

The Daily Tar Heel

93rd year of editorial freedom

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READER FORUM

UNITAS project full of flaws, needs correcting

To the editors:
Prior to becoming Residence Hall Association president, I served as the RHA representative to the University Relations Committee. During that time, I came to admire and respect the attempts of the committee to improve race relations at UNC. However, after careful consideration of the committee's UNITAS project, I feel that there are some major flaws with the proposed system. The objective of UNITAS is to increase understanding and awareness between students of diverse backgrounds, primarily between blacks and whites. To accomplish this objective the project

would devote an entire dorm to cultural awareness, with two people of different cultures sharing a room and taking one class together. There are significant problems with this plan.
First, the people who sign up to participate in UNITAS are already predisposed to the idea of cultural awareness. They are not the only ones who need to experience UNITAS. Second, the program would limit the exposure to only 100 people, thereby neglecting the needs of 6,600 other on-campus residents. With only 100 participants, the only conceivable dorm would be on North Campus — again, limiting

the exposure to only a certain segment of the campus population.
I propose two solutions to help race relations on this campus. Instead of concentrating UNITAS in just one dorm or area, choose suites in the three mid-campus and four South Campus dorms exclusively for UNITAS. All students involved would still be able to take courses together; all of the dorm's residents would not be displaced, and all Residence Colleges would be influenced.
Another possible solution is to allow minority students to move in groups of four to eight hallmates or suitemates to North Campus

dorms. The complaint from Student Movement President Sherrod Banks is that the few black North Campus dorms feel isolated. Each group of four to eight would form a mutual support group. The adjustment process would be as difficult, and students would no longer feel isolated. This process would allow for a meaningful increase in the black population on North Campus.
In order to secure long-lasting effective changes in attitudes, realistic and feasible solutions must be enacted.
Tim Co
RHA President

The right stuff

If all goes as planned, on April 17 UNC students will be able to voice their opinions on the recurring controversial mandatory meal plan. Then, at long last, when students or administrators refer to the students' support or opposition, the claim will be supportable one way or the other.

Congratulations are therefore in order for the Campus Governing Council. Tuesday night, CGC members consented unanimously to place the 'support-or-oppose' referendum on the ballot.

The Mills/Banks/Terrell Report submitted to Patricia Wallace last week has provided the impetus for the proposed referendum. Although some students have criticized certain sections of the 32-page report, few if any have gone so far as to oppose the report. The unanimous vote Tuesday night indicates a form of solidarity that has been absent from student politics for many years. It is a solidarity that can make progress, that is not built upon squabbling, but is founded rather upon a conscious effort to follow through on a veritable student issue.

The mandatory meal plan became an issue again during campaigns that culminated in Feb. 5's campuswide elections. The Doug Bergers and the Dirk Marshalls, and the Fetzer Millses and the Brad Iveses all debated whether or not Student Government could or should address national issues; but

amidst such philosophical debates, all the candidates for student body president agreed that the mandatory meal plan was an issue that demanded attention.

Paul Parker, student body president at that time, vetoed a CGC bill comparable to the present one, which would have placed a referendum before the student body on Feb. 5. His reasoning was that the issue was dead, that it had already been decided, and that students stood no chance of reversing the mandatory plan. The veto handcuffed the CGC, as they could not override it in time to get the referendum on the ballot for the general campus elections.

The present bill marks a second chance. Any attempt to strip the student body of their vote at this point would be outrageous.

At the present time, what remains before the student body is a small but important task: read the Mills/Banks/Terrell Report, which has been partially reprinted in the most recent issue of *The Phoenix*, and which Student Government has promised to place on reserve in the Undergraduate Library; then, students, come to your own conclusions.

We know where the Paul Parkers stand. And we've heard where the Kevin Monroes stood two years ago. But let's have a change, for once.

You must be allowed a vote. This is the campus issue.

Orientation weak no more

Orientation, to many freshmen, can be a very trying time at Carolina. The time-worn cliches of being away from home for the first time — alone in a strange, new environment — still run true for many. It can be a very lonely week. But there are far greater reasons why we support the pared, restructured orientation program.

A week is simply too much time spent for too little gain. Beyond a math placement test, a language placement test, a swim test for the brave among us and a glorified pep rally, there's not a whole lot there. The long week allows freshmen a lot of time to think — about home, Mom, Dad, the girlfriend or boyfriend they left behind.

In times past, freshmen have found escape with one big weeklong party. Restructured laws, however, have put a damper on orientation week activities as well. For the first time this past fall, orientation officials were faced with the unenviable task of planning activities without alcohol. When freshmen can't drink, that cuts out a major social outlet.

Under the new structure, two social programs are scheduled — a far cry from having to schedule something for every night.

There's something to be said about orientation counselors as well. They're friendly, helpful, always there for advice — for two, three days max. Not surprisingly, they slack off, the problem being that counseling over such a long period is too much of a demand on their time.

The University, large and cumbersome at first glance, will be less menacing to freshmen who get an advance look during the summer while taking placement tests. By getting the tests out of the way early, freshmen should have a better idea of what to expect when they finalize their schedule during registration, which can only be beneficial to them.

In short, reorganized orientation should be beneficial to everyone. Incoming freshmen, by cutting out a few parties, will better adapt to a new study atmosphere.

Keeping cool, but not cold

The first reaction of many Americans to the killing of a U.S. Army major in East Germany by a Soviet soldier was probably one of fright. "Oh no, are we going to do something drastic?" "What's going to happen in Geneva?" Fortunately for everyone, Reagan has chosen to steer away from any rash retaliations and has pledged to continue negotiations with the Soviet Union and attempts for a meeting with Gorbachev.

Although much of the rhetoric coming out of Washington now is pretty strong concerning the incident, and apparently deservedly so, the shooting should not be allowed to take center stage at this crucial moment in U.S.-Soviet relations and halt progress on the arms control talks. One can't help but remember the South Korean airliner tragedy that brought such bitter denunciations followed by postponed talks on improving relations.

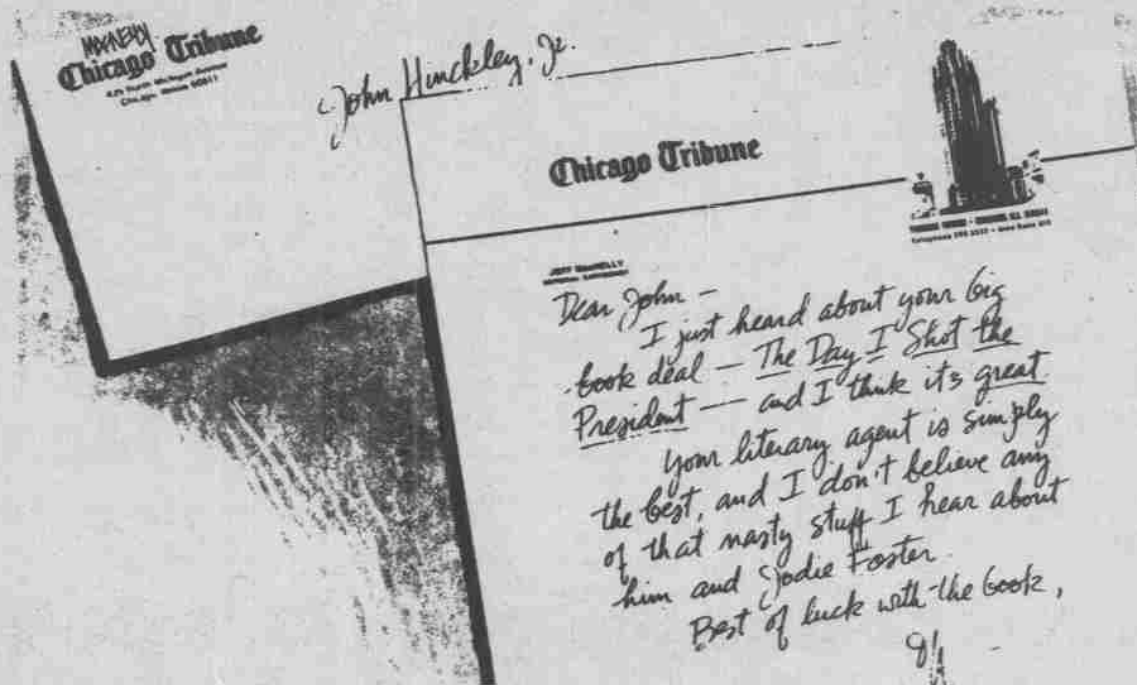
Nevertheless, the similarity between the two events has not escaped the attention of some administration officials. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger called the shooting "an example of a KAL mentality on the part of the Soviets, where they shoot first and ask questions later." According to U.S. reports, the sentry who killed Maj. Nicholson never fired a warning shot and

left him bleeding for 30 minutes before medical aid. When an American sergeant tried to give Nicholson first aid, he was ordered away.

Typically, the Soviets are calling it completely the Americans' fault. They say Nicholson was in a prohibited zone and tried to escape when ordered to halt by the sentry, who fired only as a last resort. Even if that's true, the indisputable fact that medical aid was denied cannot be overlooked and demands a Russian apology and some formal action by the Soviets regarding the soldier's inexcusable behavior.

More importantly, the Soviets should be required to change the guidelines that permit such actions. The United States forbids the use of force or life-endangering measures against Soviet teams that enter such restricted areas as the one in East Germany. The Soviets ought to adopt the same guidelines and make it clear to their military people that shootings such as these are unjustified and will be punished.

At the same time Reagan is making sure the Soviets understand our sincere and persistent intentions to improve relations between the two superpowers, he should make it clear that the United States cannot be expected to tolerate such criminal behavior.



Letters?

Letters to the editors should be typed and triple-spaced. Lengthier opinions in the form of columns are also welcome. Both should be

dropped in the little green box outside the DTH in the Student Union. Deadline for the next day's publication is noon daily.

\$100 meal plan calls for food fight

By MARK STAFFORD

It appears that for four years 21,000 students have been misled. We have been led to believe by administrators that we want a mandatory meal plan, that a mandatory plan is what we need.

When the recent report on the \$100 plan was released by Fetzer Mills, Sherrod Banks and Tom Terrell, I simply read the DTH articles and dismissed all the information as inflated rhetoric.

Then I actually read the report. The wording the students use is strong, but the facts are indisputable. At 32 pages, every student cannot be expected to read every word, but three points in the report serve to substantiate claims that the student body has been hoodwinked.

●In summarizing the 1981 Food Service Study, the administration is quick to point out that "if the University would have to enact a new per semester fee . . . 42 percent of the students said it is very important that a high quality, full menu food service be available."

What is not quickly pointed out is the study's definition of a new per semester fee: "in the range of \$6 to \$12 per student."

●We want a mandatory \$100 plan?
●The Food Service Advisory Committee told all on-campus students in a memo this January, "(Three consultants) recommended that in order to provide adequate food service a mandatory meal plan . . . would be required."

What did consultants Hill, Inlow and Jacobs write in 1981? "It is our opinion that consumer acceptance of campus food service is not enhanced by a mandatory meal plan."
We need a mandatory \$100 plan?

●Of interest to any student who cooks in his or her room: The 1980 Campus Food Study Report stated, "(A mandatory plan) will provide the first potentially effective competition to students cooking in their rooms."

The mandatory meal plan is best for us? It is clear that we have been misled. What isn't clear is the reason.

Student leaders and administrators each year enter into an unspoken agreement. We as students will perform in a mature, honest manner, will work in a positive direction, and will seek to understand the goals and requirements of the administration.

The administration in turn will respect us as mature, thinking adults, will openly offer us the information required to make knowledgeable decisions and will operate in an honest, forthright manner.

Our administration has violated the rules of the game.

The penalty for all this will be a breakdown in faith by students, a distrust of administrative motive and action and a lack of student support for the policies of our officials. And no one will come out winning.

There is a solution to this problem, but the burden of action lies with the administrators. Questions in the minds of those who have seen the Mills/Banks/Terrell report must be answered.

Who is responsible for using facts to mislead students? Has the administration tried in good faith to accurately judge the current free-market situation since Lenoir Hall has been renovated? Was the administration pushing for a full (\$500 or so) plan all along? Is the administration in a position to change its course? Are there unknown political or economic relationships between administrators, Board of Trustees

'The student body has been hoodwinked'

members and the ARA corporation? Does the administration not trust us to make a decision for the true good of the University? Why not?

We as students must be as open-minded as the facts will allow. We must keep in mind that, although the student-administration bond may grow weak from time to time, UNC puts as much decision-making power in the hands of students as any university in the nation. We must demand only that our tradition of honesty and openness continue. We must hope for the good of the University that our officials will come forth with the answers we need. To preserve our tradition of mutual faith, the administration must be open to a change of course.

A work group, the Committee Against the Meal Plan (CAMP), has been formed under the chairmanship of Fetzer Mills. Interested students should sign up on the door of Suite B in the Union. I encourage all students to read the Mills/Banks/Terrell report and to start asking questions. Get involved now.

There may not be a chance later.
Mark Stafford is a senior economics major from Kernersville.

The college experience: Worth the wait

By FRAN RUSS

Things come to those who wait . . . and wait! What does a college student do at least once a week? He takes showers (hopefully more than once a week), he eats, he studies, he parties and he waits in line. Yes folks, this is the story of our college careers. The days of our lives here at UNC are spent in anticipation of what lies at the front of the line.

For what, you may ask, do we stand in line? Well, do you remember an early January morning when we should have been snuggled up in our warm little beds? Where were we? Standing in line for our class schedules, of course! Besides my little bed, there is no place that I would have rather been. I just love the feeling of icicles hanging from my nose at 7 a.m. I think it is very glamorous. In fact, next year I vote that we pick the coldest day of the year to hold drop/add just so we can feel that wonderful sensation again. After waiting for our class schedules, we waited through class lines, then we waited to be waited on by our advisers. Later, we waited for the line to go down at the book store so we wouldn't have to wait so long, but we waited even longer because we were standing in the "check" line. (Nobody told us to take cash!)

Not only do we wait in line for academic matters, but we also wait for tickets: game tickets, Eddie Murphy tickets, concert tickets, even movie tickets. We wait in line to get into bars so we can wait in line for a beer. Then we grab a bite to eat at Burger King and wait in line for 30 minutes while the security guard is waiting for us to leave.

It's amazing the people you meet while waiting in lines. Guys seize the opportunity to try their new lines while waiting in line because the girl will not walk away. "What's a nice girl like you doing in a line like this?" Sometimes they will ask a girl for a date to wait in line for dinner and a movie. "I hear there's a real long line at Landlubber's. Would you like to wait with me?" Long-lasting relationships can be formed if one waits long enough.

Other line-waiting activities vary. Someone I know started a game of charades while waiting



in line. Many others joined the game, and everyone was having so much fun that they forgot why they were waiting in line! Other people prefer more individual activities as they wait. Singing, dancing and doing homework are all well-known things to do to pass the time. Industrious people who find someone with a smooth back can write to all their relatives in one waiting session. Professors should start holding classes for students who are waiting in line. Maybe the University can offer Line Waiting as a three-hour elective. Why not?

Many people take accessories with them to wait in line. The most popular item is food. A bagel cart could make a mint off of hungry line standers. People who order pizzas in line also make friends very quickly. Other hot items in lines today are kerosene heaters, especially on

freezing mornings. For serious line waiters (those who want to be first in line), small pup tents with instant hot chocolate dispensers are essential in the wintertime. These things also aid in the prevention of hypothermia. In the summertime line waiting is more enjoyable if someone brings a small pool or hose to cool off the crowd. Heat stroke has a bad effect on those with a good place in line.

Line standing is one of the great traditions at Carolina. With so many students, we have the opportunity to stand in many long lines. Since we all love waiting in line so much, we should do it as much as possible and strive to continue this long-standing custom.

Fran Russ is a freshman RTVMP major from Wrightsville Beach.

WEEK IN REVIEW

Look for it Fridays in The Daily Tar Heel.