

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

Staff strain in Senate race

Issues in the U.S. Senate race between Jim Broyhill and Terry Sanford are in danger of being clouded by campaign staffs.

In the home stretch, campaign workers are growing tired and testy, causing exhaustion to sometimes overpower judgment.

Take Monday, when Lisa Brewer, an aide to Broyhill, tried to attend a Sanford press conference. A Democratic Party worker, Ronnie Moore, refused to let her enter. Moore jokingly identified himself as Claude Allen (a former aide to Jesse Helms) and told Brewer to "stay out."

When Sanford arrived, he told workers (and attentive reporters) to let Brewer in. He said her presence emphasized Broyhill's refusal to discuss issues, that Broyhill was "sending a young woman to speak for him."

Sanford's unmannerly comments aside, Moore's actions were petty and unreasonable. Brewer was a press aide at a press conference. And whether or not the confrontation and Sanford's arrival were timed, they appeared more than coincidence. The incident

did little for the Sanford image.

But Sanford's point, however made, was valid. A Broyhill press conference Monday was long overdue. His schedule has been loaded with fund-raising and club appearances, with no legitimate media sessions. Between three-minute interviews to and from dinners and sharp words with audacious reporters, Broyhill has not been making media friends. Broyhill seems to forget that the press is the source of information for most voters.

The Broyhill campaign schedule has suffered mix-ups as well. On at least one occasion, Broyhill was slated to appear in two places at once. Having to cancel an appearance only hours in advance doesn't do much for the candidate's image, either.

With such incidents, Broyhill and Sanford can be tainted through the work of their campaign staffs rather than judged on merit. If their workers don't try for better press relations and quality appearances (one at a time) a lot of voters could be swayed for the wrong reasons.

Fundamental faith, freedom

In recent years, as fundamentalist Christians have extended their influence beyond the religious sphere, the term "secular humanism" has become their catchword for modern evils. For the fundamentalist, secular humanism is a philosophy which places man above God and removes God from his rightful spot as the foundation of society's values and goals.

The conflict between these two visions of life came into sharp focus over the weekend. Federal District Judge Thomas Hull ruled that students should be allowed to skip a class rather than be forcibly exposed to material which their parents feel contradicts their religious beliefs. As long as students met the school's reading standards, Hull ruled, and there were sincere religious objections to the books, attendance was not required.

The suit was brought by seven Christian families in Hawkins County, Tenn. They argued that First Amendment rights to the free exercise of religion were violated by books used in their children's reading classes. The plaintiffs charged that the books dealt with ungodly issues, such as supernaturalism and male-female role reversal.

Vicki Frost, a mother and star witness for the parents, captured the plaintiffs' view of education when she said, "Our children's imaginations have to be bounded." Frost was referring to a reading exercise asking seventh graders to imagine themselves as part of nature.

Judge Hull was careful to limit his decision, saying only the plaintiffs could be excused from class and skip only the disputed class. His decision must not be seen as advocating a fundamentalist vision of education or religion, as he wrote some might consider such beliefs "incomprehensible and illogical."

The decision can be seen as finding a sanctuary in the no man's land between the enemy camps. After all, if students learn to read at home, they suffer no harm. Also, the free exercise clause precludes the state forcing a religious view on the individual.

But the decision has serious flaws. Pragmatically, it holds the danger of creating a "cafeteria" vision of public education, selecting or rejecting classes based on conformity to one's beliefs. More importantly, the decision, and the plaintiffs' arguments, contradict what public education is all about.

Education, particularly at the grammar school level, must not consist of reinforcing one's own beliefs by excluding consideration of others. It must foster respect for all opinions and not deny the validity of others.

When dogmatic religion enters the realm of secular education, an inevitable conflict ensues. And in a non-theocratic society the first responsibility is to education. If Frost wishes to limit her children's minds, she can send her children to private school, as she is doing now. Such limits have no place in our public schools.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Tar Heel Forum

Guarding UNC's academic integrity

Tory Johnston
 Guest Writer

The author is chairman of the Undergraduate Honor Court.

The Honor Code: It shall be the responsibility of every student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and to support the enforcement of the Honor Code, which prohibits lying, cheating or stealing when these actions involve academic processes or University, student or academic personnel acting in an official capacity.

The Campus Code: It shall be the further responsibility of every student to abide by the Campus Code; namely, to conduct oneself so as not to impair significantly the welfare or the educational opportunities of others in the University community.

It is my responsibility, along with four other members of the court, to preside over cases involving students charged with alleged violations of the Code of Student Conduct. For three years, I have been active with the Honor Court and have had the opportunity to evaluate the premises, as well as the effectiveness, of our Honor System. I have also been able to review my role both as an administrator of the Honor System and as a student governed by its principles.

Often I am questioned by friends and others about my real enthusiasm in promoting the Honor System. About six months ago, after chairing a case late into the evening, I was approached by a student who had served as a character witness during the hearing. Obviously stricken by the magnitude of the court's decision, the student inquired how I could ever enjoy putting myself and someone else through the trauma of a case. After pausing, I replied that our system was the best means of guaranteeing

academic integrity and that I enjoyed playing a part in its functioning.

What is so great about the Honor System? Certainly there is much at UNC to make us hold our heads high. This list is not limited merely to academic and athletic excellence, but should also include our student-run Honor System, which has been a traditional part of the academic functioning of this university for over a century.

We should be proud of the immense academic and personal freedom bestowed upon us by this system. As students, we are given the latitude to govern our lives and to pursue our education without extensive monitoring or interference from UNC faculty and staff. Why? Because the basic premise of our Honor System is that we, as students, are honest and trustworthy and that we will act accordingly in upholding the principles of academic integrity. When I take a test here at UNC, I like the fact that no one is standing over my shoulder and spying to see if I would dare cheat. Unlike some other universities without a parallel Honor System, UNC professors don't have to pace the aisles during tests.

If college is synonymous with freedom and availability of choices, then a system based on heavy exam proctoring conveys inherent doubt in a student's capacity to make ethical decisions. We should be proud that UNC has entrusted us as students with the

recognition of our maturity to conduct ourselves in an honorable fashion. This faith in individual students to exercise their freedom responsibly is the most fundamental component — and the most appealing aspect — of our Honor System. By delegating to students the responsibility of self-regulation, the University offers us tangible evidence of its trust in us.

We should also be appreciative that our Honor System encourages us to do our personal best and to accept the responsibility for our own coursework, whether it be graded an A or an F. The Honor System embodies the notion of personal integrity in that a grade must reflect an individual's efforts to comprehend and to express an idea or a fact. In essence, the beauty of academic freedom is marred whenever a student denies himself the challenges of critical thinking and learning by resorting to academic dishonesty. A grade earned through cheating or plagiarism thwarts the goal of student self-development engendered in the Honor System's encouragement of students to participate in academics with self-reliance.

Yes, I enjoy the position I hold in the Student Judicial Honor System. It is not an easy task. Judging the conduct of peers requires emotional strength, impartiality and much sensitivity to the concerns and fears of the accused student. And yet, I can say I enjoy my work because I support and share the pride in a system which promotes self-regulation, individual responsibility and trust within an academic setting. I hope you share my respect and will reaffirm your commitment to the long tradition of academic integrity here at UNC.

Tory Johnston is a senior psychology major from Chattanooga, Tenn.

'Review' out

To the editor:
 The Carolina Course Review is now available on campus for students to utilize in making their course selections during preregistration for spring 1987. I urge students to avail themselves of the Review's information, and I hope that it will be of service.

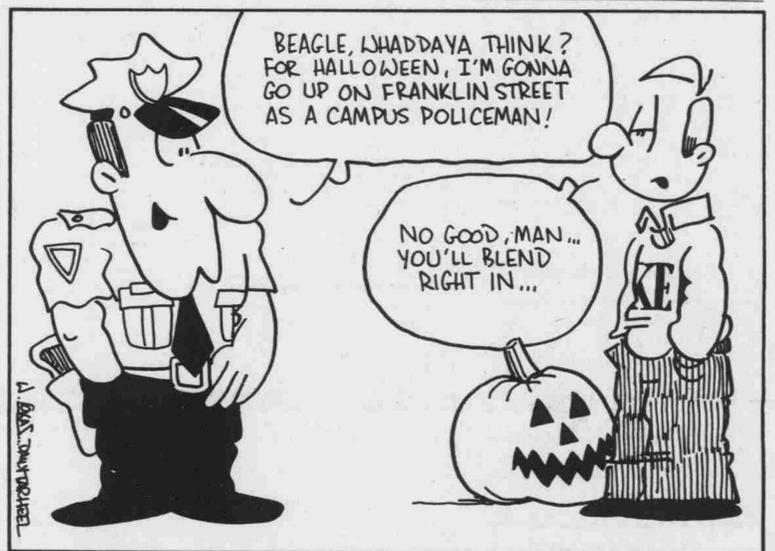
I also wish to call attention to the fact that the period of coverage of the teaching evaluations is misstated on page 2 of the Review. The courses were surveyed at the end of the spring semester 1986, not spring 1985 and fall 1984 as indicated in the Review, and thus, the data are as current as possible.

DENNIS APPEYARD
 Faculty Adviser
 Carolina Course Review

Fed up

To the editor:
 I'm sick and tired of hearing of this Anti-Apartheid Support Group. Are they concerned with the campus or their own reputation? Last year was bad enough, as they degraded the most beautiful area on campus, the quad, with those accursed shanties (or "shoddies," as I call them). Then, on a day during which a rare, ceremonial event occurs (President Spangler's inauguration), they interrupt activity to protest. Ceremonial events are supposed to be honored, and somewhat even a break from daily, hectic routine.

To the Anti-Apartheid Sup-



The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comment. For style and clarity, we ask that you observe the following guidelines for letters to the editor and columns:

- All letters/columns must be signed by the author(s). Limit of two signatures per letter or column.
- Students who submit letters/columns should also include their name, year in school,

major and phone number. Professors and other University employees should include their title and department.

- All letters/columns must be typed. (For easier editing, we ask that they be double-spaced on a 60-space line.)
- The Daily Tar Heel reserves the right to edit letters and columns for style, grammar and accuracy.

port Group, I say that your cause is just, but your methods are the reason you turn many people away from your message. By showing a clear disregard for the ceremony, you openly expose the fact that your morals need work. Of course you have the right to

freedom of expression; that is why we have an area known as the Pit. Remember, your rights end where other people's rights begin. For example, I have the right to swing my fists, but my freedom to do it ends where another's right to well-being begins. Similarly, your

right to build shoddies and interrupt ceremonies ends where our right to appreciate scenery and assemblies begins. Think about it.

TIM FRY
 Sophomore
 Business Administration

Throwing stones

To the editor:

John Hood, in his Oct. 20 column ("For Soviet cooperation, stand firm"), says that Americans who oppose Star Wars/Strategic Defense Initiative argue "with emotion rather than logic." It's ridiculous for anyone who refers to the Soviet Union as the "Evil Empire" to accuse the other side of emotionalism. Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

FRANK NEWTON
 Library Assistant

Protest justified

To the editor:

In response to your Oct. 20 editorial, "Protest lacks tact," I can only observe that the protesters had as much right to that hallowed ground as the new president himself. The microcosm that is the University of North Carolina, and all of its components, allows for dissent. It is frequent that the voice of dissent leads us down the right path. The protesters at Friday's ceremony were in their rightful place in the academic procession.

LEE HANSLEY
 Durham

With divestment issue, accept no excuses

To the editor:

Once again the UNC Board of Trustees has decided to defer the issue of divestment from South Africa. Until a few months ago, the trustees hypocritically argued that investment into the apartheid regime was indeed beneficial to the black majority of that country (though even the conservative U.S. Senate had approved limited sanctions against the P.W. Botha regime). Now new excuses are found. Suddenly, some of the BOT members became forgetful and now require new information before they can make a decision on divestment. One wonders how, without such information, they have been investing in South Africa all these years, or could this be an admission of ignorance on the part of the BOT?

Many other excuses are made. One particularly grabbed my attention because of its boldness: "My duty was and is to manage the investments to maximize the Endowment Fund," said BOT member W. Travis Porter at the organization's Oct. 16 meeting. Furthermore, as an indication of the extent of the rip-off of the South African people, he alleges that the University will lose \$1 million in investment revenue per year if it divested. Ethical egoism could not be expressed more clearly. In reducing the morality of his

task (his so-called duty) to the consideration of economic gain, Porter destroys the very sense behind morality. Morality, it would seem, functions to restrict the pursuit of self-interest. If enlightened self-interest is the principle of all morality, it is necessary for the private interest of each person or institution to coincide with the general interest of humanity.

Every class has its own standards of morality, and capitalist considerations ultimately cannot go much beyond the ethical egoism that Porter represents. "My duty was and is . . . to maximize the Endowment Fund" — how about your duty to your fellow human beings that are denied every basic human right under apartheid? If you cannot lend a hand to overthrow the criminal regime of apartheid, how about your duty to not invest in it?

Unfortunately, some BOT members are also strongly paternalistic, claiming that the purpose of the University's investment is to secure grants

and scholarships for UNC students. We, as students, have not been misled by this bribe. In fact, UNC students have voted for total and immediate divestment in campus referendums. Just last week the Trustees were handed a Student Congress resolution supporting

the full divestment of UNC funds from South Africa.

The majority of UNC students and faculty do not look at the world through the green spectacles of some BOT members. Their morality asks for the right of self-determination for the people of South Africa and for an end to investment in apartheid.

AHMAD GOLCHIN
 Senior
 Pharmacy

