elected peer to control student fees than an inaccessible bureaucrat in South Building. Representatives must be elected who are willing to put the good of the student body and the respectability of the institution of congress above their own petty agendas and in-fighting.

Fill Congress to the brim with good people and throw out those clowns who have given student government a bad name. Your vote Feb. 9 can move campus past the era of sandbox politics and preserve student control of student fees.

More money, more jobs

Seniors, have you found a job? An overwhelming number of you would have to answer "No."

February is suddenly upon us, and senior students throughout the many departments at the University are beginning to panic over their lack of success in finding a job. And rightly so.

Anyone who has attempted to enter the University Career Services in Hanes Hall would tell you to give up now, walk down the hall, and enroll in school for another year. UCS is packed from dawn to dusk with students trying to get just a minute with one of the staff members.

One sentence can sum up the whole problem — University Career Services is appropriated about \$18,000 a year (exclusive of staff salaries) to promote student job searches and corporate recruiting. Eighteen thousand dollars.

This figure is considerably less than that of other state schools, not to mention the surrounding private schools that compete with us for employment opportunities. Eighteen thousand dollars would be a moderate recruiting phone bill, and the University expects UCS to use no more for their entire operating budget.

We are out of the recession now and no one wants to hear the UNC-system President C.D. Spangler apologize once again at Commencement for the lack of jobs going to graduates. We have the impetus for change — employment. Increased investment in UCS is a pivotal place to make that change.

The problem is clear — an overworked, understaffed, under-resourced UCS is having trouble placing students in career positions. They need more money. Additional funding will secure more jobs for graduates, which in turn will secure more alumni donations for the University. Any money invested in UCS now is guaranteed to garner exponential returns in the future. It is a win-win situation of which the University has to take advantage.

Where is the money going to come from? The most obvious approach is for the student population to address the problem. Who could be better than the student body president, as a member of the Board of Trustees, to lobby for more funds for the UCS? As student body president candidates begin to prepare their agenda for the Feb. 9 elections, it's necessary that due attention be paid to the future and to improve UCS.

TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

"This is not a homeless shelter. This is a hospice. This is for people who are dying."
AIDS Service Agency President
Peter Millard on the need for an affordable house for AIDS patients.

"I think the most important thing for us to do right now is let the legislature know that this is a bad idea to raise tuition."
Student Body Vice President
Charlie Higgins.

"They're not a wine-and-cheese crowd anymore."
Sam Cassell, Florida State basketball player, on the Smith Center crowd.

"This is an opportunity that only comes every year or so."
Art Werner, Chapel Hill town council member on the council's decision to give \$30,000 to the town's Bicentennial Committee.

"Some people have a stereotypical image of the traditional pageant competition, and I don't fit that stereotype. I think that's why I won."
Jennifer Lloyd, UNC junior and speaker of Student Congress on being crowned Miss Alamance County.

"It was a great time for me to break the record."
George Lynch, UNC basketball player, on breaking the all-time UNC career steals record with a steal that preceded his fast-break dunk that put Carolina ahead to stay in the greatest comeback in UNC history.

"He was disruptive, he attended class nude. Some people felt they were being sexually harassed."
Lt. Bill Foley, Berkeley, Calif., police spokesman about Andrew Martinez, a Berkeley student expelled for his nudist practices.



How the earth will be saved by nuclear bombs

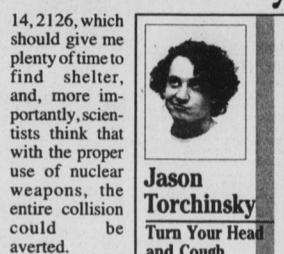
To fill some requirement, I have to take a geology class this semester. Ordinarily, I am a big fan of the sciences, but for some reason a straightforward geology class this semester just does not seem too appealing. I know enough geology to eat well, and that's enough for me, for now.

But take it I must, so I decided to have a chat with the professor about tailoring the course to fit what I wish to study: behavioral geology. I don't just want to know how rocks are formed, I want to know how they feel — how does the gravel on my driveway react to stimuli? Are the patches in the sunlight inherently happier than those in the shade? If I take a piece of basalt away from its magma of origin immediately after cooling and place it in a cage with two models of its mother magma, one made of wire but with a milk bottle and the other without any food source, but covered with warm, huggable fabric, which will it pick? Are pebbles truly social or simply communal? I feel these are all important questions, worthy of research.

I suggested my course of study to my teacher, and though he praised my preliminary research as "infantile and asinine, completely without merit" and even suggested a new experiment that would require me to place several of my mineral samples up my rectum, I do not think he will give me permission for an independent study.

I left his office, my jaw smarting from his unexpected right hook, feeling quite dejected. But then, as I was leaving the building, I saw something which immediately lifted my spirits. It was a New York Times newspaper clipping, dated Tuesday, Nov. 3, 1992, that described the relatively good chance the comet Swift-Tuttle has of colliding with the earth. Gleeful visions of that jerky kid who wouldn't get out of my way this morning being smushed by big hunks of comet danced in my head, until I realized, with the help of a few simple line drawings, that if a comet hits the earth, I, along with the countless dorks whose demise I cruelly dreamed, would die.

Luckily, I read on, and found that I really had no need to panic, for the comet was not due to impact until Aug.



Jason Torchinsky
Turn Your Head and Cough

14,216, which should give me plenty of time to find shelter, and, more importantly, scientists think that with the proper use of nuclear weapons, the entire collision could be averted.

My mind reeled. What a wonderful thing this comet will be! "Why?" you may ask. Now, Well, I'll tell you. For one thing, it will finally give us a chance to use all of those nuclear weapons we've wasted so much time building. Right now, the earth is full of nuclear weapons — all just going to waste, thankfully, I guess. But it is still waste. Now, I certainly don't recommend shooting them at anything on earth, but I hate to see such impressive machinery go to waste. I think I got that trait from my mom. She would never waste anything, if she thought it was valuable. I remember how my sister and I used to eat entire bowls of outdated prescription drugs and milk for breakfast, all because my mom couldn't bear to throw out the excess.

Anyway, a nuclear intercontinental ballistic missile is quite an engineering feat, and if it can be put to constructive use, so much the better. Blowing up a big comet or meteor seems the best use now, especially when you consider that my best other alternative was to remove the warheads and sell space inside the nose cone to travelers heading towards the major population centers and military areas of the former Soviet Union. It would have been the fastest possible way to get there, and I would have had free in-flight snacks and drinks, but I still think the comet is a better idea. Besides, the missiles should be used because everybody, deep down, really wants to see something the size of an office building come ripping out of the ground in South Dakota, sending corn and cattle flying, and scream into the sky at Mach 20.

Also, the sense of global unity and

cooperation brought on by the threat of the comet would be unparalleled. Nothing brings people together like a common enemy. For example, the only time I ever saw my Uncle Morris and my Aunt Rivke hug was when they killed that health inspector behind their restaurant. And what would make a better common enemy than a big hunk of rock and ice! For once, there would be a battle that all the peoples of earth could join together in and feel good about!

It would be completely guilt-free. Not only would we be saving the earth, but we would also be finally ridding our home of nuclear arms. Destroying the comet will be so exciting! Everybody on earth would be following the progress of the comet for months. People will print up "Rock the Rock" T-shirts, MTV will run a contest to guess, say, the weight of the comet, and the winner would get to push one of the launch buttons on his or her respective country's missiles! Special satellites would be launched so that the actual explosion of the comet could be televised all across the globe!

Then the day would come, and all over the world people will step out of their homes and watch the majestic procession of the missiles' sleek cylinders, emblazoned with the flags of the world, as they streak across the sky towards their martyrdom in the heavens! After the missiles are out of sight, simultaneously everyone will bolt indoors and snap on their televisions to view the actual explosion, which will be shown in a special show hosted by Dick Clark.

After the comet is destroyed and it is ascertained that the earth is no longer in danger, I foresee a monthlong global party, declared by the nations of earth, to celebrate humankind's ingenuity in averting its own doom. Then I guess there'd be a weeklong recuperation and clean-up period, and then life would go on. But with such memories.

No, not even a massive, speeding comet can quench the fire that is mankind. That will only happen when the giant monkeys come. Solidarity.

Jason Torchinsky is a senior art history major from Greensboro, N.C.

READERS' FORUM

A feminist who's proud to show femininity

To the editor:
I am writing in response to Alisa DeMao's Jan. 21 article entitled "She's got the look and terrible blisters, too." As a very independent and ambitious woman, I am appalled at Ms. DeMao's article and disgusted at her suggestion for "unisex clothing." Ms. DeMao claims that skirts and other feminine clothes degrade and deny women "freedom of expression." Give me a break!!! Skirts and dresses celebrate womanhood, not damn it. Feminine clothing distinguishes and separates females from their male counterparts. Women are individual beings with unique qualities. Why would a free-thinking, liberated woman want to dress in unisex clothing and blend in with men?

Ms. DeMao states that skirts restrict her from making "broad, expansive gestures." Does she constantly feel the need to sit spread-eagled or to do cartwheels down the street? She claims to hate the professional world's "bastion of sexism in clothes." Why do you give in to it? Why didn't you wear your "frumpy jeans and sweatshirt" to the interviews? You willingly became part of a system

that you hate and preach against. That, Ms. DeMao, is hypocrisy.

Personally, I like skirts and feminine clothes. But, I don't choose to wear these to make myself "attractive to men." I wear them because I am proud of myself and my womanhood. If you, Ms. DeMao, want to be "mannish," you go ahead. But I am sick of hearing you exhort your anti-men, femi-Nazi attitude to insult independent, career-oriented women who freely choose to act feminine.

COLLEEN RODITE
Junior
Nursing

Joe Bob was highlight of DTH's weekly fare

To the editor:
Mr. Andy Bechtel is to be congratulated for his letter lamenting the loss of Joe Bob Briggs from the Omnibus ("Underside of culture wants Joe Bob back," DTH, Jan. 15). I too very much enjoyed his tongue-in-cheek drive-in reviews, which to me were the highlight of the week's Daily Tar Heel offerings (though, unlike Mr. Bechtel, I also enjoy Jason Torchinsky's column). Actually, Joe Bob did enter a theater at least

once, to see and review "The Last Temptation of Christ." One of the most serious crimes a publication can commit (and one of which student newspapers almost universally are guilty) is to take itself too seriously. Mr. Briggs' column served as at least partial levity. I do acknowledge that The Far Side, Doonesbury, and Calvin and Hobbes help serve that function admirably — it's just that they aren't enough. If the weekly cost of the syndicated Briggs column is only \$6 and that is the major issue in not continuing it in Omnibus, I would be willing personally to shoulder the burden, even though I suppose that might mean the column would then be considered an "advertisement."

I am proud to be considered a member of the "underside of culture."

BRADFORD B. WALTERS
Associate Professor
Neurosurgery

Columnist's 'mind's eye' closed to Palestinians

To the editor:
This is in response to the column by Eric Wagner, titled Mind's Eye (Jan 19), which I think can be more appropriately called Jaundiced Mind's Eye. It's a bunch of pro-Israeli propaganda bullshit. What amazes me is that every time Iraq attempts to flaunt a "UN" sanction, the "international" community comes down on them like a ton of bricks, but Israel manages to acquit itself of every atrocity committed against the Palestinians whose territory they occupy.

Now, I have heard that there is a pro-Israeli lobby in Washington which has the government by the seams. I don't know if it's true, but do you think that might have something to do with this kind of partial treatment?

LAKSHMAN RAMAMURTHY
Graduate
Biology

CANDIDATES: Important notice of deadlines

Attention student body president, Residence Hall Association and Carolina Athletic Association candidates!!
Candidates for campuswide offices should contact Alan Martin or Peter Wallsten at the DTH (962-0245) as soon as possible to set up a time that we can interview you for the endorsement process.

The interviews will take place Friday, Feb. 5 and Saturday, Feb. 6. Endorsements will run in the Monday, Feb. 8 edition.

In addition, we would like to run a version of your platform in the paper. Give us an 800-word masterpiece by

noon, Friday, Jan. 29 to appear on Monday, Feb. 1.

We will allow each candidate to submit two letters of endorsement from other students (NOTE: THIS INCLUDES SENIOR CLASS CANDIDATES). The letters must be no longer than 400 words each and are limited to two signatories. They are due by noon, Tuesday, Feb. 2.

Students for Student Congress should come by the DTH to pick up endorsement questionnaires. These will be due Wednesday, Feb. 3.

THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE DEADLINES.

The Daily Tar Heel

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