

The Daily Tar Heel

90th year of editorial freedom

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Food fight (part II)

With two separate proposals before him and a third in the works, Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham III has not had enough time to make an informed decision on the future of a food service at UNC. Because several distinct alternatives do exist, the chancellor should hold off making a final decision on such a complex issue until all options have been thoroughly studied.

When first announced three weeks ago, the original proposal was presented as a do-or-die move designed to save a rapidly failing food service. The proposal, drawn up by James Cansler of Student Affairs, Charles Antle, a member of the Food Services Advisory Committee and Assistant to the Vice Chancellor Biruta Nielson, recommended a quick decision by Fordham with renovations set to begin in May. That report immediately drew criticism from student leaders who said it was incomplete and failed to address many questions surrounding the affect on students.

Within one week, a second food service plan was presented to Fordham, this one drawn up by Student Government. This plan also called for renovations of Lenoir Hall, but recommended that Chase Cafeteria be used only to serve dinner and that the Fast Break restaurant be left in the Carolina Union. The proposal also called for transferring the profits from residence hall snack bars and vending machines to a central food service. The result would be a \$6 per student food-service fee and a room-board plan for a smaller number of students.

Using Chase Cafeteria for dinner is a sound idea because it is currently the only meal most students eat there. Renovating it would not attract more students and is not the solution; neither is forcing South Campus students to pay for the improvements through a meal plan. Most students on South Campus simply do not eat breakfast and lunch at Chase.

The reasoning behind the Student Government plan makes sense in other ways. For example, the FSAC plan calls for moving the highly successful Fast Break into the Pine Room. The Fast Break is successful because of its location: students in the Union stop by on their way through and grab something to eat. Moving it to the Pine Room would eliminate this advantage.

Like the FSAC plan, the Student Government proposal calls for a meal plan for a limited number of students, but with needed qualifications. Any students assigned to a dorm not one of their first five choices would not be required to eat on the meal plan. Students in Greek organizations could pay a small fee and be exempt from the plan. In addition, the plan would be phased in over three years. Only the minimum number of students for the food service to break even would be required to be on the room-board plan.

Another option is under review by the Residence Hall Association. It has been considering a set fee for all students in order to avoid a meal plan anywhere on campus. The major drawback of this plan is that it imposes a fee on students who would not use the food service, residents of Granville Towers for example.

None of the reports by itself is a complete proposal, but the Student Government plan comes closest. One option, allowing the University to take over food services, has been largely ignored. The push for a hasty decision has been because administration officials fear the ARA-operated food service may soon leave the University—a weak excuse considering the number of companies that would like to take its place here. If an on-campus food service is to be successful, improvements are crucial. But the University should not rush into a decision because of alarmist cries that all the food service problems must be solved in the next week.

Best and brightest

When David Halberstam speaks on the influence of the media at 7:30 tonight in Memorial Hall, he will speak from an experience that is twofold. As a journalist, he has achieved the highest honor of his profession, the Pulitzer Prize, for his reporting from Vietnam. As an author he has been able to step out of his role as a journalist and report on the business of the media in his book *The Powers That Be*.

Halberstam's speech is the culmination of the three-week long Carolina Symposium. Under the theme "America in Pieces," the symposium has addressed fragmentation in America. Symposium workers should be commended for their hard work.

Their contribution cannot be ignored. They have brought a rare opportunity to Carolina students by raising questions and issues that affect and concern us. Tonight's address is an example of that type of opportunity, one that on student can afford to miss.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Composition: Frank Porter Graham Composition Division, UNC-CH Printing Department.

Printing: Hinton Press, Inc., of Mebane.

News will be what Mudd says it is

By JOHN DRESCHER

"News is whatever I say it is," former NBC anchorman David Brinkley once said. If news is whatever the anchorman says it is, then starting tonight Roger Mudd will determine what's news and what's not. Mudd, who received a master's in history from UNC in 1953, will join Tom Brokaw tonight as co-anchor of the *NBC Nightly News* as the pair replaces John Chancellor.

As NBC's Washington correspondent, Mudd has handled all stories originating from the capital. Now, with co-anchor Brokaw stationed in New York, Mudd will be even more involved in the daily production of the news. "It'll mean that I'll be more intimately involved in the assembly, assignment and preparation of the broadcast," Mudd said in a telephone interview.

While previously Mudd's script had to be approved by NBC headquarters in New York, now he will have the freedom to make his own decisions as to what stories will be aired and how they will be presented. "I think we have the Washington expertise to make our own news judgments," Mudd said, "and it will also save us a lot of time."

Time, in the super-competitive world of network news, saving a few minutes here and there can make a big difference. After all, news is only good when it's new. One of television's largest advantages over the print media is its striking immediacy that enables it to cover breaking news far better than newspapers.

But there is another side to the time factor, and that's the amount of time the public is willing to put into acquiring information each day. More people are spending that time watching television news and not reading newspapers. While

Mudd is all for every American watching the news every night (preferably the *NBC Nightly News*), he's disappointed that fewer Americans are reading a daily newspaper.

"I don't think it's a good sign," he said. "People are spending less time informing themselves. They're missing the depth they should be getting. Philosophically it's not a good sign and economically it's not either, with papers having to go out of business. One of the shortcomings TV news has is that it doesn't do news deeply; it kind of skims across the news and just touches the top."

'Networks are trying to make news brighter. ... I think it's bad that we have to take something and change the nature of things to make them more attractive. It's a dangerous trend. We should be reporting the news, not changing it.'

Roger Mudd

Mudd said television news may be able to provide more depth in its coverage if it expands to a one-hour format. Both local stations and the Federal Communications Commission are blocking that expansion, although many in television news feel it's only a matter of time before the expansion occurs.

"An hour would be great if we made intelligent use of it," Mudd said. "If all we did was double the amount of stories we have now, then no, it wouldn't be better. I think we need to cover more completely some of the areas we cover now, and then expand to areas we don't cover now."

Newspapers provide more depth for readers, but they also provide a depth in journalism training that radio and television stations do not, Mudd said. The best places to learn journalism are at newspapers, not in radio or television.

"I think it's mandatory if you're really serious about broadcast journalism, because there simply isn't the training at local stations," he said. "I feel like two to three years on a newspaper is really obligatory. More and more, networks are hiring people that haven't worked for a paper. I see that as a bad sign."

That's not in tune with those who feel acquiring a newspaper background for TV news is living in television's Stone Age. "In 20 years, the definition of news will be entirely different," said one TV news analyst in *The Washington Journalism Review*. "Television's old dogies

It appears NBC is following that same trend by moving Brokaw from the *Today* show to the co-anchor of the news. Brokaw has spent more than five years chucking feather pillows at show-biz folk, as one writer put it. Although Brokaw was once a White House reporter, his move to the co-anchor strikes many as reminiscent of when ABC hired Barbara Walters.

Mudd disagrees that Brokaw is the show-biz type.

"When Tom went to *Today*, the *(Today)* anchor had done dog-food commercials and all that. Tom changed that. There wasn't as much fluff. There's still a lot of lighter stories and features but I think Tom was picked for the job because he's a hard-working fella with serious intentions."

Contrary to gossip reports that say Mudd is upset about sharing the anchor, he says the co-anchor format is a good one.

"There's a great deal of advantages," he said. "It gives you another person thinking about things, another perspective, another person with a strong reputation for honesty. There's more mobility. One can travel, one can stay behind. It's a good system. It also distributes the work and prevents the one great wise man from dominating the network."

That is not to say Roger Mudd would not mind being that one great man. At 54, he has reached the top of his profession. There's no telling what the next step may be, but for now anyway, the *NBC Nightly News* from Washington is what Roger Mudd says it is.

John Drescher, a senior journalism and history major from Raleigh, is editor of *The Daily Tar Heel*.

Letters to the editor

Students acted irresponsibly

To the editor:

On March 29 I shared the excitement of our winning the 1982 NCAA championship with fellow UNC students. But my enthusiasm quickly dissolved upon seeing the senseless conduct of students and other Chapel Hill residents on Franklin Street and on UNC's campus.

The irresponsibility of some people never fails to amaze me. Within the first minutes of the Monday night celebration, two students were abruptly jolted from the roof of a moving car when the driver, (no doubt intoxicated), decided to ram down Franklin Street at 30 mph. The students hopefully weren't badly injured. I didn't stay around long enough to hear the report.

Saturday night's melee, after our semi-finals victory,

was also the center of upsetting scenes. Perhaps the site of small children walking hand in hand with their parents was the most disturbing. I saw an indescribable terror on the face of one infant who was undoubtedly shaken by the confusion and noise of the crowd. I even observed one woman trying to climb over a wall while juggling her 16-ounce Schlitz and two-year-old child. How can parents subject their children to such a frightening and abnormal atmosphere? ... And we wonder where crime and alcohol abuse come from.

I would be the first to admit that winning a national championship is exciting and that a celebration is definitely in line. But can't this celebration take place with our minds and bodies remaining intact? I don't

understand what pleasure is found or what point is made, in becoming so drunk that one cannot feel or react to anything that is going on around him.

Furthermore, I fail to see why the following correlation holds: the bigger and badder the event, the bigger and badder the partying and drinking must become. Isn't the hard work of UNC's great basketball team and coach only demeaned by one's using it as an excuse to get as drunk as one can possibly get? Dean Smith and the team deserve a better show of our appreciation.

I needn't go into a detailed description of the vandalism done to the campus during the celebration. We've all seen the painted slogans, strewn toilet paper, broken glass bottles, beer cans, etc.

Indeed, partying and drinking have become so-called "established traditions" at Carolina. But no matter how longstanding these practices are, I believe that a re-evaluation of them needs to be made when they produce so many negative results.

Betsy Thomassen
836 Morrison

Blue Jeans Day

To the editor:

In the *DTH* editorial ("Blue jeans and gays") of April 2, you declared that "if the Carolina Gay Association wants to have Blue Jeans Day every Friday, that's fine with us. If it's not fine with you, perhaps you should think about why it's not."

I have thought about it, just as most other UNC students thought about it as we got dressed that Friday. Blue Jeans Day '82 put all of us (straights, gays and indifferents) in the position of making some type of statement about our sexuality, regardless of whether we wore the clothes which befitted our respective preferences.

The CGA deemed that the pants we chose to wear on March 26 revealed whom we chose to sleep with. Presumably, this is exactly what the Gay Rights Movement has been telling us is no one else's business.

Jeep Bryant
1721 Granville West



TV evangelism threatens tradition

By NISSEN RITTER

Robert Alley would like nothing better than to participate in a face-to-face debate with Rev. Jerry Falwell. He sees the current trend of television evangelism — characterized by Falwell, host of *The Old Time Gospel Hour*, and Pat Robertson, host of the *700 Club* — as a threat to American tradition.

Alley, who teaches religion and chairs the Area Studies program at the University of Richmond, is a founding member of People for the American Way. Established by television producer Norman Lear in 1980, PFAW is a monitoring organization designed to keep an eye on Falwell's Moral Majority and other right-wing religious groups.

Ironically, Alley somewhat resembles the outspoken leader of the Moral Majority. But the two Southern ministers have little in common.

"I have been concerned for over 20 years with the distortion the fundamentalists have been perpetrating," Alley said. "I think the best way (to confront the fundamentalists) would be to engage Falwell and Robertson and others in a head-on discussion or debate of ideas."

"It's a monitoring group trying to keep up with what's happening in the world of television evangelism," Alley said.

Alley said the one-way communication in television broadcasting prevented any possibility of interaction between the public and the broadcaster. Because of this, he advocates open debates.

"My own feeling is that Falwell and Robertson are afraid of that (open debate)," Alley said. "I would dearly love to get Robertson and Falwell on a one-to-one discussion of the issues where we had equal standing on the platform and where no holds were barred about what we

could deal with."

In addition to supporting public debates, Alley encourages viewers to request alternative programming or air time to present their opposing viewpoints. The Federal Communication Commission's Fairness Doctrine requires stations which air one side of a controversial and important public issue to give equal time to the other side.

"I want to broaden, not limit, the discussion," Alley said. "Falwell has the perfect right to the positions he holds and the perfect right to espouse them. I thoroughly endorse that."

IN QUOTES

Alley listed three concerns about the Falwell-Robertson brand of religious broadcasting. He placed misrepresentation of the Bible at the top of his list.

"When Falwell and Robertson and the rest of these characters began to appear nationally and get national prominence, I was disturbed about the way in which they were manipulating people, abusing the intellect, generally misrepresenting the nature of the Bible and Christianity," he said.

The outspoken minister also criticized religious broadcasters who endorsed political viewpoints on the air. "They (Falwell and Robertson) either do not know or do not care to know about the relationship between church and state in the 18th century and the religious freedom that we have," he said.

But Alley's harshest criticism focused on the integrity of the television evangelists themselves. "One of the things I've learned very quickly from dealing with Robertson and Falwell and their people is that they have no compunction with re-

spect to lying," Alley said. "They will lie with great glee apparently. They will say something and deny it. If you do not have documentation in your hand when you're charging, it is hopeless because they have no integrity at all when it comes to the truth."

"I was present when he (Falwell) made the statement that the prayers of Jews are not heard by God which he later denied having said. I did hear him say it, and I've got it on tape."

Despite the public attention given to Falwell and the Moral Majority, Robertson is the real threat, Alley said.

"I think he (Robertson) is far worse and far more dangerous than Falwell," Alley said. "He not only has the power through his network to reach far more people, but the way he's willing to abuse people through faith healing is not something Falwell does."

Alley also said that Falwell's basic appeal was limited to a small group of supporters in his home base, Lynchburg, Va.

"Falwell is weak in Virginia, and he knows it," Alley said. "For the long run, I think Robertson will have more staying power than Falwell. It doesn't matter where Robertson is; he could be on the moon."

Both Falwell and Robertson broadcast their programs from Virginia. But Alley said the presence of the two prominent television evangelists in Virginia was only a coincidence.

"It's an accident because Virginia does not have the fundamentalist credentials to support this stuff," Alley said. "I would say the two most liberal states in the South religiously are North Carolina and Virginia."

"Virginia really has nothing to fear from Jerry Falwell. It's the United States that has some problems. But if we can develop a concern for Falwell and Robertson here, that says something to the rest



Robert Alley

of the country."

In contrast, Alley said Falwell and Robertson have everything to fear from the public by participating in open discussion. Alley added that he understood their reluctance to face him in a public debate because he was confident that they would lose.

"But if people end up thinking that Falwell's got the better, then it's all right," Alley said. "That's the way democracy works. It's the risk of democracy, and I think it's a risk worth taking."

Nissen Ritter, a senior radio, television and motion pictures major from Richmond, Va., is arts editor for *The Daily Tar Heel*.