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The Daily Tar Heel

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BOARD EDITORIALS

Making Room

To alleviate overcrowding within area schools, the two local school boards are right in considering bonds.

Local school boards looking toward the future see that school overcrowding will continue to be a hot issue. And with more plans for area growth and expansion, something will have to be done to secure resources for additional schools to alleviate overcrowding.

The best way to take care of present concerns and prepare for the area's future school needs is to support the school bond proposals in Orange County.

The Orange County Schools' bond proposal — \$24 million — and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools bond proposal — tentatively \$71.18 million — will provide the finances needed to build new schools and renovate existing ones.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro school system is reaching one of the highest growth rates in the state, pushing overcrowding numbers to an almost unacceptable level.

Many area schools are already at their capacity. Middle schools use trailers as classrooms. Plans are already under way to build two more elementary schools, one at Meadowmont and another at Calvander, north of Carrboro. With the addition of those two schools, it will bring the area's elementary school total up to 10. But more are needed.

And the possible development of the Horace Williams tract on Airport Road, an aspect of the Master Plan, will generate an influx of about 25,000 workers and their families that will ultimately put extra strain on the public schools.

While the new development will most likely fill up gradually, it is a smart idea for area school boards to start preparing for future growth now. Plus, the implementation of a school bond might quiet fears and hesitations to support the Horace Williams Tract due to overcrowding.

This bond, which could appear on a November 2001 ballot, is the first to address the needs of the whole school system. There has been support for school bonds in the recent past — East Chapel Hill High School was built on a bond, as well as Mary Scroggs Elementary School in 1999. Smith Middle School, which is being built now, also was financed through a school bond.

Support among area residents for school bonds is evident. They have responded to school growth with bonds in the past.

The community should continue to endorse school needs through these systemwide bond proposals.

WES WHITE — EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

Ode to Our Heels

The exceptional performance of our Tar Heel basketball players over the second half of the season deserves serious props.

It happened this past Saturday during the UNC-Maryland basketball game. The UNC mascot, Ramses, was ejected at halftime.

Along with Ramses, any trace of the infamous "wine and cheese" crowd also left the building. It was the culmination of something special that had been developing since a home loss to Kentucky on Dec. 2.

The Carolina basketball team is back; back, some say, from the dead. The home crowd knew it, and they were not to be silenced. This was the Carolina of old; the Carolina of my boyhood days.

They took the court last Saturday, in a historically usual, if somewhat surprising, position as the number one college basketball team in all the land. They played like it, the crowd cheered like it, and Maryland took its ass-kicking like it was supposed to. It has been a wonderful season so far. But I have a favor to ask the team, and to all fans of Carolina basketball: Don't get complacent.

Brendan Haywood: Keep blocking those shots, and every now and then, give us an earth-shattering dunk.

Jason Cape: Keep doing all those little things. You are definitely not a role player, but if you keep up the phenomenal play, you

are going to roll yourself right into a spot on first-team, all ACC.

Kris Lang: Keep knocking down those hook shots, left or right, it doesn't matter.

Ronald Curry: Keep being our floor leader.

Julius Peppers: Keep having fun and keep dunking. Hard.

Max Owens: Keep hitting those deadly 3-pointers off the bench. I've got a feeling we'll need a few more before it's all over with.

Joe Forte: Well, Joe, what can I say? Before it's all over with, you are going to go down as one of the greatest to ever wear "NORTH CAROLINA."

Just keep improving, and if you need any motivation, remember that there is a team eight miles down the road that thinks it is the best. On March 4, remind it that it is wrong.

Coach Doherty and staff: Keep up the hard work. You've brought the fire back into the heart of the University.

To all my fellow Tar Heel fans and former "wine and cheese": Cheer for the Heels every minute of every game. Come early. Stay late.

And when Shane Battier and company come into town on March 4, don't forget to let him know who his daddy is.



Cheers to 'Over the Hill' Holden

Holden Caulfield tells us at one point in J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye" he thinks some of his fellow characters act so phony they can't possibly be real.

You ever feel the same? Meet people so phony you can't believe they're real? Me too.

That's why Salinger's characters are so believable. They're real. Or better — they're phony. Holden merely points out things we all know intuitively.

Still it's always amazed me how I and just about everyone else relate to Holden on such a personal level. The kid's insane — at least that seems to be what the other characters in the book think of him.

He is in a mental hospital after all. But maybe that tells us something about the phoniness in all of us.

Maybe Holden expresses for us something we all feel but don't say because we fear other people will make fun of us — or worse, that we'll end up in mental hospitals.

Does that make us phony and Holden real? Are the only real people characters like Holden who aren't afraid of pointing out the obvious, aren't afraid of bucking a path laid out for them, risking insanity?

Holden's book was published 50 years ago. Here is a creature trapped between the brusque thousands passing in their frowning black suits and the massive, sky-scraping buildings of New York City that all look the same, the sprawl, the gas, the noise.

Here is a world so immense and indifferent this creature feels alone in it, as though he is standing outside of it, detached from the machinery of existence.

Has anything changed? Naught but the speed — we're faster, more efficient beings. We compact energy, information, the days of our lives.

PAUL THARP
CUISINE BOURGEOISE

We hurry, and we wait. We climb toward the lost lane end, frowning not at the toil of reaching it but at the path disappearing before us.

When I first read Holden's book, it made me think about the clothes I wore, the sports I played, things I said to people. It was all an effort to fit into this machine, to be some little nut or bolt, to find my niche in the armory.

But what was it worth? It seemed like everybody was fooling me into wanting things I didn't really want, living a way I didn't want to live.

Was everything I knew wrong? Should one walk away from the machine rather than find a place in it?

I'm sure I'd felt this way before, but Holden said it. He said it for me then, he says it now: Am I truly me? Am I a phony? If I am a phony, what can I do to become real?

At one point, as he is sitting in the Biltmore waiting for Sally Hayes, Holden seems to suggest that people are one thing or another.

The one thing is you and me and Holden. The other is smart girls with unbelievable legs who marry doozy guys, he says, mean guys who never read books and talk about how many miles to a gallon they get in their cars.

Some people live in that moment, and others live outside in the cold watching, wondering what it's worth being warm anyway.

It's easy being a dope, being on the inside. You don't have to think much, or say anything more than repeats.

All you got to do, it seems, is sell your soul. It's harder being like Holden, wondering what it would be like to be a dope, wondering

if people are really dopes or if they're fooling you, wondering if everyone is in on it except for you.

It's a tough fix, but Holden is a tough kid. He makes you crazy because he makes you feel like the world's got nothing to do with you, even while you're in it, and the only time it's real is when you're by yourself and you're not pretending.

Who's the real phony? Who's pretending, and who's not?

Each of us, one might say, is a product of the world in which we're raised. Maybe people act what they know, talk what they're taught, and I'm just spitting Caulfield philosophy because it was taught to me well and it's what I know.

Maybe we're all phonies, even those of us who wish everyone else would be real. But surely this can't be.

Surely there must be some part of ourselves that is real, that is purely us.

But where is it? Of what does it consist? Toward the end of "The Catcher in the Rye," Holden says he doesn't know what to make of the thing. The thing of which he is speaking, I think, is a personal identity, one within and without the outer world, both a part and apart.

It's a strange proposition, but it could be the one thing humans know they have is the one thing they'll never understand.

Maybe the searching, Holden seems to say, is the only part of us that is real, because there is no stopping point, no arrival, just steps.

The whole thing, being, moves forward even when you wish it to stop. In the end all you can do is keep on searching for yourself.

It may be the only thing you can do. Holden Caulfield turns 50 on July 16, 2001. Paul Tharp is a first-year law student. Reach him at ptharp@email.unc.edu.

READERS' FORUM

LGBT Coalition Members Clarify Misconceptions Around Resource Center

TO THE EDITOR:

The co-chairs of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender resource center coalition would like to address the misinformation in the previously published editorial notebook by Jon Harris "Center Split" (Jan. 26) and clarify some details in the article "Campus GLBT Organizations Work for Own Space" (Jan. 23).

First of all, by following the footsteps of the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center, (as stated by Harris) we are trying to establish an official administrative department recognized by the University. Our vision of the LGBT resource center has at least one paid staff member, who can handle certain issues and situations better than the members of a student organization.

The student organizations are neither trained nor equipped for handling crises. And furthermore, there is no institutional response plan for handling LGBT issues. The Department of Minority Affairs does not include the LGBT community, although we can safely say that there is a sizable LGBT population at UNC.

Recently, the administrative need was noticed by Student Congress, which gave money for the part-time employment of a LGBT liaison. While the job description is to unite the LGBT student groups, this

position does not meet the needs of the LGBT community at UNC.

The resource center will provide room for this position to grow and work to educate the entire University community about LGBT life. The center could also help centralize the effort to create a queer studies major program through the Cultural Studies Program, which is currently being developed.

In closing, we want to clarify the issue about the LGBT resource center coalition being a student organization that automatically includes all the LGBT groups on campus. The coalition is not an "umbrella" organization of the student groups but rather a group of individuals who feel that the needs of the LGBT community have not been addressed.

Kevin C. Brown
Junior
Biology and German

Jamie L. Sohn
Senior
History

Cartoon Linking Ashcroft To Ayatollah Khomeini Unfair and Unjustified

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing with regards to the editorial page cartoon found in The Daily Tar

Heel on Feb. 8. It is appalling to me that our University's news publication could demonstrate such ignorance as was displayed by this political cartoon. Anyone who truly and honestly believes John Ashcroft to be some sort of mullah waiting to enforce his views on anyone who disagree with him is willfully ignorant of political realities.

For nearly a month, fringe radicals in this nation have propagated the falsehoods that John Ashcroft is racist and zealous to impose his beliefs on the nation. His record, when viewed with an open and intelligent mind, clearly debunks both of those accusations. One needs only to look at his 'yea' votes in favor of confirmation of 23 of 26 black judicial nominees who came before the Senate during his tenure in that body to see the truth of what I say. Similarly, one can look at Mr. Ashcroft's record of support for civil rights initiatives and minority judicial officials in Missouri.

One also can look at the well-attested respect which those of other faiths who have worked for the man say they have received from him (and returned to him), despite their difference in beliefs. Truly, your editorial cartoon was startlingly shameless in its mendacity and in its slanderous nature.

As a Missourian expatriate, I have firsthand knowledge of Mr. Ashcroft's character and virtue as he served my state as attorney general, governor and later as senator. Your comparison of him to the late

Ayatollah Khomeini is absolutely disgusting. Here you have a man, a good, solid, loving Christian man, who truly believes the Bible when it commands, "To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men" (Titus 3:2). Yet, you slander him by implying he is a kindred spirit to a terrorist who truly believed the Koran when that book says concerning Jews and Christians, "Fight against such of those who have been given the scripture as believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, and forbid not that which Allah has forbidden by his messenger, and follow not the religion of truth, until they pay the tribute readily, being brought low" (Surat al-Taubah 9:29, Koran).

The Daily Tar Heel's comparison is completely unjustified and uncalled for. Shame on you!

Timothy W. Dunkin
M.A., Chemistry
Class of 2000

Quote in DTH Article Gave Wrong Impression Of Greeks Dating Greeks

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing about the article printed in the Feb. 12 Daily Tar Heel that discusses Greeks dating Greeks on campus. There were several unsavory comments and mindsets attributed to me in this article.

After answering a few quick questions in

the interview, I began thinking out loud about some stereotypical viewpoints that might lead people in general to think that only Greeks date Greeks.

The later comments were included in the article as my own personal feelings.

This could not be further from the truth.

I apologize to the reporter that I did not make it clear to her that the comments were not representative of my own mindset but instead me brainstorming as to why this idea might exist. People who know me well had a hard time believing those comments were what I meant.

I just wanted to clarify any misunderstandings. My true mindset is not properly reflected in the article. Like the other people in it, the only thing that has any bearing on my interest in a girl is not her as a sorority girl, but her as a person. I apologize for any wrongful impressions.

Lee Maschmeyer
Sophomore
Advertising

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If you would like to reach a vast audience regarding a topic you feel passionate about, write an op-ed piece for The Daily Tar Heel.

Op-ed columns normally run on Monday's Viewpoints page. Columns should be 700 to 800 words long and signed by no more than two people. E-mail op-ed submissions to editdesk@unc.edu. Contact Editorial Page Editor Jonathan Chaney with any questions at jhchaney@email.unc.edu.



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