

The Daily Tar Heel

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Harry Bryan, Editor

Wednesday, September 2, 1971

If administrators listened, housing crises would end

The housing crisis that hit the UNC campus in the fall semester of 1970 was at that time termed the worst residence shortage at this University since World War II.

UNC was overenrolled by approximately 350 students, and many were either crowded into basements and social rooms or packed three to a room in two man rooms.

The Office of Admissions and the Office of Student Affairs had obviously made a terrible error, but most administrators seemed to think those problems would be solved and that no overcrowding would take place this semester — even after they were warned by various members of the student body that they were making another mistake.

As usual, the administration did not listen to the students, and this year shortage is even worse. The University is overenrolled by approximately 450 students and because of the administration's refusal to drop the sophomore housing requirement until the absolute last minute — when it was obviously too late for sophomores to find other housing — even more students are being forced to live under deplorable conditions.

Many students are once again living in social rooms and

basements that have been equipped with beds and dressers while many rooms with only two closets and dressers are being used by three students.

At present some residence advisors have more than 100 students under them — and cannot possibly find the time to counsel the numerous freshmen who will need help during the year.

And according to several students who work with residence life everyday, the atmosphere in some of the overcrowded dormitories is becoming tense and could become very serious. One student said four fights had erupted on one floor as a direct result of overcrowding, and the situation, he said, is getting worse.

The crisis could have been averted if any of several things had been done.

If the Office of Admissions had learned from its mistakes last year and had changed its admissions policies concerning how many applications to accept in order to get the right amount of incoming freshmen and transfers, there would be no overenrollment at all.

And even if this had not been done, the shortage could have been eliminated if the Office of Student Affairs had dropped the sophomore housing requirement early in the spring when students asked it to, rather than waiting until it was too late for sophomores who did not wish to live in University residence halls to find an apartment.

The notice waiving the sophomore housing requirement was mailed May 17 when students were taking exams. During exams, few, if any, sophomores had the time to look for another place to stay in Chapel Hill after residence halls closed to begin a search for a place to sleep.

Student leaders asked the administration to make the needed changes in its admissions policies and housing requirements early last year, but the administration refused. Now we are repeating those requests.

No one knows if the administration will listen this time or not. But we do feel sure the University would do something to stop the overcrowding if administrators had to live in overcrowded dorms, if they had to go through the same hell many students will experience until the crisis is over.

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78 Years of Editorial Freedom

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UNC administration errs again

Too many people are too quick to gloss over the mistakes that the administration made last year that led to the current crowded conditions on campus.

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions demonstrated a lack of perspective that is frightening. That office did not consider the rising cost of private institutions and the recession in the economy factors that vitally concern admissions. They did not realize that many more people would want to come to a relatively inexpensive, yet very good, state-supported university. Admissions consequently used percentages developed from past experience to calculate how many of the people they accepted would actually enroll. They were shocked to find that these percentages were no longer good and that they had accepted too many students.

Undergraduate Admissions and the Division of Student Affairs together made another grave mistake. By the end of March it was known that a minimum of one hundred freshmen more than expected in the original planning for housing and classes would matriculate. At that point an earlier cut-off date for the continuation of acceptances should have

been picked. Acceptees should have been notified that they had only a limited time to respond to their acceptances. Instead, Student Affairs and Undergraduate Admissions decided that the University should simply try to house all of the students who would eventually enroll. As a result, in July and August — long after the residence halls were intolerably crowded — the Office of Residence Life was still getting names of people who had just enrolled and who needed to be housed.

The Division of Student Affairs made another error that is impossible to understand.

A new required residency policy had been adopted that would have gone into full effect this fall. This policy requires all freshmen, sophomores, and transfers to live in University housing. The Residence College Federation, the Committee on University Residence Life and the junior class officers attacked this policy with no success.

In early April it became obvious that this required residency was not only unfair but would also have disastrous results. Students and even some administrators in Student Affairs pointed

Gerry Cohen

U.S. politics important at UNC

Thanks to the passage of the 26th amendment, lowering the voting age to 18, state and national politics will become important issues on this campus.

With the North Carolina presidential primary set for May 2, 1972, and with primaries the same day for U.S. Senator, Governor, Congressman, and General Assemblyman, this campus will become a magnet for campaigning politics.

Over 18,000 students are enrolled at UNC here, and their registering to vote can cause deep changes in local and state governments. For years, state politicians have used this University as a whipping boy, to garner reactionary votes around the state. Now state leaders have to reckon with the 135,000 students attending college in this state, and the 64,000 high school seniors who will be eligible to vote in the 1972 primaries. North Carolina law sets the minimum age to vote in the primary at 17½.

If students can register to vote in Chapel Hill, they will constitute 60 per cent of the electorate in the town, and 40 per cent in the county. More importantly, students will constitute 40 per cent of the jury lists for the Superior Court, meaning a whole different system of criminal justice. No longer will students be tried

by a jury of peers consisting of 12 white middle-aged non-student males. As one Chapel Hill lawyer has said, "my clients won't all have to plead guilty anymore, out of fear of a jury which does not understand them."

Perhaps there will be fewer midnight raids without warrants, when the county sheriff realizes who his constituents are.

So what is the catch? It all sounds too good to be true. The problem of course, is that there is much resistance to students registering in college towns, out of fear the students are irresponsible, pay no taxes, and don't care. What those people are afraid of is democracy. Students live here nine to twelve months a year and 60 per cent off campus and pay property taxes. Everyone pays a one per cent local sales tax. Students are just as properly residents of Chapel Hill as anyone.

The Orange County Elections Board is more lenient than most, and is allowing many students to register. A U.S. Supreme Court ruling, which will decide the issue of student residency one way or another, is expected in November.

Why should students register to vote in Chapel Hill? There are several sound

reasons. To begin with, it is physically easier to register in Chapel Hill. If you have lived in Chapel Hill for 30 days, and in North Carolina for one year, you can register at the Chapel Hill town hall from 9 to 5 every Thursday, assuming you are 18. Also, there are no absentee ballots in the primary. If you register at home, you will have to go home to vote next May 2. The catch? May 2 is an exam day, tying most students to their books and to Chapel Hill. If you register in Chapel Hill, your voting place would probably be the Fire Station or Woollen Gym, an easy place to get to even on an exam day.

One of the most important reasons to register in Chapel Hill is that if we all do so, students will have a decisive vote in the politics of this town, county, and region. If the 18 year old vote means anything, it must mean we gain a voice in the control of our own lives. Joining together on primary day can help insure that happening.

Skeptical? It's at least worth a try.

For many years, students have had to take a minor role in politics, licking envelopes, running errands, and doing the dirty work. Now politicians will be aware that we can hold the power to vote them

in and out of office. Previously moribund institutions such as Student Government, the Young Democrats, Young Republicans, and other political organizations can now have important roles focusing student opinion. It is important to become politically active, for griping against Nixon won't get him out of office. Only registering, doing political work, and voting him out of power can get rid of him and his cohorts for good. You don't have time not to get involved.

In the coming months, candidates and organizations will begin to appear on campus. If you want to see what you believe in happen, get out and lend a hand.

The Daily Tar Heel, through its news and editorial columns, will try to keep students abreast of developments in local and area politics, an arena possibly just as important to our daily lives as who the next President will be.

If you want fair rents, good housing, a strong university system, and personal freedom, sitting on your hands will get none of these. Whether we get or keep any of these may be decided at the ballot box.

Letter

Columnist racist, too

To the Editor:

I would like to address this letter to Charles Jeffries concerning his column in the Aug. 31 issue of the Tar Heel.

Dear Mr. Jeffries:

After reading your guide to UNC racism I became just slightly more embittered towards you and your kind of person. For the last two years or so I have watched the emergence of what I am only express to you as black racism. I have begun to feel the dislike you project towards me and I have felt the uneasiness that comes with being a target of black people's collective dislike. Yes, you have begun to instill that same fear that you or older blacks must have felt before, and I do hope you feel some measure of pride now, because it really works.

In my high school I was at times the "minority" when I would sit in the cafeteria and that side would suddenly fill with blacks or when some blacks would cut in the lines and there's nothing I can do about it because there's three of them and they are a hell of a lot bigger anyway. I've been scared to walk down a hallway with a group of blacks at the end because I usually get hassled. I've even been shoved aside by spade chicks who didn't give a damn if I was in the way or not. In short, I am now discriminated against by blacks and while it may not affect my life so much in terms of jobs, housing, etc. it still hurts, because I hate racists just as much as you do.

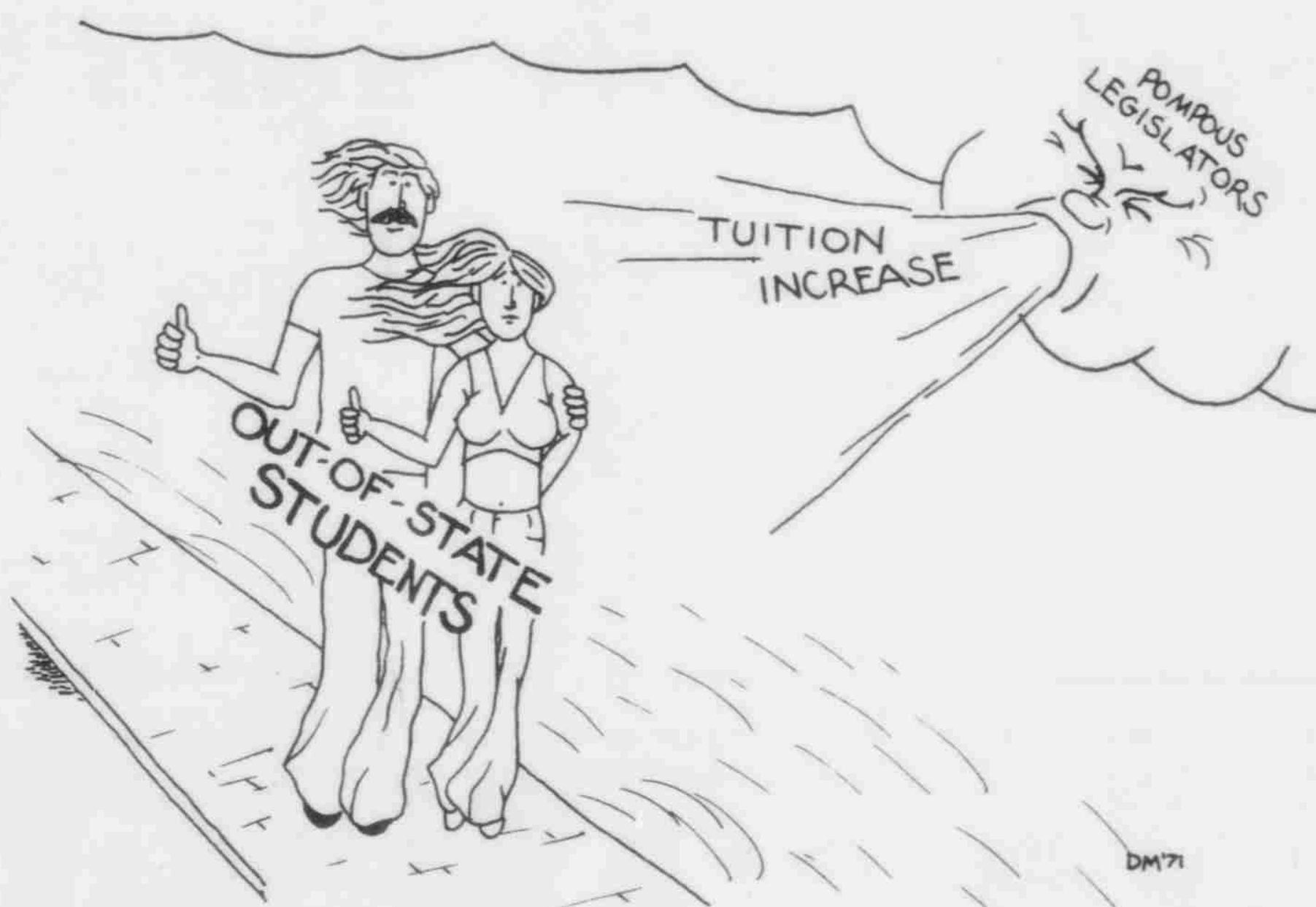
I have seen the whole thing — the grouping together of blacks on one side of any gathering, not because they've been put there because they're niggers, to use a quaint term, but because they want it that way.

And then to get to your article, I'm sure glad you alerted all the black freshmen to the white man's tricks because I wouldn't want to anyone to be hurt. I don't know which white roommates you were talking about in your article, but if they are real people and all those things really happened, why are you alerting black freshmen to them anyway? Because of sophisticated racism? Those kind of people are either pure racists or just simply assholes and everyone is on the lookout for them anyway. These next points aren't worth arguing about but since you made such an issue of them anyway, I will. That same guy who didn't punch your elevator button didn't punch mine a few times either. I have also been absent from class before and showed up the next day only to find it gone and nobody told me either. Sitterson may not know how many blacks are enrolled in school by looking at applications but he could sure find out by looking at the little yellow cards that everyone was filling out today at freshman registration because there was just such a question about the students' race. And then all those little discourteousies you refer to. Man, everyone gets that kind of crap. Granted you may get more of it because you are black, but those are white racists. I don't like being lumped together with them when it comes time for you to take out your dislike.

Jeffries man, you just don't give me a chance at all or thousands of other whites on this campus or in this country. You may not realize it or maybe you just choose to ignore it, but there are whites who don't give a damn whether you are black or not. And believe me, they are getting bitter, just like me, everytime they get the kind of crap like your article shoved down their throats. The longer you persist in the black power thing, whether in what you write or say or just in interacting with people, the more you are losing me and others. There are a few basic human rights I believe in and I don't mind working for them but don't force me off man.

Work together,
Dave Carlton
438 James

Gone with the wind



Daisy Junge

GPSF plans coming year

The Graduate and Professional Student Federation (GPSF) is planning for its first full year. As the representative organization for graduate and professional students, it must take action on a wide range of interests and issues.

The Senate of the GPSF meets in mid-September, bringing together representatives from graduate departments and the professional schools. Foremost in discussion will undoubtedly be renewed efforts by the GPSF to achieve full recognition as a separate graduate government and problems created by the new tuition hike. The senate will

also elect a new Executive Board of seven members, including a new GPSF president and vice-president.

The Executive Board will fill five major committees: Housing, Graduate and Teaching Assistants, Educational Planning and Curriculum, Financial Assistance and Admissions, and Student Life. The Student Life committee, to be headed by Joe Stallings, the group will help plan and administer a questionnaire to analyze the impact of the tuition hike on students' educational plans and financial needs.

The GPSF continues to press for recognition as a government separate from and independent of Student Government. At a planning meeting last October, representative of almost twenty departments passed a resolution agreeing on certain desirable principles of government. Included were thorough communication, "an active and flexible committee structure," access of all graduate departments to the decision-making process, and recognition of departmental organizations "as the primary basis" of any constituency. Perhaps the most emphasized was the assertion that a graduate government was to be "rooted in the principle that the best government is that which governs least." The GPSF constitution, accepted by a 96% favorable vote in a referendum which almost one-third of all graduate and professional students voted in, demonstrated overwhelming continued support of these principles.

Chancellor Sitterson has not yet extended full independent recognition to the GPSF, claiming that he prefers to abide by established "democratic processes," e.g., a constitutional amendment passed by the entire student body. Joe Stallings has pledged to fight the concept of two governments.

The GPSF has appealed to the Board of Trustees and will be initiating a petition for a constitutional amendment early in the fall. Members of the Executive Board still hope that long-range cooperation between GPSF and Student Government will ultimately be possible. But the present situation is, as one graduate student remarked, somewhat like asking England's Parliament to sign the Declaration of Independence.

out that, with the already apparent over-enrollment, the residence halls were not big enough to hold all the people that either wanted to live on campus or were required to. The facts clearly showed that this was the case.

In one office in Student Affairs this information was neither acted upon nor passed on to higher authorities. The highest officials in the University were actually not aware of the increasing possibility of overcrowding. Had this information been presented to the highest administrators, action might well have been taken to change the required residency policy to lessen the crowding. But this did not happen. One bottleneck in the bureaucracy of the University, one official who did nothing when decisive action was necessary, made the problem many times worse. In my opinion this lack of action is the most inexcusable case of administrative ineptitude on this campus in several years.

In April, Robert Wilson, assistant to the president of the student body, and I presented Dean of Student Affairs O. C. Cathey directly with the likelihood that "we are facing a crisis of overcrowding in the residence halls." We were told that

there would be no crowding. Dean Cathey believed this; he did not know what administrators lower in Student Affairs knew.

In April, the residency rule for transfer students had already been dropped for 1971-72. Finally, during the spring exam period, the Chancellor and the Dean of Student Affairs realized the situation and acted immediately, waiving the policy for sophomores. But this was too little too late. At this point students had already reserved dormitory rooms; the apartment shortage in town made it almost impossible for the newly-liberated students to find rooms off campus. And it was during final exams and people simply did not have time to hunt for apartments. So the dropping of the residency requirement, an action that student leaders had worked for all year, came too late to do any good.

These mistakes are history now. We cannot change the situation. But I think that it is essential that the students affected by the administrative mistakes realize who and what made the intolerable situation in which they are forced to live. And I sincerely hope that the administration can learn from their mistakes and not make them again.