

THE TAR HEEL

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Register or else?

The Supreme Court ruling last week upholding a law that requires men to register for the draft or face denial of federal college loans and grants deprives males of certain guaranteed rights.

The 6-2 ruling overturned a lower court's decision that the Solomon amendment unconstitutionally punishes young men for past wrongdoing and forces them to incriminate themselves.

Chief Justice Burger, who wrote the majority opinion, said that students can become eligible for federal aid "at any time simply by registering later and thus 'carry the keys of their prison in their own pockets.'" He added that "A person who has not registered is clearly under no compulsion to seek financial aid; if he has not registered, he is simply ineligible for aid."

The Solomon amendment requires any draftable young man applying for federal student aid to sign a "statement of compliance" with registration requirements or face loss of eligibility for aid, including loans, grants and work assistance.

However, this method of enforcing registration compels self-incrimination, unfairly forces unnecessary work upon colleges and universities to do all the paperwork for the federal government concerning each student's "statement of compliance," and also amounts to punishment without a trial.

Barry Lynn, legislative counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union, said, "The decision licenses the Congress to punish people it somehow views as irresponsible or disloyal, stripping them of federal benefits without granting of a trial."

The Supreme Court seems to be looking for a means of tracking down the approximately 4 percent of all males of draft age who have not yet registered, but there certainly must be a better way of finding out who they are and punishing them — without taking away their constitutional guarantees of equal protection of the law and against self-incrimination.



The Tar Heel welcomes letters to the editor and contributions of columns for the editorial page.

Such contributions should be typed, triple spaced, on a 60-space line, and are subject to editing. Contributions must

be submitted by noon each Monday.

Column writers should include their majors and hometowns; each letter should include the writer's name, address and telephone number.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Clarifying orientation issue

To the editor:

I agree with the essential point of your editorial statement on summer school orientation ("Orient new students," *The Tar Heel*, July 5). As Orientation Commission chairman, I concur that it is very important that students new to UNC be properly oriented.

However, summer school orientation is at best an ambiguous issue. Even at a school as large as UNC, very few students begin their collegiate careers in May or July. The students who do choose to do so receive enough information — if they elect to attend the evening orientation session — to easily cope with summer school.

We recognize that new students are not fully prepared by the summer program. They are still expected to participate in a Tar Heel Days program, and are

required — as much as any adult can be required — to attend Orientation Week in August.

The majority of students at summer sessions are not new students. Continuing UNC students and students from other institutions do not need the information that would be distributed in a full-scale orientation program. When polled, many students have said that it would be a waste of time.

The question of summer orientation is raised annually. The Commission generally acknowledges the points mentioned above and then tries to plan a full-scale orientation in spite of them.

This brings me to my other topic. The UNC orientation program is run for students by students. Any orientation program, even for summer school, would be run if there was support from the student body. Given the

lack of support and a summer program's limited potential, I feel the people who presented the summer program did an excellent job.

The lack of support from student organizations such as *The Daily Tar Heel* — which virtually ignored the activities of the Orientation Commission this spring and elected not to participate in Tar Heel Days this summer — is the primary obstacle to orientation planning, summer or otherwise.

I am thankful for *The Tar Heel's* criticism. I learned long ago that true criticism given sincerely and without malice is an excellent teacher.

The Orientation Commission welcomes any comments or suggestions.

Charles R. Zeugner
Orientation Commission
chairman

BOT should consider options

By ART WOODRUFF

The UNC Board of Trustees has seen fit to change its mind and return to the Educational Foundation 175 parking spaces in the McCauley Street parking lot for football parking. The lot was reserved for the Ram's Club last year but in April the BOT took the spaces back when the University's parking ordinance was approved.

The original decision to deny the Foundation the lot seems to have resulted from a combination of two things. The trustees questioned the need for the space because the Foundation will gain about 1,000 spaces at the Student Activities Center and they want the Foundation to have to justify its need for space each year. Both were legitimate reasons.

However, when the BOT met in June and heard a presentation by Educational Foundation Vice President Moyer Smith, it overwhelmingly approved returning the McCauley Street lot to the Ram's Club. The BOT did this without consulting the traffic office, which has to deal with the parking problems on football Saturdays or without making use of the lots contingent upon Foundation help with building additional parking lots on campus.

If the trustees had talked to traffic office personnel they would have learned that the lot was not used much last year, and they would have found that all lots need to be opened to the general public before game time.

The Educational Foundation has a reasonable need for the spaces in the McCauley Street lot. For some members, the location of their parking space is as important as where their seat is. Many members like to go downtown or wander through the campus before and after the game, so one of the new spaces at the Student Activities Center won't do for them. This year north campus spaces will be even scarcer because the Foundation will lose spaces in the Carroll Hall parking lot because of construction of the new computer science building. Many of these spaces will be replaced by McCauley Street spaces.

Part of the reason the McCauley Street lot did not fill last year was that all the spaces were not assigned. And part of the problem was that some Ram's Clubbers wanted to get closer to the stadium than their assigned spaces allow. To do so, they park in the travel lane of Ridge Road, making driving difficult and dangerous. They park in the woods around the stadium. They park just about anywhere they please with little regard for the campus.

Ram's Club members aren't the only ones who park wherever they please, and all members

aren't offenders. But if the people who have spaces reserved for them park illegally, who should expect anyone else to do otherwise?

The BOT could have considered requiring the Ram's Club to open up their lots 30 minutes before game time. The Club already opens them a few minutes early sometimes, but not regularly and not all lots. If the lots were opened up, people driving around a few minutes before game time looking for a space wouldn't be seeing unfilled parking lots while being told that there is no place to park. Also, a great deal of the parking on grass and blocking of traffic would not occur.

We all know what happens to non-Educational Foundation cars that are parked illegally in a reserved lot. I wonder how many cars are towed from lots that never fill up with Ram's Club members? Where are the tow trucks after the game starts? It seems ironic that the University enforces strict parking regulations on students and employees who are on campus to educate or be educated during the week, but all hell breaks loose on a football Saturday.

Of course it's impossible to park everyone in a legal space. After all, on a football Saturday over 50,000 people are coming to a university with 20,000 students, 4,500 employees and less than 12,000 parking spaces. But it seems like the rules on blocking travel lanes and parking on the grass and sidewalks could be enforced.

Maybe when, or if, the parking deck is built on the Bell Tower parking lot, there won't be as much of a problem. But is that also going to be taken up by the Ram's Club? At \$4,000 a space I hope the BOT has the guts to make the Educational Foundation help pay for it if they want to use it. There are already rumors that such a plan is being talked about. But if the deck is going to be built, there will have to be some commitment soon. Otherwise, arguments about the high cost of the deck for users will kill the idea.

The Club's argument against opening the lots is that donors, who last year gave \$1.6 million dollars for athletic scholarships, are promised the spaces and they should be there when the donor arrives. But it is not too much of a hardship for donors to get to the campus a little early. Members must not forget that their donations are supposed to be benevolent gifts. There is nothing wrong with giving special privileges to donors as long as everyone remembers that the teams and the parking lots belong to the University.

Art Woodruff, a senior journalism and chemistry major from Sanford, Fla., is a staff writer for *The Tar Heel*.