

# The Daily Tar Heel

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Harry Bryan, Editor

Tuesday, November 30, 1971

## Dropout rate disgraces UNC

From the number of students who are withdrawing from the University this semester, it is apparent that the University and the State of North Carolina are failing in many respects in fulfilling the needs of the student of today.

According to Raymond E. Strong, director of the Office of Records and Registration, approximately 500 students will be leaving UNC after exams.

Among the reasons for withdrawal, according to Dr. John K. Nelson, an associate dean of the General College who counsels many students planning on leaving, is the student's realization that he belongs in either a community college or a technical or trade institute, rather than a liberal arts school such as UNC.

Certainly, neither the University nor the state can be blamed for this, but three other reasons listed for students' withdrawal show that something is very definitely lacking.

According to Dr. Nelson, the largest number of students he counsels indicate a lack of motivation, though some who give that reason "have very respectable grades."

In Dr. Nelson's own words, "Their immediate lack of motivation reflects a disillusionment with higher education."

Though he did point out that some cases are involved with "highly individualized circumstances" - some of which the University did not cause and

cannot correct - the fact that some students become so disgusted with the University that they wish to discontinue their education here is a discredit to the school.

And the failure is even more serious when one considers the mass of students who have the same lack of motivation yet remain at UNC until graduation, showing nothing for their diplomas except a waste of four years.

Other students, Dr. Nelson said, are leaving the University for financial reasons, and for this both the University and the State of North Carolina must take the blame.

It is indeed a sad state of affairs when qualified students must drop out of school because they cannot afford it. Only education can improve the plight of the disadvantaged youth.

But instead of devising ways to generate more funds for education so that the poor can attend institutions of higher learning, state politicians appear more concerned with serving their own interests and padding the pockets of the rich. And the University continues to misuse funds that could be going to scholarships - such as the \$45,000 the Student Stores gives to the athletic department each year, rather than to the scholarship fund.

Also, according to Dr. Nelson, many first semester freshmen drop out because they cannot adjust to living in a University atmosphere, and the fault here lies with the freshman orientation program and the Office of Student Affairs.

Carolina freshmen do not become oriented to the campus in the few days they spend here before the opening of fall semester. If anything they become bored. They are forced to sit through so many dull welcoming speeches and the like that many wind up cutting the few activities that are beneficial.

However, despite the lack of success shown by the orientation program, the problems of the first semester freshman could be solved by the Office of Student Affairs. But only, however, if that office were concerned with counseling rather than discipline, and only if it trained resident advisers to really advise students rather than police the residence halls.

It is too late to help the students who have already decided to leave Carolina. But the University and members of the General Assembly should begin work immediately to correct the problems that are causing students to end their college careers.

Lynn Smith

## SL - quarter of a million laughs

Student Legislature hobbled through another lame duck session last Thursday night. It was the third such session in a row.

The legislature meets in the solemn Di-Phi chamber on the third floor of New West. The room is impressive. When you walk in, you're greeted by twelve stern old men, staring down from ornate gold frames on the wall. From the marble busts in the corners to the china curtain pulls, the chamber looks the place for serious, reserved debate.

Every Thursday night at 7:30 the elected representatives of the UNC student body file in and cluster with friends. Laughter swells as they discuss the important matters before the body.

Last Thursday Chris Daggett, student body vice president, climbed up into his small stage at the front of the chamber exactly on time. He peered around the heavy velvet curtains that hang on either side of his seat and banged on the bulky speaker's podium. Some of the students looked up; most went on talking. He slapped the polished surface again. Now they started moving toward their seats.

Roll call! Names reeled off. Many were met with silence. Murmurs started, "Will we have a quorum?"

Charles Gilliam, Conservative Party president, hadn't gone to his seat. He lounged in one of the wooden seats at the back of the room, talking with his fellows.

"Rep. Gilliam, are you here?" Daggett called from the front.

"What? Yes, yes. By all means, I'm here!" Gilliam answered.

"Just thought you might be trying not to have a quorum," Daggett said. He called for committee reports.

Rules Committee did not meet, Financial Committee did not meet, Judicial Committee could not get a quorum at its attempt to meet. Four people are needed to conduct business. Same story from Ways and Means, no quorum. No one was there from Ethics Committee - no way of telling what they did.

Since no committee had met, no bills could be considered without waiving the rule that a bill has to be cleared by the appropriate committee before it goes to the floor. The rule was made so insignificant bills would not waste the legislature's time. A two-thirds vote is required to waive the rule.

Gerry Cohen jumped to his feet nervously and scampered to the speaker's platform. He wanted a bill about the racial demonstrations in Pitt County considered immediately because of its current significance.

"People have been denied their basic rights," he said. "Conservatives, liberals and radicals should be able to unite on something like this."

He looked to specific members as he said each category. No doubt in his mind who was on which side.

The presiding officer called for a vote. Shall we consider this bill or not? Roll call.

Yes. No. No. Yes. On and on. The no's seem to have it. Charles Gilliam?

The heavy set conservative lolled back in his chair and threw back his head. Out of the side of his mouth a disdainful NO!

Laughter came from all but a few long-hairs and Gerry Cohen, who was scampering around in the front of the room, seeing who was voting for and against his appeal.

End of roll call. The no's have it, 12 to 16.

"Can I address the floor for just two minutes, Mr. Speaker?" Cohen asked.

"We'll have to vote," said Daggett. "All in favor of letting Rep. Cohen address the body say aye."

Everyone said aye.

"All opposed?" Everyone said no. Chuckles from the floor. "The ayes clearly have it."

Cohen jumped up to the speakers podium again and rustles his paper.

"You only have a minute and 45 seconds left," someone yelled.

"I haven't started talking yet."

Then he did talk, about the First Amendment, freedom and justice. Time's up, they joyfully pronounced at the end of his time. He was in the middle of a sentence. Thank you, he said. He sat down.

"Any more business?" Daggett asked.

Mike O'Neill stood up and said, "I have a resolution." He had been walking around during Cohen's talk showing a paper which he had scribbled something on. It should be good. Everyone laughed when he showed it to them.

"I think we should appoint a missing persons committee to find Connie Linnus. Laughter - from everyone this time. Connie Linnus was the write-in winner of the election for the Freshman class Social Chairman. She doesn't exist; she's just a dirty joke.

The call went up again. "If there's no more business..." Wait!

Charles Gilliam put both hands in front of him and pushed himself to his feet.

"Robert Grady (chairman of the Financial committee) is in the hospital. I'm sure he'd appreciate any visitors, if some one wants to go see him."

"Who would?" shouted someone in the front. The group loved that one. Lots of laughter.

Gerry Cohen, serious as always, stood up and said, "Maybe we could all sign a card or something. Do you have a card, Charles?"

"Who, me?" replied Charles. "I don't care anything about him."

Gerry sat down again. "Charles wouldn't vote to improve the weather if I suggested it," he said.

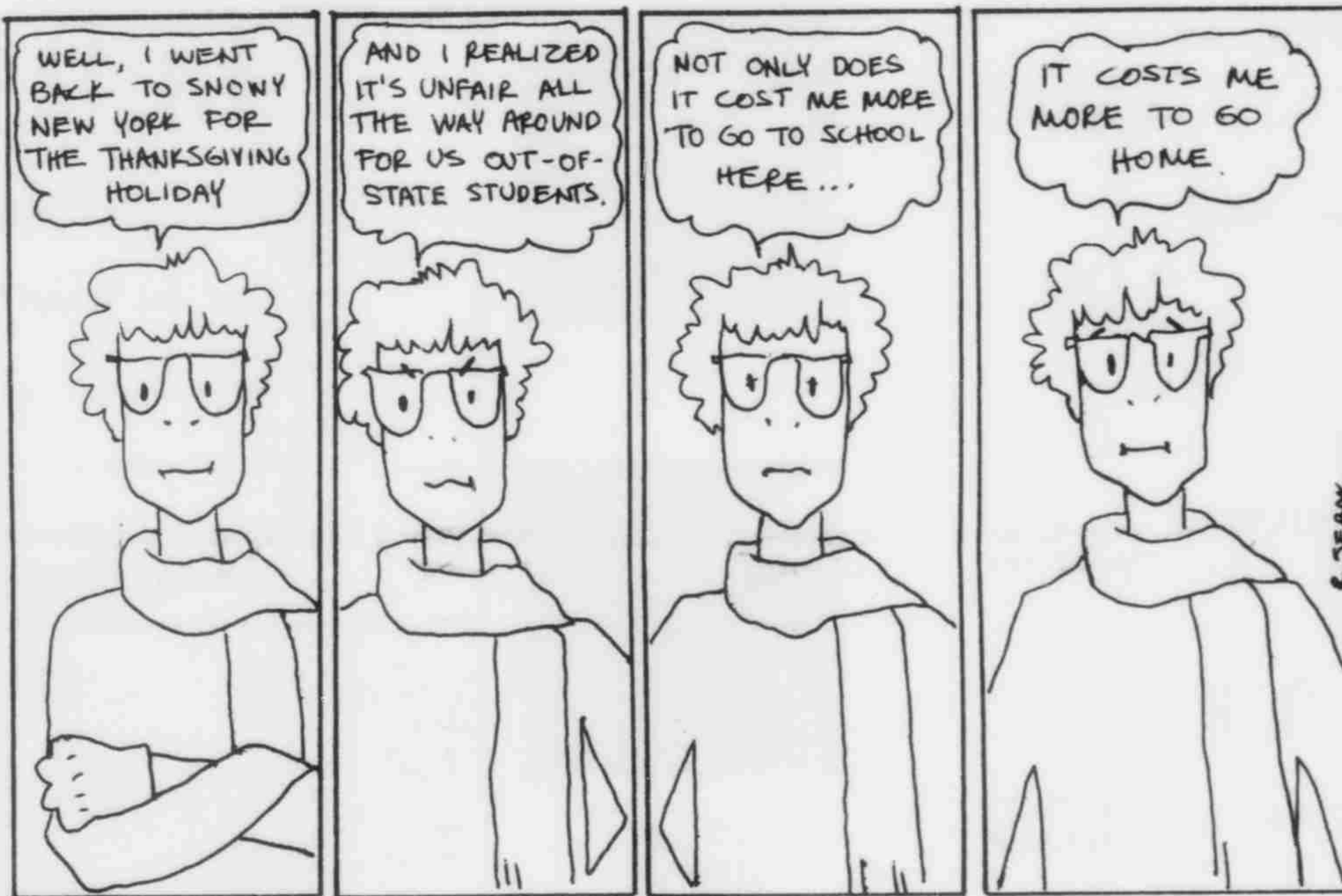
Move to adjourn. Second the motion. Vote on whether to adjourn. The ayes have it. Immediate uproar, the legislature is over, fifteen minutes after it began.

These are the elected representatives of the UNC student body, student legislature, operating on a budget of about a quarter of a million dollars per year.

While debating a revised version of the Pitt County bill at another session, Mike O'Neill said the legislature was held in lower esteem now than at any other time in its history. He called the bill "Mickey Mouse." It was ridiculous to talk about state events, he said, when the legislature hasn't passed a single bill improving residence life.

Cohen answered by saying he would vote for such a bill if it were proposed.

Both points are good. Why doesn't Student Legislature try to do something for the students, thus giving them something for all that money? But, if they aren't going to do that, why don't they at least do something!



Ken Ripley

## Holidays: time for growing older

Holidays, I find, are for growing older. Not that day-by-day imperceptible aging as we move endlessly through each semester, but suddenly and with pain.

Turkey dinners haven't changed much. The bird is still brown and hot and good, and it lasts for just as many left-over meals as it always has.

The shortness of the holiday hasn't changed since I was a freshman. Sunday always comes too soon, with the work I expected to do over the holiday just as undone as it always is. Somehow very few people complete homework on a holiday. We start out with the best of intentions, to do the papers and read the books, but with all we find to do at home, study is

forgotten. That hasn't changed.

It's the little things that make seniors feel old, that drives home the realization that while we are off to four years of college four more years have passed for everyone.

The time has passed faster than my memory of its passing. I can still remember vividly being a freshman and leaving home for school. I can remember how my high school friends and I had parted, confident of undying friendships and looking forward to holiday reunions. I can remember how my young brother and sister were, barely old enough to enter high school. My sister was just a freshman, and my brother - only in the

eighth grade - was not much taller than my breastbone.

Not much happened before in the past three years to change those images, only the hint that all was not as it used to be. Of course, there was a bit of a strain as a high school friend got together and tried to find something in common again. The family had grown three years, each year a little more apart than the last - a little older, a little different. You begin to notice that high school is not as big and imposing as it used to be, that teachers have to fumble to remember your name and no one among the students remembers you were ever there.

Hints, all of these, that three years did

make a difference. But if there was any change, any difference, it was easy to shrug it off in the summer. Each May I would dutifully return home to find a summer job, fire up old friendships, and get one year older.

I had no thought that this Thanksgiving would be much different from the rest. Things would be as they always had been and always will be, I supposed.

Only Thanksgiving dinner remained unchanged, and we ate that on T.V. tables as we watched the afternoon football games - something I wouldn't think of doing before.

But now my sister is a junior, involved in her own activities, and my brother is as tall as I - and growing. My high school friends, most of them, had not gone home for the holiday. Many of them were married, and I grimaced as I remembered the occasional invitation that had come through the mail unnoticed. Instead of the usual family closeness, I was rarely home this Thanksgiving as I visited the adults and remaining friends in a community I would not be returning to myself much more again. It was then, I found, that years do make a difference.

Thanksgiving was different when I returned home with my own car, purchased recently and without my parent's help. Thanksgiving was different as people were congratulating me on my fiancée and inquiring about my future marriage. Thanksgiving was different when people asked me about my job plans next year.

Thanksgiving was different when I realized that there would be no summer to restore the past, and that when next Thanksgiving comes I will be married, employed, and well into the life and family destined to be my own.

I had plenty to be thankful for this Thanksgiving, and I was. But I had grown older, too - suddenly. And for all the joy that comes with growing up, there is also some regret that the years have passed and there can be no return.

### The Daily Tar Heel

78 Years of Editorial Freedom

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## Democrats should fund own campaign

The national Democratic Party leaders have been spending plenty of sleepless nights wondering how they would finance their bid for the Presidency next year. Senator John Pastore may have saved them much of that worry when he introduced a measure allowing each taxpayer to earmark one dollar of his taxes for the campaign fund of either party.

The system is simple. Every tax form would have a box to be checked if the taxpayer wishes one dollar to go into a campaign fund (he may designate which). A total of \$20.4 million would go to each of the major parties and about \$6.3 million to George Wallace if he decides to run. Neither party is forced to take this money; they may finance their campaigns from private contributions if they wish.

There have been many cheap political stunts to come out of Washington

recently, but this one is the topper. The vote in the Senate was strictly on party lines, the Democrats frothing at the mouth to pass it and the Republicans opposing the measure. A GOP effort to defeat the amendment lost by a 49 to 46 vote. This financial plan was tacked on as an amendment to President Nixon's tax-cut bill which is an integral part of his economic program. This puts the President in a tough spot whether or not to veto.

The reason that the Democrats had to dream up some form of financial aid is very simple - they are in debt to the tune of a very cool \$9 million left over from 1968. The American Telephone and Telegraph Company has threatened to deny phone service to the Democratic convention next year if they do not cough up the \$1.5 million they owe. Debts are piling up and the convention is

still months away. Private donations have been very slow for the Democratic party. Large contributors of the past have not shown any great faith in that party's chances to win the election and, therefore, have not given much money.

Another great factor in the Democrat's financial squeeze is that the abnormally large surplus of candidates this year has caused a run on Democratic contributions. The leading contenders have already spent several million dollars and the price tag on the nomination will be astronomical. Their resources will be completely exhausted even before the party has its candidate.

Democratic fund raisers have not been very productive since 1968 as their bank deficit clearly shows. All avenues with which to raise money for the party are being taken by individuals boosting their

own campaigns, hence, nothing left for the big push next fall. The Democrats are further frustrated by the over-flowing Republican coffers. They are openly discouraged by the ease with which the Republicans have filled their war chest as the recent \$500-a-plate dinners proved.

Faced with financial disaster the Democratic party has reached a new low. They are attempting to force the Federal Government to subsidize their campaign. Let there be no mistake, this money will come directly from the government since each dollar put into the fund will be one less to go for the usual governmental services. The supporters of this comedy have made flimsy justifications for it such as, "government subsidies will cease the practice of having a candidate 'bought' by special interest groups." This is totally incorrect since any group may make contributions during "off-years" and the

candidate could still cash in on the \$20.4 million on election year.

The government has no business in bailing out any political group in financial trouble. The Federal Treasury has no obligation to make sure that one party can match another dollar for dollar. The passage of this measure would be the crudest political scheme for the benefit of a single political party that this country has seen in years.

There is still hope for its defeat. The House of Representatives will vote on this amendment shortly after their Thanksgiving break, but since the Congress is strongly Democratic the chance of passage is overwhelming. President Nixon may see the tremendous danger in such a proposal and decide to veto it. If not, it will be the beginning of a dark era in American politics.