

# The Daily Tar Heel

95th year of editorial freedom

JILL GERBER, *Editor*  
 DEIRDRE FALLON, *Managing Editor*  
 SALLY PEARSALL, *News Editor*  
 JEAN LUTES, *University Editor*  
 DONNA LEINWAND, *State and National Editor*  
 JEANNIE FARIS, *City Editor*  
 JAMES SUROWIECKI, *Sports Editor*  
 FELISA NEURINGER, *Business Editor*  
 JULIE BRASWELL, *Features Editor*  
 ELIZABETH ELLEN, *Arts Editor*  
 CHARLOTTE CANNON, *Photography Editor*  
 CATHY McHUGH, *Omnibus Editor*

## CGLA gets what it deserves

Signatures are piling up on a petition that could result in a campus-wide vote on funding the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association. The petition calls for placing a referendum on the ballot in February that would ask students whether they support allocation of their student fees to the CGLA.

### board opinion

The referendum would be legitimate. As congress speaker Rob Friedman said, "If people want to vote on it, they should have the right to." For too long this issue has served as fuel to the fire that Student Congress members have not been representing their constituents.

Gays and lesbians do not deserve student funding simply because they are a minority group. Minority rights are not a prescribed factor in determining which campus groups get money. If this were so, almost any group could demand funding. Carolina Straights Who Wait, the organization whose two members argued last year that they deserved money because they were virgins in an oversexed world, are harbingers of what could happen.

Yet the CGLA is not a money-hungry minority group. It is an organization that provides needed services to the University, such as outreach programs in health education

and an information network on AIDS. It has proven to be so valuable to many students that the congress has deemed it worthy of funding for the past few years, despite extensive pressure from conservative student groups. And funding is one area that the congress has handled meticulously.

The congress has been right in its support. Its members have treated the issue fairly, and should continue to do so. Yet they must also heed the wishes of their constituents. This dual responsibility could present a dilemma if the referendum is put on the ballot and a majority of the student body expresses a desire to defund the CGLA.

This does not have to happen. Students can either choose not to sign the petition, or they can vote against defunding the organization in February. Either way, it is an excellent example of how a democracy, and the congress, works.

The petition is not wrong in itself, because some student congress members are only following through on their campaign platforms. More importantly, defunding the CGLA would not be oppressing homosexuals. Rather, it would be a case of people wanting to control their own money. Nevertheless, it is up to the rest of the students to show their support for the CGLA, should the referendum become a reality.

## Here's smoke in your eye

On a recent flight to Cleveland, a college student settled into his seat in Row 17, the back of the Non-smoking section. A few minutes into the flight, the passenger directly behind him, in the Smoking section, lit up a cigarette and puffed contentedly away.

The smoke hovered around the student's head. Eyes watering, nose burning, he turned around to negotiate with the smoker. "Excuse me, but I am very sensitive to smoke, and I wonder if you would mind not smoking during the flight."

"Well, I'm very sensitive to not breathing smoke." Chuckle.

"Maybe you could smoke in the very back."

"Maybe you could open a window." Chuckle chuckle.

The student briefly considered using the smoker's forehead to do so, but then resigned himself to inhaling ash for the next few hours.

Senators from tobacco states are planning to filibuster a Senate bill that would ban smoking on all domestic flights under two hours. If they are successful, the bill will go back to the appropriations committee, where the chairman, Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., will make the decision. He opposed the non-smoking proposal in committee, and will probably reject it again.

Perhaps the reason smoking has not already been prohibited is because it

makes too much sense to do so. An objective look at the situation is needed:

A large metal box, 50 feet long and 12 feet wide, is filled with people and suspended thousands of feet above the earth. The health and safety of the people depends on several factors, including the circulation of breathable air, the alertness of the box attendants and the absence of fires within the box.

However, one-third of the people are allowed to ignite smoldering weeds in their seats and fill the box with clouds of fine ash. It sounds like one of those Sesame Street games: What's wrong with this picture, boys and girls?

First, breathable air in close quarters is polluted. The Smoking/Non-smoking sections are a farce. In reality, there are three sections — Stale Air, Passive Smoking and Active Smoking. Second, many flight attendants suffer headaches and watery eyes from smoke, and their ability to act in a crisis is impaired. Third, it is ridiculous to allow matches, lighters and burning objects in an environment where even a small fire could prove disastrous.

The House of Representatives has already approved a bill banning smoking on all flights. The Senate should follow its lead and eliminate what is clearly an inexcusable health and safety hazard. — **Brian McCuskey**

# Readers' Forum

## Scholar-administrator needed at top

*Editor's note: This is the second in a series of weekly interviews with campus figures on the next chancellor. Elmer Oettinger, a professor emeritus of public law and government, is acting president of the UNC Retired Faculty Association.*

**Daily Tar Heel:** Who is the UNC Retired Faculty Association?

**Elmer Oettinger:** We are a group of roughly 90 retired faculty members of this university. Together, we have been privileged to serve in teaching, research and administrative capacities for some 3,000 total years. And we have firm convictions regarding those qualities which are desirable in a chancellor.

**DTH:** What are these convictions?  
**Oettinger:** The University has established a tradition of scholar-administrators, and our organization would like to see that continued. We hope that the search committee will give primary consideration to the academic backgrounds, attitudes and scholarly achievements of each individual it considers.

**DTH:** Why is being a scholar-administrator so important to the role of chancellor?

**Oettinger:** The problems that a university has are those peculiarly related to education . . . and the standpoint of this institution, which is one of pre-eminence in not only the UNC system, but the nation, goes back in part to the sort of leadership that this school has had. (Let me) go back to when I was a freshman here in 1930. That was the first year that Frank Graham was president, but that was before there was a university system, so that he had some of the responsibilities of the present chancellor. Frank Graham epitomizes to me the sort of qualities that are important in a chancellor . . . In September of my

### Who's Next? The Chancellor Interviews

freshman year, four of us tossing a baseball on the dirt paths beside Old East were joined by a little short man in shirtsleeves who bounced out of South Building, called us by first name, and asked if he could throw with us. It was the new president of the University.

**DTH:** Is something like that still possible today?

**Oettinger:** It might not be. This is a different institution. This is a different time. But there is a warmth, a human quality, that even if it can't be exercised like Dr. Graham did, is still important. A chancellor has to operate with his fellow administrators, educational and otherwise. He has to operate with the legislature, alumni and the trustees. He has to operate with faculty. And with students.

**DTH:** What do you mean by operate?

**Oettinger:** I mean that he has to interact with, he has to get along with, he has to be respected and appreciated, admired and hopefully loved by (students and faculty). A chancellor is a symbol. And the University will reflect in large measure his character, his ideas, his leadership and his personality. And that's why it's important that he has the knowledge of and attitudes of a scholar.

**DTH:** Do you think that this scholar-administrator should come out of the UNC system?

**Oettinger:** My opinion is that would be too limiting. The committee should look overall for the best person for the job. Our association's suggestion is simply that we consider it to be a primary criteria that

the next chancellor comes from a background of being a scholar-educator.

**DTH:** You spoke about the chancellor being a symbol of the University. Which way, not only in academics, should the next chancellor direct this university?

**Oettinger:** A chancellor has to be not only a person of vigor, and not only of presence, but of prescience. He has to have vision . . . and courage. I'll go back to Frank Graham again. Here's a man running the University who was way ahead of the times in civil rights. He fought for minorities. He went to Washington as co-author of the social security act. He served on the War Legal Board during World War II. And we can follow through the chancellors after Dr. Graham . . . these were not simply administrators. A chancellor, at all times, has the need to assess where this university is, where the people of this state particularly are . . . and where we're going in the nation and the world. He has to apply that to the immediate problems of the University.

**DTH:** This is a lot of directions. Is there anything that should be first, in your view, on the agenda of the next chancellor?

**Oettinger:** I think that the thing that is always first on the agenda is the combination of integrity and a quest for excellence. A university looks for truth. It tries to teach objectively. Not in a vacuum, there's nothing wrong with taking stands but it has to try to reach as broadly as it can . . . A chancellor has to have the sort of rapport with educators, that he, in a sense, is a funnel. He draws in all of the information . . . and then translates it into a base for present and future.

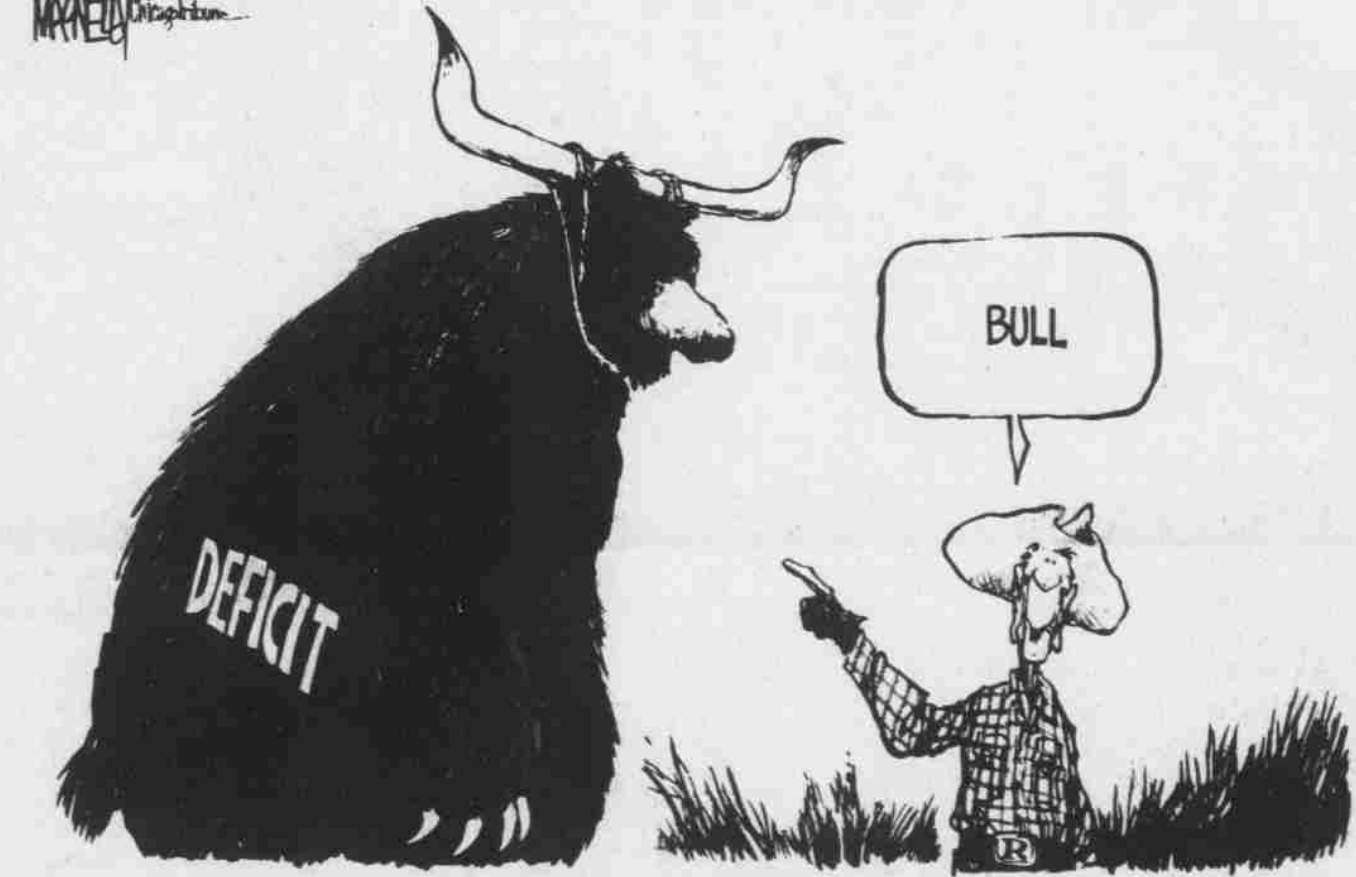
*Elmer Oettinger was interviewed by editorial writer Jon Rust.*

## Proud to be a Democrat

*Editor's note: The author is vice president of UNC Young Democrats.*

To the editor:  
 This weekend, six members of UNC Young Democrats ventured to Research Triangle Park, where they met with other college and post-college Young Democrats from North Carolina for the annual platform convention. I commend the DTH for sending a reporter to cover this event, which involved hours of tedious debate and parliamentary procedure.

Obviously, there are space constraints in any newspaper. So, I would like to add more detail to Monday's article, "UNC Young Democrats disappointed with platform," while adding a correction. Certain sections of the platform's language were not specific enough to prevent diverse interpretations. Some members of my delegation, as well as others, echoed this sentiment. In addition, so much time was spent debating the platform that not enough time remained for debating the resolutions. Unlike the platform, which is a statement of general goals and values commonly held by



a number of Young Democrats, the resolutions prescribe specific actions, such as repealing a law or passing a bill. Because a significant number of the resolutions were not passed or even debated, the platform, by itself, was too general as a call for action to promote constructive change. Complemented by all of the resolutions, it could have better achieved this.

The DTH's conclusion that the UNC delegation was disappointed with the platform is questionable. It is important to

point out that the greatest disappointment for our delegation was the lack of time for debating the resolutions, to which we devoted considerable time in writing. However, a lot of effort went into the formation of the platform. Three resolutions were passed. Consequently, I commend the hard work of the Young Democrats. For these reasons, I am proud to be a Democrat!

PHILIP SHERIDAN  
 Junior  
 Political Science/Economics

## Letters policy

*The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments, ideas and criticisms.*

■ When submitting letters or columns, students should include the following: name, year in school, major, phone number and the date submitted.

■ All letters must be typed, double-spaced on a 60-space line, for ease of editing.

## When Uncle Wiggily isn't enough

The classroom was brightly lit by the Indian summer sun streaming through the wide windows. Every so often, a student hurried past, obviously late for class. It was a brilliant fall day in New England, and the young men and women who sat around the triangular white tables were stuck inside. But except for the occasional longing glance out the window, and despite the fact that it was a Monday, the students seemed eager to get down to business. They were discussing one of J.D. Salinger's stories, the baffling "Uncle Wiggily in Connecticut."

The discussion was free-flowing, and the young teacher, just a couple of years out of college, played her role nicely, guiding the class without pushing it too hard toward her point of view. A pair of visitors sat on opposite sides of the room. One of them carried his own copy of "Nine Stories" and took part too often in the conversation.

To call it a conversation may sound frivolous, but the word seems appropriate. The best discussions are the freest, and there was a real sense of freedom in the classroom, of people throwing out their opinions without hesitation. In the course of 40 minutes, the text was broken down in every way possible. The task of literary criticism became a visible process, as the students grappled with the meaning not just of the story, but of individual words and gestures.

The story, or rather the narrative, of "Uncle Wiggily in Connecticut" doesn't really matter. Suffice it to say that Salinger deals with broken dreams and lost love. From the room's comforting din, from the

### James Surowiecki Sports Editor

clashing voices, though, a variety of other themes emerged. Meredith, a cute, dark-haired girl, who looked like she'd be an English major someday, proposed a sexual interpretation of the story's most difficult passage, an interpretation that seemed at first completely off the wall, but that made more sense the more it was talked about.

Stacy, whose dark hair hung down over a pretty face, offered the single best insight of the class when she proposed a theory about the paternity of Eloise's child. The curious thing was that as the discussion progressed, the truth of Stacy's inference became more ambiguous. But its importance was undiminished, for she had established the context in which the class functioned for the rest of the period.

There was even a sort of deconstructionist within the group. Carter, a clear-eyed, talkative kid who had theories for everything, was the perfect critic, almost tangibly tearing aside the facade of the text to get at that which lay underneath. He bordered on the sacrilegious at times, levying shocking innuendo at Seymour Glass, but he was constantly earnest. Carter's battle with Salinger, manifested in his seeming refusal to believe there was such a thing as literalness when it came to fiction, fed off, and in turn provided food for, the other students.

And through this analysis, a new text emerged from that which was on the page.

The students revealed previously unseen subtexts, and made previously confusing events more comprehensible. And when class was over, more than Salinger's story had been explored. The very idea of what literature is, of what criticism is, had been investigated, even if only in an oblique way.

I had begun to question the function of criticism in a society where those who are truly literate are a small minority, and where, therefore, the discussion of literature tends to be replete with inside references and with language that makes sense only to those few who are inside the inner circle. But Meredith and Carter and the rest gave me new faith in the task of literary analysis.

With their verve and panache, they showed that even if there is no objective truth to be discovered in a text, analyzing a literary work has a value in and of itself. Criticism makes more evident the lessons of the stories we read, but more importantly it improves the way we think, improves the way we approach fiction and, for that matter, life. With apologies to John Barth, the key to the treasure is the treasure.

That's not entirely true, for certainly Salinger's work is valuable, regardless of how we talk about it. But for those students, it wasn't just "Uncle Wiggily in Connecticut" that mattered. Thanks to them, and thanks to the teacher's willingness to listen, that class mattered. And when you're learning, you can't ask for anything more than that.

*James Surowiecki is a senior history major from Cheshire, Conn.*

### The Daily Tar Heel

Editorial Writers: Jim Greenhill, Mike Mackay, Brian McCuskey and Jon Rust.

Editorial Assistants: Julia Coon and Sharon Keshchull.

Assistant Managing Editors: Cara Bonnett, Melissa Daniels, Peter Lineberry, Joe McCall and Mandy Spence.

News: Kari Barlow, Jeanna Baxter, Lydian Bernhardt, Matt Bivens, Brenda Campbell, Staci Cox, Meg Craddock, Sandy Dimsdale, Carrie Dove, Laurie Duncan, Mark Folk, Gerda Gallop, Alissa Grice, Lindsay Hayes, Kyle Hudson, Michael Jackson, Kelly Johnson, Michael Jordan, Helen Jones, Susan Kauffman, Sharon Keshchull, Hunter Lambeth, Will Lingo, Barbara Linn, Brian Long, Mitra Lotfi, Lynne McClintock, Brian McCollum, Leigh Ann McDonald, Justin McGuire, Stephanie Marshall, Laurie Martin, Myrna Miller, Smithson Mills, Lee Ann Necessary, Rebecca Nesbit, Susan Odenkirchen, Cheryl Pond, Amy Powell, Charla Price, Andrea Shaw, Sheila Simmons, Mandy Spence, William Taggart, Clay Thorp, Nicki Weisenese and Amy Winslow. Brian Long, assistant business editor. Kimberly Edens and Kristen Gardner, assistant university editors.

Sports: Mike Berardino, Patton McDowell and Chris Spencer, assistant sports editors. Robert D'Arruda, Steve Giles, Dave Glenn, Dave Hall, Clay Hodges, Brendan Mathews, Jim Muse, Andy Podolsky, and Langston Wertz.

Features: Hannah Drum, Carole Ferguson, Laura Jenkins, Corin Ortalm, Lynn Phillips, Leigh Pressley, Karen Stegman, Kathy Wilson and Julie Woods.

Arts: James Burrus, Scott Cowen, Stephanie Dean, Kim Donehower, David Hester, Julie Olson, Beth Rhea, Kelly Rhodes, Alston Russell and Richard Smith.

Photography: Tony Deifell, David Minton, Matthew Plyler and Julie Stovall.

Copy Editors: Karen Bell, Cara Bonnett, Carrie Burgin, Julia Coon, Whitney Cork, Laurie Duncan, Bert Hackney, Lisa Lorentz, Toby Moore, Rachel Stiffler and Kaarin Tisue, assistant news editor.

Cartoonists: Jeff Christian, Bill Cokas and Greg Humphreys.

Campus Calendar: Mindelle Rosenberg.

Business and Advertising: Anne Fulcher, general manager; Patricia Glance, advertising director; Joan Worth, advertising coordinator; Peggy Smith, advertising manager; Sheila Baker, business manager; Michael Benfield, Lisa Chorbani, Ashley Hinton, Kellie McElhane, Chrissy Mennitt, Stacey Montford, Lesley Renwick, Julie Settle, Dave Slovinsky, Dean Thompson, Amanda Tilley and Wendy Wegner, advertising representatives; Stephanie Chesson, classified advertising representative; and Kris Carlson, secretary.

Distribution: Tucker Stevens, manager.

Delivery: Leon Morton, manager; Billy Owens, assistant.

Production: Bill Leslie and Stacy Wynn. Rita Galloway, Leslie Humphrey, Stephanie Locklear and Tammy Sheldon production assistants.

Printing: The Chapel Hill Newspaper.