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# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Redefining ignorance

A Young Republican's last stand. What a pity that once again Charlton Allen, a distinguished member of the Student Congress finance committee, failed to defund those groups that intimidate and frighten him.

He and his buddies — Chris Tuck, Eric Pratt and the rest of the water-balloon tossing young Republicans — were unable Wednesday night to amend sections of the Student Code that determine which groups are eligible for funding.

According to the code, any nonpolitically partisan student group is eligible to receive congressional allocations. But Charlton and his cronies — a minority in congress that acts as if they're sitting in a fourth-grade student council — wanted to redefine "political partisanship" to mean "actively supporting a political party, person, cause or political principle."

They set this priority in the shadow of campus elections Tuesday night while their committee was considering funding the Campus Y's Rape Free Zone program. Noticing that Bisexuals, Gay men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity was planning to sponsor a speaker for the program, Charlton et al determined it was time to take action.

It was an amazing opportunity for Charlton's last stand. Not only could he politicize rape, but he could rob the "queers" of their funding.

Unfortunately for Charlton and his cultural insecurities, the amendment was thrown out of full congress after its potential for failure became obvious. But that's not to say it couldn't resurface somewhere down the Tim Moore Legacy road.

Such a redefinition easily could have defunded necessary and educational groups like the Black Student Movement and B-GLAD, who are forced by our society to fight for change. And yes, many of these changes are political without being partisan to any particular party.

Charlton should know, for example, that B-GLAD isn't a Democratic Party outpost.

So Charlton — we're sorry. We're sorry that you're forced to live in a world full of blacks, gays, lesbians, Asians, Native Americans, Jews and many others who aren't quite as American as you are.

We apologize for any inconvenience and hope that your own genetic blueprint isn't altered too much.

In the future, though, keep your kind of Americanism to yourself.

## The new domino theory

Be glad *someone* is working to expand University nondiscrimination policies.

B-GLAD activists are gathering steam for their battle to add a sexual-orientation clause to nondiscrimination policies throughout the University system. By starting on campus, B-GLAD should be able to gather the momentum necessary to convince the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors to enact the same measures.

B-GLAD has launched its movement by challenging Marriott Corp., the largest employer of students on campus, to add a clause to its corporate code prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

Marriott's decision will impact the effectiveness of B-GLAD's campaign because the dining service is so visible and widespread on campus. Students and faculty fly by daily for sandwiches and snacks and the tone Marriott sets is an integral part of the campus atmosphere.

B-GLAD members have acknowledged that Marriott is *not* guilty of any discriminatory offenses

and has a "pretty good track record with openly gay and lesbian employees." With the cooperation and support of a major private contractor, B-GLAD members will have a stronger case to present to the BOT and the BOG.

If Marriott accepts the measures and adds sexual orientation to the list of nondiscriminatory characteristics, B-GLAD's movement will have made symbolic progress. But even *more* of an effective statement could be made if B-GLAD would press Marriott also to add the nondiscrimination policy to its contractual agreements with employees.

Adding the sexual-orientation nondiscrimination clause to contracts would in effect make firing or harassing employees on the basis of sexual orientation illegal.

Marriott needs to respond to B-GLAD's cue. Adding sexual orientation to its contracts and nondiscrimination policy would indicate progress on the company's part. Marriott's move also would encourage the same tolerance and protection at the University and throughout the system.

## MORRISON DORM ETIQUETTE QUIZ

"RACISM IS NO EXCUSE FOR RUDENESS!"

Q: THERE'S A RACIAL "INCIDENT" YOU:

A: 1) REMIND PEOPLE OF THEIR Constitutionally guaranteed right to be little Nazi punks.  
2) BITCH AND WHINE ABOUT HOW overly sensitive liberals are going to make a big deal out of this little thing.  
3) SIT TIGHT!! Maybe NO ONE WILL notice. (For University Administrators only.)  
4) CONSULT LATEST TRENDS IN Supreme Court reasoning. Dred Scott is making a comeback, you know.  
5) RELAX! IT'S JUST THE OPENING of a David Duke precinct office.  
6) ELECT THOSE RESPONSIBLE TO THE Student Congress. (Bigots are herd animals and, who knows, maybe they'll become Speakers or Treasurers or something.)

DE GRAND '93

## Montross' political hopes dashed by late filer

I have absolutely nothing nice to say about student government. My mother used to tell me that if I didn't have anything nice to say about something, I should say nothing at all. This may be good advice, but, then again, my mom didn't have a column to write every week. Her column only came out once a month, and it was in Guns and Ammo magazine, so she always knew what to write about. So she shouldn't talk.

Regardless, I feel compelled to admit that I can't stand student governments. All of them. I say this not so much in the hopes that they will be abolished or something like that but rather for my own therapeutic use. I just need to tell somebody, and you, you holding this newspaper, you're the only one who can understand me. Sometimes I think you're the only one who really cares. This hatred is at the forefront of my mind, just behind my eyebrows, because of the current student elections; elections which have left their cruel mark on our fair campus like Sherman through Atlanta, except at least Sherman had the dignity not to cover Atlanta with posters of his high school yearbook picture and his name.

I am not wholly certain as to exactly why I hate student governments so, but I don't really care either. Sometimes it's just nice to have some vague, collective entity to really detest. Student governments are perfect for this, especially because they spend most of their time indoors and subsequently can't run very fast to catch you when you call them names.

I am genuinely lost as to why anybody would want to be a part of a student government. Spending an incredible amount of time and effort to willingly do lots of paperwork and use parliamentary procedure and argue about such mind-numbingly boring things as voting districts baffles me. Now, I'm a young collegiate, the product of modern culture, down with O.P.P., and it would seem to me that college is our last, final fling with the freedom of not having to give a damn about all of the bureaucratic crap that comes with student governments.

I guess if I knew exactly what student government did I might temper my unreasonable hatred. But I don't know. As far as I can tell, our student government and I have essentially the same job: to

reduce the amount of white space found in this newspaper. All throughout the year there have been huge, well-written articles on the goings-on and power plays of the Student Congress — topics which would have commanded the full force of my attention had there not been such more interesting diversions as bugs or small patches of moisture.

I'm not too surprised that I don't know what the student government does, because I don't even think the candidates have any real clear idea either. Just think about some of the campaign slogans. Most of the ones I've seen on posters usually read something like "standing for what is right" or "what it should be" and similar phrases which, though composed of words that mean things, as a unit manage to convey absolutely nothing. It's pretty telling when you could replace almost every campaign slogan with the word "because" and not have any noticeable loss of meaning.

I've been told by various sources that one of the main jobs of the congress is to decide how student fees should be doled out. So I guess they do accomplish something, yet I think it would probably be better just to let the students vote directly for how they want their fees spent. Eliminate the middleman. Aside from that, what does the student body president do? Negotiate trade agreements with Duke? Force the student body vice president to attend state functions and funerals at other member schools of the UNC system?

I don't know. It just seems to me that the student government is just a pack of ninnies who get a kick out of playing politics. Personally, I don't see the attraction. Playing government is about as appealing as playing accountant, or insurance salesman. It would be like being a little kid, and playing "doctor" or something with your little kid pals, but only concentrating on the malpractice insurance forms and health plan documents.

Now that my unreasonable hatred of



Jason Torchinsky  
Turn Your Head and Cough

student government is public knowledge, I would like to take this opportunity to announce my late entry into the campaign for student body president. Why the hell not? I really have no true way of backing up my ire, it's just how I feel in a gut way, and I think the people involved are probably intelligent, fine people — just sadly misguided, at least in my mindset, which I imagine is their paramount concern.

The fact that I am beginning my campaign a solid two days after elections have been held should prove to even the most jaded of observers that I shall not be one to be bogged down by trivial setbacks and outdated, obsolete rules. No, when I am elected I will be a president of action! When elected, I promise you this: I will once and for all determine if the office of student body president carries any power, by attempting to abuse it in a completely irresponsible manner.

I pledge to triple the number of bike racks on campus, but I'm going to have them all put in front of Scuttlebutt. One big, dazzling sea of black steel tubing! That will get our campus, among other things, a tourist trade.

I will also propose a new method for dealing with the doling out of all that student fund money: Instead of the normal, argumentative and separatist method of dividing it, I propose that the money be spent in one lump sum for something that will enrich the entire University — something like purchasing the Big Peach from I-85 and having it shipped and reinstalled in the Pit, where its imposing shadow will keep much of the campus in perpetual, ecstatic darkness.

This is probably the best possible use of the money, for the inherent pun created with a peach inside the Pit will no doubt catch the attention of the producers of 90210, who, having a similarly named location in their telecast, will probably choose to film a special here, an act which will once again hurtle our fair college into the top 25.

Face it. My plan just works. It's the best there is, and you might as well save yourself a lot of hassle and just admit it, so we can get started. Maybe this student government thing isn't so bad after all. Solidarity.

Jason Torchinsky is a senior art history major from Greensboro.

## TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

"If we have this much of a definition, we are going to be funding the yachting club and the juggling club and that's all."

Rep. Andrew Cohen, Dist. 6, on the proposed definition of 'political partisanship' of Rep. Charlton Allen, Dist. 21.

"We're like those little boxes of cereal variety packs you get at the grocery store."

Group member Andy Bagwell on Selected Hilarity comedy troupe.

"I'm just glad it wasn't Natrone Means." Kevin "Cooter" Ginsberg on UNC center Eric Montross' strong showing in the student body president election.

"Anyone competing (against the Smith Center) for quality events would be helped by the tax."

Wilson Rogers, general manager of

Walnut Creek Amphitheater, on a proposed Chapel Hill entertainment tax.

"Jim and I are two very different people." Jennifer Lloyd on why she and Jim Copland chose to run against each other for student body president.

"Hamburger flippers are paying so that former doctors can sit pretty in Myrtle Beach. People who make over \$50,000 shouldn't expect a nickel."

Paul Hewitt, Vice President of Research at the National Taxpayers Union on why he approved of Social Security cutbacks.

"Integration was the worst thing that ever happened to (blacks), technically."

Chuck D at a press conference before his speech Wednesday night.

### Editorial Policy

The Daily Tar Heel's editorials are approved by the majority of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor, editorial page editor and five editorial writers.

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**Editorial Production:** Stacy Wynn, manager; Lisa Reichle, assistant.

**Distribution and Printing:** Village Printing Company.

The Daily Tar Heel is published by the DTH Publishing Corp., a non-profit North Carolina corporation, Monday-Friday, according to the University calendar. Callers with questions about billing or display advertising should dial 962-1163 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Classified ads can be reached at 962-0252. Editorial questions should be directed to 962-0245/0246.

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U.S. Mail address: P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3257

## READERS' FORUM

### Physics and astronomy improperly maligned

To the editor:

I write to clarify the impression left by your recent article (DTH, Feb. 8) and editorial (DTH, Feb. 10) about interests of faculty in physics and astronomy in a new building on the Wilson-Dey-Kenan site on central campus. The latest campus long-range land use plan completed early in 1991 identified this site as a possible location for a future physical sciences building. This land use plan has been widely distributed on campus. The booklet, "A Guide to Physical Development," with the plan's details is available from the campus Facilities Planning Office. To my knowledge, no single physical-science department has ever been associated with this possible future building, certainly not the department of physics and astronomy. Explicit physical-science instructional needs and future use of this proposed building were to be specified later.

Current discussions about alternate uses of this site make it necessary for the University to consider more carefully the underlying needs that previously suggested that this site be allocated to the physical sciences. It is not difficult to point to pressures. For example, in physics and astronomy the enrollment in our introductory physics courses has increased annually in the past three years by 6 percent, 12 percent and 22 percent. In 1992-93, because none of our regular classrooms in Phillips Hall are large enough, Professor Larry Rowan is teaching Physics 24 and 25 in the Hanes Art Center auditorium. He does this without the benefit of blackboards or facilities to store apparatus there for regular classroom demonstrations of physical principles.

I am aware of similar enrollment pressures in introductory chemistry and biology courses. Biology and geology share our difficulties finding adequate, modern space for teaching. If student demand continues to grow, some additional space must be found, either by renovations or new construction, for several physical-science departments. Otherwise, we will find it increasingly difficult to provide timely enrollment opportunities to all undergraduates needing these courses to meet their academic requirements.

Faced with this, the College of Arts and Sciences recently asked all chairmen of physical-science departments to clarify what space they might need in a generic new physical-science building. The physics and astronomy response will be merged with those of other science departments to better define the real campus needs. From this we all hope to gain a better picture of how UNC should best allocate its limited financial and central-campus space resources to meet them.

THOMAS B. CLEGG  
Department Chairman  
Physics and Astronomy

### First thing in revolution: We kill all the lawyers

To the editor:

In her letter to the editor published on Feb. 3, M. Savage, the grammar expert, failed to note a second grammatical error committed by Shannon Wikle. M. Savage criticized Ms. Wikle for stating that she has parents who can "afford to loan me my tuition" when she should have used the verb "to lend." He tells Ms. Wikle, "Clearly, you aren't as smart as your well-written letter implies since you don't know the difference between

nouns and verbs." A perfect, knowledgeable person like M. Savage should have also made the "picky point" that one does not lend another tuition, but rather lends him the money to pay tuition. Furthermore, M. Savage may find the following, quoted from the usage notes following the definition of the word "loan" in the 1973 edition of the American Heritage Dictionary, interesting: "'Loan' has long been established as a verb, especially in business usage. 'Lend' is considered by many to be preferable to 'loan' in general usage and particularly in formal writing."

By the way, I do agree with M. Savage's main points. The tuition at UNC is inexpensive, and UNC students should be willing to sustain an increase to maintain or improve quality. An increase in class size is one consequence of an inadequate budget. English composition teachers in particular should have small classes so they can spend time carefully grading a lot of assignments. I believe teaching students to write and speak well should be a primary goal of any university and should not be sacrificed for lack of funds.

I notice poor grammar in my speech and writing, as well as in that of professors, politicians and business leaders, so do not let M. Savage's criticism discourage you, Ms. Wikle. We all make grammatical errors. Last, M. Savage's arrogance and condescending manner (traits of those who are insecure and not bright enough to recognize their own shortcomings) are going to give law students in particular, and UNC students in general, a bad reputation. Stop being so cocksure of yourself, M. Savage.

LISA ZINGARO  
Graduate  
Business