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# The Daily Tar Heel

88th year of editorial freedom

## It's a dog-eat-dog world for homeless animals

By MELANIE SILL

There are dogs and there are dogs. And then there is Duke.

Duke is a great dog. He has a face that could make the Ayatollah Khomeini laugh. He has more charm than most human beings, and some say he is the most charismatic dog since Lassie.

Lynn got Duke from the Orange County Animal Shelter last November. He was a lonely collie-labrador puppy without a home and she was a student who needed a friend. It was a match made in heaven.

The animal shelter didn't let Lynn drive off with Duke immediately. As it does with all animal adoptions, the staff made sure Lynn understood the obligations and expenses involved in having a pet. Food, immunization and veterinarian costs, time commitments and love add up to a bill of responsibility too hefty for some. Also, Lynn had to sign a legal contract saying that she would have Duke neutered when he was old enough.

Fortunately for Duke, Lynn was willing to undertake the duties of being a pet owner. Even better, she won't decide she's had enough of him and move away without her friend.

Jane Hutton, manager of the animal shelter, says that between 250 and 550 animals are brought in to the shelter each month — an annual total of about 4,000 cats and dogs. Of these, 70 to 80 percent must be euthanized.

"A few animals have to be euthanized because they are sick, old, wild or untamable, but most are put to sleep simply because there are no homes for them," Hutton says. National statistics estimate that between 17 million and 90 million dogs and cats are born each year in the United States. An estimated 13.5 million dogs and cats must be euthanized each year.

"There are only about 48 million families in the United States, so there are not enough homes for all the animals," Hutton says. "The birth rate for animals is between five times and 25 times the human birth rate."

Hutton and her staff caution prospective pet owners before letting animals leave the shelter, but they do not intend to discourage those who sincerely want pets.

### At Large

"Our philosophy here is to provide people with as much information as we can about what the responsibilities are — financial or otherwise — before they adopt an animal," she says.

Problems often arise when people move and decide to leave their animals behind. Many animals are abandoned.

"The (national) Humane Society studies show that animals who are abandoned usually live from five to seven days, and they live physically and emotionally miserable lives until they die," Hutton says. "They scavenge for food and end up in people's garbage cans or get shot by irate citizens."

"Many are poisoned or get caught in traps ... we've had dogs brought in with legs half amputated by traps," Hutton says. "The few animals that do live beyond that first week become wild and then become a social problem."

When a pet is adopted by someone who lives with a group of people, other problems also can arise.

"We want them to consider things like where does the animal go during breaks and what happens if the animal is injured, whether they share the expenses and what



Duke, an orphan who has found a home ... and knows how to use his charm to keep it

happens to the animal when they go separate ways," Hutton says. "It's not just students who have to think about these things. I'd tell a group of working people living together the same thing."

Some of the animals brought into the animal shelter are "surrendered" by owners who for some reason are unable to keep their pets any longer.

"People surrender animals for many different reasons," Hutton says. "Many are moving and can't take their pets with them. Another reason in Chapel Hill is the housing situation ... so many landlords don't allow pets."

"But the No. 1 reason people surrender animals is that they let their own female cat or dog have a litter of kittens or puppies," Hutton says.

Duke has thrived under Lynn's care. He's even gotten rather brash, carrying his supper dish to Lynn's roommates to be filled and acting cocky around his puppy friends. His main job is to be Lynn's buddy, and he does that job well. Adopting him was a good idea all the way around.

Millions of animals all over America are not as lucky, though. Maybe people who are enthralled with cute puppies and kittens but less taken with grown animals should take a little more time and thought with their pets. The odds are stacked against the animals so they need all the breaks they can get.

Melanie Sill, a senior journalism major from Waipahu, Hawaii, is an editorial assistant for The Daily Tar Heel.

## Cacophony

Chapel Hill's noise ordinance has become a campus campaign issue, and almost everyone involved has an idea about how it should be revised. Sadly, the candidates are still quite a way from agreement with the townspeople, with the students lobbying for a woofier of an ordinance and the rest of the town preferring a tweeter.

The noise ordinance first became controversial last fall when police shut down several parties at fraternity houses and students' homes. A new, tougher ordinance was proposed which would require a \$5 permit for all sources of outdoor amplified noise. Such permits would have to be obtained two days in advance, and city officials could require an extra \$75 cleanup deposit in case the party permitted caused litter.

The intent of the ordinance was to discourage parties, particularly large, noisy, messy ones. However, it also made illegal the kind of put-the-speaker-on-the-porch-and-drink-a-beer kind of gatherings many students enjoy on a weekend.

Since fraternities are among the principal targets of the revised ordinance, particularly the clean-up deposit clause, Inter-Fraternity Council representatives wanted to know what kind of compromise law candidates for student body president would work toward if elected. Predictably, they disagreed while agreeing. Candidate Tim Smith felt that both the \$5 fee and the two-day waiting period should not be required, since they would rule out spontaneous parties. Scott Norberg said the fee should be less and suggested that police should enforce the ordinance only after receiving a complaint and not at their own whim. Joe Buckner, who later received the IFC endorsement, said the \$5 fee might be acceptable but that the \$75 cleanup fee should be dropped. Mark Bozymski, who had not declared his candidacy at the time of the IFC forum, said later that he didn't see "how anyone could be arrested for just making noise." Bozymski, apparently, has not yet grasped the intricacies of the noise ordinance.

Most of the candidates' proposals make sense, but the proposal that will matter is the one the Chapel Hill Town Council will accept. Council members Joe Straley and Joe Herzenberg are working on amendments to the ordinance that will be acceptable to both sides. Such amendments should set a maximum level for outdoor noise without a permit, and the \$5 filing fee should be discarded. What is needed more, of course, is restraint by both the town and students, so that \$75 deposits aren't needed and decibel limits are adhered to. The rest is just noise.

## No man's land

A mild-mannered student was on her way to class, making her way across campus, when suddenly, outside Phillips Hall, she realized she was no longer in the Southern Part of Heaven.

She was walking in a muddy mire, surrounded on three sides by barbed wire. The ground nearby was scarred, probably the result of heavy bombing. She dropped to the ground and began crawling army-style, a reflex that had been conditioned into her by all those *Combat* episodes she had watched on television as a child. It was no man's land.

OK, so maybe the construction on campus isn't quite as bad as all that. But it's close.

Many of us consoled ourselves earlier this fall when construction workers bricked up the last holes made in the area around the Pit. The worst was over. That's what we thought.

The latest obstacle course constructed near Phillips Hall gives new meaning to the word "obstruction." The large hole isn't that bad. We're getting used to holes. Even the muddy clay can be dealt with. It's that huge John Deere tractor that's the killer.

But University officials assure us that the tractor, too, shall pass and the area between Phillips and Carroll will once again become safe for human habitation.

And maybe someday we'll even miss the construction. After 20 years, when we're back here visiting the campus as alumni, we'll look around with a twinge of regret and remark that since they put all the grass back, things just don't look the same.

## Political pressure causing highway problems

By JOHN DRESCHER

One of the best aspects of U.S. government is that we elect many of our officials. It's also one of the worst.

The same people who vote a politician into office one election can vote him out the next. That's good, but what politicians will do to stay in office often isn't.

### The State

Gov. James Hunt and the N.C. General Assembly know about the rules of politics. The question of increasing North Carolina's gasoline tax is one of those controversial issues that can determine if an official is returned to office. Hunt and members of the House and Senate have tried to avoid the problem by hoping it will go away. Unfortunately, it will not.

The cause of the problem is a steadily declining Highway Fund, which is supported mostly by the state fuel tax. Money from the Highway Fund supports highway maintenance, road construction and the N.C. Highway Patrol. With the onslaught of fuel price increases, motorists are driving less and are driving more fuel-efficient cars. Fuel sales are down, and consequently, gasoline tax revenue is too.

Hunt recognized the problem long ago; he appointed a blue ribbon study commission headed by former Gov. Dan. K. Moore that looked at the North Carolina highway upkeep crisis for more than a year. Moore recommended

to Hunt that the Legislature consider several solutions, including raising the gasoline tax 5 cents or imposing a 4 percent sales tax per gallon at the wholesale level.

Apparently, no one has listened because the issue has remained stagnant. The governor appears to be the natural person to get the ball rolling, but Hunt, a skilled politician if there ever was one, realizes that this is potentially the stickiest situation he'll see as governor.

Most North Carolinians simply don't want to pay more for their fuel, especially in light of the Reagan decontrols that promise to jack the price of fuel even higher. So Hunt, with visions of the 1984 U.S. Senate race dancing in his head, has passed the problem to the Legislature.

He did this by proposing a budget that cuts \$342 million from the state's road construction program. That would require the layoff of 2,000 to 3,000 state transportation employees.

Hunt clearly wants the General Assembly to handle the problem. "The responsibility to prevent that (highway deterioration) is yours as members of the General Assembly," he said, neatly passing the buck.

Now the Assembly has a problem it doesn't want.

A tax on gasoline appears to be the only way to cover expenses without cutting into the General Fund that finances many worthwhile and necessary programs. North Carolina legislators are caught in the classic political dilemma: Do they do what they feel is best for the people of North Carolina, or what they feel will get them re-elected?

Critics say many legislators are too concerned

with their political welfare. "I guess that determines when voting for the gas tax is politically suicidal," said Rep. Patricia Hunt, D-Orange. "Most assemblymen want to get re-elected, so they want to do what their constituents want."

The politics of the situation didn't begin recently. Several Democratic legislators have said that many of their colleagues committed themselves in the 1980 campaign to oppose a gas tax increase because it might give Republican opponents an advantage if they didn't. The timing of a solution, said Rep. Hunt, is going to be crucial. Apparently, Gov. Hunt and the Assembly are waiting for the "proper" political climate. Rep. Hunt thinks the time is near.

She also is one who feels that Gov. Hunt has not dumped the problem on the Legislature and run. "He's really been waiting to see if there's other alternatives. I think he's hoping there's some other answer."

There isn't an easy answer. It's time to quit playing politics and address the issue. Saddled with the problem, the General Assembly now is returning to Gov. Hunt for help. "It's going to take the leadership of the governor," Rep. Hunt said.

So there they stand, a governor and a legislature, each eyeing the other, each apparently caught in between the political present and their political futures. Let's hope they have the guts to do what's best for North Carolina and not just what's best for themselves.

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

## Spectator sport

### Carolina fans still cheer with class

By DAVID POOLE

Last week when North Carolina's basketball team went into Winston-Salem Coliseum and waxed previously undefeated Wake Forest 74-60, a lot of the home team's fans weren't pleased with how things went.

These fans showed their consternation by heaving paper cups, ice, straws and other objects onto the floor and by making obscene and racial comments about the UNC players and coaches and about the officials.

And nobody was surprised. Rowdy, abusive and obnoxious behavior at college basketball games is no longer rare.

Fans all over the nation, convinced that it's up to them to make their team's home floor as difficult a place to win as possible, have declared war on visiting teams.

Despite the somewhat-less-than-warm greetings the Tar Heels get at other gyms, Carolina basketball fans have managed to refrain from acting like they've lost all sense of responsibility and decency at basketball games. Around the ACC it is accepted that though Carmichael Auditorium is an extremely tough place to win, it's not such a bad place to get beat in.

"I think all of us at the University are extremely proud of the manner in which our students and the crowds at Carmichael have conducted themselves," Director of Athletics John Swofford said. "I think good sportsmanship has become a tradition at UNC and I think that is a positive reflection of what this University is all about."

Swofford said that he is frequently asked by other ACC athletic directors what UNC does to keep fans at its basketball games from turning into an unruly mob like those found elsewhere. Swofford tells the ADs that he doesn't have to do anything.

"I don't know that we've ever done anything in and of itself (about crowd control)," Swofford said. "I think the conduct of the crowds is indicative of the kind of people we have in the student body and connected with the University. It has become a very positive tradition."

### Locally

Traditions at other places aren't so positive. Duke is infamous for the behavior of the students who sit all the way around the court at Cameron Indoor Stadium. The Duke fans have been criticized by the school's own athletic officials for their obscenity and their tendency to hurl objects as well as insults at opposing players. Duke AD Tom Butters said last season that UNC "puts Duke to shame" and commended Tar Heel fans for their "class way to respond" to visiting teams.

Other places are just as bad. Gene Banks of Duke said last season that Maryland fans at Cole Field House in College Park made insults about the Duke players' mothers and accused the Terps of putting the rowdiest students right behind the visitors' bench.

The most vivid example this writer has seen came at Wake Forest last week. The Deacon fans chanted "Dean Smith Sucks," called

Jimmy Black "Black Jimmy," repeatedly called at least three Tar Heel players' mothers "whores" and held up oversized sunglasses, a cane and an eye chart when they disagreed with calls by officials. Several of the fans directly behind press row were clearly drunk and the game was stopped several times so debris thrown from the stands could be cleaned from the floor.

The problem is not limited to the ACC. Earlier this week the floor at a Florida game was nearly covered with debris after an official called two technical fouls on Gator coach Norm Sloan. Sloan, a former N.C. State coach, took the public address system microphone and begged his fans to stop, but play was halted for more than 15 minutes.

The naughty doings elsewhere have UNC officials concerned that Tar Heel fans might get the idea they're not being supportive enough because they're not aiming mob violence at opposing teams.

"We'd just like to let the students know how appreciative everyone is in the athletic department of how our crowds have been," Swofford said. "We'd like to encourage them to keep it up."

"The tradition we have in basketball is one of the healthiest we have. It is a credit to our student body, our band, our cheerleaders and to Coach Dean Smith, who has simply not let such behavior get started. It gives a positive and first class impression and is one I certainly hope will continue."

David Poole, a senior journalism major from Gastonia, is sports editor of The Daily Tar Heel.

