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The Daily Tar Heel

88th year of editorial freedom

Black, white and gray

Last week in Washington, more than 6,000 people rallied to protest federal efforts to desegregate the nation's colleges and universities. They were not white supremacists or opponents of integration, though; they were students and supporters of traditionally black colleges, and they were attacking government policies they say will destroy the schools they represent.

The speakers, who included protest organizer and syndicated television commentator Tony Brown and Fayetteville State University Chancellor Charles Lyons, raised a question the Department of Education has failed to address since beginning its efforts to desegregate the University of North Carolina system as well as other traditionally black schools: How far should the government go in its efforts to make black campuses whiter?

Those schools have historically educated a far larger number of black students than predominantly white colleges and universities. North Carolina private black universities—Johnson C. Smith, St. Augustines' and Shaw—as well as the formerly segregated state universities, provided educational opportunities when other schools were closed to blacks. The largely segregated UNC system is a legacy of that era, and the Department of Education's efforts to integrate it fail to take into account the black schools' singular success.

Black students at black schools are far more likely to graduate than those who attend predominantly white institutions, and most black doctors and lawyers graduate from black universities. Although they fail to conform to the federal government's concept of an equitable educational system, they meet the essential criterion of effectiveness.

Admittedly, many black schools are having difficulty maintaining academic standards and enrollments as formerly white universities compete for black students. The disappointing scores of North Carolina Central's law school graduates and N.C. A & T's nursing school graduates point out severe problems within those institutions.

Yet, as Brown asserted at the Washington rally, wholesale shifts of programs between white and black schools have failed, and the only way to avoid some degree of segregation is to close the black colleges. That would deny black and white students an educational and cultural alternative many prefer, and one that other schools cannot provide. Such institutions ought to be open to blacks and whites, but to close them simply because they are predominantly black is to destroy an important component of an integrated American educational system.

'The Last Hurrah'—again

After the fight Thursday night, his face badly battered and bruised, Muhammed Ali was already discussing a future fight with Mike Weaver for the other share of the divided heavyweight boxing crown. It did not matter that he had just failed to win a single round of a 10-round bout with World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Larry Holmes, and that by the end of the fight he no longer could raise his hands to deflect the punches of the younger, stronger Holmes. None of that seemed to have an effect on Ali; he was still talking.

It is difficult to separate Ali the Mouth from Ali the Fighter, and probably before Thursday's fight he had convinced many that he would once again claim a share of the heavyweight title. Certainly his pre-fight hype against Holmes, the jabbering and jousting with his opponent in press conferences, was intended to remind us of the Ali of old—the Ali who beat Smokin' Joe Frazier two out of three times, the Ali who stopped big George Foreman when no one else could, the Ali who defeated an aging Sonny Liston for the heavyweight crown 16 years ago.

Yet, 16 years is a long time, and even though Ali had done the impossible in slimming down from an obese 253 pounds in March to a slim and muscular 217 by October, the punch just was not there any more. The promoters had billed the fight as "The Last Hurrah" but only an embarrassed hush was evident at Caesar's Palace by the 10th round. Angelo Dundee, Ali's long-time trainer, tutor and friend, broke down in tears after the fight—he said it had been "a horrible night."

The morning after his humiliating defeat Ali said on a talk show that he still was the greatest, if not the champ. Few would argue with him. His brilliant career is rivaled in modern sports history only by those of Jack Nicklaus in golf and Bjorn Borg in tennis. Besides his individual achievements, Ali brought to boxing a class and sophistication it had obviously lacked.

It is no exaggeration to say that Ali's face and name are better known throughout the world than any others. But it seems that, at last, Ali has been finished, that age has taken its toll and his star has faded. Perhaps. But how many times have writers, sports announcers and Ali himself ended his career? Ali may be down, but we'll pass at counting him out.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Student voters register, now should vote

By JOHN DRESCHER

A picture on the front page of Tuesday's *Daily Tar Heel* showed a student dropping a ballot into a box at the Union in Monday's mock election. The caption underneath read: "...Almost 3,000 students cast ballots in the presidential race."

It could have just as easily been a picture of a lonely ballot box attendant, sitting patiently and waiting for the next student to appear, with a caption underneath that read: "...More than 17,000 students did not cast ballots...."

The numbers showed that 85 percent of the student body did not vote. Elections Board Chairman Gregg James said the 15 percent turnout was only slightly less than he had anticipated. Even with his extensive efforts to advertise the mock election through posters and the local media, James had hoped for a turnout of only 3,500 to 4,000.

On the surface it would seem that 85 percent non-participation in a vote concerning national politics would be cause for great alarm, even if the vote did not "count." But there are those who are not alarmed by this low turnout, who say that student participation is not on the decline. Gerry Cohen, who heads voter registration for the Orange County Democratic Party, maintains that more students are registering now than at any time in the past decade.

"It looks to me that student registration (for the Nov. 4 elections) is quite high," Cohen said. A two-day registration session at Woollen Gym brought 537 new registrations, which Cohen said is higher than last spring, fall and even the high registration totals of 1972. Also, the Student Legal Services has had enormous requests for absentee ballots, he said.

The increase in student registration likely is due to

John Anderson's speech on campus, Cohen said, and also to the Carrboro bus referendum, a local issue that concerns many students.

Because many students are registered in their hometowns, Cohen has no way of knowing how many students actually are registered. A 1976 *Daily Tar Heel* poll showed that 19,000 UNC students said they had registered, but Cohen said the accuracy of this poll should be questioned because students will not admit when they have not registered.

But if student registration for national elections is increasing, as Cohen said, this still does not explain why only 3,000 students voted in the mock election. The fact that the vote did not count toward actual representation was the main reason, James said.

"I was sitting at a polling table and a guy came up to me and asked me what was going on," James said. "When I told him, he said, 'Oh, then it's really not important,' and he didn't vote. He just didn't want to stop on his way to class. He was already at the poll box."

An interesting fact is that the same people who didn't vote in the mock elections are the people who will vote in the real election, and vice versa.

"Most of the students who vote in Chapel Hill live off campus," Cohen said. "These are the same people who did not vote in the mock election. The ones who did vote in the mock election were the ones who lived in dorms and just had to go downstairs to vote. These are often the ones who won't vote when it counts."

Obviously then, the student who lives on campus is hindered in a real election because he must travel off campus to vote. Another reason voting percentage among students is somewhat lower than the national norm is simply that most students have not voted before, said William Keech, associate chairman of the political science department.

"The number of times you vote increases with the

propensity to vote," Keech said. "College-aged students haven't developed voting habits yet. The more people become involved in their community, the more they vote."

"College is often a transitional stage. Students are not yet property owners, and don't feel a stake in their community, but once they do they will begin to vote. After they vote once, they often continue to vote."

Keech uses the word "indifference" to describe those who don't vote. He is not alarmed that many students do not vote, and feels that there are several unsurprising reasons for students not to vote.

All voters have certain information costs that they have to deal with, Keech said. The cost of making an intelligent decision is pitted against the expected benefits of making that decision. Often the expected benefits do not outweigh the effort it takes to make that decision, and so the potential voter does not vote, Keech said.

"Sometimes it's reasonable for people not to care," he said. "Not participating seems to be an appropriate way to specify a lack of preference."

Keech's reasoning applies to elections that have no effect on a voter. This certainly must be a rare occurrence. Never can a lack of preference be a relevant reason for choosing not to vote in a presidential election. Every student, and indeed every citizen, has a duty himself so he will know the expected benefits of his choice, however small they may be, and then go out and vote.

The cost of informing oneself to be able to make an intelligent choice is relatively small. The results of that choice can be one voters will have to live with every day for years.

John Drescher, a junior journalism major from Raleigh, is a staff columnist for The Daily Tar Heel.

Letters to the editor

Ethics of inviting Gordon Liddy defended

To the editor:

I would like to respond to the letter, "Liddy speech," (*DTH*, October 2). Bill Crimmins and Keith Brown claim that the sponsorship of the Liddy speech by the Carolina Union was an outrage and an embarrassment. Their contention could not be more wrong.

This University represents a cross section of people from many different walks of life. In bringing people to this campus to speak, it is important to present diverse and varying viewpoints. I will not go into the politics involving the Watergate scandal, but I for one was proud to hear a man with such integrity and concern for this country address the issues of the day.

Judging from the size of the audience and the reception Liddy received I was not alone. I would like to commend the Carolina Union for sponsoring Liddy's speech. I hope the Union continues to invite competent and interesting individuals to speak on our campus. The fact that Crimmins and Brown did not attend Wednesday night's speech enabled me and approximately 1,600 others to enjoy the evening that much more.

Dan Coombs
Carrboro

Liddy audience criticized

To the editor:

I was aghast at the response that a packed Memorial Hall gave to Gordon Liddy Wednesday evening. That a common cat burglar, who happens to be a ruthless and brutal politician, could earn such approval from an educated audience should appall intelligent human beings.

A lawyer, who finds defense and justification for his illegal actions through a guise of patriotism and loyalty, deserves neither our acceptance nor respect and certainly not our praise. His comment that the cost of bullets has dampened his desire to "blow away" John Dean was more than I could stomach. The enthusiastic applause and laughter that greeted such a callous remark make me seriously question the values of those who were present.

Jim Flaherty
105B Sue Ann Court
Carrboro



More Liddy

To the editor:

The authors of a recently published letter, "Liddy Speech," (*DTH*, Oct. 2), objected to G. Gordon Liddy's speaking appearance on campus last Wednesday. They claimed it to be an "outrage and an embarrassment...a glorification and condonation of criminal acts."

Having attended Liddy's speech, we would like to correct some erroneous assumptions in that letter. Liddy did not come to Chapel Hill so that we could celebrate or chastise his notoriety from

the Watergate affair; indeed, most of his remarks were only intended to shatter naive perceptions held by many Americans about international and domestic political scenes. In no way did the Carolina Union or the University "condone" or "affiliate" itself with Liddy's opinions or actions. Neither did the more than 1,600 students in attendance—Liddy was booed on occasion.

Rather, the University provided an open and diverse forum of ideas and is to be commended for hosting such a controversial figure. By not attending

the speech for the sake of the "University community and the American people," those students only proved Liddy's point—that we are indeed living in illusions and sheltering ourselves from those things which are disturbing or controversial in the world. Blighted past and refuse to discuss the issues with a speaker of invaluable experience such as Liddy?

How will we ever learn from our political mistakes if we polish over the

Jennifer Cresimore
Robby Hassell

Who's in charge of your itinerary, John?

By DAVID POOLE

The Daily Tar Heel
Carolina Union
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514

Mr. John B. Anderson
Somewhere on the Campaign Trail
United States of America

Dear Mr. Anderson,

Sorry I missed you when you were in town last week. I'm sure I don't have to tell you about the busy schedule and all that stuff. I had a 12:30 class, you see, and we were supposed to cover this important material. But everybody else went to see you and class was canceled. Oh well.

Anyway, I just wanted to drop you a line and ask why you chose to do the things you did while you were in our neck of woods. I know that you don't do all the scheduling, but it looks like to me you could have spent your time here more wisely.

Your call for a 50-cents-per-gallon gas tax might have been more effective if you had left all those big, fancy rent-a-cars over at the Raleigh-Durham airport and ridden over with your staff in just one car. Once here, you could have taken the J-bus in from off-campus. I don't think many students who have to ride like so many sardines on those buses would really care what you thought about the MX missile system.

I think, also, you should have managed to get here in time to eat breakfast on campus. I find it hard to believe that anyone can give an effective speech on world peace unless he has first eaten powdered eggs

served up in an ice-cream scoop.

Once on campus, I think you should have tried to get to at least one class. Most of us students try to make it to at least one each day, and I think you could have seen things better from the student perspective if you had, too. Besides attending a class would have given you time to pore over *The Daily Tar Heel* so you could have quoted us more in your speech. You probably could have gotten through the crossword as well, had you picked the right kind of class.

They tell me that after your speech you came back to the Union and had quiche from some fancy local restaurant. Heck, sir, you could have gotten egg pie anywhere. While you were here you should have sampled the local cuisine. I don't think that your digestive system could have hungered for food, but you and all the secret service guys could have walked down to Hector's or the Carolina Grill for a greasburger and fries just to see how we live.



It is good that you were here on the first rainy day we've had in months. The 'icky' weather you ran into here was typical of the kind we usually don't get 'til February—or monsoon season as us locals call it. I hope you didn't get too awfully muddy in all the mess left by the construction, but then again how muddy can a guy get walking to and from a limo?

Those of us who work on the paper here are really glad you held up the *DTH* in front of national press

and all. But I'd like to caution you about getting too happy over your sweeping victory in our minuscule mock election. And, I wonder if you know that one of your key campus commandoes is British and can't even vote in our election. Pretty sloppy on the old organization front, there, big guy.

Seriously, I hope you enjoyed the four hours you spent around here. After all, it isn't every day that we get to see a big-time presidential candidate, even one who doesn't have much of a chance, and have all the networks and big newspaper guys swarming around. It was all pretty exciting.

But there's just one thing. Where did you get the "As Chapel Hill goes, so goes the nation" idea? I mean it might be just a line a speech to you, but my gosh. What are you trying to do to us? I can see it now. On Nov. 4, all three networks will send in a phalanx of experts with fancy slide rules and Univacs the size of Lake Erie and analyze the Chapel Hill vote. We'll suddenly become another cheap tourist trap. They already call us "The Mind of the South". I just hope nobody heard you.

Well, I know you're pretty busy, what with deciding positions on inflation and arms proliferation and all, so I'll close. Let us know when you're going to be in the neighborhood again and we'll see what we can work out.

Respectfully yours,

David Poole

P.S.—David Poole, a senior journalism major from Gastonia, N.C., is a weekly columnist and assistant sports editor for *The Daily Tar Heel*.