

The Daily Tar Heel

95th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

Much ado about nothing

On Friday the Student Supreme Court will determine whether or not the 68th Student Congress had the authority to pass a bill at its last meeting on Feb. 18. The problem is that the 69th Congress had already been inaugurated when the old congress passed the bill. Also, Brian Bailey, who had already been inaugurated as student body president, voted on the bill as an official member of the old congress.

Resolving these questions involves only elementary logic. If the 69th Congress had been inaugurated, then the old congress was defunct and had no power to pass any bill. The tradition of clearing up old business before the new congress takes over should be done before the inauguration. Although Bailey was an official member of the old congress, as the chief officer of the executive branch of Student Government he should not have had the power to vote in the congress. Voting on bills should be the exclusive right of the legislative branch, not the executive branch. Congress member Guy Lucas (Dist. 19), who brought the suit, has correctly charged that the vote on the bill is null

board opinion

and void.

The reasons are like ticky-tack fouls in a basketball game. These minor points of dispute can be easily cleared up by the congress, merely by rewording the Student Code to be more explicit about the transition process. A new vote should then be taken on the bill in question, since the first vote clearly violates basic democratic principles.

This raises the question: What's the big deal? There is no need to bring this before the court when any 8th-grader could figure it out. Wading through all the bureaucratic red tape is a waste of time.

Also, even if the court does rule the bill void by interpreting the "elected" clause in the code, the congress can still go back and rewrite the clause to fit its own aims. The congress is like a kid asking Mom for an excuse note from school, knowing he's going to write his own version anyway.

Clearly, the congress should straighten its own procedural policy before it can create policy for the rest of the student body. The congress should simply fix this minor mixup itself, with a minimum of hoopla, and shift its energies from internal haggling to campus issues.

Education must be accessible

There are over 200 self-declared handicapped students at UNC. These students face barriers that most of their peers never consider. Many buildings are totally inaccessible to wheelchairs. Of the 29 residence halls on campus, only five are accessible to students confined to wheelchairs. In some of the halls, these students can get in the buildings, but bathrooms, kitchens and other facilities are inaccessible.

Students are not the only ones to overlook the needs of the handicapped. No money has been spent on barrier removal since 1982. Since then, the N.C. General Assembly has cut money for these improvements from its budget for the 16-member UNC system. Due to this lack of funding, the estimated cost for needed repairs and other necessary safety and health modifications has risen to well over \$1 million for the University alone.

Often new structures have been planned without consideration for the needs of handicapped students. The Smith Center is a prime example. Its bathrooms did not provide adequate room for the handicapped, who were also unable to see through the people standing in front of them. Some of these problems have been corrected, but parking for the handicapped

remains inconvenient. Such a lack of consideration and forethought by the UNC administration is inexcusable.

The University should do more to correct problems that occur every day, such as torn up sidewalks and obstacles created during construction. It's too easy for the non-handicapped to forget about the overhanging tree limbs and curb ramps full of water that pose problems for the handicapped. The doors to the Robert B. House Undergraduate Library, Student Stores and the Walter R. Davis Library are heavy and not automated, causing difficulties for the handicapped. It is especially difficult for the wheelchair-bound to open the doors.

The General Assembly should not be allowed once again to discriminate against the handicapped through inaction. Students can write state legislators and become involved with Students for Educational Access, a group dedicated to insuring equal educational opportunities for all students handicapped by either physical or financial disabilities.

The problems of being handicapped are great enough without the physical and bureaucratic obstacles posed by indifference and inconsideration. — J.F.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Readers' Forum

Second language key to success

Jay Funderburk
 Guest Writer

The study of foreign languages should be taken more seriously in the United States. Today, the ability to comprehend a second language is a very valuable and important asset. The study of a second language should, therefore, begin in grade school. By studying a foreign language in grade school, it would be much easier for students to actually learn and master the language, which would not only help them later in high school and college, but also in their careers and social life.

Primarily, studying a foreign language in grade school would benefit the student by supplying him or her with six more years of study in addition to the two years required in high school. Continuous repetition of any subject imbeds the information in the student's mind. These six additional years of study would also help emphasize the importance of a second language. Most students do not realize that the knowledge of a foreign language creates job opportunities and greatly helps them understand the world around them. The overwhelming majority of students who study a language for only two years quickly forget the information learned. These students are simply memorizing the material because they do not consider it to be of any importance.

Teaching foreign languages in grade school would also give students the ability to master the basics in their younger years. Students are taught the basics of math, science and English early in life to help them grasp a basic understanding of the discipline involved in each. Teaching the disciplines of foreign languages should also be stressed early, since it is a high school requirement. Understanding the basics of a foreign language will help the student build an interest for the language. This understanding would help limit the number of students who just learn enough to get by because they are not interested in the course.

Mastering a second language can create various career opportunities. Learning a foreign language in grade school would increase the possibility of the student to actually master the language. Today's highly advanced means of transportation and communication have created careers with a need for bilingual employees. Positions in both diplomatic relations and international

business can be acquired if a second language is mastered.

The ability to understand a language other than English would also help the student relate to the world around him. Once the student has mastered a second language, he can better comprehend the cultures of many other nations as well as many of America's sub-cultures. America is a land with many minorities who speak languages other than English. In the southern and western United States, there are Spanish speaking Americans, and in the northern portion there are many Italian, Greek, and French speaking citizens. The study of these languages would help unify America.

American students would greatly benefit from a policy requiring the study of foreign language in grade school. Such a policy would make mastering a second language more realistic. High school and college foreign language departments would become more productive, and many opportunities would become available to the student.

Jay Funderburk is a freshman Radio, Television, and Motion Picture major from Greensboro.

Hands off 'Old' dorms

To the editor:
 This letter is in response to the article "Old East Plan Under Scrutiny" (March 16). Last year's attempt to make Old East and Old West offices failed, so now the administration has decided that the next best thing is to make the two dorms honors facilities. Students involved say, "No way!" As former presidents of Old East and Old West, we think that there are several problems with the article, such as who were the sources? Dean Cell is the only source mentioned for the article. It appears that she has taken out an advertisement in the DTH in support of her proposal. Where is the journalistic credibility of the DTH? Why is there only one source? Did Dean Cell call the office and request an article in support of her proposal?

Other problems occur as a result of the quotes by Dean Cell. Did she poll each and every one of the Arts and Sciences faculty about her ideas? Who exactly are the "several students" who support her plan? None of the students involved with the Old East/Old West Task Force have supported such a proposal. None of the dorm officers of the preceding two years have liked the idea and none of the preceding three governors of the STOW residence area have approved the plan. Where is the student support? Why does the administration ignore the advice of the students directly involved with the issue? These questions are not answered in the article.

There are also several problems with Dean Cell's proposal.



TIMOTHY TULLOCH
 Senior English
 GEORGE ROWLAND
 Senior International Studies

Editor's note: Tim Tulloch is last semester's Old East president and current STOW area governor. George Rowland is last year's Old West president.

Why mention race?

To the editor:
 To Tom Camp ("Quick flash leaves lasting burn," March 16) what was the race of the waitress at Denny's? Of the bag lady at Denny's? Of you and your "roomie"? Of everyone lying in the sun at the beach? You seem to feel that it was

important to tell us that a black man was involved in an apparently degrading sexual episode with a white woman. Why was the race of the victim, and the victimizer, so important to you? Had it been a black woman, or a white man, would it have been any worse — or perhaps better?

DEBORA L. BARNES
 Graduate Epidemiology

Letters policy

All letters and columns must be signed by the author, with a limit of two signatures per letter or column.
 All letters must be typed, double-spaced on a 60-space line, for ease of editing. A maximum of 250 words is optimal.

Students slighted in dormitory incident

To the editor:
 As a campus minority who looks forward to a little entertainment every now and then, I am eagerly awaiting the building of the new Black Cultural Center or some place where I can gather with my friends without being harassed or looked upon as a menace to society.

I'm sure some people are already thinking, "Oh, no! Another minority unsatisfied again!" But with what happened Thursday night before break, I must voice my opinion (obviously it made me angry if I get back to school and write about it). Let me reconstruct the scene:

It's the Thursday night before break and everybody is ready for some serious partying. Around 11:30 p.m. the word gets around that a fraternity is having a party at the South Campus "sweatbox," the Upendo Lounge. To our dismay, the party has ended as quickly as it had started. So several people decide to take their fizzled but potentially reignited party spirits to

Hinton-James Residence Hall. Friends meet other friends and so on.

After a while, a small crowd, all dressed up with no place to go, gathers in the James lobby. Now, I don't know who the desk monitor is, but he breaks out in a cold sweat, starts shaking, and stutters, "Uh, you . . . people had . . . better take your party elsewhere or I'm calling the police, I swear!" After his gallant statement, he quickly returns to his office and slams the door while watching us nervously. Echoes of "Chill" and "Take it easy, all right" fill the lobby as minorities . . . excuse me, UNC residents move their party to a dark airtight corner room. Someone gets some cheap stereo equipment and everyone tries having fun until a few people try to reenter the building. It seems our monitor has locked all the outside doors!

Well, luckily some diplomatic students convince him to open the door and soon the bored party crowd takes itself to the

lobby once again. And guess what occurs next? Mr. Monitor has had enough. He stands up and proclaims, "If you people don't leave in five minutes, I'm calling the police!" Then, he lowers himself back into his room, pulls down the window and nervously peers out at the stunned crowd.

The ending? Being the law-abiding students that we are, everybody leaves.

Now, I'm sure certain people are saying, "Give him a break. He was only doing his job" or "You minorities, you are always crying racism." But, as a UNC black, typical incidents like these make me wonder: I attend classes like you, and I pay just as much tuition as you, yet I feel like an outsider.

Somebody needs to be enlightened. Maybe a letter like this will be the first step.

SHARLENE DAVIS
 Junior Political Science/Speech

Raver: So be good for goodness' sake

Editor's note: This came in the mail from Indianapolis Monday, addressed to our managing editor. We usually don't run incoherent, paranoid ramblings such as this, but in the interest of your personal safety, we felt you should be informed.

To the editor:
 The Ordered Society

100 percent full employment, old age social security, old age health care protection. The engineering of all soils and lands using soil sciences or

agronomy. The applications of all 13 plant chemical nutrients plus flourine as listed in the chemical periodic table for the maximum production of food, fiber and forests. All sandy soils can be engineered with the application of clays. The engineering of all fresh water bodies for maximum production of aquatic life, fish, algae and seaweed with NH₃ ammonia and dolomite limestone. The maintenance and preservation of national ores as listed in the chemical periodic table. The elimination of air soil and water pollution by engineered systems. The national defense of

all resources, people and social philosophy. The maintenance of social and environmental positive benefits for future generations into infinity. Political considerations are primarily secondary considerations of empires that wish to exist into infinity. The maintenance of positive beneficial effects to future generations by application of exact sciences, agronomy, chemistry, biochemistry, medicine. Mechanical and electrical and chemical engineering, math physics and other sciences. All else becomes secondary to empires guaranteeing existence for millions of

years. To do otherwise is to be led by fools!!!

Any political entity, fascist, democratic communistic or theocratic that qualifies will be enduring. This also includes monarchies and dictatorships.

Do print this in your newspaper. The general public must be informed.

ANONYMOUS
 Indianapolis, Ind.

Addendum to editor's note: This is a one-time only thing. In the future, The Daily Tar Heel will not print such ravings.