



Established in 1893
Century of editorial freedom

The Daily Tar Heel

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Free press must prevail

The Daily Tar Heel celebrated its 100th birthday this year with a glimpse back at a century of editorial freedom. Looking through those dusty DTH annals, we found a history riddled with threats to that coveted freedom but also with stunning triumphs over would-be censors.

And as we've paused to take pride in our past, we've also looked forward with hope to a future free from threats by those tugging at the DTH's purse strings. Through a mandate of the student body, the DTH will become financially autonomous this year.

The true editorial freedom that fiscal independence has brought this newspaper is the greatest birthday present we could possibly have given ourselves, and the large chunk of student fees that this change will free up could be thought of as our birthday present to the student body.

But now it seems several members of Student Congress have delivered their own belated birthday present to the DTH, in the form of a bill to kick the newspaper out of its Student Union offices and force the newspaper to stop publishing altogether inside Union properties.

The action is an affront to the DTH's 100 years of service to the student body and to press freedom in general, but the most notable characteristic of the bill is its utter ludicrousness.

Finance committee member Eric Pratt introduced the bill ostensibly because of this newspaper's failure to allow a congressionally ordered audit of the DTH's budget. His bill is a slap in the face to the hundreds of students who voted in spring 1990 to allow the DTH complete financial independence through a gradual return of student fees. Pratt should know that the DTH is no longer required to submit its annual budget to congress for approval.

In 1977, student government representatives used their control of DTH finances to halt publication for one day. Now that student government politicians

have lost their ability to muzzle free expression by threatening our finances, perhaps they believe they can stifle press freedom by threatening to evict us from our Student Union offices.

They are mistaken. Congress is not responsible for deciding which student groups can reside within the Student Union building, and every student organization should be thankful for that. Those decisions are left to the more mature minds of those in the Office of Student Affairs.

This newspaper has resided on campus since it moved into the newly constructed Campus Y building in 1906. The DTH is thankful for its rent-free union office space, but we believe that we perform an invaluable service to this community by providing students and faculty with a free daily newspaper. And we believe that all democratically minded individuals will realize that freedom of expression for free rent is not an equitable trade. Remaining in a centralized, convenient location is important if this newspaper is expected to continue to be an effective news source.

This incident will be a mere blip on the screen of DTH history. If it is remembered at all, it will be held up as just another example of second-rate campus politics trying desperately to use their last few moments in "power" to punish this newspaper for the criticism they've received on the editorial page (see cartoon and following editorial) and the scrutiny they've endured in our news stories (see page three).

Pratt and his cohorts are not the first congress members to lose sight of the value of a press free from threats to editorial freedom. We are confident that they will not be the last, but we are equally as confident that the DTH will continue to survive such threats as it ventures into its second century, continuing to scrutinize when necessary and criticize when deserved.

Game-playing sullies Honor Court

The old adage "enough is enough" obviously is not in the vocabulary of a few tenacious Student Congress members and campus activists who feel Honor Court is the place to solve adolescent bickering.

Doug Ferguson, outgoing co-chairman of Bisexuals, Gay men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity and Matt Stiegler, coordinator of Student Organized Movement Against Discrimination, have been swapping numerous Honor Court charges with Rep. Darren Allen, Dist. 21, and Rep. Chris Tuck, Dist. 20. These four men have designated Honor Court as their personal boxing ring, consequently filling court dockets with their vindictive drivel.

The barrage of charges began when Tuck filed suit against Ferguson for malicious libel and the misrepresentation of B-GLAD's membership. The attorney generals' office decided that there was insufficient evidence to pursue these charges and dropped the complaint.

Allen then brought Honor Court charges against Stiegler, claiming that the activist accosted him with verbal threats. Allen alleges that Stiegler shouted "I'm going to kick your ass" after Allen passed a confidential B-GLAD attendance list around the room during a congress meeting.

Ferguson, who filed charges against Allen and Tuck after the congress incident, said that he believed Allen's allegations against Stiegler could be a "bargaining chip" to get the congressmen's charges dropped.

Tuck has expressed interest in dropping the charges

against B-GLAD and its members if B-GLAD returns the favor. But regardless of his motives, neither side should use the Honor Court as a bargaining table.

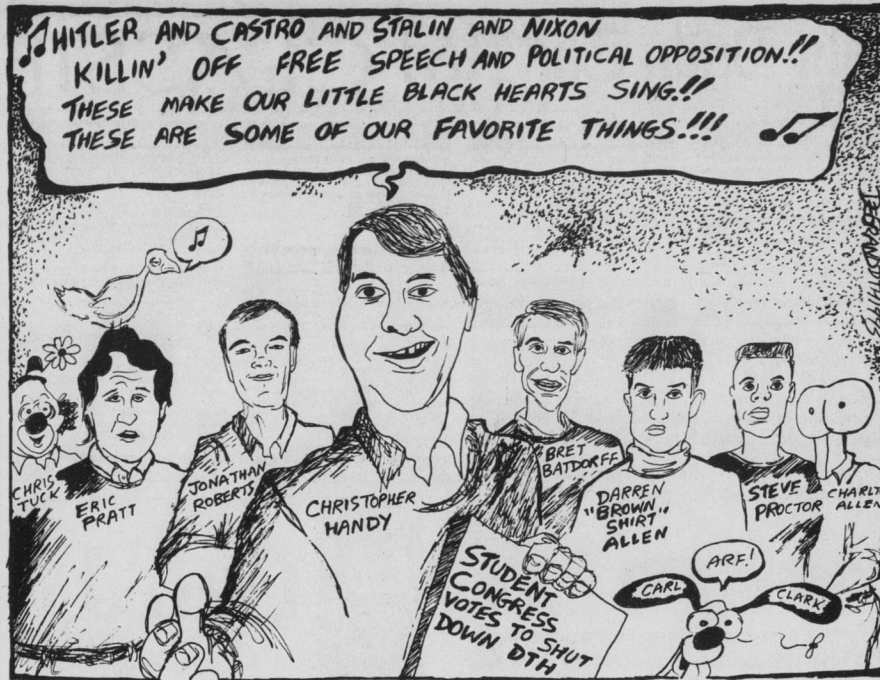
The courtroom is not a playroom. Campus congressmen and activists should realize that Honor Court has a distinct purpose — to settle serious violations of the Student Code.

Although some portion of their charges are valid, these members of B-GLAD and Student Congress should settle their differences out of court. While Tuck has the right idea in opening up the judicial branch for valid complaints, he can't cover up the fact that those cases would not be in court if these political factions simply would get along instead of filing charges.

Campus activism is rising, and each organization has its own agenda and mission to fulfill. Although occasional clashes are inevitable, every conflict cannot be vindicated in Honor Court.

If the constant quest for one-upmanship between B-GLAD members and Student Congress representatives was a violation of the Student Code, both groups would find themselves facing charges in a flash. Unfortunately, no one has figured out how to codify rules of behavior with the detail that the Student Code regulates procedure.

Graduation has solved part of the problem for now by sending some of the biggest players to other playgrounds. In the future, students may learn to solve the problem in the ballot box.



Carolina Fever is a truly universal disease

There's nothing like the Tar Heel spirit.

Whether it's Derrick Phelps overcoming yet another injury, Eric Montross dominating a toothless (and taller) giant or George Lynch giving a good-natured scolding to a fellow player and then making up with a hug — there's nothing like it in the world.

There's nothing like Franklin Street after a big win. Thousands of fans pour into the cool night air, slightly tipsy parties swing from limbs overshadowing the street, and bonfires gobble up everything in sight.

In one night, the residents of Chapel Hill boost cheap beer sales by 10 percent. And Tar Heel fever sweeps the land as the craziness on Franklin Street is broadcast for thousands to see.

Wherever Tar Heel fans were Saturday night, they were celebrating. Because there's no losing the Tar Heel spirit once you've got it. Chapel Hill in springtime will always call to you. March (and April) madness will always catch you by surprise.

From Bourbon Street to Franklin Street, I think everyone became a Tar Heel Saturday night. Because Dean Smith is just too classy, his team is just too good. And what happened between Kansas and UNC was much more than

just a game.

What happened Saturday night was a lesson in history, an event that has played itself out again and again throughout time. It was the passing on of knowledge — teacher to student, mentor to mentee. It was ageless wisdom prevailing over youthful energy. It was an established empire defeating a renegade prince.

At the same time, what happened Saturday night was just a game. But it was a game that was weighted heavily with tradition. It sealed the developing UNC-Kansas rivalry into stone. It brought the promise of not-so-sweet revenge.

On a weekend like this past one, you would think that nothing existed in the world outside of that wooden court and crowded arena. The only sounds heard were the excited voices of radio announcers and the ball bouncing off the metal rim.

The only conversations held focused



Doug Ferguson
To A Different Beat

on Kansas and Carolina, Carolina and Kansas. The only things selling in the stores were Final Four T-shirts and styrofoam coolers.

And that's the way it ought to be. The thrill of the game should make us forget our troubles for awhile. Because there can be no politics on Franklin Street. There can be no hatred, there can be no division, there can be no strife. After all, we're all Tar Heels no matter what our disagreements might be.

For one glorious moment after a victory like Saturday's, we manage to revel in the fact that we're all Tar Heels at heart. We can celebrate the fact that no one is immune to Carolina fever.

That's saying a lot for Chapel Hill. Because there are very few times and places that people can come together for anything. And that's what I think makes our town unique. I doubt the streets of Ann Arbor looked like Franklin Street did Saturday night. I don't think the Michiganians have it in them.

But we certainly do, and something tells me we still have plenty of good-natured energy to spare for tonight. We'd better, because I know we'll need it.

Go Tar Heels!

Doug Ferguson is a senior journalism major from Charlotte.

READERS' FORUM

Celebrating doesn't require mob mentality

To the editor:
Carolina is going to win its games on Saturday and Monday nights. We will all glow with a special Carolina blue tint when the Heels bring home the NCAA championship.

Many of us, including my wife Margie and myself, will make the traditional trip to Franklin Street to be a part of those wonderful moments. We hope that everyone has a great time and celebrates with the enthusiasm the occasion requires.

But, we also hope that everyone remembers to celebrate safely and is thoughtful of others' personal safety. In addition, we have a beautiful downtown area — one of which we are justifiably proud. Let's make sure that we respect private and town property. The party should be a joyous one in memory — not one marred by injury and damage. Let's celebrate with true Tar Heel class.

KENNETH S. BROWN
Chapel Hill Mayor

Expulsion policy would only be passing the buck

To the editor:
Recently there has been some discussion on campus that anyone convicted of sexual assault or rape should be expelled from the university. This policy is incorrect and will not lead to the greater good.

First, the desire to add another penalty where a civil penalty already has

been imposed is a legitimate argument. But, criminals (however repulsive) do have rights; that's what separates the American justice system from the justice system in El Salvador. Any expulsion policy must be looked at very carefully before proceeding. Not only for the criminals' rights, but more importantly for the rights of others. A policy of expulsion for civil offenses can open the door for abuses. Minorities could suffer by being expelled for minor charges. But I believe there is a more compelling reason.

Assume students convicted of sexual assault are expelled (why they're not in jail is a matter for another discussion). Where are they to go? If all other universities and colleges have this policy too, they are unanimously rejected admission. With a high-school diploma they can get a minimum wage job in Nowhere, N.C. Do you think there is anything compelling these people not to assault again? What kind of anti-rape message are these people going to receive here? In the rural regions of this country, our offenders might have the opportunity to rape with little fear of reprisal from the victims. Sending these people away from here does not guarantee you will now be unaffected by them. These people might go on to rape your aunt in Boone or your sister in Asheville. On the other hand, in university settings I believe there is a much better environment for educating a person about the horrible nature of their crime. I take as an example the recent Rape-Free Zone.

I'm not saying that the University should just let the student stay and ignore them. The University is in a unique environment where people want to be here, so much so that they pay to be

here. The University could require that the student undergo extensive rehabilitation to stay here. The students could be put on a dusk-to-dawn curfew to keep them off the streets late at night, and their names could be printed in the paper. Require them to pay to live alone. I'm sure that someone somewhere has come up with programs to help keep convicted sexual offenders from becoming repeat offenders.

Rape is a horrible crime, and we have been taught by the past that hiding in fear is no solution. Establishing an expulsion policy is simply that, hiding in fear. It is an act of cowardice to close your eyes and push your problem on someone else. Yes, the sexual offender might strike again. Here. But, I would not sleep well at night knowing someone was raped by a person I might have helped but instead decided to ignore. Could you?

GREG DZINGELESKI
Graduate
Chemistry

Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticisms. We attempt to print as many letters to the editor as space permits. When writing letters, please follow these guidelines:

- All letters must be typed and double-spaced.
- Include your year in school, major, phone number and hometown.
- The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity.

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The Daily Tar Heel

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