

The Daily Tar Heel

88th year of editorial freedom

Healthy competition

The start of every second semester at Carolina guarantees the presence of at least one object on campus — campaign posters.

Their proliferation in classrooms and stairwells can become annoying by the time they're removed in mid-February, but their presence signals another more important second-semester phenomenon: campus elections.

Though many of the candidates for campuswide offices will become extremely active in the next few weeks, there probably also will be students elected to offices who never run for them.

Last year, five of the 20 Campus Governing Council representatives were elected to their offices without having run or campaigned. They were write-ins; officially none of the students had declared himself a candidate for those seats.

Candidates in seven of the other districts ran unopposed. Only eight of the 20 CGC representatives chosen last February had any competition.

Considering the ease with which a student can place himself in the running for CGC representative and the importance of the post, it's odd so few students are interested in becoming CGC members.

UNC Elections Board Chairman Gregg James said the only requirements for undergraduates were that they run in their CGC district and submit at least 25 signatures to the Elections Board by 5 p.m. Jan. 28. Graduate students must submit 25 signatures and run in their school.

As the legislative branch of Student Government, the CGC allocates student activities fees to campus organizations and has the power to create and change Student Government laws. Each CGC member can have an important effect on the University.

Recent changes in CGC districts will take effect in this election, so three more seats — 23 in all — will be open.

Last year many CGC members were elected to office with only a few votes. While many of those write-in and unopposed CGC candidates have served on the council responsibly, a candidate who faces opposition, who must talk to his constituents and must earn his position, is more likely to do a better job.

Students interested in Student Government have a perfect chance to become involved through the CGC. It's worth obtaining the signatures.

Trouble at Buckeye High

The old Southern rallying cry of "states' rights" is being sounded again these days in Louisiana. A state judge there is ignoring orders from a federal judge and interfering with the desegregation of the Rapides Parish school system, all in defense of Louisiana's constitution. His cry rings hollow, because it is clear that his intent is to prevent desegregation; Judge Richard Lee's battle is long lost.

Some parents in Buckeye, Louisiana persuaded Judge Lee to transfer custody of their daughters to friends living in an all-white school district so that the girls could attend all-white Buckeye High rather than the integrated school to which they were assigned. When U.S. District Court Judge Nauman Scott, who had ordered that the schools be desegregated, ruled against such "transferral" of custody, Lee made the girls—a seventh grader and two eighth-graders—wards of his court. On Monday morning, he ordered school officials, under threat of arrest, to ignore Federal Judge Scott's orders and to admit the girls to Buckeye High.

Lee faces a hearing for contempt of court charges before Judge Scott on Thursday. He will likely be found in contempt, having ignored all of Scott's orders and practically challenged the judge to a showdown. "If he thinks he can enjoin the whole state of Louisiana, he'll have to enjoin me, and I'll have to see if I'm big enough to enjoin my own order," Lee said. "I think I am."

Lee has, however, lost the battle against desegregation. His actions can only force the federal government to enforce laws that should be the responsibility of the states. While crying "states' rights," Lee invites federal intrusion—and disrupts the daily business of education, integrated and otherwise.

The bug has bitten

Cold weather isn't the only thing putting a damper on back-to-school bar hopping and party-going. The flu that has struck much of the Northeast and Midwest is now right here in North Carolina.

Area public schools, typically a yardstick for measuring such illnesses, have reported twice as many absences as usual. Some hospital spokesmen even believe nearby counties, including Wake, are in the midst of flu epidemic.

Last Wednesday, the first identification of the influenza virus connected with the current rash of flu-like illnesses was made here at UNC. Doctors call the virus A-Bangkok, which is a by-product of the Hong Kong flu virus of 1968.

Whatever it is, the flu hits its victims hard. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, stomach aches and respiratory problems. It spreads easily, too. "I opened the window and influenza," said James Joyce, and he wasn't kidding. Students with these symptoms should stay home from school and parties (sorry) and contact a doctor.

Of course, with little homework and plenty of free time, this is the worst time to get the flu, but no one ever said the flu bug bites considerately. The symptoms generally last four to seven days, so it's unfortunate that those suffering must miss the best week of partying in the whole semester.

Perhaps just as bad is the fact that love-starved students who haven't seen their *beaux* or *belles* for a month must refrain from kissing. Indeed, a week seems like an unbearably long time to stay away from parties and kisses, but a recent study reported the human body can survive for seven days or so without showing the ill-effects from such neglect. But not much longer.

If you're sick, stay home and get well. Parties and lovers need you in good health.

America seems 'atheistic' to Muslim student

By LARRY RENI THOMAS

1980 by Larry R. Thomas

Though graduate student Mohammed Buraey has lived in the United States for several years, he says it still feels nothing like home to him. Being a Muslim in Chapel Hill. "I feel like I'm in prison," he said.

"One would have to understand how much of a distinct difference there is in being a Muslim in my homeland, and in being one here, before he would be able to understand what I mean. At least over there you find people practicing the religion. We must pray five times a day, and it is not odd to see someone stop on a busy street to pray. If one did that here, he would be looked upon strangely," said Buraey, 31, a Saudi Arabian public administration graduate student.

Buraey is a short, bearded, brown-skinned man with straight black hair. He has been in this country for almost a decade and calls America "an atheistic land." He said that was unfortunate, because the United States had so much to offer in the way of natural resources and education.

"Your (American) values are different (from Saudi Arabians). We are less concerned with material gains," he said.

Buraey also criticized the way the American press has portrayed his religion and blamed the coverage on the people who control the media. He said that the West tended to view the Third World countries in its own terms and added that there was really no such thing as freedom of press in this country because the media were owned by a small group of people.



Mohammed Buraey
... a Muslim in Chapel Hill

"Take the time to look up the names of the people who own most of the stock in these broadcasting and newspaper companies," he said. "You will find that they are all the same."

"My main point is that this country is spiritually void and that the press or the media is just one of the devices used to downgrade Islam," he said.

Buraey was born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. He graduated from Mecca High School with honors in 1967 and that fall he came to the United States to study to be a teacher.

He began college at California State University in Sacramento. Buraey received a bachelor's degree in business administration there in 1972, and a master's in public administration in 1974.

He left California that year to study at UNC for a doctorate in public administration. He plans to graduate in May.

"I was glad to leave California," he remarked, with a frown on his face. "It was horrible out there. Just horrible. At least here people have values. I cannot say the same for California. I like North Carolina a great deal better. I have also received great satisfaction in helping other area Muslims, especially my Afro-American brothers, understand Islam better."

Buraey added that he felt extremely good about helping to establish the Muslim Students of UNC, a campus organization that has been in existence since 1974. He also teaches an Arabic language class at Duke University. He said he considered it "a blessing that Allah has placed me here to help others."

"A Muslim is one who totally submits himself to the will of God," Buraey said. "This is often very hard to do in a land that is as morally decadent as America, but, Allah willing, I will make it."

Larry Reni Thomas, a graduate journalism student, is a free-lance writer based in Chapel Hill.

letters to the editor

Central Prison appreciates Tar Heels' visit

To the editor:

On Dec. 8 Coach Dean Smith, his staff and the Tar Heel basketball team visited Central Prison in Raleigh. They presented a clinic stressing defensive maneuvers and last minute play patterns, and later scrimmaged amongst themselves and with the prison's team, the Hawks. This clinic lasted for an hour and a quarter and was followed by questions to Coach Smith, conversation between players and inmates and a brief tour of the prison.

Needless to say, this visit was the highlight of the year for many inmates and will never be forgotten by the Hawks, who were able to share the same court with the Tar Heels and be instructed by the Tar Heel's masterful teacher, Coach Smith.

What made this visit even more outstanding was the fact that the players were already into exam week and both they and their coaches had just returned from an extra heavy 10 days at the Alaskan Shoot Out and the Big Four Tournament. Yet, they found the time to visit Central Prison and share their skills and especially their persons with some of society's most forgotten men.

All of us at Central Prison are grateful to the Tar Heels and Coach Smith for their memorable clinic. If we were UNC students, we would be mighty proud to root for a team that makes time for visits like this.

Dick Hanley
Programs director
Central Prison

Poetic protest

To the editor:

This is a poem dedicated to my future children and grandchildren. May this motivate others to wake up to the problems of today (possibly the nightmares of tomorrow). Do we want our future denied a healthy existence due to our naive waste management?

Governor Hunt has done his homework
 State's got more waste than the earth
 can tolerate

He's appointed a mighty task force
 Toxic waste needs reckoning with —
 we'd better not wait

He's chosen someone to represent
 all of us

From local to state government
 Big wigs from our friendly utilities
 To just every day you and me

Regulation is oh so difficult they say
 We can't check every truck comin' in
 Almost any state can visit old N.C.

With their toxic waste commodities
 They say water and air are
 separate matters

Entirely different departments
 Yet seems to me they fit together.
 Let's not wait for our basements
 to seep

Coming meetings of the Governor's Task Force on Hazardous Waste Management will be held Feb. 3 and 10 at 10 a.m. in Conference Room 52 of Dorothea Dix Hospital. These meetings are open to the public and I encourage you to participate. It's our own backyard!

Rebecca Speight
Raleigh

New Nursing Act

To the editor:

The Nursing Practice Act is a bill, to be presented before the General Assembly in February, that will affect us all in some way. Proposed changes are to take the place of the present Nursing Practice Act, which will be ineffective at the end of this year. We would like to alert you, as health care consumers, to this act.

Proposed changes will improve the quality of patient care by putting a tighter regulation on acts that may or may not be performed by nurses. A more comprehensive definition of nursing will invalidate existing loopholes that allow unlicensed individuals to perform nursing functions; therefore, the proposal would better ensure consumer safety.

There also will be a provision which will mandate by law that any person who knows of the incapacity of a licensee, or who knows of a violation of the Nursing Practice Act, report the relevant facts to the Board of Nursing. Included in this provision is an accompanying "immunity from suit" for all persons who report such incidences so that they will not be held liable, thus again ensuring consumer safety.

Because of our small number, we as health care providers have limited influence in changing present statutes; therefore, public support is vital to our cause. We urge you to write your state legislators in support of the new Nursing Practice Act. These actions will determine the scope of nursing practice for the future.

Laura Norris
UNC-Chapel Hill chapter of the
 Student Nurses' Association of
 North Carolina

Inadequate information

To the editor:

In the editorial "Book Learning," (DTH, Dec. 3), the DTH reported that Cyril Lang, a teacher at Charles W. Woodward High School in Montgomery County, Maryland, had been "suspended" for introducing

supplementary material in the classroom. The DTH went further to say "students cannot afford to lose teachers like Cyril Lang."

Having been a student at Woodward for three years, I know of Lang's classroom reputation, though I was never a student of his. Several of my friends did have him as their English teacher, however, and I know that they were very disappointed with him and found his class a waste of time.

I also know that at the end of this last school year the county school system was forced to lay off several Woodward teachers because of budget cuts. At the beginning of last summer I learned that Lang was one of those who had been laid off. The word "suspension" was never used.

Perhaps Lang was suspended on the grounds the DTH mentioned; however, after reading the editorial it seemed to me that the DTH had made Lang out to be a martyr. However, I seriously doubt that Lang quite fits the description as "a teacher committed to better education." The DTH has a responsibility to its readers to report things accurately, and I feel that this editorial was based on inadequate information.

Bob Irish
111 Graham



Tax time

Surprise—students must pay county personal property tax

By GERRY COHEN

It's January again, time to start the spring semester, finish out the pro football season and file a personal property tax form. The last item may be one of the sillier taxes around, but North Carolina requires each county to levy an annual property tax on clothing, furniture, books, stereos, cars and many other items.

Every person living in Orange County is required to fill out the form, no matter where his legal residence is. An exception in the statute allows persons who moved to Chapel Hill in August (such as UNC freshmen) from somewhere else in the state to file in their former counties of residence. Out-of-staters must file in Orange County, though, as must all persons who have been in Chapel Hill for a year or more.

The property tax rate is relatively low. For this year, it probably will be about 1 1/4 percent of property value, after allowing for a \$300 exemption.

Thus, if a student owns a used car worth \$800 and has \$1,000 in other property, the tax will be about \$19 for the year. Tax bills will be mailed in September.

The deadline for filing tax forms is Jan. 31. The county tax office is located on the second floor of Carr Mill Mall on Weaver Street, Carrboro, and is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m.-noon on Saturdays.

Orange County offers one option to avoid itemizing all personal property. In lieu of listing everything, a taxpayer may multiply his or her monthly rent figure by six and add to that the total value of musical instruments, automobiles and bicycles owned by him or her.

For most dormitory residents, six times a monthly rent comes out to about \$480 in valuation. After subtracting the \$300 exemption, total tax owed would be about \$2.50. Students with cars registered in their own names would pay more tax.

The personal property tax is outmoded, archaic and expensive to administer. Many local officials, including those in the Chapel Hill area, have asked the N.C. General Assembly to abolish the tax. For this year, however, payment of the tax still is a requirement.

When a controversy arose in 1978 about the right of students to vote in Orange County (the state Supreme Court ruled unanimously that students could vote here), opponents of student voters noted that many students failed to pay their personal property taxes. The most likely reason for failure to pay is

not intentional lawbreaking, however. Instead, ignorance about the tax and how to file the necessary form probably prevents most students from paying.

Though the Carrboro tax office provides free assistance in filling out the property tax form, Orange County also will send forms through the mail. Forms may be requested by calling the county tax supervisor at 967-9251.

The personal property tax helps fund local services which include the Chapel Hill and Carrboro bus systems, police and fire protection, recreation, trash disposal, health, welfare and the public school systems. Paying the tax is a burden and a chore, but all students should shoulder their share of civic responsibility by filing their tax forms by Jan. 31.

Gerry Cohen is a member of the Chapel Hill Transportation Board.