

# The Daily Tar Heel

95th year of editorial freedom

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## Search for head of the class

The search for a new chancellor is gradually gearing up, and students must begin thinking about what qualities Chancellor Christopher Fordham's successor should possess. Students make up the majority of the University community, but if they do not maintain constant pressure on the search committee, their voice could easily be ignored.

### board opinion

And this voice must protest the trend toward a big business mentality. Fordham, when citing his reasons for retirement, said he would like to see new leadership for the University's upcoming major capital campaign. This seems to point to a new chancellor who would be primarily concerned with administrative and fund-raising functions.

Political connections and administrative skills are important qualities for the head of a university — without them the bureaucratic system and channelling of money would break down. However, the University is first and foremost concerned with education, and the next chancellor must have a solid academic agenda established.

This agenda consists of more than the candidate saying he will work to

"develop" the undergraduate program or "expand" research facilities. It involves detailed thought about specific educational questions: Is the University drifting away from a core curriculum, and what are the effects of students not sharing a common body of knowledge? Why do eight courses in one department constitute a major, and does a student really leave Chapel Hill with enough knowledge of his field? If not, should the core curriculum be sacrificed to allow more specialization?

The next chancellor should be concerned mostly with questions such as these. Repeated thought and debate over these issues develops a personal vision of education, and the chancellor must not only possess such a vision, but also be articulate and aggressive with his views.

UNC needs a leader who is not too far removed from the classroom, someone who has the experience and background in education to carry the University forward in the advancement of higher learning. At the more removed level of UNC-system president, C.D. Spangler's administrative and political skills are crucial. But for a chancellor, an active and powerful vision of education must take precedence.

## Philosopher-kings keep court

Once the cloud of liberal slurs and conservative misrepresentations has been lifted, the nomination of Robert Bork is ultimately about one thing: the meaning of democracy and majority rule within American society.

The American political system depends upon the existence of a written constitution, and just as importantly, upon the existence of a judicial body with the authority to invalidate bills if they contravene the Constitution. The former makes the latter more than a piece of paper.

The Constitution does more than grant certain powers to the federal government. It also, through the Bill of Rights, serves as a check upon the majority. It restricts the power of the majority by designating as fundamental certain rights, upon which the federal government (and, through the 14th Amendment, state governments, as well) may not infringe. Though the government speaks with the voice of the many, it is rendered mute when confronted with the rights of all.

Problems arise, though, when one asks the question of which rights are protected. The Bill of Rights is explicit on certain of those, and additional amendments have made the list of protected rights longer.

It is true that the meaning and scope of those rights is not clear. Because of that vagueness, the Supreme Court plays its role correctly when it sets

limits to, or for that matter renders boundless, those freedoms. That is, it does well when it interprets but does not create. On other questions, though, the court has seen fit to go beyond interpreting.

When it has created, or legislated, the court has fashioned restrictions upon the majority which are not explicitly (and perhaps not even implicitly) in the Constitution. It has held, for example, that if the majority of people in a state do not wish women to have abortions, or do not wish couples to have access to birth control, that majority is powerless. When it comes to those questions, the people of a state may not decide under what laws they wish to live.

The court levies such restrictions every term. But when the justices make such decisions on rights which are not explicit in the Constitution, they increase the scope of their authority to a stunning degree. When the Supreme Court can create rights at will, the power of the people to legislate their lives depends entirely on the whims of nine untouchable philosopher-kings.

If one distrusts the people, and finds the idea of an intellectual oligarchy alluring, then an activist court is a comforting prospect. But if one trusts the people, and believes in majority rule, then the existence of such a court can be nothing but terrifying. — James Surowiecki

## Readers' Forum

### United States deserves honest president

To the editor:

We are writing in reference to the letter "Biden is only human" of Sept. 22. Considering that the president of the United States has the greatest influence in the free world, we feel that the office should be held by an individual who possesses enormous amounts of both honesty and integrity.

Maybe it would be best to first understand the meanings of the words "honesty" and "integrity."

Honesty, as we perceive it, includes authenticity, legitimacy, sincerity and truthfulness.

Integrity should include reputability, respectability, good character and moral strength.

With these definitions in mind, let us review the recent events concerning Biden. Last week it was first revealed that Biden

had plagiarized a paper in his first year of law school. He admitted to the charge, but claimed he had been acquitted. On "This Week with David Brinkley" Sept. 20, it was stated that Biden was not acquitted, but merely allowed to return to law school upon throwing himself at the mercy of the court. His only defense to this allegation was that it was an unintentional error. It is in our better judgment to view an unintentional error as one line, not five pages.

In addition to this incident, Biden continued on his plagiarism spree, stealing not only rhetoric but also gestures from the British politician Neil Kinnock. This was evident via split screen monitoring of Kinnock's speech and Biden's nearly identical rendition of it as seen on "Nightline" Sept. 17.

Also, Biden's proud admittance of

graduation in the top half of his law class is a flagrant lie. According to The Washington Post, Biden graduated 76th out of 85 in his law class. Maybe he slept through math class the day fractions were discussed because 76th of 85 can hardly be considered the top half.

In light of these recent events, it should be clear to everyone that the Sen. Joe Biden possesses neither the honesty nor the integrity necessary to adequately fulfill the office of the president of the United States.

CHARLES PENDERGRAFT  
 Senior  
 Speech Communications/  
 Political Science  
 JOEL RANSBOTTOM  
 Senior  
 Industrial Relations

### Lifeguard's race doesn't matter

To the editor:

The Sept. 22 article ("Black citizens urge town to hire minority lifeguards") concerning the death of a five-year-old child in a public swimming pool struck me, as a lifeguard, in a personal way.

However, as I read the article, I kept running across the words "black" and "white." They were used a total of 19 times in reference to the people involved. This situation was not a question black and white, but of negligent lifeguards in the responsible position of guarding a pool.

Please don't misunderstand. I am not saying that black people should not be lifeguards. However, does it matter what color the person who sits on the stand is? The question is, will that person do the job well? Be they black, white, yellow or purple and from one of the lesser moons of Jupiter, the only things I'm interested in are their ability and their competence. Please pardon my being naive, but I think those are the only things anyone else should be interested in.

ROY CRISP  
 Junior  
 Psychology

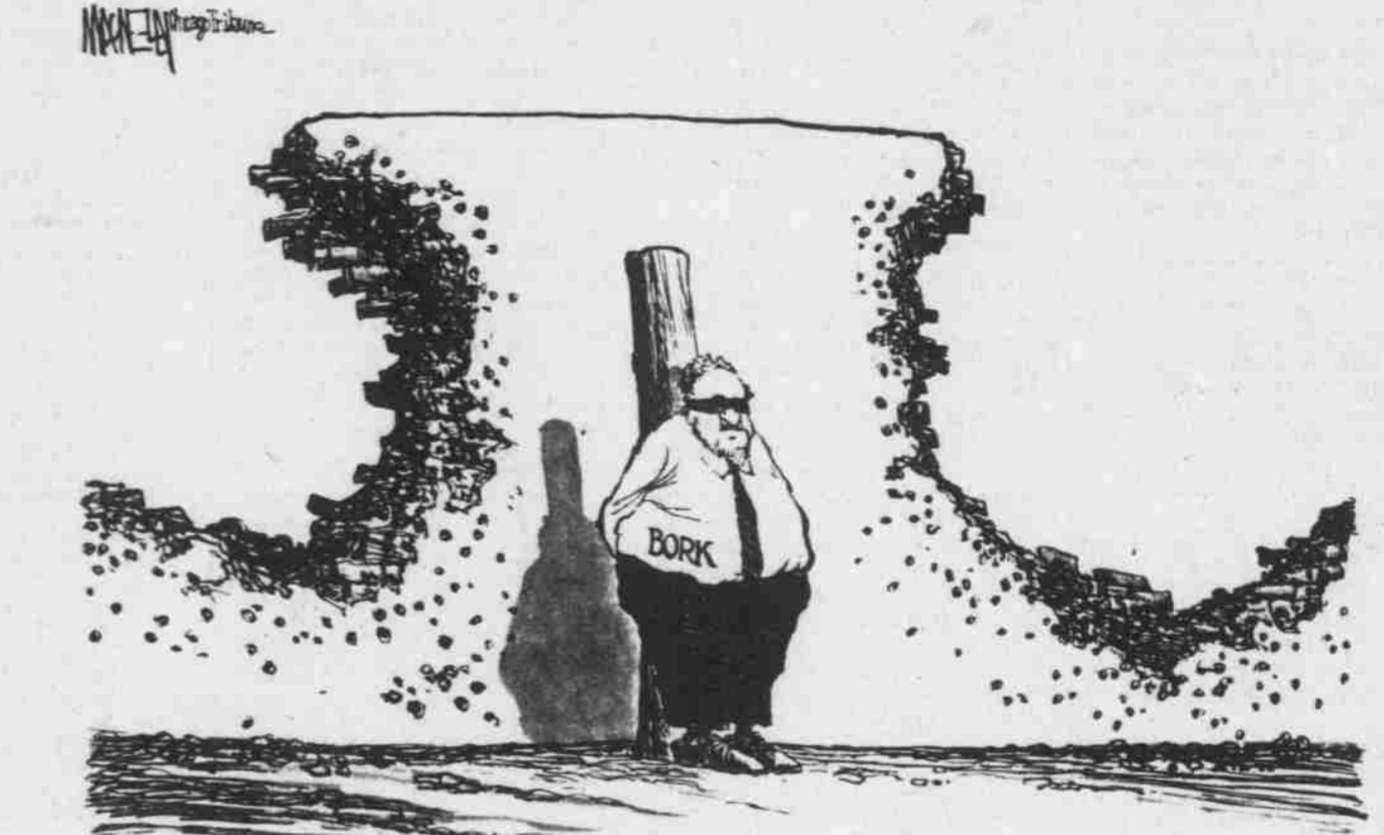
### Ticket writers waste no time

To the editor:

Four hundred parking citations a week is enough, but when a police officer is writing them so fast that he must wait for his brain to catch up to his hand, it's utterly ridiculous.

The established time for parking on Cameron Avenue in the lane coming toward campus from Carrboro is 9:45 a.m. Before then, it is used as a bike path. A few brave individuals park 10 to 15 minutes early and wind up with an outrageous \$25 ticket. The bulk of cars, though, arrive at 9:40, and most people sit in their cars until the bad man in blue gets in his scooter mobile and goes home.

I arrived at 9:43 and saw the policeman down the street, so I waited in my car. I then saw the officer drive his scooter and stop in front of me at 9:44 and start to write as many tickets as he could tear off his pad, not even paying attention to his broken watch. The owners were not in their cars at the time, probably because they assumed, like myself, that they would not get a ticket with only one minute left. Luckily, I did not receive a ticket because I waited until well after 9:45 to leave my car. Yet, the police-



man was still writing away. After seeing this with my own eyes, I would think that he was trying to reach a quota, even if it meant ticketing after 9:45.

MICHAEL KEANEY  
 Senior  
 Speech Communications

### Boston concert sugar-free

To the editor:

James Burrus' review of the Boston concert of Sept. 21 ("Boston plays the hits in Saturday's concert") was way off base. Burrus began by saying that it would have been better if Boston had showed originality instead of playing the songs as they are heard on the album. But by doing so, the band encouraged audience participation and brought a definite familiarity to this section of the concert.

As for "sappy love songs," some people happen to like sappy songs like "Amanda." In addition, how does one apply the term sappy to songs like "We're Ready" and "Cant'cha Say," which are upbeat songs with great rhythm.

Further, Burrus' comment that "there is nothing special about them at all" is totally ridiculous. Certainly a group that is able to sell out a 20,000-seat auditorium and is called back for four encores does have something special. He also said that Boston should put more meat in their next songs, while at the beginning of his review he admitted to Boston's unique lyrical style. Burrus again contradicted himself when he stated that the crowd took breaks during the "repetitive" parts of the songs (presumably the instrumentals?) and then later said, "The audience was on its feet dancing, clapping

DIANA SCHAEDEL  
 Freshman  
 Journalism

### Fear cries of U2 fans

To the editor:

Thank you very much for printing the editorial "Why UNC won't see U2" in Tuesday's paper.

I don't suppose anyone thought to inform the students of this "unwritten policy," although it regards management of our time. If I still wanted someone else to make sure I ate right, got to bed on time and got my homework done, I would have brought my parents to college with me. Maybe all the people who have been petitioning for U2 to come here for the past year should rent a few buses together and make a road trip to Clemson on Dec. 8. I've seen some of those lists, and they are rather long. Maybe the University would have so suspend testing on the 8th, when it discovered the multitudes who would be missing. Or maybe those people can all turn up their stereo on that date and play "40." I've waited patiently for U2 to come here, but the powers that be certainly don't seem inclined to hear my cry. How long to sing this song?

ELLEN WYATT  
 Junior  
 Computer Science

### Those bows make sense

To the editor:

I am writing in response to Sean Rowe's column of Sept. 22, "Hair bows and born-again virgins."

Mr. Rowe overlooked one reason why many women, who neither belong to sororities nor pride themselves on "aesthetic conformism," wear hair bows.

They, like myself, find them a convenient way to pull their hair back.

CHRIS KRIDLER  
 Junior  
 Journalism/English

### Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments, ideas and criticisms. We ask only that you follow a few simple guidelines in exchange for access to this unique public forum:

■ All letters and columns must be signed by the author, with a limit of two signatures per letter or column.

■ When submitting letters or columns, students should include the following: name, year in school, major, phone number and the date submitted. Other members of the University community should give similar information.

■ All letters must be typed, double-spaced on a 60-space line, for ease of editing. A maximum of 250 words is optimal.

■ The DTH reserves the right to edit for clarity, vulgarity, disparity and verbosity.

## Smith Center should rethink concert stop

To the editor:

OK. Now that the shock has worn off, we can speak our minds. This is a response to Jim Greenhill's editorial of Sept. 21, "Why UNC won't see U2." Shock and anger were our first reactions. The article was the talk of the day, at breakfast, lunch, class and dinner. Every student we came into contact with had the same reaction. In fact, three days later they are still angry. We should mention now that many non-students feel this way, too. U2, after requesting to play at the Smith Center, will not be coming in December because Steve Camp, the director, decided that exam week would not be a good time for them to come.

How old are we? Are we children who have been told by our parents that we cannot go over to our best friend's house to play because tomorrow is a school day? That is what this feels like. So much for trusting the students. If a professor can leave a classroom during an exam because the Honor Code is based on trust, why

does the University not trust us enough to think that we could actually manage to go to a concert and study? This is a one-time event. The band is not going to hang around the whole week, distracting students. But, as Greenhill pointed out, television, bars and movie theaters will be available. Perhaps the University should shut down every possible distraction to make sure the students study. Going to college is all about having to make some choices. In this case, the choice was made for us. The University has taken away our right and shown little respect for us as human beings.

Think about the other side of the coin, as well. The Smith Center does not serve the students alone. It is a regional facility. What about the community at large? It does not make the University look very good to the people of this area who support the Smith Center and the school, financially and otherwise. It is just plain bad business. No wonder the Smith Center is having trouble raising revenues. There are

other people in this area who would love to see U2 in concert. A disc jockey on a local radio station sounded very upset and said that there are other people, including himself, wanting to see the band.

U2 was on tour in the states two years ago, but no one in this area got the chance to see them because there was no place large enough. Now that there is, there might as well not be, at least for U2 fans and fans of other major acts if the Smith Center continues in this fashion. As loyal U2 fans, we know that they almost always keep a few open dates on their tours. We suggest that the Smith Center put its pride aside and get on the phone, although there is a good chance that it is too late.

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