

# The Daily Tar Heel

90th year of editorial freedom

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## Missing link

In an effort to establish better communication between Student Government and students, a liaison program was started a year ago by former Student Body President Scott Norberg. Norberg hoped that through liaisons in residence halls, students would be able both to find out what was going on in Student Government and provide information on what they wanted from campus government.

The idea was a good one, but in reality the program fizzled. After receiving a note slid under their door in the beginning of the year, many students never again had contact with their liaison. Student Body President Mike Vandenberg's decision to appoint a cabinet-level position to oversee the program shows his desire to improve the program. But to make the liaisons an effective force, Vandenberg must first re-define the job of the liaisons to expand their involvement in Student Government.

In the past year, students acting as liaisons were rarely actively involved in Student Government. Too often they were only hanging newsletters and putting up signs identifying themselves as liaisons. Norberg said the liaisons occasionally would go two weeks with nothing to do. This lack of activity limited student awareness and liaison interest.

Service is a primary function of Student Government and liaisons could provide an effective volunteer system. Vandenberg said he would consider using the liaisons for a new employment information office and Action Line, an information phone service, but Vandenberg should not limit the liaisons to these programs.

If 150 liaisons were available as volunteers, services could be provided that would be impossible or insignificant if only a few students tried to do the job. Increased liaison activity also would strengthen participants' interest in communicating Student Government news. By expanding the role of the liaison into volunteer services, not only will Student Government be getting a chance to provide more services, it also will be getting better liaisons who are involved and informed about Student Government.

## Trojan horse

Environmental groups will find little reason to celebrate Interior Secretary James Watt's recently proposed ban on drilling and mining in federal wilderness areas when they closely examine just what his plan would do.

Watt surprised many environmentalists when he announced Sunday that he would ask Congress to bar drilling and mining in wilderness areas until after the year 2000. Far from a policy shift by the Reagan administration, Watt's proposal is simply a new tactic in his never-ending battle with environmental interests.

Under the Federal Wilderness Act of 1964, 80 million acres of federal wilderness, including some areas in North Carolina, are technically open for petroleum and mineral development until the end of 1983. But before any development or exploration can begin, oil and mining companies must first seek a lease to the land from the government.

After Dec. 31, 1983, the Wilderness Act expires, automatically closing the lands to industrial development, a prospect Watt wants to head off. Instead of giving the lands permanent protection by allowing the law to expire, Watt's proposal pushes the deadline for granting leases back to 2003. The only way land designated as wilderness could be explored or developed would be in case of a national emergency.

Equally disturbing is Watt's desire to limit the creation of new wilderness areas. If approved, his plan would require Congress to act on already proposed wilderness areas by late 1983, and would prevent the creation of such lands after 1987.

A Washington representative of the Sierra Club, an environmental group, was right when he called the proposal a "Trojan Horse," and said that Watt is offering temporary protection of the land in return for cutting off the creation of new wilderness areas. Watt's change of heart is similar to his action last year when he promised the House Interior Committee that he would grant no lease requests this year. At the time, Watt was trying to dissuade the committee from passing legislation that would have immediately prohibited drilling and mining in the areas and voided all pending lease applications.

Faced with the prospect that wilderness areas might be permanently closed next year to oil and mining interests, in desperation Watt has proposed legislation that would likely re-open the land after 2003. It also would stop Congress from creating any new wilderness areas after five years. Close inspection of Watt's proposal by environmentalists would show they have few reasons to be happy about this latest move by the Interior Secretary.

## The Daily Tar Heel

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# Anti-busing bill to hurt integration

By BEVERLY SHEPARD

"I'm afraid the amendment is going to further enhance a climate for those who are against integration. We don't need to go back to the era we struggled so hard to get away from."

Vernon Malon,  
Wake County Board of Education

Such sentiment has been expressed in response to an anti-busing proposal passed by the U.S. Senate on Feb. 4. Sponsored by senators Jesse A. Helms, R-N.C., and J. Bennett Johnston, D-La., the legislation would prohibit federal courts from busing children more than five miles or 15 minutes from their homes in order to establish racial balance in the schools. It also would prevent Justice Department lawyers from entering school desegregation suits that could end in court-ordered busing.

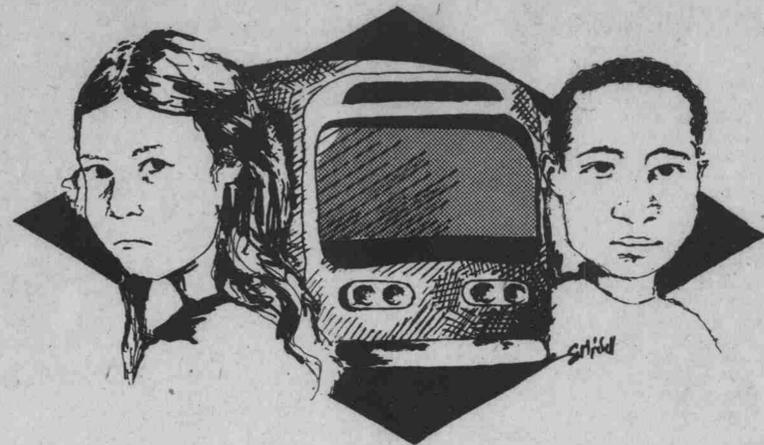
Busing opponents have criticized the busing mechanism for being the culprit behind increased gasoline expenditures and increased highway accidents. They say there have been no measurable gains for blacks and other minorities. They claim animosity, discontent and the destruction of neighborhood schools often results from busing.

During a telephone interview, Clifford Kiracofe Jr., a Helms representative in Washington, D.C., spoke of mental anguish and the human costs of busing children away from their friends.

The friends Kiracofe speaks of are those who live in the same neighborhood — neighborhoods which usually lack racial, social, cultural and economic diversification. Helms and other opponents are decades late in measuring human costs now that whites as well as blacks are being bused. They failed to acknowledge these costs when blacks were receiving second-hand educations in all-black schools.

While disregarding the injustices of busing's past, other bill proponents haven't mentioned the present successes. In citing examples, Helms has ignored one in his own state. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg school district, for example, has had desegregation busing since the early 70s. The desegregation system there hasn't been without its problems. But both students and education officials have noted benefits which include increased morale, improved test scores and decreased drop-out and expulsion rates.

This attitude — that busing is the last and least desirable alternative — is often the major contributor to busing's failure. Perhaps attitudes would change if opponents, in their criticisms, also would point out that over one-half the busing in this country is done for



school transportation rather than racial desegregation. Of North Carolina's 1.1 million students, only 69 percent are bused. Yet of that 69 percent, only 2 percent of children in the state's 143 school systems are bused for racial desegregation.

"I prefer to talk about school transportation rather than busing," said Jerome Melton, N.C. Deputy State Superintendent of Schools. "With a semi-rural state, there's no way we could have schools in walking distance."

Even in terms of school transportation, some state officials believe the anti-busing proposal will have little effect because, they say, few children in North Carolina are bused for desegregation purposes. Some, like H. David Bruton, chairman of that state Board of Education, believe that North Carolina's state boards will remain committed to school diversification and racial equality despite the legislation.

But, in viewing the commitment of the state, the South and the nation in an historical light, it is easier to see why the picture, for minorities anyway, is less than optimistic.

What the senators have failed to provide is a better

alternative. Waiting until neighborhoods become more diversified or assuming that people voluntarily will begin to integrate are neither quick nor immediate resolutions.

If what state officials say is true — that the majority of the nation's school systems are rural and would be mildly affected by the proposal, and that most school systems would remain committed to school desegregation despite the legislation — then what purpose could the legislation serve?

The proposal adds fuel to the fire of resistance and revisits avenues of the past so that bigotry and animosity may breed once again. Perhaps it is time that voters question the motives of their leaders to see whether their intentions are the education of the nation's children or the rollback of integration.

Busing is never an absolute good or evil, nor is it the total solution since race problems always will exist. But, it is a step toward better race relations, self pride and cultural awareness that cannot be measured in five miles or 15 minutes.

Beverly Shepard, a senior journalism major from Jacksonville, N.C. is an editorial assistant for The Daily Tar Heel.

## Letters to the editor

# Some support bus driver uniforms

To the editor:

Your editorial against bus drivers' uniforms (*DTH*, Feb. 18) attempts to give the impression that all "drivers would have to wear them and taxpayers who would have to pay for them" oppose uniforms. Further, the *DTH* editorially labels the \$11,000 cost as exorbitant. As both a taxpayer and a twice-daily bus rider, I fully support the council's decision and make the following points.

First, it is obvious that the protesting drivers are using cost as a red herring. The only drivers I have seen soliciting signatures around town invariably wore beards, leather cowboy hats, and grubby jeans; that is, the hippy uniform. They are clearly not opposed to the concept of uniforms, merely to a change of uniforms. They are at liberty, of course, to take jobs which require no uniforms. The fact that many drivers wear exemplary dress makes me feel that the drivers are not as a whole opposed to uniforms.

Next, those who make a social issue of bus uniforms are merely filling time by pursuing the latest trendy fad. Certainly they have had ample opportunity to protest police, firemen's, Burger King and basketball team uniforms for years and never did so. Are buses so different?

Finally, if the *Tar Heel* really wants to save the taxpayers some big money, it should be able to find infinitely more exorbitant items in other parts of the town and university budgets to attack.

I submit that there is a much stronger sentiment in favor of uniforms than opponents realize. The council does not live in a vacuum nor does it purposely frustrate the will of the people. Some taxpayers, drivers and riders must have been expressing their views (albeit quietly) or the proposal for uniforms would never have arisen.

John L.S. Hickey  
Chapel Hill

### Snobs

To the editor:

I am not at all surprised with the Chapel Hill Town Council's decision that bus drivers must wear uniforms. The University, itself, sets the standards for

which the surrounding town must follow. The University is a snob. The University encourages snobbery. The council's actions are merely a reflection of the superior attitude put forth by the University.

One might accuse me of being a small-town hick (I am), and further, that I misinterpret school pride (I do not). Small-town hick or no, I recognize general unfriendliness due to class distinction; and pride enlists aspects, many of which CAR-O-LINA does not possess. I might point out, as an observer, that the only pride I've ever witnessed on a major level in this University of Self-appointed Gods and Goddesses, is in sports. Constant internal bickering is more par-for-the-course.

With this prevalent attitude, the town cannot but be expected to follow suit. From the names of locally owned businesses, to the class of merchandise sold, and the exorbitant prices charged by merchants (and willingly paid by most consumers), the Town of Chapel Hill does no less than epitomize the selective attitude of the University and the students who encourage it.

I am proud of the bus drivers and the seven thousand or so individuals who petitioned the uniforms. Their individuality and lack of conformity is admirable. As for the Town Council, and others, who find it so convenient to conform to "The Carolina Way of Life," I feel sorry for them. Their ancestors (who thought enough of individuality and non-conformity to found a nation based on just that) must be rolling over in their graves.

M. Chantal Wright  
Carrboro

### In the dark

To the editor:

We the undersigned botany undergraduate majors feel the lights have been turned out in Coker Hall. We are in the dark. We know nothing — no facts, no details about how the merger of the botany and zoology departments may affect the undergraduate curriculum. No one knows; yet the merger might go into effect little more than three months from now.

Because they have received no information concerning the new curriculum, the faculty have been unable to assure us that we will be able to graduate on time with the current excellent and diverse curriculum. Although no extra requirements may be added, higher level botany courses could be eliminated.

As far as we know, no provisions have been made for equipment, space or jobs for the faculty, graduate students, or the staff, much less the undergraduates. Because of our small numbers, it has been easy to overlook the botany undergraduate majors. We feel that it is just as necessary to preserve the distinctions between degree programs in zoology and botany as those between chemistry and physics.

How could such a merger even be considered without any plans for an undergraduate curriculum? How could such a merger be considered without approval of either faculty or students? We would like to call for an open discussion on the merger: its justification, its implementation, and its possible implications for all concerned.

Laura Frizzell  
116 Cobb  
and 10 others

### Good choice

To the editor:

It seems incredible that people at UNC harbor such dissatisfaction with Chapel Thrill concerning the musical acts chosen this year, especially when one considers the fact that there was no concert at all last year. This is not to say that students should be placated by just any choice. The bottom line is, however, that Daryl Hall and John Oates and Kool & the Gang are not just any choice — they are a great choice.

The Chapel Thrill committee should be heartily commended rather than harangued for their many months of work in securing these groups. Credit Scott Norberg's initiative in getting an early start on the project which will undoubtedly be a resounding success. The groups chosen should greatly appeal to the student body.

And in response to the letters regarding Hall & Oates' musical credibility (both on stage and on record), particularly Scott Wells', it would be interesting to know if Wells, who claims that "Hall & Oates have a reputation as notoriously poor live performers," has ever seen the duo perform live. I seriously doubt it. I have seen them three times in concert, in 1977, 1978 and October, 1981 in the Greensboro Coliseum, and they have been awesome every time. Judging by the audience's reaction on these three occasions, not to mention critical reviews, there were several others who shared my opinion.

Perhaps if Wells was basing his opinion of Hall and Oates on their MTV videos, he'd have a point. But we really shouldn't hold this against them, for even though Hall and Oates may never become MTV stars, they do possess an ability for producing flawless pop rock, and their stage show surpasses their vinyl.

Granted, it is impossible to please everyone, but give these guys a chance. Hall and Oates and Kool and the Gang are gonna rock our socks off on April 24th!

Hey, Chapel Thrill? We are.

Craig Sheridan  
Chapel Hill

### Anxious

To the editor:

I'm so anxious for the spring concert date to arrive that I haven't been able to sleep for the past three nights. However, I can now rest peacefully knowing that my student fees have been put to such a worthwhile use as funding a major musical tandem like Hall and Oates. I'm just thankful that the powers that be didn't spoon-feed us one of those no-name bands like Journey, Foreigner, Pat Benatar, or God forbid, the Police. I'm equally exhilarated over the choice of Kool and the Gang as the second headliner — by the way, which one's Kool?

Being a person of simple musical tastes, I'm not really sure that I can comprehend the intricate and thematic symbolism behind such lyrical triumphs as "Kiss On My List" or "Celebration." Both of these bands are a tribute to what graduates of the Roy Clark Big Note Music Course can go on to achieve in the music world.

I've tried to keep an open mind (as opposed to a hollow head) regarding both of these groups, but I really can't see wasting eight dollars to hear the sizzling keyboard runs and lightning-fast guitar licks of Hall and Oates, let alone the staccato bass lines of Kool, aided by his Gang. I realize that I have no right to criticize these bands, ...er... bands unless I can do a better job myself. So, I am planning to take my electric guitar to the concert in an effort to do just this. Perhaps one should, instead of attending the spring concert, follow Swift's advice and just stay at home and eat one's children.

Jeffrey K. Whisnant  
Old Well Apts.

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Column writers should include their majors and hometowns. Each letter should include the writer's name, address and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

