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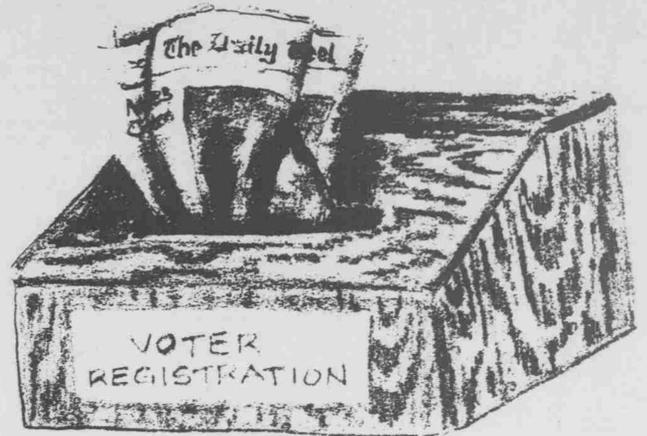
The Daily Tar Heel

92nd year of editorial freedom

Voter drive not right enough for 'DTH'

Following is the second of two columns protesting recent DTH editorials critical of actions by the Campus Governing Council. CGC member Doug Berger discusses the council's financial support of voter registration efforts.

By DOUG BERGER



Wanted: 1 CGC survival guide

The appointment of former Student Body President Scott Norberg as chief justice of the Student Supreme Court has generated quite a controversy, at least in and around Suite C. After a decidedly indecisive Rules & Judiciary committee finally managed to OK Norberg's appointment Monday, the matter comes before the full Campus Governing Council tonight for final approval.

Those who oppose the appointment have offered few substantive objections. Until they do, Norberg should be spared the council's apparently instinctive haranguing and, instead, be given a strong, clean endorsement.

The problems encountered by Norberg, a law student, seem to deal more with his having once been student body president and a member of Chi Psi fraternity — but no one's going to admit that. Here's what they're saying in public:

In committee Norberg was asked, among other things, about his attempt in 1981 to get an advance on his presidential salary, about charges of sexism, and about any bias that might result from his Executive Branch experience. All of his responses seemed to satisfy the committee. But still, as

Norberg himself put it, "People who have found no disagreement with my answers have either not voted or voted against me."

Indeed, half of R&J's four members refused to vote. Of the other two, one voted for Norberg and one against. This is leadership? It was left up to committee chair Patricia Wallace to break the tie, and she did so in favor of Norberg.

One of those who abstained was Reggie Holley, whose position as speaker of the CGC made his refusal to vote particularly unsettling. To make matters worse, he explained his inaction with only the vague comment, "I have my doubts."

One CGC representative who spoke against the appointment in the R&J meeting, Doug Berger, said he meant no harm to Norberg's integrity, but that he was simply dissatisfied with Paul Parker's selection process. As student body president, Parker makes court appointments, and it probably didn't help that he, like Norberg, is a Chi Psi.

Even so, according to Parker, Berger changed his mind after a talk with Norberg and said he would call all the CGC representatives to encourage them to approve Norberg tonight.

Is that what it takes?

Eddie, Eddie, Eddie . . .

Most folks said your political career was finished when your wife and your brother rocked the state by endorsing Jesse Helms. Maybe you felt you had nothing to lose.

We wondered where you'd been, Eddie. We'd heard nary a peep from you since the Democratic gubernatorial runoff, but your return was stunning. You stood up in Charlotte with Ronald Reagan, Jesse Helms and damn near every other Republican in North Carolina.

Endorsing the president wasn't enough, though. You had to go and become national co-chairman of a group called Democrats for Reagan. Bet your old college buddy Jim Hunt nearly choked on that.

Now, we don't blame you for holding a grudge or two from the gubernatorial campaign. It was a bitter fight, and there were those rumors of Edmisten people spreading nasty stories about your wife and family. So it's no surprise that you're not wild about waving the banner for Rufus. But you reach out your hands to stretch Reagan's lengthy coattails, while claiming to support the state Democratic ticket. Supporting it for what, we wonder.

We've got to ask you, Eddie: Did you undergo a political exorcism at the hands of William F. Buckley, or are you suffering from a case of amnesia after bumping your head coming out of Air Force One? Did you happen to tell your new Republican friends about your support for the Equal Rights Amendment, for government subsidies for poor women's abortions, and for a ban on cheap handguns? You've said the state

should set aside a certain number of its contracts for minority firms. Yet you sat there with your mouth closed as Ronald Reagan called federally ordered busing "an experiment nobody wants." Ronnie said he was proud of you, and we bet he was.

There was the amazing sight of Eddie Knox, the man who wanted to be our education governor, grinning along with Jesse Helms, the man who wants to keep federal dollars out of North Carolina's public schools. We know you were a bit miffed at Helms' opponent for not openly endorsing you in the primary — after all, you managed Jim's 1976 campaign. Returning your former friend's campaign contribution was one thing, but appearing on network news clips next to the "prince of darkness" seems a little extreme.

Let's face it, Eddie. You got used. Jesse and Ronnie probably rushed off so they could have a hoot over their coup. Once the election's over, you'll just be another worn-out Mondale liberal. Hell, these folks think Lowell Weicker's a communist, and he's in their party.

The thing is, Eddie, you had such promise. You're a sharp guy, you've got one of the best resumes of any politician in the state, and you ran a darn good campaign. All you had to do was keep your mouth shut and buy some muzzles for your family. You'd have had a pretty good shot in another four years. Now you couldn't be elected sanitation supervisor anywhere outside Mecklenburg County.

We'll miss you, Eddie.

At one time, Student Government and the *The Daily Tar Heel* were at the forefront of efforts to promote human values by appealing to students to do things for their society instead of looking toward student government in terms of what material services it provides.

But the *DTH* has apparently turned its back on its progressive tradition and has taken a very narrow, Republican-oriented perspective on what type of programs benefit the student body. The newspaper's editorial criticizing the Campus Governing Council's voter registration incentive program ("CGC's drive off course," Oct. 5) is a case in point.

The *DTH* argues that this project is inappropriate for two reasons. First, the project does not benefit off-campus students because it rewards the residence hall government that registers the most people. Writing as an off-campus student and as the initiator of this project, I drew up this program with my law school constituency and the general student body in mind. While law students may not directly receive any monetary benefit, they do benefit by increased voter registration that will ultimately translate into electoral participation in November. Because students have a stake in our democratic system, the greater participation in that system can only serve to increase the viability of a democracy. The program should be evaluated on its ability to strengthen the democratic system for all people, not on the basis of immediate material gain. However, the CGC's interest in promoting greater democratic participation was limited by the resources that we had available. There is no off-campus institution comparable to Residence Hall Association that could facilitate such a program. Given this reality, we allowed the residence halls to register off-

campus students as part of their efforts as opposed to limiting each hall to registering people only in their respective geographic regions.

The second reason that the *DTH* opposed this project is somewhat unclear. The *DTH* concludes: "... the CGC's involvement in this important task, to the unreasonable extent of using student fees, is simply wrong In fact, the legislation is typical of the CGC, which seems to think it has a mission to save the world from injustice, voter apathy, apartheid and everything else" The *DTH* does not tell us exactly why student fees should not be expended in such a manner. The *DTH's* analysis was based principally on the arguments of Helms supporters Dawn Peters, a CGC representative, and Mark Stafford, president of the RHA. Both of these individuals freely admit that their underlying reason for opposing this program is that the ultimate outcome of the project would be that more Democrats will be registered than Republicans. Stafford's logic goes something like this: There are three Democrats to every Republican in this state. Because of the pervasiveness of Democrats, this advantage will somehow influence the registration decisions made by the student body. This influence therefore makes our

voter registration inherently biased toward the Democrats. Stafford didn't articulate this rationale in his letter to the *DTH* ("Now a world from the alleged sponsor . . ." Oct. 5), but he does attempt to vaguely characterize this project as political and goes on to conclude that such an activity violates the student Constitution's prohibition of the use of student fees for political activities. (If Stafford believes the council has truly broken student law, he should sue us in the Student Supreme Court.) Unfortunately, the *DTH* does not make it clear whether its criticism is based upon this reasoning. What is clear is that the *DTH* will break with its progressive tradition and use student fees to endorse Ronald Reagan and Jim Martin.

The *DTH* criticizes the voter registration drive for not directly targeting off-campus students but offers no constructive alternatives, proving the *DTH* does not really support registration at all. It is a cruel wrong for the *DTH* to attack the CGC for spending \$300 to promote voter registration and for the paper to call for leaving such activities to the "private sector." The *DTH's* mistake in reporting the "private" initiative by Jesse Jackson cost Jackson and the Black Student Movement time, money, labor and,

most importantly, untold members of the potential registrants who thought Jackson was coming the following day.

It was not so long ago that the *DTH* was an aggressive advocate of progressive causes. In 1980, the largest multi-racial rally since the late 1960s took place when over 800 students stood up for racial justice in response to the decision in the first Nazi-Klan trial. This rally was sponsored by the BSM, Student government and the *DTH*. The message from this campus was loud and clear throughout the state of North Carolina: UNC students, through their institutions, would do everything within their power to promote the values of equality and justice and oppose the racism of the Klan and the Nazis. Last week, the *DTH* made it clear that it wants no part of that alliance with Student Government and the BSM, given its vicious criticisms of the council's actions on investment policies, voter registration and the efforts within the CGC to reaffirm its commitment to racial justice in response to the second Klan-Nazi decision.

Doug Berger is the CGC representative for District 1 and a member of the SEEDS campus political party.

Senior gift worth a worthy choice

By JOEL KATZENSTEIN

Things probably haven't changed that much over the years. Senior classes are just as confused as they always were about what to get their school for graduation. They think they want something that will wear well, perhaps in brass or marble. And it should be stylish. And big. Something that will say "We were here."

No problem there. We are constantly demonstrating our wish to be immortal. This is perfectly normal.

But when it comes to selecting a gift for our University, a lot more thought should go into the process. Remember all those ties that Dad said he loved and then hid in the back of the closet? How about those genuine imitation mother-of-pearl napkin rings you bought at the dime store to give to Mom for her birthday? Didn't see those much at Thanksgiving either, did you?

But you didn't have \$150,000 to spend then. Nor did you expect that your gift would be seen by thousands of people or that it would have your name on it for all to see.

The *DTH* thinks that giving plaques for the campus' numerous buildings is "a reasonable proposition." ("It's seniors' thoughts that count," *DTH*, Oct. 8). I can understand that. After all, the plaques have been discussed as a possible gift since 1954.

But I think there's a reason they've only been discussed. They're not that great an idea. Yes they might be attractive. And they would undoubtedly tell everyone who passes by where

The reason the University never received plaques as a senior gift is simple. Someone (I'd like to think) said, "Hey, are we buying a gift so the University can enjoy it or so it will make us look good after we leave?" Someone probably realized that despite the magnanimous generosity, such a gift would be inappropriate.

they came from. To say they the least they would be thought provoking. Just not the kind of thoughts I think the senior class want associated with our act of generosity.

The reason the University never received plaques as a senior gift is simple. Someone (I'd like to think) said, "Hey, are we buying a gift so the University can enjoy it or so it will make us look good after we leave?" Someone probably realized that despite the magnanimous generosity, such a gift would be inappropriate. Like Da Vinci taking two-thirds of the canvas to sign the Mona Lisa.

As I said, it's a normal, understandable impulse to say, "Look what I did." And those who think plaques and statues are a good idea shouldn't be maligned or ridiculed. After all, it's hard to shop for someone who has everything. But to take on the attitude — "It's the thought that

counts" — before buying the gift is like saying, "If you don't like it you can take it back," before the recipient opens the package.

The class of '85 can and should do better. Instead, we ought to take a look at what the class of '38 did.

Forty six years ago, they set up a scholarship fund that still helps students today. Last year, students who otherwise might have been heading to Myrtle or Lauderdale, were heading for places like Italy and Israel.

The class of '38 had insight. They knew that their gift would continue to grow . . . and better still, grant wishes. Nevertheless, as with any scholarship program, there are never enough grants for everyone. So worthy, qualified people get left out.

But the class of '85 can change that . . . or at least make a difference. By deciding now to set up another scholarship to run in conjunction with our predecessors, we will be enabling hundreds of students in the future to explore parts of the academic world they never dreamed possible.

We may not get a lot of thank you notes, but we can rest easy knowing that after we're gone the only talk going on about our gift will be that of awe and appreciation. With that in mind we can leave with the knowledge that we "done good."

And as for the plaques and the statues; we can leave such noble gifts to people used to monogramming everything . . . like the Ram's Club. Surely they won't mind a bit.

Joel Katzenstein, a senior journalism major from Gastonia, is chairman of the *DTH* Board of Directors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Say it to their face, if you're so tough

To the editor:
"Yawning through the 'October Classic'" (*DTH*, Oct. 2) was the most preposterously absurd article I have ever read. The references Bob Young used as the basis for his argument are entirely implausible. I dare say he would never say the things he wrote to the faces of

George Brett, Dale Murphy, Buddy Bell or Ryne Sandberg. What on earth does a man's name have to do with his masculinity? I suppose Young thinks men like Rosie Grier and Merlin Olsen are a bunch of wimps.

As for all the "old" players Young spoke of, they have contributed a

great deal to . . . teams. Just look at Pete Rose, Steve Carlton, Phil Niekro, Carl Yastrzemski and Jim Kaat.

As a devoted baseball fan, I resent being referred to as misguided and pitiful. Who is Bob Young to define what is American and what isn't.

As for the loyalty Young men,

tions, where is it when he cheers the Hoyas in his last paragraph. If Young likes Georgetown, why doesn't he transfer and make us all happy.

Doug Murphy
Winston

Doonesbury



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