

EDITORIALS

KEEP THEM HOUSED

Proposals to destroy Morrison Residence Hall shouldn't go forward without plans to find a new set of beds for more than 1,000 students.

Carolina has a beautiful campus, but there comes a point when practicality must supercede aesthetics. If we had our druthers, we would tear down each of the high-rise dorms on South Campus; but the need to provide beds to the 1,000 students Morrison houses makes that course of action ill-advised with no other place to house them.

As it stands, Morrison Residence Hall is made up of roughly 250 four-bedroom suites that last year housed 1,012 residents. Most of its rooms do not have air conditioners, but Morrison is still the single most requested hall on South Campus.

Today, the Board of Trustees will consider a number of options regarding Morrison's future.

The first proposal is for the board to do nothing to update the living facilities on South Campus. That would leave Morrison at its current capacity, with most living units bereft of air conditioning.

The second calls for a \$24 million renovation that would include the installation of a series of solar panels. Student Congress Speaker Charlie Anderson said Tuesday that those panels would provide the energy for 40 percent of the hot water required in the residence hall during times of peak usage.

The renovation would reduce Morrison's capacity to just fewer than 800, with some four-room suites being converted to three-bedroom suites and a common area. In addition, the entire building would receive a face-lift, and every room in the renovated residence hall would be given central air condition-

ing. The final alternative before the board is the demolition of Morrison, clearing the area for a new series of residence halls to meet the demand for on-campus housing that the residence hall fulfills. Conservative estimates for destruction and rebuilding efforts run at \$64 million.

On Thursday, the Board of Trustees should vote to renovate Morrison and each of the other South Campus residence halls. While it would be nice to remove the high-rise eye-sores, common sense calls for the more practical, cost-efficient approach.

We are not far removed from the housing problems that plague the University every time more incoming freshman accept their admittance than projected. Without high-rise dorms, these problems become the rule, not the exception.

In addition, students working on the Renewable Energy Special Projects committee and University employees in the Department of Housing have already committed a significant number of man-hours to creating plans for a renovated, energy-efficient Morrison. To disregard all that work in favor of a vague, rushed plan to make the University prettier is disrespectful and disingenuous.

Finally, there are simple financial considerations. The people of North Carolina approved a bond in 1998, to add buildings to our campus, not to tear them down. Approving a plan for demolition which costs twice as much that for renovation is foolish waste of taxpayer money.

UNJUST OPPOSITION

President Bush's recent statement on a tobacco buyout undermines North Carolina's attempts to move beyond its agricultural roots.

Two weeks ago, President Bush put his foot in his mouth while campaigning in Ohio. When asked about delivering farmers a tobacco buyout, the president told reporters, "They've got the quota system in place, the allotment system. And I don't think that needs to be changed."

That's bad news for farmers in North Carolina and an insult to the N.C. congressional delegation, which unanimously supports a buyout.

Since the 1930s, farmers in the United States have been issued a quota regulating the amount of tobacco they are allowed to grow each year. But since 1997, tobacco quotas have been cut in half, and each cut has increased the cost of tobacco production. With those rising costs, more and more cigarette manufacturers have begun to buy their tobacco abroad.

Should the market stay the same, N.C. State University agricultural economist Blake Brown has projected a further cut of more than 30 percent in the overall quota for 2005 — which experts agree would be devastating for North Carolina's economy.

A buyout would compensate quota holders who chose not to grow tobacco. While the specifics differ from one legislator's plan to the next, there is no

doubt that any of the proposals would be a boon to the state's economy.

A buyout would be godsend for North Carolina's 15,000 tobacco farmers and 90,000 quota holders. It would give young farmers the capital they need to diversify their crops, and it would give older farmers the chance to retire gracefully, unburdened by debt.

Perhaps even more importantly, a buyout would ensure that farming families have the disposable income necessary to ensure that the next generation receives the education it needs to see North Carolina's economy transition from tobacco and textiles to whatever the future holds.

Sens. John Edwards, D-N.C., and Dole, R-N.C., as well as each of North Carolina's representatives in the House, should be commended for recognizing the benefits a tobacco buyout would have for the state.

When told of the president's comments, Republican senatorial candidate Richard Burr has said that the White House needed more "education" on the issue.

A tobacco buyout is the best solution to a muddled problem — the president should take a step back and reevaluate his opposition to it.

UNNECESSARY PANIC

Supporters should note an upcoming study of administrators' salaries by the UNC-system Board of Governors before jumping to conclusions.

The UNC-system Board of Governors' Personnel and Tenure committee will make an investigation of disparities in upper level administrative salaries in the University system in a special meeting next month.

The decision comes in light of several new developments regarding administrators who will leave the UNC system to retire or take positions at other school systems.

Although replacing several key administrators presents a difficult task for BOG members, policy makers should work to stay above the panic about a potential mass exodus of important officials.

BOG member Dudley Flood told The Daily Tar Heel that recent departures, including that of N.C. State University Chancellor Marye Anne Fox, weren't the only reason for launching the investigations.

"We needed to do this well before Chancellor Fox or any of the other chancellors left," he said. "Such a study is overdue."

Fox accepted an offer to leave N.C. State to take over as the chancellor of the University of California-San Diego in early April. Fox took a raise from \$248,220 at N.C. State to \$350,000 at UCSD.

She also received the use of a house and vehicle while in Raleigh.

Fox's departure isn't the only new administrative vacancy for the University system to fill.

J.B. Milliken, UNC-system vice president for university affairs, was tapped last Saturday to become the president of University of Nebraska system.

UNC-Charlotte Chancellor Jim Woodward — who is largely credited for transforming UNC-C into a respected and important research institution — recently announced his plans to retire next year.

"My pretty strong sense is that there's a real, growing concern that we are not staying competitive," BOG member Brent Barringer told the DTH.

And although those concerns may be justified, it's important to keep the context of the departures in mind. Fox's case may reflect a more competitive offer from another university system, but Milliken and Woodward are leaving as part of a progression of their careers.

University system supporters should wait for input from the committee's investigation before jumping to conclusions. Staying competitive is one thing — getting unreasonably anxious is another.

EDITORS' NOTE: The above editorials are the opinions of solely The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board, which were reached after open debate. The board consists of two board members, the editorial page editor and the DTH editor. The 2004 summer DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials.

READERS' FORUM

Administration not at fault for commencement speaker debacle

TO THE EDITOR:

Given that George Leamon and Doug Melton were very public about the fact that they would be pushing for Julius Chambers as the commencement day speaker, I find it odd that the edit board is warning administrators to respect the students' opinions. When one considers George and Doug's advocacy and the students' reception to Mr. Chambers' speech, perhaps the students should instead be careful of what they wish for.

Dan Herman
Former GPSF President

Julius Chambers, civil rights still relevant to seniors' interest

TO THE EDITOR:

Regarding your May 20 editorial entitled "Keep an Open Mind," and Brandon Temple's editorial letter, it appears that the Editorial Board may need to take its own advice on this year's commencement speaker. To disrespect the civil rights contributions of a man of the caliber of Dr. Julius Chambers would seem to be the response of a closed mind, or at least

someone not in tune with senior interests' other than one's own. There are a vast number of UNC graduates on whom the importance of diversity in their education has not been lost. Indeed, to many persons educated on his contributions, Dr. Chambers has the status of a Martin Luther King, or George W. Bush, depending on your political persuasion.

I, for one, though graduating next year, thought the choice was highly appropriate. Having witnessed Dr. Chambers' work through the UNC Center for Civil Rights, advocating for the poor and disenfranchised, perhaps his legacy is one last lesson that some seniors at UNC need to learn before they graduate. Also, a lesson in correcting the immaturity displayed by rudely walking out on a speaker would not come amiss.

Thank you, Dr. Chambers for your contributions — to a hard-fought civil rights legacy that the graduating class would do well to emulate, and to the nation and the state of North Carolina, which this university represents. Thank you to the Carolina system that allows all voices to be heard.

Margaret Holt
Professional Student
School of Law

Chapel Hill officers give police department positive image

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm writing to share with you my most positive impressions of the Chapel Hill Police Department.

This past weekend an intruder entered my home, and the Chapel Hill police responded to my call with concern and efficiency. I'd like to thank two exceptional representatives of the CHPD: Officer Britt for coming to my home as well as Detective Matthews for following up with the case during the week. Their efforts and commitment to serving the town of Chapel Hill don't go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Jennifer Maupin
Senior
Romance Languages

TO SUBMIT A LETTER: The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 300 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: editdesk@unc.edu.

ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"The best way to have a good idea is to have lots of ideas."

LINUS PAULING, CHEMIST

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Evann Strathern, evann@email.unc.edu



COMMENTARY

DTH opinion page seeks to balance campus concerns

Believe it or not, we're already three weeks into the first summer session and we've been through three summer issues of The Daily Tar Heel.

Judging by the level reader interaction, I'm very happy with how the editorial page has worked thus far. The letters to the editor have been critical of our work but perpetuate the discourse we seek to inspire.

I certainly appreciate that readers feel comfortable enough with the DTH to come right back and fire their opposing views at us.

Last week's editorial "Keep an Open Mind" on the topic of Commencement speaker selection neglected to give Julius Chambers due credit for the good work he has done for civil rights — which is as relevant as any issue that the University faces today.

But the editorial board's opinion remains firm — what was missing in the selection was the consultative and inclusive spirit of decision-making that makes the University a unique institution.

Our many branches of student government do real work that impacts the campus community and for the most part they're fairly open about what they're doing and how it's going.

The DTH editorial board has come to value that tradition of involvement every semester I've been a member of the board.

UNC has a student body that actively participates in the most diverse range of activities — from student self-governance to community service to local, state and national politics — and The Daily Tar Heel is there to report and record a great deal of it.

While the news-side strives to report on and analyze their stories through an objective lens, the editorial page struggles to express the paper's voice without diminishing its value.

The question of what to write about and what positions to take isn't an easy one. We publish a paper on a regular basis regardless of the news for any particular day.

Although it's tempting to resort to churning out generalized edito-



JEFF KIM
EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR

rials that don't address the issues at hand, we try to stay as relevant to students' lives as possible.

And when we come upon contentious debates, handling them correctly and in a fair manner is no easy task on its own.

That balancing act has been passed on to writers by summer editorial page editors in the past. The DTH opinion page of bygone years have run editorials that read more like columns: arguments made by individual writers on topics of their own choosing.

The old way of producing the summer editorial page seems like it would have been fun — opinionated writers would get an opportunity to talk about the issues important to them and get their name in the paper.

But I believe the editorial page of The Daily Tar Heel has a stronger role to play in campus affairs during the summer than merely filling space as a passive medium for individual opinions.

As a relative newcomer to the newsroom setting, I'm still trying to get familiar with the DTH environment and I'm still in awe of this newspaper. Being the type to get pretty easily distracted, I've spent some time venturing around to enjoy some of the quirks littered across the office.

Once you get past the pictures lampooning Mike Krzyzewski, the editorial board toy trolls that protect our page with their evil power and the great newspapers issues of the past, you see the enshrined words of Centennial Edition Editor Jen Pilla, justifying the DTH's role as a major player on campus affairs.

"The eternal youth of The Tar Heel nevertheless is considered a blessing," Pilla declares.

"Because it is youth that keeps

it, like a typical adolescent, defiant in the face of authority, eager for growth and protective of its freedom."

I believe it is our job as the young students of the University to bring every bit of our youthful vigor to our everyday contribution at the University.

Most students have left campus during the summer to gain experience in their respective career settings. They're studying abroad, seeing the world or just taking a break at home.

But those of us who remain in Chapel Hill shouldn't get caught asleep on our watch.

As summer DTH editor Philip McFee stressed in his inaugural column — important news happens during the summer, too.

The selection of a vice chancellor for student affairs, platform implementation by student government officials and UNC Board of Trustees meetings on the future of campus residence halls are all high-impact events that students should watch diligently.

UNC students might have lost in the out-of-state tuition debate this past year, but trustees will undoubtedly press to raise tuition again next year to try and achieve the 75th percentile of out-of-state tuition among peer institutions.

If students are to have any chance at avoiding further exploitative shifts in tuition policy, they will have to show that they're keeping in mind the future of the University and its duty to the state of North Carolina.

And while Pilla's quote serves as a newsroom reminder of our own youth, students can remain informed, active and vital participants in the successful operation of this University.

The Daily Tar Heel will continue serving the campus community this summer as it has for its 111 years of existence and the editorial page will keep pressing the issues that we find important.

And if you disagree, let us know. Keep us on our toes.

Contact Jeff Kim at
jongdae@email.unc.edu.

The Daily Tar Heel

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