

## Support Joanne Little in her fight for justice

The details of the case are almost too horrible to recount. Last August, a 20-year-old black girl named Joanne Little was being held in the Beaufort, N.C. jail on a burglary charge. One morning, a 62-year-old white jailer was found inside her cell. He had been stabbed to death with an ice pick. Miss Little had escaped. The jailer, except for his socks, was naked from the waist down. The autopsy showed that he had recently been engaged in sexual activity.

After a week in hiding, Miss Little turned herself over to the authorities and was promptly charged with first-degree murder. Her trial comes up in April and, if convicted, she will face an automatic death penalty. North Carolina already has 69 criminals on death row — more than any other state in the nation — and unless something is done, Miss Little could easily be the 70th.

Any liberal with good knees can be expected to react violently to such a *cause celebre*. But the Joanne Little case transcends ideological or racial grounds. As a case of law, whether one feels that Miss Little was raped or that she lured the jailer in her cell in order to escape, she has already been denied justice.

• Many North Carolina newspapers tried to cover up the fact that the jailer was found partially naked and that there were clear signs of sexual activity.

• The state medical examiner was denied the right to present evidence in support of Miss Little when the local grand jury indicted her on the first degree murder charge.

• The presiding judge has refused to grant a change of venue which would have enabled her to be tried in a neutral county by unprejudiced jurors.

• Vital evidence, such as the jailer's clothing, has been scattered among various law enforcement agencies, making it difficult for the

defense to locate and examine the material.

• Her poverty has made it almost impossible to hire a criminologist in order to investigate the frequency and characteristics of such rural jail crimes in order to place her actions in a realistic context.

Miss Little has had the free use of a Durham attorney, Jerry Paul, partly because of his own interest in her case and partly because of her own right to counsel. But no matter how able her defense, the above facts have hopelessly prejudiced her case. One of the only ways left that we can help her is to hire an expert criminologist on her behalf.

Black leader Julian Bond is working for this cause with the Southern Poverty Law Center, 119 South McDonough Street, in Montgomery, Ala., 36101. Contributions are vitally important to insure that Miss Little will receive a fair trial. Without our help, Miss Little could well be assaulted again, only this time in her cell on death row.

Other partial solutions besides this are to create a state-wide groundswell of outraged opinion in

order to change the location of the trial, to allow the medical examiner to speak, to collect and safeguard all the evidence and to lower the original charge of first degree murder. At this point it seems clear that the grand jury made a hasty, ill-considered, and potentially disastrous indictment.

A remedy too late to help Miss Little, but which will prevent similar tragedies, is a bill (N.C.H.R. #20) now before the legislature in Raleigh. Entitled "Female Prisoner Study Commission," the bill guarantees that in the future, North Carolina female inmates will be guarded only by female matrons, not by potentially rapacious male attendants.

State Senator Lamar Gudger and Mrs. Lura Tally, a member of the state House, are sponsoring this bill in each chamber. Letters and telegrams of support for their effort are urgently needed so that the bill may be passed before any further outrages occur.

Remember the plight of Joanne Little, and the sordid condition of most state jails, and do all you can to help.

## Top policy discussion

The five most important academic policy-makers in the university will be in the Union tonight at eight o'clock. George Taylor, James Gaskin, Donald Jicha, John Schutz and Joel Schwartz will meet in a panel discussion that should give students a rare glimpse of the philosophy of South Building, the assumptions and false assumptions which underlie present academic policy.

Students will also have the opportunity to express their own opinions, whether on the

Carolina Course Review, variable course credits, grade inflation, the extension of drop-add etc. The faculty members will be learning as much about us as we about them. Most already have a low estimate of our abilities and motives; students should try not to confirm their suspicions.

Take the time to meet the men who decide your academic fate. "Student leaders" should find the session especially valuable. It is probably one of the most important events of the spring semester.

Gerald Unks

## Fine arts always axed first

Well, it looks as if some kids in San Francisco are going to be playing football again next year. A month ago, there wasn't enough money in the school budget for art, music and other programs, including football.

So, some Bay Area fat cats came up with enough money for the football program. Golden Gate adolescents will enjoy yet another season of groaning, bruising and head-banging. The rich aroma of menthol will fill the locker rooms, the pom-pom girls will not go on relief and the jock strap will fly high atop the flag poles of the city's schools.

Actually, eliminating football as a result of school budget deficits is good politics. They did it in Philadelphia several years ago with marvelous results. The City of Brotherly Love was in even more trouble than San Francisco since it was faced with cutting academic programs such as English, biology and history, as well as sports and the fine arts.

Wisely, the first item the superintendent cut was football. The shrills of protest were as loud as the fog horns in the San Francisco Bay. Then the superintendent made his deal with the taxpayers — you give us the money to operate a complete school program, and we'll give you football. This exercise in sensible blackmail worked, and today Philadelphia children have a full program of academic and extra-curricular activities.

Were I a school superintendent in a tight budget situation, I would employ the same means as Philadelphia. The sweat socks and shoulder pads would be the first things thrown out the window. Then the public could buy my program, whole-hog-or-none. I'd coerce the community — if that's what it takes — into giving all of its children the

programs they deserve. After all, only a minority of boys participates in football. How about all the girls and the majority of boys? Don't they deserve a program which will enrich and fulfill their lives?

Sadly, San Francisco made no such compromise. It will have football, but at this writing no money has come forth for music, art, dance or dramatics. This is typical of school systems across the country — the arts are the last courses admitted to the curriculum and the first thrown out when money gets tight.

E. Paul Torrence, psychologist at the University of Georgia and an expert in the area of creativity, reports that the longer children stay in school the less creative they become. Perhaps this general neglect of the fine arts, as exemplified in most school systems, is one of the reasons behind these disastrous findings.

Even in rich school systems, the fine arts are often seen as the baggage heap of the curriculum. "If he can't cut it in trigonometry, throw him into art or chorus." Math, English, the sciences and history have high status in the school, among teachers and students alike. Art, music, drama, dance and filmmaking often have rather low status. Seldom are the "good kids" encouraged to pursue these activities beyond the point of using them as extra-curricular frills. Or there isn't any room for them once all their college-prep classes have been scheduled.

A good school curriculum embraces all areas of human development — physical, intellectual and creative. And all these programs are begun the first day a child enters school. The early years are the most important. Physical and creative development should not be left for junior high and beyond. The PE

folks are bombasting us with their message over radio and television with a fair amount of success. The exponents of the arts should adopt a similar program. A child who needs somersaults in the third grade also needs a paint brush and an easel.

Meanwhile, the citizens of San Francisco have displayed about as much forward-looking sense as their celebrated cable cars. They have settled for producing a giant in the gymnasium and an ape in life.

Wait a minute. Isn't a proportion of the profits from Student Stores automatically given to the athletic department in the form of grants-in-aid? Our choir must string dimes along Franklin Street to get to Europe. Our outstanding Men's Glee Club grovels before Student Government functionaries for financial crumbs. Who aids the Playmakers or the Readers Theatre? Could it be that the cable mentality has found a refuge in the Southern part of Heaven? We surely produce giants. How many apes walk out the door with them?

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Gerald Unks is an associate professor in the School of Education.

# The Daily Tar Heel

## Tim Dugan

Carolina has undergone rapid growth in the past 10 years, and problems with housing, academic reform and the infringement of student rights have emerged with this growth. We are at the critical stage of the university's development and we must take responsible action. Presently, the administration and faculty have made our decisions, yet have these decisions been well-founded or are they merely the easiest to administer?

Examine varying credit. Which priority overrides — the recognition that courses have different degrees of difficulty and content value or the ease of administering a system where all courses are treated equally?

Consider the housing of handicapped students in one dormitory. Again which priority will override — the right of a handicapped student to live in a normal college environment or the simplicity of providing facilities for the handicapped in only one dorm instead of many?

We could continue to list examples *ad infinitum* where student rights and academic reform have been sacrificed for administrative convenience. It is our challenge, however, to confront our problems and seek concrete solutions to improve life at UNC.

More than any time in the past, it is crucial that we obtain the highest quality education possible. Course scrutiny by students must develop into a well-organized, coordinated program. The drive for academic improvement must not lose its impetus because of the transience of program directors. By

integrating the Course-Teacher Evaluation, the Carolina Course Review and the Course Improvement Survey, we can establish one strong spearhead for academic improvement. We must also push toward membership in the Faculty Council to balance its decisions and to be informed of its activities.

The level of student security must be greatly improved. Distribution of pocket alarms and the employment of financial aid students as campus escorts are two specific ideas that are feasible at this time. Lock card devices would also alleviate the inconvenience and the possibly dangerous situation for the women and decrease the number of larcenies and armed robberies occurring in the dorms.

At this time we have the potential of improving the welfare of those students living in Carrboro. This is an example of the need for student government to be flexible enough to adapt to student needs, in this case to provide the manpower necessary for passage of the Carrboro bus referendum.

Through my experience in student government, I have seen the progress that has been made this year; yet I also recognize the growing needs of students left untouched by student government. What should be realized about these proposals is that they are not political promises, but practical means to affect change. As new needs and new goals arise, students can either be the initiators of action or the recipients of more administrative manipulation. To protect our rights, our integrity and our future we must take the first course of action.

Tim Dugan is a junior business major from Potomac, Md.

## Joe Knight

It's next to impossible to express all the things that need to be done on this campus. From Student Health Services to Affirmative Action, the need for change is obvious. Yet, it would be naive for anyone to assume that Student Government alone can initiate the programs needed to resolve all of the problems that this campus faces.

However, Student Government can provide a framework with which we can confront the most pressing of these issues. In the past, problems have been intensified because of breakdowns in communications. Various groups have been frustrated in their efforts to present their particular views, and simple situations have become needlessly complicated. For example, had there been better communication between organizations prior to David Duke's invitation to appear, the unnecessary repercussions that occurred could have been avoided.

For these reasons, my platform focuses most sharply on the need for improved channels of communication. First, we propose the establishment of a student caucus composed of representatives from all student organizations on campus. The purpose of this caucus is to promote greater dissemination of information and improved relations between groups.

Secondly, there is a need to centralize and publicize all off-campus learning opportunities, ranging from tutoring elementary school students to working with the State Department of Corrections.

Thirdly, Student Government should initiate a program of peopulation to explore the diversity of various factions within the university community.

Next, comes the need for increased student input into university policy-making in three areas in particular. These areas are Student Health Services, Affirmative Action and the organization of a state-wide Student Congress.

Finally, there is a need to expand and to improve existing student services, especially the typing service, the food co-op and Student Service rentals.

In closing, I feel that accessibility is the key to a responsive and efficient student government. With this in mind, I would like to encourage anyone with questions or comments to contact me at 208 Pettigrew Hall between the hours of 2 and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or call 933-5032 or 933-4943.

Joe Knight is a junior economics major from Winston-Salem.



"MOSCOW SAYS THEY KNOW IT'S THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT AND SO WHAT?"

Letters to the editors

## Marbley treated unjustly

To the editors:

We feel that the article in the *DTH* concerning the trial of BSM leader Algenon Marbley was published at the wrong time, since it was the day of the trial.

We feel that it infringed upon his right not to have the story published if he didn't wish so, and the right of all concerned to a trial based on its own merits.

Whether or not the story was newsworthy should not have been the determining factor of whether to publish the story. Besides possibly contributing to bias on the part of the jurors, the fact that this story was published may very well cause the case to be thrown out of court. If he wishes, Marbley may very well have a case against the *DTH* and its editors for a violation of the Campus Code which calls for one to conduct himself in a manner so as not to impair the welfare... of others in the University community.

We think the *DTH* and its editors showed poor judgment in publishing this article.

Charles Edwards  
Reggie Greenwood  
307 Lewis

## Students proud of home states

To the editors:

The *DTH*, bastion of editorial freedom that it is, has in recent weeks printed several letters maligning those two fairest of Northern states, New Jersey and Connecticut. As residents of one or the other of these states, we feel that a protest and defense is in order.

New Jersey, the Garden State. Ah, what an appellation. The gentle odors wafting from the refineries of Bayonne remind one of a greenhouse, one that has been used to store peat for several years. What other state so richly deserves the New York Giants (also known as New Haven Giants)? How many other states are afraid to use their names for their own universities. We have Rutgers, the State University. Other states boast that "George Washington Slept Here." New Jersey can claim that he left there in the middle of the night, in the famous portrait of him crossing the Delaware. Need we go on? And what of Connecticut? How can a state be all bad if it is founded by a man named Hooker, and has a square in the middle of

Hartford that quite aptly honors its namesake? How bad can a capital be if it is dubbed the Insurance City? All you aspiring graduates know how exciting a career in insurance can be. The state as a whole (sic) seems to be a suburb for New York City. And so it goes.

Both are sovereign states, proud of their identity and ever ready to serve the needs of the country. So please refrain from any further disparaging remarks. For we are quite proud of our birthplaces.

Robert P. Carroll  
511 Morrison  
David B. Walser  
507 Morrison

## Latin response to Platt column

To the editors:

Please publish the following in response to Mr. Platt's entertaining contribution of Feb. 13:

O Rin, scriba fortunata,  
Gavdeamvs igitvr, ivvenes dvm svms . . . et gratias debeo mvsaee ribiqve Pontifici maximo artis iocosaee. Nihilonimqvam, mvltae svnt lacrimae meae et lamentatione profvnda captivvs svv tempore Latino exilio et, ehev, sapientia illivs absente expressa in "Si tacvisses, philosophvs mansisses." Cvra salvtvm tvam. Ulrich Faigle  
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