

# The Daily Tar Heel

91st year of editorial freedom

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## Better late than never

The International Olympic Committee has long forbade amateur athletes to use drugs — especially those that might aid the performance of the athlete, giving him an unfair advantage over competitors. Nevertheless, drug use among athletes has increased steadily, its growth unhampered by mostly unreliable and ineffective methods of detecting drugs. Technological advances have helped rein in drug abuse, and for several years major sports countries, except the United States, have instituted highly sensitive drug-testing procedures. Now, finally, the United States Olympic Committee has announced its own belated intent to follow the lead and attempt to protect both amateur sports and its athletes.

The American action comes only after an embarrassment at this summer's Pan American Games. There, hundreds of competitors watched as new drug-testing devices disqualified 15 athletes, two of them American gold-medal winners. The shakeup shocked both athletes and fans alike and awakened them to the seriousness and pervasiveness of drug use in amateur sports.

Now, several months later, the United States Olympic Committee has ordered that similar tests be performed on all athletes who qualify for the U.S. Olympic Team. In both formal and informal testing, urine samples from every qualifying athlete will be tested for the 100 drugs banned by the IOC. If only one test comes up positive, that athlete will be barred from competition. Disqualified athletes can ask to be retested and can pursue further appeals through the director of the USOC.

Because the United States is one of the last leading countries to require drug testing of its athletes, the pre-Olympic testing cannot be performed here — the United States does not have a center capable of performing the tests — though USOC officials say a state-of-the-art testing center will be present in Los Angeles next summer.

As the last stronghold of non-government-subsidized Olympic sports, the USOC is embarrassingly delinquent in instituting drug-testing procedures. Still, these strong measures should be commended for assuring that Olympic athletes will be competing fairly, using nothing more than their strength, skill and determination.

## Modern muckraking

Rest in peace?

Not if you live as a Hollywood star, died under even the most minutely suspect circumstances and happened to fall into the cold, profit-seeking hands of coroner Dr. Thomas Noguchi. And, most of all, not if respectable journalists decided to pay attention to the sensational stories Noguchi likes to tell.

Noguchi, a former chief medical examiner for Los Angeles County, is no Quincy when it comes to professional ethics. His alleged mismanagement of the department, spotlighted by inappropriate comments about celebrity deaths, earned him his demotion to physician-specialist in April 1982. But it did not quiet the good doctor, whose forthcoming book, aptly titled *Coroner*, discusses the deaths of such celebrities as William Holden, Marilyn Monroe, John Belushi and Natalie Wood.

Celebrity vultures like Noguchi have long existed. Accounts like his are no strangers to book publishers and scandal sheets. Yet the advances for *Coroner* have also found the ears of such esteemed wire services as the Associated Press, which only last week produced a lengthy story detailing Noguchi's chapter on the Nov. 29, 1981, drowning of Natalie Wood. The Associated Press no doubt thought the piece a public interest story, as did the Raleigh *News and Observer*, which gave the article on Noguchi's far-fetched forensic findings prominent display at the top of page three of the Oct. 11 issue.

Still, the interest in Wood generated by the recent release of the film *Brainstorm*, which features her final screen performance, is no reason to report the ever-changing conclusions of a man of dubious reputation.

There is no news value to Noguchi's "new" findings concerning the circumstances of Wood's accidental drowning two years ago. While his original report indicated that an intoxicated Wood fell off her yacht after trying to escape an argument between husband Robert Wagner and actor Christopher Walken, the new report downplays Wood's inebriation and states that she fell while trying to retie a dinghy to the side of the yacht. The new report rather melodramatically describes Wood's struggle in the frigid ocean waters off South Catalina Island as "both unique and gallant...she almost achieved a miracle." It almost sounds as if Noguchi were there watching it all happen.

Seeing tripe in *The National Enquirer* is regrettable. Seeing a wire service rendition of it in the first pages of supposedly responsible newspapers, however, is inexcusable.

## The Daily Tar Heel

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# Don't buck deregulation

By KYLE MARSHALL

Concern over two financially troubled airlines — Continental and Eastern — has flown into two larger issues: whether the airline industry should be re-regulated and if companies have a right to escape labor contracts through bankruptcy.

In both cases, airline executives are pitted against labor unions. It's not the first example of labor vs. management. But this time the results could set precedent for the industry's biggest airlines as they battle low fares, high wages and intense competition in their struggle to remain airborne.

### A tale of two airlines

Continental almost taxied to a halt three weeks ago when it announced it couldn't pay its debts. It laid off 65 percent of its 12,000 employees. With operating losses of \$26.5 million for the second half of 1983, and with no prospect for improvement, Continental announced its intention to file for Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Act. (Under Chapter 11, a firm continues to operate under court protection from creditors while it seeks a plan to pay its debts.)

Chairman Frank Lorenzo said the airline had not gained the wage concessions it needed to continue operating. His plan? First, close the airline, and second, re-open it as a smaller, regional carrier. Soon after filing for Chapter 11, Lorenzo made good his promise by restoring service to 25 of the 78 cities Continental had served.

And at Eastern, 1983 second-quarter losses totaled \$33.7 million, compared to only \$3 million for the same period last year. Chairman Frank Borman, a former astronaut, threatened to follow Continental's lead unless he got employees to accept immediate 15 percent wage cuts.

Unions representing machinists, flight attendants and pilots refused to back down, saying Borman was bluffing.

Then, just when it seemed Eastern would get breathing room through the bankruptcy courts, Borman called off the dogs. After he dropped his demands for the wage cuts in an agreement last Friday, the unions agreed to let independent financial experts analyze the situation and said they would abide by the results.



VIVIAN...THAT'S THE LAST TIME WE FLY CONTINENTAL UNTIL THEY SETTLE THIS PILOTS STRIKE...

Continental and Eastern are now looking to climb back to the heights they once enjoyed. The latest moves by Lorenzo and Borman indicate they're capable of pulling it off. One thing seems sure, however — the airline industry unions will continue to sing the blues of deregulation.

### Disgruntled over deregulation

Deregulation, the most revolutionary thing to hit the industry since the invention of the airplane, took effect in 1978. What it did, essentially, was end government interference and allow the same kind of competition that other industries face to spread to the airlines. Before, the government readily approved airfare increases. Since, the airlines have cut fares while costs have soared. It has allowed smaller airlines a chance to get out of the gates.

But the truth is, not too many airlines are flying high right now. Smaller, upstart carriers founded since deregulation are the most financially stable in the industry.

They don't compete with the giants on a national scale and thus are able to keep operating costs down. Perhaps best of all,

the discount airlines are largely non-union,

— a tremendous advantage over carriers

that have to pay employees two or three times as much in salaries and benefits. It's easy to see why Continental and Eastern are having trouble competing.

Not every airline is in such trouble, however. America West Airlines, a new Phoenix-based regional carrier, is just getting off the ground. It pays its pilots a mere \$32,500 a year. (The average salary for Eastern's 37,500 employees — from pilots to painters — stands at \$47,000.) People Express, based in Newark, N.J., undercut other airlines' fares and is able to succeed by hiring non-union employees. Closer to home, Winston-Salem-based Piedmont is secure with its strong regional system. After first-quarter losses this year, the company's earnings have rebounded, and Piedmont's future looks promising.

Of course it goes without saying that the traveler is clearly better off paying lower fares.

All of which points to the need for continued support of deregulation. In cases where airlines have failed or are on the verge of bankruptcy, the problem has been the cost of labor. Still, the AFL-CIO and six airline industry unions plan to lobby Congress in the next few weeks for regulations.

Aside from government regulation, the

unions claim that the bankruptcy law is being misused. Chapter 11 is a tool to put labor at a disadvantage, they say. But what they're forgetting is that Chapter 11 was designed to protect workers' jobs.

### The next chapter

When the Bankruptcy Act was revised in 1978, it encouraged more companies to use Chapter 11 to keep from going under. Without this reorganization type of bankruptcy, companies could be forced to close their doors and fire all their workers.

But the air industry unions insist they're being forced, through unfavorable bankruptcy laws, to make wage concessions. Their point of view is understandable — no one who works for a living wants his salary to be cut, especially through legal maneuvering. Still, it doesn't seem realistic that they're making a two-pronged attack on deregulation and bankruptcy.

And it doesn't seem possible that airline employees are making the wage demands. While Eastern's employees average \$47,000 a year, at Continental senior pilots averaged \$83,000 before the company filed bankruptcy.

So the airlines' labor costs are very real. Here's an industry that already suffers from enormous operating costs (a single 767 jetliner costs around \$50 million), cut-throat competition and a not-so-rosy future. And the unions refuse to back off, even when job security is at stake.

In light of this, the big airlines have every right to use Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Whether it's to seek protection from creditors or to reduce wage costs should not even be an issue. If the company is in debt, it must try its best to get out of it. Union leaders must also do their part by coming down from the clouds and accepting concessions whenever possible. That way, labor and management can avoid showdowns over Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The first step for big airlines like Continental and Eastern is to reduce labor costs. If that doesn't work, Chapter 11 should be a good escape clause. And the only alternative after that is to go out of business. In that case, everybody's a loser.

*Kyle Marshall, a junior economics and political science major from Hendersonville, is assistant state and national editor of The Daily Tar Heel.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Is 'DTH' the 'National Enquirer'?

To the editor:

The *DTH* has gone too far. An incredible lack of responsible journalism has been evidenced time and time again. It boils down to what students want in a student newspaper: Do we want a professional, responsible media publication, or do we want a glorified *National Enquirer* that prints false information, stirring up controversy and pitting group against group.

It does not take a journalism major (these points come out in freshman English) to realize that though there is every right to print anything, one still must separate fact from opinion and draw conclusions only after thorough investigation. Bypassing this process breeds sweeping condemnations, falsehoods and hatred. For example:

1) Three drunken UNC students (not totally uncommon) harassed a drunken female and were implicated for assault (not sexual). In no way defending the actions of these individuals, it is still unfortunate that because they were lacrosse players, the *DTH* made a vast generalization and implied that all lacrosse players are barbarians and criminals.

2) The *DTH* (Sept. 16) implied by the prominence and publicity of the story, that

UNC President William Friday had devious and secretive dealings with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This was based on conjecture without any substantiating evidence.

3) Looking past the front-page story given to the candidacy of a male for Homecoming queen (as that may have warranted attention), the *DTH* decided to personally attack an individual student, Padraic Baxter, on the editorial page, and, then, sign it with someone else's name!

4) Concerning the "mikeman controversy," the *DTH* once again decided, prematurely, that all of the facts were in and that the UNC administration should go to hell in a handbasket for blatant disregard of student welfare (*DTH*, Oct. 5). This editorial mentioned that the office of the assistant dean had no right to "fire" Kenny Ward because they were not the ones to "hire" him. Exactly! Though Sharon Mitchell is an assistant dean, she is also the sponsor for the spirit unit, which encompasses the cheerleaders and the mikeman. It is this unit which *does* sponsor (not "hire"; there is no money involved) the selection of a mikeman and, thus, has the right to dismiss him. Not much was said about why he was asked to resign. This

### Good job

Seriously, take a bong hit *DTHers* and enjoy!!

Susan Gaddy  
Town House Apts.

To the editor:  
For the past several years when law graduates have come back for Law Alumni Weekend they have been greeted at the school's front door by a large and cheerful blue and white banner. And so it was for Law Alumni Weekend this year. However, sometime between Sunday afternoon and Monday morning, someone unauthorized removed the banner. The law alumni office would appreciate it if the person or persons who did this would return the banner to the school so that law alumni in the future can be greeted with this welcoming sign.

Cathy Schweitzer  
Alumni Secretary  
UNC School of Law

### Bring it back

bong hits "Buzz!"

The list of examples goes on. It is not a bad thing to question and to raise awareness — as long as it is done responsibly and honestly. I think the time has come for the *DTH* to re-evaluate responsibilities, priorities and practices. All the *DTH* has to do is to look deeper than the surface appearances to arrive at the truth. We all have enough concerns without fabricating new ones just to fill some copy space.

Paul Parker  
West Cameron Ave.

## ABC's 'GI Brides' crime against Korea

By YOUNG-OAK LEE

I have lived in the United States for more than seven years working for my doctoral degree in American studies, yet I have never been to such a place as Chapel Hill where the Republic of Korea is either simply nonexistent or, at best, known as the subject of disgrace and shame. It is due to this very ignorance and apathy on the part of North Carolinians that I was particularly annoyed with "GI Brides," televised Oct. 6 by WRAL-TV as part of the ABC news program 20/20. I also feel with a great pang how the media could be misleading when they bring to our attention something we never heard of, or bothered to know about.

"GI Brides" was reporting on the practice of fraud marriages between GIs and prostitutes in Korea for the purpose of legal entry to the United States, and on the subsequent exploitation of those women in this country as sex slaves. At this point, I want to make a few observations regarding the content of the program: that part of the program coverage was not true; that the focus of the program, if it were to have any social significance at all, should have been on the American soldiers rather than the Korean victims; and finally, that the media should be more responsible for its content and fair in its treatment.

First, the reporter, while examining the process of the marriage between the GIs and prostitutes, claims that the marriage process in Korea is rather simple — merely a series of stampings by a clerk." Quite contrary to this observation, however, a properly processed marriage in Korea is, as in any society with a long tradition and history, never an easy matter. It is far simpler to get married in the States in the sense that couples here do not go through all that complicated series of events culminating

in the ceremony itself. The marriage is considered a once-in-a-lifetime business — a permanent bond. Therefore, the marriage in Korea is a serious, solemn, social event that is worth a lot of attention and consideration. If the reporter was talking about a fraud marriage, it is entirely a different matter, for you can always find a loophole in any law if you want it that way. I want to remind the reporter that Korea has almost 5,000 years of history and that he should have confined his talk to the illegally "legal" arrangement of marriage. He should not have talked about marriage in general.

Secondly, I would like to point out that in airing the show, WRAL and ABC committed a serious crime of murdering a national pride by