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The Daily Tar Heel

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Cheating

Responsibility begins and ends with students

By JOHN DRESCHER

It happens in all areas of life; it always has, and it always will. People cheat. University students are no exception. In fact, a recent *U.S. News and World Report* article said that cheating in college has become an epidemic.

"It's a disturbing sign on campus," the article reported. "(There's) a wave of collegiate dishonesty that flouts academic values and penalizes honest students."

At UNC there is a small amount of evidence showing that academic cheating has increased in the last decade. The UNC Honor Court found 28 percent more students guilty of cheating in the 1978-79 judicial session than it did in the 1977-78 session.

There is, however, a good explanation for this rather dramatic increase. The Honor Court decided nearly a third more cases in the 1978-79 school year than it did in the previous year. This was the result of a strengthening of the student-run honor system in summer 1978.

A stronger honor system probably has helped reduce cheating. But how much cheating occurs remains an issue. A recent poll at Princeton University showed that 34 percent of those surveyed admitted to cheating on an exam at least once in their undergraduate careers. At Carolina, Student Attorney General Louis Bledsoe estimated that more than 34 percent have violated the academic honor code at least once in their college years.

A good number of these violations are probably "minor"—misplacing a footnote source or discussing a test problem with someone who has already taken the test, for example. Still, the number of blatant cheaters out of a university of 20,000 must be more than the 40 who were found guilty at the University last year.

The issue is: Does the number of cheaters at the University represent the bare minimum, that small minority who will always cheat, or is there more of a problem at Carolina? It depends on whom you talk to.

"I don't view it as a problem," said Elson Floyd, assistant dean for student life. "It certainly isn't in epidemic proportions."

Although cheating may not be an epidemic here, business administration associate professor Linda Bowen said she still thought it was a problem. "Large classes have been the worst," she said.

court resulted in a guilty verdict.

Also, the system's enforcers began an extensive program of educating students and faculty about the honor system and how it works.

"We've tried to make it a positive educational process," Floyd said. "We've told them what it is, how it works and why we have it... We've also tried to make students more aware of the penalties."

Still, there are teachers and students who feel cheating is a problem. Bledsoe and Floyd have done all they can do. More education is not the answer.

Bledsoe makes it clear that his office cannot look for cheating by policing students. That is up to the system's participants—students and teachers—and they are the ones who need to be taking a more active role.

Teachers feel that most problems arise in crowded, large classrooms. There are a number of precautions teachers can take. Some split their classes up into

smaller classrooms to take the test. Some use more than one version of a test and change the order of the questions. Often teaching assistants are called in to help proctor.

Various teachers have checked students' identification cards in large classrooms to make sure there were no surrogate students taking the test. Rodney Redding, assistant professor in the business department, checked IDs when he was teaching at Penn State.

"I highly recommend it," Redding said. "It's impossible for an instructor to know each student. It'd be very easy for someone not enrolled to take the test. I (check IDs) only because the possibility exists."

These preventive techniques eliminate the temptations a student may have. They shouldn't be used solely to catch students, but merely to ensure that tests can be taken in proper environments. It is these kinds of actions by teachers that are recommended by the Honor Code.

The rest of the burden falls on students. Bledsoe estimates that 40 to 50 percent of the cases he receives are brought in by students, and he said he's pleased at that amount.

Bowen said though students sometimes reported cheaters to her, often they were never prosecuted. "The student comes up to me and reports cheating, but later backs out," she said.

And Bledsoe admits that there are many students who see cheating and never report it. In effect, they are condoning that cheating.

Thus, ironically, the strongest point of the Honor System, that it is run completely by students, is also its worst flaw. It's been said over and over, but the system cannot function without enforcement from students. There is no passing the buck.

Cheating is not rampant at UNC, but it is an aspect of college life that should be dealt with by all members of the college community.

"It's a serious business," Bledsoe said.

Indeed it is. Just ask one of the 50 students suspended for cheating the last two years.

John Drescher, a junior journalism major from Raleigh, N.C., is an editorial assistant for The Daily Tar Heel.

Sound and fury...

In a town like Chapel Hill, you ought to be able to set your stereo speakers out on the front porch, put on James Taylor, twist open a cold beer, sit and listen. If the municipal noise ordinance is amended as planned, however, that sort of boisterous behavior would require two days' notice and an excessive \$5 noise permit.

On Tuesday night, the Town Council postponed a decision on the new noise ordinance pending further study. Before the council passes the proposed ordinance, it should be amended so that it affects more directly the causes of excessive noise without making social life difficult for the rest of the town's populace.

The proposal retains specific decibel limits for sound, which would be measured at the edge of the property from which the sound emanates. Such limits are essential to any noise ordinance and should be enforced strictly when complaints are received.

Earlier this year, however, town police were accused of shutting down noisy parties arbitrarily and failing to warn offenders adequately. If standard procedures for enforcing the decibel limits were specified, both police and parties would know exactly what the law required.

From that reasonable beginning, the ordinance goes on to state a number of unreasonable restrictions on outdoor noise. These seem to be aimed at the handful of fraternities that regularly sponsor outdoor parties and have jukeboxes. Any source of "outdoor amplified noise" would have to have an excessive noise permit; those permits would cost \$5 and two days' notice. No decibel limits were set for outdoor amplified noise. Thus, the ordinance would restrict the noisy fraternities it seems to be after, but it also would muffle dormitory parties, spontaneous gatherings and the sort of outdoor porch parties described above, no matter how quiet they were. Because speakers could not be more than 10 feet off the ground, the ordinance would theoretically prohibit any resident above the first floor of a high-rise dorm from playing his stereo with the window open.

Further, the town manager or his designee—likely Police Chief Herman Stone—could require that the holder of a noise permit deposit \$50 to defray the costs of cleanup of public property littered by party-goers. This is nearly unenforceable; most parties which cause litter are sponsored by several organizations, and it is unfair to fine them for the litter left by uninvited guests. The \$50 deposit, like the \$5 cost of permits, seems intended to discourage individuals and groups from applying for permits and thus from having outdoor parties. Stone's refusal to even grant a noise permit to the organizers of Sunday's "Smoke-In" is characteristic.

Chapel Hill residents should not have their ears assaulted by excessive noise, but they also should be able to throw outdoor parties within reasonable restrictions. In attacking the principal producers of noise, the proposed ordinance would overregulate ordinary citizens. An ordinance with reasonable noise limits, indoors and out, would be a more effective and fair solution to this problem.

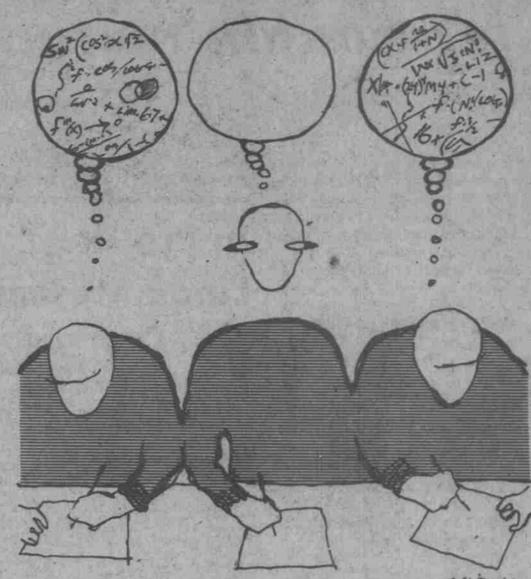
Bowling

The campus is rife with rumors about which bowl bid the Tar Heel football team might accept although no bids will be extended until the dust settles from Saturday's games. The leading candidates, assuming UNC beats Virginia, seem to be the Peach Bowl in Atlanta, which will be nationally televised, and Houston's Bluebonnet Bowl, which will be carried by an independent network.

In choosing a bowl, Coach Dick Crum, athletic director John Swofford and the team will have to weigh all kinds of factors: the chance to improve our ranking, profits and the prestige of the bowl itself. They ought to consider the location of the bowls as well.

It seems to us that a whole lot more students could drive to Atlanta for the Peach Bowl than could afford to fly to Houston for the Bluebonnet. A large percentage of UNC's out-of-staters are from Georgia and Florida, and Atlanta is halfway, sort of, between here and there.

What effect the student cheering section might have on the team's chances is unclear. Still, there will likely be no Carolina student cheering section in Houston. Wherever the Tar Heels go, we hope their fans will be able to follow.



Greensboro trial dominates lives of reporters

By MARK ANCONA

*Well my baby she's a juror
I'm as blue as I can be
And I can't get no lovin'
Till that judge-man sets her free*
—Well My Baby's A Juror Blues
Don O'Shea

Don O'Shea, a reporter for WBIG radio in Greensboro, wrote this ode while passing the time as he covered what has become the longest trial in North Carolina history.

It all began on Nov. 3, 1979, when demonstrators for the Communist Workers Party held a "Death to the Klan" rally in Greensboro. During the rally, a caravan of cars filled with Ku Klux Klansmen and Nazis pulled up and the confrontation began. When it was over a few minutes later, five demonstrators for the CWP were dead.

The ensuing incidents have taken a year to get to where they are now, with the jury on the verge of reaching a verdict. For reporters, the trial, now in its 22nd week, has been a grueling experience. It's hard to say what kept the Greensboro press corps from fading away from the long hours spent in room 3-C of the Guilford County Courthouse.

One reason could be the camaraderie that has evolved between reporters and artists over the 22 weeks. "If camaraderie between members of the media did not exist, we would all be very depressed," said Mike Massoglia, a reporter for the *Winston-Salem Journal*. Massoglia, who has covered the story since the 1979 shootings, has become very involved in the proceedings. "It has

been my life for the last year," he said. "When my colleagues at the paper see me, they ask me why I'm not in Greensboro covering the trial instead of asking me how I am doing."

The trial has become so well-known both statewide and nationally and has lasted so long that the proceedings even haunt the subconscious minds of some media representatives. Stefan Bechtel, a reporter for the *Burlington Times-News*, says he has had many dreams about the trial. Bechtel discovered through conversations with other reporters that he is not alone in his obsession with the trial.

The State

"This trial has become so big that other things are just sidebars and not as important," Bechtel said. "It is totally penetrating my subconscious."

O'Shea also feels that the trial has influenced his personal life to a large degree. "We're here so much, it's the only contact we have with other people. It's a letdown after the day," he said.

The feeling of togetherness that exists between media people has become one in which friendships go a lot further than the courtroom. Many of the reporters have had to stay overnight in Greensboro every day that the jury deliberates, due to the risk of being absent when and if a verdict is reached.

Through the last four days of deliberations most of the out-of-towners have stayed in the same motel and planned their evening activities together. Vic Carter, a reporter for WRAL-TV in Raleigh, came into the Grand Jury room in the courthouse Wednesday, informed some of his fellow overnight guests that he had reservations at a local restaurant

and took a head count to see how many of his comrades would accompany him.

Another example of personal relationships developed during the trial occurred again Wednesday, when it came time for the court to recess for lunch. Reporters and artists concurred on their destination for a mid-day meal and waited for each other patiently as each completed pre-lunchtime activities.

The reporters also learn a great deal from each other about reporting styles, Massoglia said. "It has been interesting to meet the other reporters and find out how they run their operations," Bechtel said.

According to Massoglia, the trial has been very rewarding. He feels he has learned skills that will stay with him for the rest of his life, and says the trial tested many of his journalistic accomplishments.

"I'll be ready to go to another story," Massoglia said. Later, he joked with another reporter. "When all this is over, I'm going to have to start working again."

For most of the reporters involved, the long trial in Greensboro has been rewarding despite its characteristic tedium. But the trial also has created genuine friendships that will last a long time. Without the camaraderie that has existed during the trial, many of these reporters would have left long ago. Friendship has been the glue that has held these people together through the constant repetition and boredom that have filled most of the trial.

Mark Ancona, a sophomore journalism major from Westport, Conn., is covering the Greensboro trial for The Daily Tar Heel.

Economics, ideology constrain immigration law

By BUDDY BURNISKE

In the past year, the United States has allowed several thousand aliens the right to immigrate to this country. There have been "Boat People" from Vietnam, who braved rugged oceans seeking asylum; Cubans fleeing the political persecution of Castro; and a continued flow of aliens, legal and otherwise, encroaching from the Mexican border. How many more aliens this nation can absorb and where the cutoff point will be fixed is difficult to say.

"What we do with membership dictates all other action," Michael Walzer, author, Princeton professor and Weil lecturer for 1980 on "Distributive Justice—The Problem of Membership," said Wednesday.

"Men and women without membership are stateless; they have no place in the social welfare or security," Walzer said. "Positive assistance is needed, and if one side needs it badly and another can afford to give it, then there is a moral obligation to do so."

Walzer said affluent nations were like large universities with nearly open enrollments. Such countries have the ability to give refuge to a great many people, but admission rules must be established to preserve order and character within that nation.

"There are those that think the state should only preserve order, but not regulate the passage of people in and out," Walzer said. "This would constitute a neighborhood, whereby market space and standard of living would control the

mobility of people. There are, of course, a great many arguments against this ideal."

Nations, if they were governed as neighborhoods, would lose patriotism and cohesion of internal mechanisms like social programs. There seems little room for an ideal nation that regulates entrance and exit of its members only by the free hand of market availability.

"Closure (of entrance) is important to the stabilization of communities," Walzer said. "It preserves the commonality of culture."

At Large

Walzer suggested that a "club" is the realistic model for the nations of the world. While he agreed that there was some sense of neighborhood and family—his third model—within the international system, there remains an elitist attitude inherent to natives of individual communities.

A people's commitment to refugees whether political or economic victims extends to the point where people decide that further admission would be detrimental to their nation or community as a whole.

"People have a right to preserve common heritage, culture and standard of living, regardless of the needs of refugees," said Jeffrey Obler, professor of political science. "There is an

alternative to admission, and that's the exportation of goods and wealth to Third-World nations."

Obler was quick to add that the exportation of goods was not always a practical answer to the needs of refugees. He disagreed with Walzer's contention that ideological affinity with refugees fleeing political persecution was any more reason for admission than the pleas of those suffering from economic disparity.

"The non-exportable good of membership should be extended to economic refugees as well as political refugees," Obler said. "Economic refugees would be persecuted regardless of the exportation of goods and resources. The caste system of their countries would not allow equal distribution of aid, so their benefits would be relatively limited."

Perhaps the greatest problem with immigration in the United States and other nations is the distribution of refugees once they are admitted. As refugees band together for security, the area they inhabit often experiences racial confrontation, as was the case with Cuban refugees in Miami's Liberty City. Another problem is a dramatic increase in crime, as with the emergence of more than 20 Mexican street gangs in the East Los Angeles area.

Restriction on entry is not the problem; the natural human tendency to seek security in

numbers, and the subsequent inundation of particular areas that breeds trouble. The immediate response of natives often is a hostile one, with prejudice against the invading masses leading to acts of violence. Nevertheless, ours are an eclectic society and culture, created by immigrants of the past and certain to be influenced by immigrants of the future. For the most part, we reap benefits from their existence within the country.

"Someone once told me that boat people would be good for us to have," Obler said. "People with the courage and fortitude to cross an ocean for their freedom are the kind of people we need in this country. Those people also perform in low-class labor that most natives do not want; they fulfill a need. The biggest problem is distributing them once they are here."

The United States has not reached its saturation point for the admittance of refugees—at least not as a nation. There are, however, communities within the nation that have. While a family concept of the world and its nations is unrealistic, and an open-door policy potentially dangerous, there remains a moral obligation to accept those who, like the Puritans who first settled this land, suffer from political, religious or economic oppression.

When Americans voice major opposition to the admittance of aliens, the immigration process will cease. Until that time, which appears rather distant, it is necessary to develop a better means of distributing immigrants, thus limiting



Michael Walzer

domestic tensions that arise from the decline in standard of living. Hopefully, the administration of President-elect Ronald Reagan, to be inaugurated in January, will weigh this issue effectively, realizing that moral and ideological responsibilities never should exceed obligations to self-preservation.

Buddy Burniske, a junior English major from Hatfield, Mass., is editorial assistant for The Daily Tar Heel.