

The Daily Tar Heel

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71 Years of Editorial Freedom

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All Is Not Hunky Dory In N. C.

By CURTIS GANS

I find that I didn't learn very much from the editorial "Learning From A Death," which appeared in Sunday's Daily Tar Heel.

If the editors had stopped at the point where they pointed out quiet justly that people in Statesville and elsewhere made a racial incident out of a suicide in that town when they shouldn't have, their point would at least be well taken, if not limited and obvious. However, they chose to expand. They chose to say that somehow Statesville has a united phalanx of unarmed Negroes and whites making steady progress down the road to human equality and dignity.

They intimated that somehow an atmosphere of mutual respect exists in Chapel Hill and that a Negro can walk with "his head up" as he walks through town. They attempted to say that the State was making great strides without protest movements and that if the "extremist" would just go home everything would be solved, because our leadership is enlightened enough to see the future.

I don't really see it that way. I don't have any claim to omniscience, but it appears to me that even in this great and progressive state of ours, which is indeed more progressive than most Southern states, only two per cent of the Negro population attends integrated schools, more than 90 per cent of the engineering graduates of Negro

institutions must seek work out of this state, less than one-eighth of the public establishments are desegregated, there is not one single Negro in high executive offices, only a bare handful receive advanced degrees from institutions of higher learning, and all by and large are doomed to an annual income of \$2,000 less than the white man, when both Negro and white are earning on an average slightly less than subsistence.

I don't think we can be too happy about an educational system that keeps the Negro two years behind the white and the realities of police brutalities and the double standard of justice which prevail in all too many of the communities of the State. I read with alarm that Negroes are being denied their Constitutional right to vote in Enfield and that some wrongly have decided to take guns in the face of hostilities in Monroe.

It is good to hear that the Statesville Chamber of Commerce, City Council and Merchants Association are beginning to do something, but it is absurd to assume that because the NAACP is backing the proposal that there is united support. The NAACP is by and large the most conservative of the Negro organizations. It represents in the main the last generation and the legal arm of the protest movement. It has been drawn willy nilly and because of lack of cooperation into the movement, and, if indeed it is participating

in the Statesville effort, it is on an "if" basis only. Nationally and locally it does not represent the 100 per cent cooperation that was represented by the editorial.

There has been a lot done in Chapel Hill and elsewhere, but a lot still remains to be done. We are a far cry from the day when the Negro can hold his head up here, for if nothing else he must stoop a little to avoid the falling timbers from the doorjamb of the home he must live in. I don't think a Negro develops much self-respect from seeing an economic future that puts custodial duties at the apex of his employment dreams, and I don't think he will long tolerate the condescending attitude of the white man who says "look how much progress we've made."

I don't think the white man can hold his head high either in a community in which the collective guilt of segregation still exists, nor can it sit still while its government which voted down public accommodations ordinances guides the course to equality as it sees fit.

I don't know what it's like to be a Negro. I am not one. But if I were viewing it from a Negro's porch, I think I would see that nothing was done until the anti-lynching league brought to the public the plight of the Negro, until the NAACP's legal staff brought to the Supreme Court the issue of school segregation, and the sit-in movement brought to national and world attention

the plight of the Negro in accommodations, travel, housing and employment.

If I were a Negro, I think I would see that some progress has been made, but I don't think I'd offer any thanks for that progress or for the reluctant white benefactors who made it possible, because it came too late and is still too little.

I think, if I were a Negro, I'd be a little tired of efforts of the white community to be nice and expiate their own guilt, and I would demand, as the Negro is currently demanding, full right of participation in any and all decision-making that affects his or somebody else's future in the public weal.

This state is fortunate that Gov. Terry Sanford has initiated several programs, all inadequate, but all a step in the right direction.

The Good Neighbor Council is doing the first spadework toward equal hiring practices, the Governor's poverty program will seek to build communities where Negroes can indeed live and work side by side, and the North Carolina Interscholastic Council on Human Relations has begun work on a film series that will depict the Negro's plight in this state.

None of these programs are enough, nor are they in the main adequate. The film series suffers from lack of understanding of the whites involved and lack of technical skill in the Negroes' behalf. It also suffers from lack of a sufficient monetary commitment to do the job right—to take cameras into the fields to depict situations as they really are.

More importantly, however, all of these programs are a direct outgrowth of the non-violent revolution that started Feb. 1, 1960, and will not stop. They are part of a long awaited effort in this state, but they are more importantly the result of substantive political pressures that Gov. Sanford had to respond creatively to or cast his lot with the other Southern governors.

And yet, this is but a beginning. These are programs coming still from the white elite. They still have in only two cases involved the Negro in a meaningful way in the planning process and always with the knowledge that he really has not yet the power to change an adverse decision. If I were a Negro, I believe I would get a little tired of being patted on the head, even by sympathetic whites.

It is true in Chapel Hill also. The Committee for Concerned Citizens is largely white liberal, and while creative, has failed miserably to involve the Negro

in the decision-making process. The Freedom Committee exists on its island and the Negro adult community on another of its own.

I don't really know if I believe in brotherhood. The only living institutionalized examples of it—the fraternities and the orders, the churches and the schools—have all been failures.

Perhaps it is an impossible concept of the egocentric condition of man's existence. The respect is not and human dignity is not. Neither of these concepts implies full participation in all activities, and, in the case of the South's crisis, massive action, direct or otherwise, to build the New South.

It was not too many years ago when Chester Bowles talked of revolution of rising expectations in underdeveloped countries of this world. This revolution is occurring in the United States today. At the World's Fair two weeks ago, those involved in the civil rights movement waited with baited breath to see whether the rank and file would outrun its leadership and whether there would be a nationalist movement of violence soon.

I have heard it said by some of the most able people in this state that it can't happen here, that the blood that will surely flow in the North will not flow in the South ever.

They're wrong. If they can read they must know that it can happen here so long as we have a post office with a Statue of Liberty model in the center and two water fountains, one engraved white and the other engraved Negro, flanking it in a major city in our state.

The movement that has started will not stop. We are on the threshold of the last chance to act united to create a democratic community. If we can't do it because we think it right and just, then perhaps we can do it because we fear the consequences of inaction.

We begin by talking a different language, but the concepts are not new or different or unreal. They just take work to, make them into a reality.

For 73-odd years, the Daily Tar Heel has had the needed freedom to constructively criticize, to exert leadership and to educate a large segment of the State's population and future leadership.

It has also had the freedom to misjudge and to display the editor's ignorance.

It is a pity that when leadership is so much needed, it has chosen now to follow the latter course.

Chi Psi—A Winner And An Example

(Editor's Note: Due to an error made at the printshop, a significant portion of the following editorial, written by Hugh Stevens, did not appear in the editorial column of Wednesday morning's DTH. Stevens wrote the editorial without the prior knowledge of his co-editor, Fred Seely, who is a member of Chi Psi Fraternity. We repeat the entire editorial here for the sake of clarity.)

Once again it is time to give credit where credit is certainly due—this time to Chi Psi Fraternity, winner of the R. B. House trophy as the outstanding fraternity on this campus during 1963-64. Sometimes the pats on the back which we hand out so liberally are mere formalities, but this one is more than that.

The R. B. House award is truly a significant honor for the fraternity that wins it. It is not based on the "coolness" or the "sharpness" of a fraternity's members, nor on the wildness of the parties they have, nor on the value of the automobiles which they drive. Instead, it is given on the basis of excellence in several categories which are far more important—scholarship, campus service by the members, house appearance, intramurals, and IFC participation. This year it has gone to a truly deserving group of men—the members of Chi Psi, or as it is perhaps better known, "The Lodge."

I do not have to base my comment on Chi Psi on the reports handed out by IFC. Fred Seely, my co-editor, is a member, and I have had ample opportunity to watch from rather close range as The Lodge made its climb to the top during the past year.

I could point out the more obvious reasons behind the success of Chi Psi (first in scholarship, best pledge class, tops in intramurals, etc.), but those are the things which must be present every year to a certain extent in the winning house. They do not come by accident.

Rather, they are the result of two things—an especially talented group of men, and the desire to be more than just another "sharp" fraternity. Of the two factors, the latter is by far the most important. Call it what you will—spirit, desire, or something else—it is the thing which makes or breaks a fraternity.

Whatever it is, the Chi Psi's have it, and their excellence in many fields is merely a manifestation of this intangible quality. By combining individual talents, hard work, and this cohesive spirit of true "fraternity," the members of The Lodge have made their house one of which they, and the entire UNC fraternity system, can be justly proud. Because they have not been content to sit idly by and watch the campus move about them, but have instead made a positive effort to contribute to its progress, they have benefited both themselves and the campus.

As a member of another fraternity, I wish to take this opportunity to extend best wishes to Chi Psi on behalf of the entire fraternity system. Chi Psi has contributed to the growth of each of its members, the status of the fraternity system, and the life of the University.

To my fellow fraternity men I would humbly suggest that their example is an excellent one for all to follow in helping to improve the fraternity life which is so important to us.

The Council Calls 'Em As It Sees 'Em

Now that the Constitutional Council has declared the proposed student "poll" on the boycott to be "unconstitutional," we should pause for a moment to ask ourselves what it all means.

The most obvious aspect of the situation, of course, is that there will be no opportunity this spring for the student body to express its opinion on the civil rights question—an opportunity for which a majority of students have been clamoring. Even though it is the most obvious and immediate consideration, however, it may well be that it is not the most important.

The desirability of some type of student vote on an issue of this magnitude is readily apparent, and, in this respect, the decision of the Council, which voids such a vote at this time, is regrettable. However, the Constitutional Council's action involves an issue far deeper and far more important than any single poll—it reaches into the very heart of Student Government and the Student Constitution.

We would point out one very important fact to be kept in mind by all who, in the days and weeks ahead, go about analyzing this hectic and confused situation. It is this: the action of the Constitutional Council cannot and should not be construed as an attempt by the members of that body to prevent a student vote. The students who compose the Council (three from the Men's Council and three from the Women's Council, plus the Men's Council chairman) made their decision on the basis of the evidence presented to them.

Probably some of the members of the Council wanted very much to see a campus-wide vote on the boycott issue during the semester. Probably some of them didn't. But the near-unanimity of their decision (6-1 in favor of constitutionality) indicates that they simply did not feel that the Communications Committee could rightly assume the responsibility for the voting.

They made their decision in good faith, knowing all the while that the students badly want an opportunity to vote, and that a decision favoring unconstitutionality might well bring ad-

verse student comment. We do not agree with their decision, but they are jurists, not editors or politicians, and thus are bound by the principle of "calling 'em as they see 'em."

In the presentations to the council on Tuesday night, several outstanding points were produced by both sides. We left the meeting with a distinct awareness that the decision, however it turned out, would be made with the Constitution, not the poll, uppermost in mind. We also felt that such a decision would approve the poll. The first feeling remains with us, and for this reason we caution our readers against any hasty misjudgment of the Council's actions.

The system of checks and balances installed in our Student Government is derived from a basic premise of democratic government. In deciding that the "poll" was unconstitutional, the Council availed itself of its right to void any action by the Executive or Legislative branches deemed to be detrimental to the student body. Again, we must point out that it was not the principle of a "poll" or "referendum" which was struck down—it was the specific "poll" set for this Friday, which was considered by the Council to fall under the jurisdiction of the Elections Board.

In reaching their conclusion on the matter, the body relied heavily on the wording of the Constitution and their interpretation of its content. It is our feeling, as well as the feeling of many members of Student Government, that the Council did not take into account a number of other, very relevant factors. But it was their decision, and they made it. And just like the legislators who did their best to get the issue to the students, they performed their duty with YOU in mind.

The result is that you will not vote on the boycott this spring. But you can rest assured that the Constitutional Council is ever ready to defend your Constitution against encroachments, as they felt they were doing in this case. Do not allow your bias about Friday's poll to cause you to accuse them unjustly.

Cultural Events Relegated To Back Seat On Calendar

By PETER RANGE

One thing which has irritated me for a long time is the consistent method in which all concerts, speeches and other extracurricular events of cultural interest and real value at UNC are scheduled for week nights instead of weekends.

Last week saw the presentation of one of the richest musical weeks this University has ever known: the UNC Symphony, the UNC Chamber Orchestra, and the North Carolina Symphony gave outstanding performances on three consecutive nights. Which nights?—Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, of course! Squeezed right in when students have the most work and the least free time!

Even the student-run Carolina Symposium runs Sunday through Thursday, apparently afraid to tread on sacred ground by using Friday.

The fundamental reasoning behind this madness, of course, is that students would not come to these events on weekends, that weekends are a sacred time for

raising hell. The notion that a person might even go to a concert on a Saturday evening and then proceed to a party with three hours left seems to have entered no one's mind.

In the first place, I find this a very unfortunate basis for not using weekends for cultural events and speakers. This is to say, then, that the powers that be consider the weekend parties more important than the events in question? If this is not the case, then why submit to the popular trend to use weekends for less serious causes than poetry reading and chamber music? Why not simply do this tradition and put the worthwhile affairs on the weekends, in the ultimate hope of changing the trends? Not doing this is certainly an understating of the fine schedule of events we enjoy (if we find time during the week) in Chapel Hill.

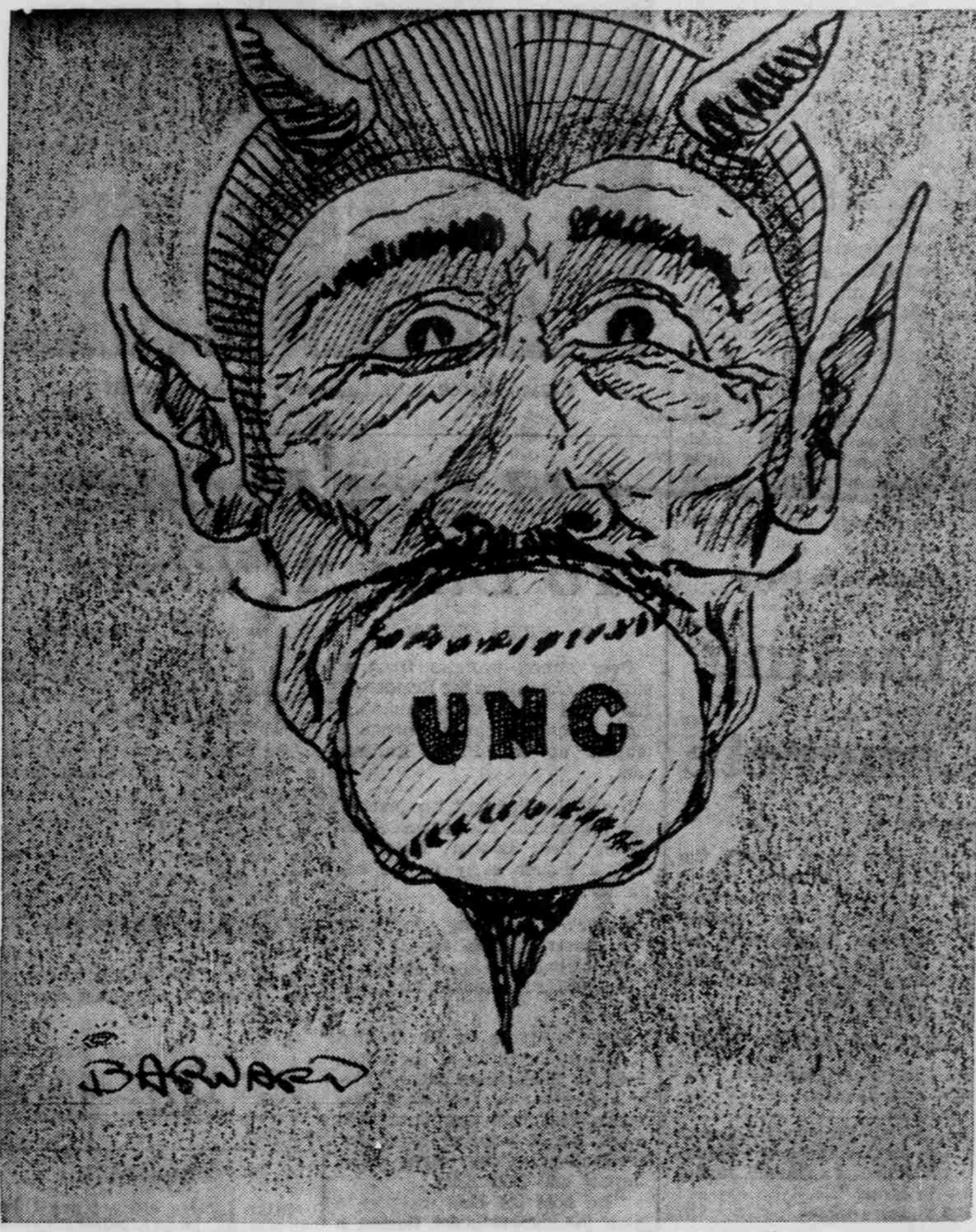
It is time first things came first. I can certainly conceive of even more people attending the cultural affairs on the weekends than during the week. I for one, having lost all interest

in the usual forms of hell-raising, am at a loss for entertainment on a free weekend, other than the Rialto. I would like nothing more than to have a play, a concert, a reading, or a speech to attend on Friday and Saturday nights.

In the second place, it can be argued that the very students who would not come to cultural events on the weekends are the same ones who do not come anyway. Those who have enough interest to make crucial time available for this during the week would certainly be willing and eager to do the same on the weekend.

Hence, I challenge the Music Department to institute a "Saturday Evening Series," the Carolina Forum to bring speakers on Friday nights, the Symposium to run over the weekend, and the ad hoc Playmakers productions like Fantastics to aim at Friday-Saturday schedules.

It is time these events were made more easily accessible to the serious student who needs week nights for studying!



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Girls Negligent On Social Duties

Editors The Daily Tar Heel:

It was Freshman Weekend. I was talking with three male students, one from California, one from Pennsylvania and one from New Jersey, Saturday night at the combo party in front of Graham Memorial. They all said that the chief drawback to UNC was the lack of girls. As I looked at the large group of boys, without dates, standing around watching the couples dance, I repeated what I have said many times, that there is little in these parties for boys without a partner to dance with. One student said that the dormitory girls were not interested and did not cooperate to make these parties the success they should be. He said when Cobb Dormitory gave a combo party the girls hid in the dormitory and refused to come out.

It is understandable that, with so many more boys than girls here, the girls would get independent, but that is no excuse for bad manners. They should think of somebody besides themselves. You go to a party to give pleasure and not just think of what you will get out of it. The dormitory girls should plan to go to these parties as a group, and dance with anybody and everybody at the party. Even then there probably would be a shortage of girls; therefore arrangements should be made with UNC-G to bring loads of girls to the party, mix them up with the boys, and, after the dance is over, return to their campus. This would eliminate the cost of lodging and eating both for the girls and boys.

Unless the planning committees solve this problem, much of their efforts and the expense of

putting on these parties, will be wasted.  
Otelia Connor

Lake Defended As Most Rational

Editors, The Daily Tar Heel:

First of all, I wish to congratulate you in general on the excellent DTH and in particular on your editorial policy. There is a distinct difference between your present policy and that of the previous editorship and, needless to say, a considerable improvement.

However, I was disappointed in the editorial of May 8 which severely criticized Dr. I. Beverly Lake and paralleled North Carolina under his governorship to Mississippi, Alabama or Louisiana. Dr. Lake is an advocate of states' rights; therefore I can see why the DTH does not agree with him on many issues, but this editorial seems to have gone too far.

Dr. Lake did indeed begin at a disadvantage. He has indeed gained ground at a remarkable rate, and, if this pace continues, he may well be elected governor of North Carolina. He is not irrational as you strongly imply (after all, he was graduated from Harvard Law School and was a law professor at Wake Forest for 18 years); he has the best (if not the only rational) platform of any of the Democratic candidates for governor. If each person in this state would take time to listen to what Dr. Lake has to say, he will realize this for himself.

His momentum gains daily and the primary is still three weeks away. As you said in your editorial, "the possibility is not as far off as it once seemed."

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