

The Daily Tar Heel

95th year of editorial freedom

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Buy now, or pay more later

Students can vote today in a referendum that is one of the most important of any in recent memory.

board opinion

The University registrar's office has had no luck so far funding a telephonic registration system. Now the office has turned to students in a last-ditch effort to find the money.

A vote in favor of the referendum will raise Student Activity Fees by \$5. But the increase will pay for a system that could resolve many of students' long-held grievances with the present drop-add process, while adding other valuable services.

The advantages of telephonic registration are numerous:

- Students will know immediately if they are registered for a class.
- Students can call toll-free from home using an "800" number.
- It will save the time of physically going to drop-add and eliminate parking and traffic problems.
- If other University departments are interested, the system could allow students to pay bills, make reservations for special events and receive administrative and academic information.
- The system is so secure that the

IRS uses a similar one for access to its records.

■ A student having trouble with the system can dial for help.

It sounds like a student's dream, but it won't become a reality unless students get out and vote for it.

If less than 10 percent of the student body votes, the referendum will fail, even if a majority of those who vote are in favor.

Not only would the referendum's failure indefinitely delay improvements to drop-add, the price — held at a bargain level by the system's supplier for 18 months — could as much as double. And the higher cost could eventually be passed on to students.

Such a significant improvement in the quality of student life should have been funded by the N.C. General Assembly. When the state refused, UNC General Administration should have agreed to levy a registration fee.

Since the University chose to pass the cost on to students, it was responsible for publicizing the referendum. But the registrar's office did a poor job of getting the word out.

Now it is up to students to demonstrate their dissatisfaction with the inefficiency of drop-add by approving the funding for telephonic registration.

Put that pistol down

With Florida's recent law allowing just about anybody to carry a concealed weapon, state gun fanciers can brandish their steel-gray revolvers with renewed zeal.

The law, which took effect Thursday, calls for a statewide system for concealed weapons permits. Although it originally contained a provision allowing people to carry weapons openly, public outrage forced legislators to put that part of the bill on hold.

The threat to public safety is staggering. Literally, any Floridian of age who is not a convicted felon or incapacitated can apply for a permit. Officials expect 60,000 people to be licensed eventually. Many of the applicants so far have been from Dade County, where crime-ridden Miami is located.

Predictably, the three million-member National Rifle Association was the force behind the bill, the latest legislative victory in the organization's 116-year history.

Last year, the House voted overwhelmingly in favor of allowing interstate mail-order sales of rifles, shotguns and handgun ammunition.

Even when such sales were illegal, the NRA ensured that its members got around the law under the guise of being gun collectors.

Although Congress has been responsible for yielding to NRA pressure, the Supreme Court set the precedent for the Florida law. In 1983, the court refused to review a Morton Grove, Ill., ordinance banning the sale and possession of handguns. By leaving the issue to the states, the court contributed to the nation's patchwork quilt of gun control laws.

Ironically, NRA member President Reagan was a victim of this inconsistency. In 1981, he was shot by John Hinckley in Washington, D.C., which has strict gun control laws. Hinckley bought the two pistols he used in Dallas, which had weak gun control measures.

Each year, thousands of deaths result from handguns. The violence will continue as long as legislators succumb to pressure from the militant NRA. Florida officials should rescind the law that casts a shadow over the Sunshine State. — Jill Gerber

non sequitur

Keeping court with the King

"The B.K. Lounge." We all know it and love it.

Burger King is one of the fastest growing boxed-food restaurants in the nation, according to polls by some guy who asked all of his friends where they like to eat.

But despite Burger King's vaunted success, there are things about it that you have to laugh at.

For example:
 "Uh, I'll have a large fries, Whopper with cheese, and a large Coke."
 And the cashier asks, "Pepsi OK?"

It's not even a complete sentence anymore. "Will Pepsi be OK? We don't carry Coke," has been replaced by "Pepsi OK?"

Even if you don't understand them, they don't explain. They refuse to break down and say the whole sentence, but just repeat themselves and wait for your slow sorry brain to catch up. "Pepsi OK?"

"Excuse me?"
 "Pepsi OK?"
 "Huh?"
 "Pepsi OK?"

If this gets your toes up, you should probably order a Mountain Dew in the future.

Of course, there's another obvious response. The next time you are asked, "Pepsi OK?" try yelling something like this:

"Pepsi? What, you don't have Coke? Well, just forget it! Cancel my order. Who ever heard of a restaurant without Coke? It's un-American! You bunch of Commie-pinko liberals, this place is a joke, a farce . . ."

While the poor crew member is cowering behind the counter, you can storm out of the restaurant feeling good about yourself.

And if the whole Pepsi-Coke scene doesn't make you want to scream, what about Burger King advertising campaigns?

Remember when the Burger King was actually a little man in a red robe, and kids could get paper crowns to wear on their birthdays?

Remember, "Hold the pickles hold the lettuce, special orders don't upset us, all we ask is let us, serve it your way!"

And what about Herb? Talk about a sad waste of money on advertising. Whatever happened to him anyway? No doubt the B.K. executives were so embarrassed, they just decided to let him die away quietly.

If Herb's claim to fame was that he had never tried a Whopper, then why hire the guy to work for "the Home of the Whopper?" Didn't he get free food like the rest of the crew members, and if he did, don't you think he would have tried a Whopper by now?

Readers' Forum

A bold solution to 'vilanus speling'

Sean Rowe
 Staff Columnist

Edward Rondthaler graduated from the University of North Carolina at a time when students still received report cards and the Old Well was known simply as The Well. He is the author of several books, including "Life with Letters," a personal history of typography. In the early 1930s he did pioneering work as an engineer which led to the invention of the Rutherford Phototypesetter, the first machine to use photographic negatives to set type.

More recently Rondthaler, 82, has been a passionate advocate for a reformed "American" spelling system. The following interview was transcribed by Rondthaler's American spelling computer program into his proposed orthography:

Q: U sae th ieddea of a nue "American" speling isn't hoely yuurz. Tel me about th historical development of th moovemnt.

A: Ben Franklin was aul for speling reform. Mark Twain, Theodore Roosevelt, Even Noah Webster. U didn't no they wer speling reformerz? Shuur. But thae gaev it up becauz in thair dae it ment that adults had to go bak to skool and lurn a nue wae to riet. And of cors, no wun hoo has lurn to spel th hard wae wunts to chaenj. That's OK. Only thoez hoo ar having trubl or prefur to uez a simpler speling wil do so. U, of cors, wil be perfectly aebi to reed what thae riet. U'l fiend it a litl akward for th first qorter of an oul. After that U'l be aebi to reed it prity wel. After a week U'l reed it very wel.

Th thing that Franklin didn't hav, nor Theodore Roosevelt, nor Mark Twain, was a computer to do th translaeting when and whair it's wonted. Todae our printed mater — sum of it or aul of it — cuud be set automaticly in a regulariezd, simplified speling just bi reproegraming our tiepseting masheenz and without re-

traening eny keebord operaetor.

Q: Tel me about yuur American speling program for computerz.

A: We'r stil refiening it. But whut it amounts to is this: U can tiep in tradishunal English on th keebord and it cumz out American.

Q: In yuur July 13 esae in U.S. News & World Report U tautk about yuur feer that in th fuecher thair wil be an elet groop of literets hoo wil controol government, biznes, comunicaesunz, etc. Do U wont journalists hoo wurk in th print media to adopt yuur American orthografy?

A: I don't no. I'm not redy to sae that. It wuud be catastrofic if aul of a suden U chaenj th Daily Tar Heel to American speling. No, I think whut wil hapen is diferent. Thingz liek IBM's nue "Writing to Read" program teechez yungsterz in kindergarten to riet fonetaly. Then th teecherz sloely swich them into tradishunal speling. But even when th children swich to tradishunal rieting they wil hav had a guud foundaeshun in foenetie speling and can see th foolishnes of th tradishunal wae.

Q: In liet of th fact that th metric sistem has bin th cuntry'z ofishal sistem of mezhmerment for a hundred yeerz and reealy hasn't caut on, how wil U instituet an American orthografy? How wil it be establish't?

A: Thair is no compatibility between metric and our sistem of mezhmerment, but thair is graet compatibility between English and American speling. Automatic computer translaeshun is a big part of th anser. Teeching children fonetics is another part.

If we can get wun of th dicshunerryz to replaes thair pronunsaeshun noetaeshun with American spelingz, that wil help stil mor. I don't no how U'l fiendly do it. That's yuur jeneraeshun's job (lafz).

U see, th oonly peepl hoo can ever bring this thing about ar th edjucaeted peepl, and thae'r th wunz hoo ar leest interested in it. TV gets throo to peepl hoo ar not literet. It gets sum of them into th remedial clasez such as Laubach, Literacy Volunteers and aul th rest of them. Th teecherz of iliterets swet it out trying to teech our crazy, ilojical speling. But thae'r loozing ground aul th tiem. Just a fue yeerz ago thair wer oonly 23 millyon literets. Now it's 27 millyon. Aul th remedial proegramz in th cuntry arnt' begining to turn out literets that fast. Even if thae wer, whut we need is to cuer th problem at its root, not just pach it up. We must giv peepl th saem braek that other langgwejez do. In evry uther langgwej — eeven in French wuns U lurn th coed — th speling is lojical: "eaux" is alwaez "oe" in French. It's never enything els. English is dredfully irregular. We spel our 42 soundz in oever 400 diferent waez! That's whi we'r in 40th plaes, th locest in literasy of aul industrial naeshunz!

Q: U atribuet that directly to th orthografic difiultyez of English?

A: I do, yes. That's not th oonly reezon. But it's th cheef wun. It's at th root of it aul. Thair ar uther thingz of cors, liek poverty. Perhaps U liv in Harlem and hav parents hoo can't reed and riet, so th children can't reed and riet. But ask yuurself whi th parents can't reed and riet. Crazy, ilojical, 18th senchery English speling. That's th vilan.

Sean Rowe is a senior journalism major from Douglas, Ga.

Get some sleep, sorority girls

To the editor:
 "Oh, gee," I repeat to myself, in utter disgust for the third time. It is now 1:52 a.m., and I am being kept awake by outbursts of laughter and chanting. This is not the first time, but a continuation of something that has been going on for four weeks now: sorority rush.

I am very happy for all the girls who were accepted into sororities. I am pleased that you have made new friends. However, you need to be aware that you are also making enemies. Your nightly noise is getting ridiculous. It was tolerable for a few weeks only because other people were sympathetic to your cause. Our kindness was not an invitation to continue with your chants and other midnight games. It is time that you utilize your houses. Make noise where you pay rent.

You need to put yourselves in the shoes of people who may be studying for mid-terms, or who want to hear their television and radios, or who may simply want a decent night's sleep!

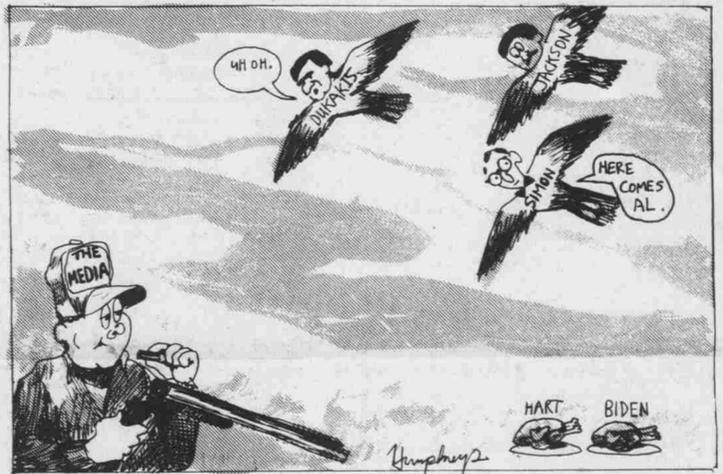
I find your behavior very uncouth for young ladies, and I am also beginning to wonder about your maturity. Redeem yourselves by showing some respect to the people who have shown it to you.

LATONYA BROOME
 Junior
 Political Science/
 Speech Communications

Make your vote count

To the editor:
 Today, the Elections Board will conduct an election to fill 12 vacant seats in the 29-member Student Congress and to decide the future of the registration process at UNC.

Currently, three-quarters of off-campus students are unre-



presented in Student Congress. Each off-campus undergraduate can vote for at least one representative, since no off-campus district is adequately represented.

About five out of nine graduate students are unrepresented as well. For graduates who are unsure whether they are represented, the poll tenders will be glad to help. The residents of Ehringhaus Residence Hall are also unrepresented in Congress.

While the majority of on-campus students are represented in Student Congress, there is one issue on the ballot that affects us all. The issue is telephonic registration.

The registrar's office has proposed replacing the current drop-add system with one conducted almost entirely over a touchtone phone. This would radically alter the current system in several ways: when registering, students would know immediately, via the phone, if they had been admitted to the course; the drop-add process would be conducted entirely over any touchtone phone — rather than in the Woollen Gym at the University's convenience; and students could reduce the chance that

their registration is delayed by a parking ticket.

Of course, it is not without cost. If the students vote to implement the system, Student Activity Fees would increase by \$5 a semester, beginning in fall of 1989. The system would become operational shortly thereafter. Other sources of funding were sought by the registrar's office without success. While this fee increase could be requested again at some later time, the cost of the system, which has remained fixed for over a year, would increase dramatically.

Student Congress has studied this issue and elected to pass it on to the voters. We, as representatives, endorse this system without reservation and ask that you vote yes.

Under Student Government laws governing elections, 10 percent of the student body must vote in favor of a referendum for it to pass. For this reason, it is imperative that all students vote in the election.

There are 18 polling sites, and all students can vote in the Union, Davis Library, the Campus Y, Chase Hall and Lenoir Hall. A student I.D. is all that is needed to vote. Please

take the time and make the effort.

NEIL RIEMANN
 Junior
 Political Science/Math

STUART HATHAWAY
 Sophomore
 Political Science

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:

■ 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.

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

University offers help for drug problems

To the editor:
 As chancellor of the University, I have an especial interest in the well-being, development, future success and happiness of our students. I want all of you to find fulfillment and joy in life, and I am hopeful that the University plays a significantly positive role in making that possible.

As you know, the tradition of this institution is that students are privileged to have an extraordinary amount of freedom and responsibility. Students here are free to choose with whom they will associate, how they will spend their time, what they will consume, and, in essence, how they will live. It is ironic that one of the foremost freedom-depriving influences in our society today is alcohol and drug addiction. Becoming dependent on those substances sacrifices one's personal freedom as surely as a jail cell.

I write to express the fervent hope that you will not let that happen to you. Our

society has become increasingly concerned about the problems associated with substance abuse. You are aware of efforts by federal and state governments, private organizations such as MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) and SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving). You may also know that much research is being done on this campus with respect to the fetal alcohol syndrome and other aspects of the problem.

Let me suggest how I hope you will exercise your freedom and responsibility with regard to this matter. First, I ask you to avoid completely the use of cocaine or other illicit and dangerous drugs. Second, I ask you to exercise good judgment if you choose to use certain legal drugs, such as alcohol. You should be aware that the minimum age in which a person may legally consume alcohol in North Carolina is 21.

Individuals who choose to violate that law are subject to fines, criminal penalties

and possible loss of driving privileges. But far more than just observing the law, as important as that is, the use of alcohol involves serious health risks, especially the risk of dependence on alcohol, a form of addiction and slavery.

I am very glad that you have chosen to be a student at this University. I think it is an outstanding institution with a multitude of opportunities for you to grow as a person and to learn to enjoy life in a healthful and satisfying way.

Should you ever need information or assistance in dealing with a drug problem, please seek it from residence hall staff members, faculty advisers, Student Health Service and the Office of Student Affairs. We are all interested in you, and wish you every good fortune in your lives.

CHRISTOPHER FORDHAM
 Chancellor