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The Daily Tar Heel

88th year of editorial freedom

letters to the editor

English department fair to athletes

To the editor:
I was dismayed to read about Steve Junkmann's complaints concerning the freshman English program. According to your report, Steve was doing "fine in freshman English until he wore a UNC football jersey to class." After that he got only Fs and when the football office arranged for a Ph.D. candidate to submit a paper under Junkmann's name, that paper failed too.

Junkmann was a freshman five years ago, and almost everyone involved back then is gone. Steve, however, is still around and has clarified what happened. I have spoken with him and he has told me that midway through that first semester, he broke his wrist and thumb during practice and was unable to dictate his papers to a football tutor, a woman who in fact already held a doctorate. Steve reports she copied down what he dictated and then made very few remarks about the paper. She "wrote out" the paper, but it was Steve's. The paper was handed in and it received an F.

Perhaps the tutor did not fulfill her duties very well in this case, but perhaps she did. It is hard to tell five years later. I do not believe we have much evidence here that Steve's teacher was prejudiced against athletes.

Every year one teaching assistant in the English department, out of a staff of 130, is given the Hartsell Award for outstanding performance in teaching freshman English. The awards committee bases its selection of the winner on the student evaluations collected at the end of each semester. Two years after she taught his class, Steve's teacher was named a Hartsell winner; she is presently an assistant professor at Vassar College.

In this case I can't side with the student. Nonetheless, I know teaching assistants, as well as full professors, are human, and sometimes they can be unfair, although it is my belief that they are unfair far less often than some students would guess. I hope that students will come see me when they feel they are not getting a square deal. It is my job to work for their interests at least as hard as I work for the interests of the teaching assistants. And believe it or not, I do work for them just as hard.

John Auchard
Acting Director
Freshman-Sophomore English

Thornton report

To the editor:

After reviewing the Thornton report, I came up with a few problems in justifying its approval. The report is supposed to solve a problem which does not necessarily exist. The report assumes that individuals in our present system are not properly educated. That is, they do not conform to the Thornton committee's idea of a proper education. To solve this so-called problem, the report advocates requiring students to take courses from more specified areas than are presently required.

All this is done and justified without any empirical research as to what is being taken under the present system and how this would necessarily be changed by the new system. By this I mean there have been no published correlation studies on what the average student takes presently during his stay at Carolina, and certainly no cross-tabulation studies as to how the Thornton report curriculum changes would affect this.

One of the goals of the Thornton report is "to help students...make responsible value judgments and decisions within a pluralistic society..." To achieve this goal, the report requires students to take perspectives which never even emphasize society as it presently exists. There is no emphasis on black, ecological, or urban studies; rather it is assumed that students will fit these courses into their limited free elective schedule.

Another goal is "to help students become self-educating individuals..." To



this end the report urges both capstone and required basic reasoning courses. Instead of stimulating thought these measures will stifle it. Students will respond to the newly required language 3 and 4 as they presently do to 1 and 2. Further, the new capstone courses will probably be taught with the same vigor and excitement that can be expected from an overloaded course (i.e. Economics 31).

Besides all the above problems, the report ignores some viable alternatives. Why not revamp the advising system? Why not make the pass-fail alternative more acceptable by erasing its stigma as being designed for slack students? Why isn't a four-course load with more in-depth concentration (4-hour courses) looked at? Why not propose that some capstone mini-courses (2-hour courses) be added to departmental requirements to give overviews? At least these could be phased in gradually and professionally.

The Thornton report as it presently stands is unacceptable for many reasons. Because of this, I urge students to talk to their professors and let them know their feelings. If we don't act now, it may be too late in the fall.

Leo Warshauer

Toronto Exchange

To the editor:

The denial by the Finance Committee of the CGC to allocate funds for next year's Toronto Exchange is representative of several poor decisions made by the committee this year.

The complaint of the committee that the exchange is narrow in scope ironically will become more valid if the funds are, indeed, denied. The organizers for next year's exchange realize the shortcomings of the exchange (i.e., its tendency to serve only a small percentage of the University community), but without financial support we will hardly be able to overcome these structural problems.

The exchange will not be dissolved by this lack of funding, but it will attract an elitist group limited to those who have the personal funds to participate, in lieu of attracting the diverse crowd from all corners of the campus that it has in the past. Dues for exchange members will have to be raised from last year's \$25 to approximately \$65. In addition, the large numbers of people, not members of the exchange, who have participated in exchange activities year after year will have to be excluded due to this lack of funding.

The organizers of the exchange, and everyone else who has participated actively in its events, feel that it has served a worthwhile purpose to the UNC

community over the past 20 years. The fact that there were 300 applicants to the exchange last fall shows its popularity. The exchange is an important part of the University because, along with other organizations, it serves to unite a segment of the population. Universities abroad, many of which lack this type of unification, are denied much of the spark and enthusiasm offered by American universities which support such programs.

The Toronto Exchange is a social vehicle, but it serves its purpose in offering students a cultural and educational opportunity. It is a longstanding tradition, which needs and deserves support from the student body.

Cece Lippitt
Carrboro

Carolina Quarterly defense

To the editor:

For 32 years *Carolina Quarterly* has published outstanding fiction and poetry by established and emerging writers. Recent contributors have included UNC systems programmer Paul Jones, UNC alumnus Jonathan Polansky, and UNC undergraduate Randy Wall. Last spring, alumnus Tim Keppel won first prize in the *Quarterly's* annual fiction contest for young writers.

Carolina Quarterly is nationally known and respected: It has been consistently listed by the Pushcart Prize Anthology as one of the nation's outstanding small presses; the latest *Best American Short Stories* included three stories originally published by *CQ*; the last two Doubleday's O. Henry Prize Awards have included stories which first appeared in the *Quarterly*; and copies of the magazine go to every major library in the country.

Yet when *Carolina Quarterly* went before CGC's Finance Committee to request money from student activities fees to help cover publishing and operating costs, its request was denied. I find this hard to believe.

The *Carolina Quarterly* provides students with examples of contemporary literary excellence. Traditionally, universities have supported excellence in all forms, from literature to athletics. Refusing to help fund the *Quarterly* is like cutting a winning football team.

It is the responsibility of the University and its students to support projects that are not necessarily tied to commercial gain. Just because a story

wouldn't make a buck from *Redbook* does not mean that the story is not good: Often the opposite is true. UNC should help fill the need for small presses that publish "noncommercial" creative work.

The *Carolina Quarterly* provides editorial and business experience for about 20 staff members, mostly graduate students (though at least two undergrads worked on the staff this year). Since it is one organization that directly involves graduate students, the *Quarterly* should receive part of the 85 percent of graduate student fees which go into CGC's big pot. About 300 students buy the *Quarterly* three times a year. Copies of the magazine are available for all students in the undergrad and Wilson libraries and in the N.C. Collection.

CQ does publish UNC students occasionally, without usurping the position of *Cellar Door*, the undergraduate literary magazine. When a student is published by the *Quarterly*, he knows that it is because his work is good, not because of some gratuity. The Finance Committee may control the purse strings of campus publications, but it should not meddle in their editorial policies.

CQ raises two thirds of the money it needs to publish three times a year. For the benefits they receive, UNC students should put up the rest.

In February, the Finance Committee was glad to approve an emergency appropriation of \$3,100 to the *Quarterly* (this in addition to over \$3,000 appropriated last spring). What happened between then and now? Why have the committee's priorities flip-flopped? Why is Student Government so inconsistent?

Although I am sympathetic to the Finance Committee's responsibilities and the headaches this budgetary process must cause, I grow tired of seeing that, when money gets tight, art is the first thing to go. The very word "university" implies that UNC should contain everything, not simply cater to some "average" or some lowest common denominator. Surely this university and its students can contain both Campus Y and the Carolina Gay Association, both Chapel Thrill and Carolina Indian Circle, both Carolina football and *Carolina Quarterly*.

I look forward to the day when UNC is known for more than its consumption of beer and Crues.

Elizabeth Moose
Cellar Door editor

Frustrated mumbling

As usual members of the Campus Governing Council's Finance Committee are not the most loved students on campus this time of year. The Finance Committee, which has prepared an appropriations budget bill to present to the full CGC tonight, is known for the frugal manner in which it allocates funds, sometimes without the best interests of the University community in mind.

Yet, there is no question that the committee has an unpopular and thankless task. It must decide how to appropriate about \$185,000 to numerous groups requesting funds. This year 37 different organizations asked for student activity fees money and the total requests almost doubled the available amount. Those groups who got money generally got less than asked for and those groups who were denied funding may face extinction. Certainly, the full CGC can, and no doubt will, make amendments to the current bill. And while *The Daily Tar Heel* could suggest vehemently that the CGC dip into its extravagant surplus of roughly \$140,000 to lend a hand to floundering student groups, the real problem will still remain. You can't squeeze blood from a turnip. And you can't allocate money that doesn't exist.

First of all, it is important for students to understand the surplus that has caused controversy in the past. This money exists to provide a cushion, a very large and fluffy cushion it may be, but all the same much of the cushion is warranted. The CGC receives student activity fees as students pay their tuitions. Because students are known to conveniently forget about tuition payments until the end of the semester, it is crucial that the CGC have a large bank roll to cover the immediate demands of student organizations or to provide emergency funds when and if they are needed.

Moreover, if the surplus is used this year and the year after and so on, eventually it will dwindle and student organizations will be faced with an even more drastic situation. Every organization that appeared before the Finance Committee believed it should be funded, and funded well. Many an organization member could be seen grumbling under his breath during the past few days about the irresponsible and overly hasty Finance Committee even though, for the most part, it did an admirable job.

Two problems then must be alleviated. Students on this campus, in the near future, must be willing to absorb a student activity fees increase for the benefit of the organizations that provide this campus with a variety of valuable functions. Secondly, the CGC must amend its bylaws to allow more time for scrutiny of budget requests. Until such measures are passed, frustrated mumbling and financial bickering will continue to plague the budgeting process.

Ah, militancy!

For a few fleeting moments Tuesday, chaos reigned in normally placid Suite C. A group of 16 good-natured terrorists, armed only with water guns and exasperation, stormed the Student Government offices and took Student Body President Bob Saunders and his staff as hostages.

There was madness in this method, as anyone could have discerned from the jovial attitude of the would-be militants, but there was also a serious point to be made. The Old West Liberation Front had taken over Suite C to vent their frustration and to get, as they frankly said, "some cheap publicity." Their demands were simple; an extermination project to control the dorm's roach and rat population and new doors to shut drafts and thieves out of Old West's three towers.

After enlisting Saunderson's support, the militants marched to the offices of University Housing in Carr Building. After a dramatic confrontation with housing officials, the unthinkable happened: the administration labored mightily and brought forth a response.

Old West would be rid of vermin, the officials said—at least temporarily, until the critters came back. New doors would be installed that were lockable and weatherproofed and in accordance with the statutes concerning alterations of National Historic Landmarks. That was just fine with the residents of Old West, who had decided after living with drafty double doors all year that they would rather be warm than historically authentic. Old West's demands were met, the hostages were released unharmed and all concerned breathed a sigh of relief and went home.

It is encouraging to see the University respond so quickly and effectively to student needs, but it is more encouraging to see a little strain of militancy on campus again. The men of Old West may have been good-natured, but they got what they were after, and in these complacent times that's a lot more than many student groups can say.

Apartheid's future depends on liberal Botha

By JONATHAN RICH

With the installment last week of Robert Mugabe as Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, South Africa stands as the last advocate of legalized racism. Time is running out for a nation now surrounded by black, Marxist-leaning governments who are dedicated to liberating their oppressed brothers to the South. The outcome of a current power struggle within the ruling party could decide whether South Africa will attempt a peaceful transition toward majority rule or face the ominous consequences of entrenched apartheid.

The election of P.W. Botha as Prime Minister 18 months ago marked a definite change in traditional government policy. In a sharp divergence from the game plan of his predecessor, John Vorster, Botha promised a new policy on domestic race relations, and throughout much of last year his message to audiences of the long-ruling National Party was "we must adapt or die."

For a time, the government seemed committed to greater equality, and some major as well as cosmetic alterations to the comprehensive web of racial laws were permitted. In accordance to the Wiehahn and Rieker Commissions' proposals on the desegregation of labor, the government allowed blacks to form and join labor unions. Many of the restrictions on professional jobs were also rescinded, while for the minority of blacks allowed to live and work in urban areas, some aspects of the laws restricting their movement were relaxed.

Yet by the opening of Parliament in February, the push for reform had slackened. Angered by Botha's relatively liberal policies, his party's conservative wing—the so-called *verkrampptes*, or cramped men—has submitted a serious challenge that could split the party and remove Botha. Led by Andries Treurnicht, the Minister of Public Works, the conservatives hope by gaining control to return the country to its former policy of strict racial segregation at all levels.

The conservatives' position has been strengthened recently by several foreign and domestic developments. The overwhelming majority accorded to Mugabe in

Rodesia's elections confirmed the opinion of many whites that concessions to blacks will inevitably lead to black rule. A black guerrilla attack on a bank in suburban Pretoria, resulting in the deaths of several hostages as well as the three insurgents, supported Treurnicht and others who argue that white power can only be sustained through force. Conservative interests received another boost when John Vorster emerged from retirement to attack the reformist trend of the Botha government.

Although Botha enjoys the backing of an overwhelming majority of whites, estimates give Treurnicht the support of at least 60 of the National Party's 134 members, and an even stronger position among party workers who form an influential power bloc at the annual congresses. Given the right circumstances, the Treurnicht bloc could theoretically vote down key Botha policies, and by forcing a leadership vote in the parliamentary caucus, oust Botha before the next parliamentary session begins in January.

The recent schism within the ruling party results from two divergent views on apartheid. If Treurnicht came to power, he would apparently attempt to restore the rigid racial doctrines instituted by Hendrik Frensch Verwoerd, former Prime Minister who was assassinated in 1966. Treurnicht has argued that concessions on "petty apartheid"—the laws that enforce segregation in all areas, from cinemas to hospitals—will inevitably cause the downfall of "grand apartheid," Verwoerd's plan for limiting blacks to political rights in the tribal homelands.

Botha, however, maintains that economic and social concessions can be made without sacrificing the whites' political domination. Despite his more liberal views, Botha has no intentions of relinquishing the sovereignty of the 2.4 million white Afrikaners.

Instead of majority rule within one nation, Botha envisions a confederation of white, Asian and mixed-race states. Impoverished black homelands would be enlarged and consolidated into a Council of States with limited powers, while segregated townships would be granted almost complete independence with the

federation. Yet, despite the promise of greater freedom, equality, and the relaxation of offensive aspects of petty apartheid, the whites will retain their essential barriers and controls. Segregated residential areas, schools and hospitals, as well as control over the police and military, would not be surrendered.

The outcome of the current power struggle holds far-reaching consequences for South Africa. A Treurnicht victory could only be disastrous. Not only do his espoused apartheid policies negate any form of racial equality, but they would inflame hostility and distrust between all racial groups. Having granted concessions to the 20 million non-whites, the government cannot rescind them and expect to rule over a passive majority. The reforms of the past year have not resulted from humanitarian ideals so much as a real political decision to mollify black disquietude and militancy.

Luckily, most blacks still favor peaceful methods in working toward equality. It is also fortunate that Botha has managed to hold on to his executive post. Yet as he tries to patch relations with the party's conservative element, new reforms will be slow in coming. Meanwhile, his plan for a great federation of racial states is unlikely to satisfy most blacks. The institution of homelands has met mounting opposition from blacks who have watched helplessly as 2 million non-whites have been forcibly moved from areas deemed white over the past 25 years.

Despite white rhetoric on democratic pluralism and federations, most blacks have rejected any plan in which they will be "separate but equal." Whatever government holds the reins of power will have to deal with a higher level of black unity, expectations and demands for total equality. For if the lessons of Rhodesia have made reform seem more urgent to whites like Botha, they have also convinced many blacks that only outright power will do.

Jonathan Rich, a freshman political science major from Boston, Mass., is a staff writer for *The Daily Tar Heel*.

The Daily Tar Heel

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