

BOARD EDITORIALS

WOLF AMONG SHEEP

The federal government's offer of more funding for low-income students is admirable, but it foreshadows increasing federal control of education.

Wolves and the federal government are not above using trickery — the wolves wear sheep skins while the feds carry financial aid grants.

The U.S. House of Representatives soon is expected to pass a package that will establish a grant for low-income students who graduate from "a rigorous secondary school program of study."

And who, pray tell, will determine the rigor of America's public schools? None other than the U.S. Department of Education.

The goals of this initiative are noble: encouraging students to take advanced classes in high school, pushing local school systems to develop advanced curricula and promoting studies in mathematics and the sciences.

All are grand objectives that are not the business of the federal government.

This is the first step in the federal government's move toward establishing national standards for local school curricula.

With all the problems that education has in the United States, a national school board is not and

ought not be the solution.

Offering the grants to low-income students is just the carrot to bring the states closer to the stick of great intrusion by Congress and the executive.

While the Congress cannot directly force standards on the states, it can give incentives to parents to quietly slip the leash of government control around their necks.

Whether from the top or the bottom, it is a gross leap forward in how much say the federal government has in education — one without precedent.

Encouraging academic achievement in the math and sciences is necessary but not by breaking the founding principle of federalism.

And while financial aid is important, especially for those from low-income families, it is not more important than the right of local communities and the states to determine what their children should learn and when they learn it.

It is poor form of the federal government to overstep its bounds like this — and doing it by taking advantage of those in need makes it worse.

But after all, that's how wolves operate.

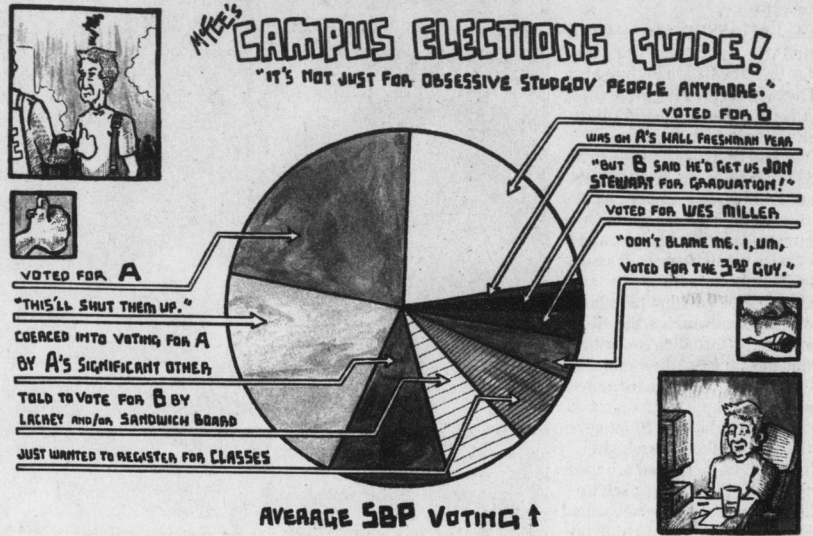
FROM THE DAY'S NEWS

"I'm definitely in support of a tuition increase."

SETH DEARMIN, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Philip McFee, pip@email.unc.edu



STILL NOT WORKING

The elections bylaws in the Student Code could lead to some crazy scenarios and Student Congress should clean up the Code ASAP.

Hypocrisy comes in many forms, but none of them are as fearsome as that ogre known simply as the Student Code.

To be more specific, the section of the Code that governs endorsements of student candidates is ridiculous beyond the feeble imaginings of a mere mortal.

According to Title VI of the Student Code, an endorsement by a student organization is fine, but if they publicize it using any resources whatsoever — like fliers — then those count toward the expenditure of candidates if the candidates know that an endorsement is going to take place.

This presents a problem in that even the student body president race limits spending to \$400.

What exactly does that mean?

Well, let's say that The Daily Tar Heel endorses a candidate. Candidates cannot accept the material aid without counting it as an expenditure — that is, unless they "make a strong effort to remove or nullify an expenditure that did not have his/her prior consent."

The poor candidate endorsed by the DTH would have to figure out the market value of the space used

to promote them unless they collect the 21,000-plus papers giving them the nod. Well, after the first copy, our newspapers cost a quarter a pop — putting a candidate way over his or her spending cap.

So technically, SBP Seth Dearmin should have been disqualified for exceeding his budget after his endorsement last year.

That little exercise is just one thorny stench blossom out of a whole bouquet of problems with how the Code handles elections.

And when Speaker of Student Congress Luke Farley introduced a bill to change the endorsement section of the Code, it didn't pass and had to be withdrawn.

Whether Farley's bill would have fixed all of the problems is a debate for Student Congress wonks, but revisions need to be made quickly before election season comes to an end.

Without changes all sorts of scenarios could come about, and the last thing student politics need are election laws allowing for an endorsement-free candidate to go through the Student Supreme Court for a coup. And we all know undermining and overthrowing student government is more an affair for South Building than South Campus.

COMMENTARY

No pageantry necessary in reigniting feminist struggle

Jennifer Berry, doe-eyed, svelte, plucked and pinched and permed to perfection, clutched her roses Saturday and sent each tear forth into a choreographed slalom down a flawless cheek.

This, apparently, is our Miss America, a college senior from Oklahoma who ranks a fifth-grade stint with eyeglasses among her most traumatic memories. In the past 50 years the pageant has become a B-list pop culture fixture, surviving dismal ratings and feminist rants with the impervious cheer of a bejeweled cockroach.

But beneath the halfhearted scholarship fund and the saccharine speeches lies the question of what, exactly, is being celebrated. Surely after subjugation begot suffrage and internment blossomed to independence, more is required of us than a swimsuit and a smile.

The issue at hand, however, is not who gets the crown or which breed of homeless puppy she's planning on saving — Berry's ability to balance five pounds of rhinestones across her polished scalp is not exactly a matter of national concern. And considering viewership of the pageant is down to just more than 10 million from 85 million in 1960, one can hardly say that Miss America is poisoning our youth.

Instead, the injustice exists on the opposite side of the television screen. Because beyond the prime time flurry of sequined gowns, millions of actual Miss Americas are too tired to smile and wave. They have bills, children, backaches and cellulite. And no one has bothered to crown them.

We forget among all the women's liberation rhetoric and gender-specific salary squabbles that the vast portion of those efforts do not help or even apply to the unsung foundation of the American female population. While matriarchal scholars



SARA BOATRIGHT KEEP 'EM ON THEIR TOES

squabble over the finer points of feminist theory and varnished careerists claw toward boardroom chairs, far too many women struggle to be merely women, watching societal respect fade in the absence of tangible accolades.

Because this soaring modern image of the American woman — whether she is weeping over her diamonds and roses or screaming at her Brooks Brothers-clad underlings — leaves little room for reality.

The television seethes with glamour, the newspapers belled with progress but the subtle grace beneath the clamor remains constant. American women are still, in vast and steady numbers, wives, mothers, homemakers and caretakers. And in the steely eyes of a freshly wrought feminist fantasy world, that invites guilt and derision.

Somewhere along the line, it even began to provoke a covert punishment. Women reliant on welfare or Aid to Families with Dependent Children often stay that way, bound between the Scylla of pittance pay and the Charybdis of expensive childcare. Maternity leaves offer just enough time for a new mother to become thoroughly exhausted before returning to work, lest she be demoted to the detested title of "homemaker."

And so we, as a mottled emergence of sundry Miss Americas, need to work on our ratings. The point at which voluntary childbearing and homemaking became second-class occupations was not a success for feminism

but a failure to society.

We cannot expect America's daughters to wear crowns, win titles, earn promotions and demand six-figure salaries when their mothers were derided for simply being mothers. And perhaps a societal atmosphere that brands biological imperative as a worst-case scenario is as hypocritical as it is harmful.

The beauty pageant scholarships and the fiery dissertations could thus use a little deflection. Nonprofit organizations that focus on providing low-cost childcare for welfare-dependent women on job searches are struggling while programs aimed at molding America's next great female leader flourish, building towers without foundations.

No American woman — not Jennifer Berry or Madeleine Albright, not Cindy Crawford or Gloria Steinem — is liberated until all of us have the basic freedom and ability to choose our own paths without judgment, chipping our own names, no matter how small, into the unyielding clay. And whether that path involves ultrasounds and baking ovens or crowns and corporate mergers is of little consequence.

For too long we have been telling the young women sitting rapt before a Miss America telecast or a CNN broadcast that to flourish in adulthood they must avoid the pitfalls of tradition, casting aside the familial and the familiar. Yet that is every bit as crippling as denied suffrage and gender bias.

Oppression remains constant no matter how malleable its mask might be. That our hands are tied this time with sequined fabric, trembling around rose stems and waiting for a commercial break, is hardly a comfort in the end.

Contact Sara Boatright, a junior public relations major, at scb419@email.unc.edu.

SOME LEAKY LOGIC

A storm is brewing if Chapel Hill thinks the University should pay for stormwater runoff without demonstrating a valid reason for doing so.

Chapel Hill's streets and streams might runneth over, but that's no reason for the University to have to give the town money to take care of stormwater.

Town officials apparently think the University isn't doing enough about runoff — this is in spite of UNC's very own comprehensive, multimillion dollar clean-up effort.

Town Manager Cal Horton recently sent a letter to University officials asking UNC to help pay for the town's pollution, erosion and flooding programs.

Mayor Kevin Foy agrees that UNC should help bear the financial burden of dealing with water that runs from University land to town land.

But there is a hole in their reasoning: The University already is doing plenty to address the stormwater that originates on its land.

Not only did UNC recently get approved for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, which means it has proven to the state that it meets a set of guidelines for stormwater management, but it also is spending about \$10 million on its stormwater efforts, according to The (Durham) Herald-Sun.

To put that number in perspective, imagine the 50

million Wendy's chicken nuggets the money could buy — about 1,800 per student — heaped in a towering mountain of white meat on Polk Place.

By giving funds to the town on top of what it spends on its own, the University would be paying two times for every drop of stormwater. And because increased costs inevitably get passed on to students, we'd end up being stuck with the double bill.

The only exception would be students living off campus, who would be hit up for the rare trifecta — twice through the University and once through the town's own stormwater tax.

It would be silly to think that absolutely no water flows from University land to town land; UNC does, after all, sit at the top of a hill from which the town gets its name.

But some stormwater just as surely runs from town land to University land, and it's hard to believe that the imbalance is so great that it requires additional University money to set it right.

Until Chapel Hill can prove that stormwater from UNC costs the town a significant amount of money, its hope of wringing funds from the University should remain nothing but a pipe dream.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above editorials are the opinions solely of The Daily Tar Heel editorial board and were reached after open debate. The board consists of six board members, the associate opinion editor, the opinion editor and the DTH editor. The 2005-06 DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials. Address concerns to Public Editor Elizabeth Gregory at elizagre@email.unc.edu.

READERS' FORUM

University offers plenty of opportunities for minorities

TO THE EDITOR:

Although I agree The Daily Tar Heel erred by not covering the Nikki Giovanni lecture in the newspaper format, I must disagree with Ms. Barrera's comments Monday alleging that certain groups are being overlooked.

It is alarming to hear these words from the former co-chairwoman of the Minority Affairs committee of student government.

The mere fact that we have an MLK celebration planning committee and a nationally renowned Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs points to the fact that this University does care about minority issues.

In fact, UNC is one of the few public, nonhistorically black universities to grace Black Enterprise-DayStar's "Top 50 Colleges and Universities for African Americans" list.

In just four years at UNC, I've heard MLK celebration keynote speakers Cornel West, Johnetta B. Cole, Ben Carson and Nikki Giovanni, respectively.

As an added treat, students also got the opportunity to hear Ernest Green of the Little Rock Nine this year.

Despite his contribution to minorities in education, I noticed

few students of color in attendance as I looked around a quarter-filled Great Hall last Thursday.

As a teenager, he was spat upon, called numerous racial slurs and escorted by the National Guard as he integrated a high school.

Ironically enough, Players was packed out that same night.

The true injustice on this campus lies in educational apathy among students. Everyday students remain silent as they watch their peers fail out of school.

How are we going to blame the University about not caring about students when it seems as though students don't care about themselves?

I would be lying if I said that race relations were perfect on this campus. However, I do recognize that the University has provided a framework for racial tolerance and understanding.

The question is, "What are we as students going to do with it?"

Jarrod Jenkins Senior Political Science

UNC's honor societies are now accepting nominations

TO THE EDITOR:

The Order of the Golden Fleece, the Order of the Grail-Valkyries, the Order of the Old Well and

the Frank Porter Graham Honor Society would like to announce that the 2006 nomination submission forms and additional information are currently available at www.unc.edu/honoraries.

Please go to the before mentioned Web site to view more information about the societies and the nomination process.

Faculty, staff, alumni and both undergraduate and graduate/professional students are eligible to make and receive nominations.

Nominations are due by 4 p.m. Feb. 10.

Please help recognize those who have made a contribution to the UNC community.

Dan Herman Graduate Student Biomedical Engineering

People should come out to register for Unity meeting

TO THE EDITOR:

Registration has officially opened for this year's Southeastern Regional Unity Conference, which will take place from April 7-9 on the UNC campus.

The Unity Conference is a yearly event that brings together LGBTQ and allied students, faculty and community members from across the Southeast.

We will meet to discuss and

organize around the intersections of gender and sexuality with other systems of identity including race, class and faith in a weekend of workshops, speakers, performances and social events.

This year's theme is "An Unorthodox Union: Connecting the LGBTQ and Faith Communities."

Registration is free for all UNC students and \$10 for all others and includes admission to all events including the opening dinner and closing brunch.

We invite you to look over our Web site at www.unc.edu/glbtsa/unity for more information and for easy online registration.

We also are still accepting workshop proposals for the conference, which can also be found on the Web site.

See you at Unity 2006!

Sarah Carucci Director 2006 Unity Conference

CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, Monday's editorial, "What's in a name?" misstates that an alternative name considered for Carboro High School was West Chapel Hill High School. The actual alternative was South Chapel Hill High School.

The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

Speak Out

We welcome letters to the editor and aim to publish as many as possible. In writing, please follow these simple guidelines: Keep letters under 300 words. Type them. Date them. Sign them; make sure they're signed by no more than two people. If you're a student, include your year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff: Give us your department and phone number. The DTH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Bring letters to our office at Suite 2409 in the Student Union, e-mail them to editdesk@unc.edu, or send them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27515. All letters also will appear in our blogs section.

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Established 1893 112 years of editorial freedom

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