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The Daily Tar Heel

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BOARD EDITORIALS

Overpaid Whiners

As the most recent round of how-much-can-we-raise-tuition talks have shown, some of UNC's best and brightest - and we're not talking students here - could use a crash course in how to say no to greed.

What began, innocently enough, as a way to bring professors' salaries more in-line with their colleagues nationwide has sadly degenerated into a Hungry, Hungry Hippos game of who can grab the most cash.

Provost Dick Richardson originally proposed raising tuition \$500 for in-state undergraduates, \$1,350 for out-of-state undergraduates, \$1,500 for in-state graduate students and \$2,550 for out-of-state graduate students.

As Monday's meeting of the Chancellor's Committee on Faculty Salaries and Benefits showed, that's not enough for some faculty. Economics Professor David Guilkey and chemistry Professor Edward Samulski put their thoughts on paper in a letter to the committee on Oct. 15. "The plan raises the tuition so marginally as to be almost pointless," they wrote. "Students and parents must assume more responsibility for the cost of a Carolina Education (sic)."

For the record, neither Guilkey nor Samulski are hurting for money. Guilkey, who came to UNC in July 1977, currently makes \$117,689. Last year, he earned a \$4,074 raise. Samulski makes more. He raked in \$117,994 last year, taking home a \$3,735 raise. He came to UNC in 1988.

There's nothing like a filthy rich professor bitching and moaning for more dough to get the sympathy juices flowing - especially when the money's going to come out of yours and your parents' pockets.

Sadly, their whiny attitude might be gaining a foothold with their colleagues.

Professor Pete Andrews, a member of the committee who also serves as chairman of the Faculty Council, originally believed the \$500 increase was sufficient.

After Monday's meeting, he said he understood the importance of a higher boost on tuition. "The tuition increase will help to decide the quality of education we provide to North Carolina," Andrews said.

There's no doubt about that: The more money that goes into education, the better the end result. But taking that money from students and their parents is the wrong way to go about doing it.

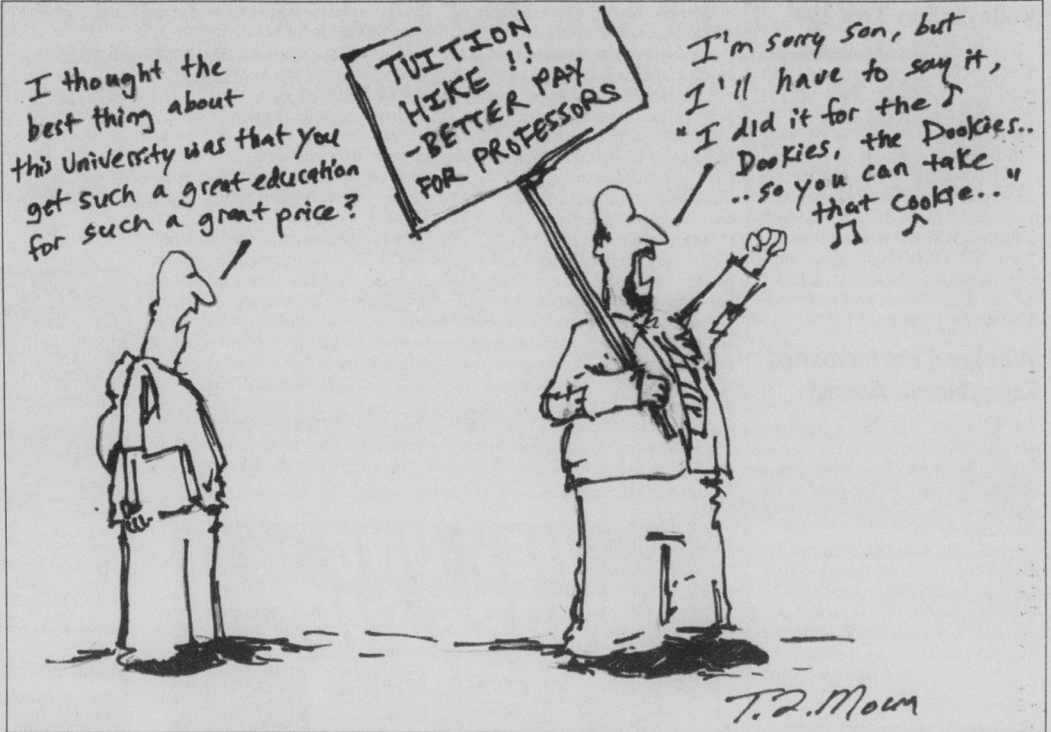
As an "expert" in economics, Guilkey should know there are other ways of raising the money that neither he nor the committee has taken time to explore.

"North Carolina has experienced several consecutive years of unparalleled economic growth," he and Samulski wrote. "During this same period faculty have been treated to 3 percent raises."

You might have missed all those history classes, Dave, but it's the N.C. General Assembly's constitutional duty to keep tuition low. With all that "unparalleled economic growth," it's the state, not students, who have kept your paychecks so measly.

"Carolina can not (sic) continue this interstate 'price war' wherein significant numbers of parents within our state are (or should be) 'embarrassed by Carolina's low tuition' and those from out of state vie to win the Carolina tuition lottery," they wrote.

If you or your parents are "embarrassed" by paying taxes year in and year out to help pay for UNC, let Guilkey and Samulski know. They'll be happy for the help paying their country club dues.



Hey Baby, You Wanna Go Out?

Hugh Grant got caught doing it with Divine Brown. Eugene Robinson got caught doing it the night before the biggest game of his life. Darryl Strawberry got caught doing it less than six months after being diagnosed with colon cancer.

What did these three famous men get caught doing? Paying for sex.

I'm not sure what shocks me most: that these rich and famous men felt the need to go out and get some action from some stranger hanging around a dimly lit street corner or that they were willing to pay so little to get it.

Robinson wanted a blow job for \$40! This guy makes a couple of million a year - or about 50,000 b.j.s at today's market rate - and all he's willing to lay out is \$40!

Strawberry, on the other hand, was a big spender. He offered \$50, although rumor has it he wanted a lot more for his money.

And Grant, who, by the way, presumably is also getting some from Elizabeth Hurley (at least prior to Divine Brown - unless that's the reason Grant went looking), paid a whopping \$60 for a b.j. from Brown.

However, that is Hollywood money and we all know the exchange rate is a little different out in Los Angeles.

Now I know that there is a segment of this campus' community that is doing some quick math. Let's see, \$50 for dinner at 411, another \$40 for drinks at Top of the Hill, then maybe another \$20 at Players - hell, I'm up to \$110 and I'm not guaranteed nothin'!

But before the cries of "male chauvinism fosters a culture that tolerates date rape" drown out the message, let me state my position: prostitution should be legal, but date rape should be illegal.

Prostitution is a victimless crime, much like small-time drug possession. Prostitution is simply two (or more, I suppose, if you have the money) consenting adults having sex, and somebody paying for it.

We all know prostitution as "the oldest profession." Well if it is, it ought to be a legal profession.



CHRIS HARRISON
SHOOTING FROM THE HIP

But wait, I hear you scream, there are victims. What about the spouses and children of these men - after all, they are almost all men - aren't they hurt when marriages break up?

Of course, but do you really want to argue that having daddy in jail for solicitation improves the odds of a more amicable solution?

Surely the prostitutes themselves are victims. I don't disagree. It strains credulity to believe that every prostitute's life mirrors Julia Robert's "Pretty Woman" hooker-with-the-heart-of-gold story who rides off into the sunset with the rich, adoring John.

But again, the question becomes whether placing a prostitute who is renting her body for \$50 a pop (pun intended) in jail solves either her or society's larger problem. I would argue that it does not.

Remember, Brown got 90 days in jail while Grant paid a \$1,000 fine.

You decide who got off easier (pun intended again).

How about Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss? She got three years, and Charlie Sheen got to be a witness for the prosecution.

It's always the prostitute who comes out on the bad end of the deal.

Neither the men who solicit prostitutes nor the women (and to a less frequent extent, men) who sell sex for money deserve to be in prison. Remember, your tax dollars pay for the police who arrested them, the courts that

convicted them and the jails that housed them.

Wouldn't that money be better spent elsewhere - I mean, anywhere else!

I'm not saying we need government regulation of prostitution - only government could figure out a way to ruin sex! I'm suggesting that we simply announce that we're not going to arrest you anymore if you want to pay another consenting adult to have sex with you.

Let me be very clear - I said consenting adult. Kids should be protected to the fullest extent of the law.

And maybe, if we spent less money getting big nasties like Hugh Grant, Eugene Robinson, Darryl Strawberry and Divine Brown off the streets, we'd have more resources to get these kids who turn to prostitution - many of them runaways - the help they need.

One of the greatest ironies in all of this is that it is perfectly legal for me to pay two strangers to have sex with each other while filming them and then sell that film to other people.

In fact, I could hire myself to star in such a movie. Then I'd pay myself to have sex with someone else, whom I'd also be paying to have sex with me, and that would be legal! If that doesn't make sense to you, you're not alone.

It seems to me that if I can pay other people to have sex for the purpose of watching, or if I can pay myself to have sex, I ought to be able to eliminate the middle man (pun intended yet again) and just pay someone else to have sex with me.

Plus, you know those union guys running the cameras are charging an arm and a leg (pun intended for the last time).

Chris Harrison is a second-year law student and doctoral candidate in political science from Chapel Hill. Reach him with questions and comments at barkley@email.unc.edu.

Jackhammered Logic

Is keeping that small-town charm the only thing that matters in this town? Once again, the Chapel Hill Town Council has decided an issue based on what's best for the quaint atmosphere, not what's best for residents.

Chapel Hill keeps a tight leash on construction to prevent sprawl from destroying the "village." Because owners of Britthaven Health Care failed to apply properly for permission to expand a parking lot, the Town Council decided last week to force the nursing home to tear up the extra parking spaces.

This act should prompt residents to ask a few questions of their town leaders:

1. Does tax money actually pay the salary of someone who drives around counting parking spaces in the many lots in Chapel Hill? If so, is this really the way we want our money to be spent?

2. What's worse: Allowing a few unplanned parking spaces or causing residents an unavoidable hassle when they visit ailing loved ones? Now, in addition to allotting extra time to find a parking space, visitors will have to battle work crews, all while the cookies they baked for Grandma are growing mold because it's taking so long.

3. Is it worth the noise and environmental pollution of removing spaces just to teach Britthaven a lesson? After the owners tear up the spaces, work will start over again, noise and pollution in tow.

The Town Council was simply following standard procedure. Instead of thinking about what would be best for the community, they kept precedent without question.

A more productive solution would have been to slap a hefty fine on the business. Imposing a fine - equal to the cost of demolishing the additional spaces - would be an equally effective punishment and deterrent.

Britthaven's owners should have been more thorough in getting the needed permits before expanding. Nevertheless, their shortsightedness does not warrant this hoopla.

It seems that Town Council members have one priority: ensuring that Chapel Hill looks quaint. But who are they really helping? Sure, residents love Chapel Hill for its village atmosphere, but at what cost?

Residents should come first. The Town Council ought to reconsider what - or, more appropriately, whom - they are working for. But rest assured - if they don't, voters will

READERS' FORUM

Historian Defends Powell From Racist Implications In Oct. 13 Column

TO THE EDITOR:

I write to protest your guest column titled "Powell Turns Blacks Into 'Nobodies,'" appearing in the Oct. 13 Daily Tar Heel, which misrepresents a friend and colleague.

Its clearly inflammatory intent does not speak well for responsible journalism on this campus. Although in justice to its author the representation of history Professor William Powell as a voice of white supremacy is affirmed to be only implicit and unintended so far as being the actual view held by the professor, the total impact of the article serves to daub him with some form of racism.

If it is correct to understand the provocative title as the work of the editor, and much to be regretted, the author is nevertheless not entirely blameless. The bracketed word "racism" in his apparently direct quotation from the interview with Professor Powell conceals a whole world of possible qualifications and elaborations that are now being reduced to a single, highly loaded term.

But worse is the author's opening sentence, which is not simply politically

inflammatory, it does not auger well for his presumed emerging sensitivity as a future, professional historian.

Rather than "Are we 'nobody,'" it should have read "Were we 'nobody,'" thereby lifting the issue from the pit of exhortation to the register of reasoned consideration. The tense, the time frame, the historical context needs here to be re-established.

Only then can we begin to appreciate the probable import of Professor Powell's response and the bitter truth of his position that, alas, yes, rings historically true for a then white-dominated, political community in all its awful prejudice.

John Headley
Professor
Department of History

It's Definitely Fair to Ask If Halls Should Be Named For Slavery Supporters

TO THE EDITOR:

The debate over the names of some campus buildings requires a distinction usually taught in introductory ethics courses. This is the distinction between something being morally right (or wrong) and being regarded as morally right (or wrong).

Neglect of the distinction leads to a simplistic relativism according to which something is right (or wrong) in a particular social or cultural context if and only if it is (or was) regarded as right (or wrong) in that context.

Many people think moral values are subjective and then mistakenly conclude that this sort of relativism follows from their subjectivism.

Another reason some people are relativists is that they think it is always wrong to apply values to a society or culture that does not accept those values.

Many anthropologists went through a phase of this sort, although this has given way upon reflection on cases such as the ritual genital mutilation practiced in some cultures.

The considered view is that sometimes it is wrong to apply foreign values (e.g., when Columbus invaded Hispaniola) and sometimes not (e.g., when the culture of the Third Reich was defeated).

It was the neglect of these reflections that led history Professor William Powell to make the unfortunate statement in The Daily Tar Heel on Oct. 8 that the Students Seeking Historical Truth is putting "today's standards on yesterday."

Pray tell, what is wrong with that?

And the DTH editorial of Oct. 12, titled "Unfair Judgment," shows a lack of atten-

tion to this simple distinction. Although qualified by subsequent passages, the editorial includes the claim that, in the past, "having slaves or being a Klansman was acceptable."

It was not, of course, acceptable to have slaves; it was merely thought to be by some (though by no means all) of our ancestors.

It is quite reasonable, and not in the least unfair, to ask whether those among our ancestors who supported slavery should be honored, by way of the names on some of our buildings, rather than those who opposed it.

James Coley
Deputy Secretary of the Faculty
Office of Faculty Governance

Student Raids Piggy Bank To Get Rid of Bills, Coins With Slaveholders' Faces

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you, Students Seeking Historical Truth, for enlightening us with your shocking discovery of the blatantly obvious.

After reading the articles concerning this group of patriots, I immediately sprang forth to my wallet to dispense of all of my \$1 and \$20 bills. I also raided my piggy bank to weed out all of the heinous nickels

with the disgusting, slave-owning face of Thomas Jefferson staring at me coldly.

That bastard!

SSHT needs to perform a reality check. I would dare say that most prominent figures of colonial and pre-Civil War days owned slaves, and being the wealthy people they were, it is not a stretch to assume that many buildings and other landmarks up and down the East Coast can be traced to these people. What's your point, SSHT?

You have pointed out the obvious in a degrading, ignorant fashion. Why prod through closets to dig up skeletons that have been buried for over a century?

These buildings are nothing but metal and wood, slapped with a name to differentiate one from all the rest.

My advice is to stop creating more unneeded arguments and turn your attention to a more constructive endeavor. Slavery and racism are unjust, but in this case I have to say, "Let sleeping dogs lie."

Brantley Partin
Senior
History

Candidates' Forum

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes letters of endorsement for candidates running for town office. Endorsement letters will appear in the DTH's Nov. 1 issue.



The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticism. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 words and must be typed, double-spaced, dated and signed by no more than two people. Students should include their year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff should include their title, department and phone number. The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Publication is not guaranteed. Bring letters to the DTH office at Suite 104, Carolina Union, mail them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 or e-mail: forum to: dth@unc.edu.