

The Daily Tar Heel

95th year of editorial freedom

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Put money where it's needed

It finally happened. After two weeks of controversy, UNC head football coach Dick Crum has resigned. The question of his future at UNC has been resolved. The controversy, however, has not.

board opinion

Crum will be paid \$400,000 initially and \$100,000 per year for the next four years. A press statement released Monday night by Crum, Chancellor Christopher Fordham and Athletic Director John Swofford says that this money does not involve state funds. It also says that while this decision was reached "with the cooperation of the Educational Foundation (Rams Club)," the Rams Club did not participate in the actual negotiations.

The implication is that the Rams Club put up the settlement money, although the statement takes great pains not to say this explicitly. On Tuesday, Ralph Strayhorn, first vice president of the organization, confirmed that it was providing the funds.

The Rams Club has the right to offer this money, acting upon the concern that a losing football team hurts fundraising efforts and diminishes revenue brought to the University by the football program. A winning team's ticket sales and increased national television coverage could easily replace the \$800,000 now lost.

There are still problems to be addressed. First, Crum should never

have been given a ten-year contract if the University places so much importance on a winning record. A contract of that length gives the coach the message that they trust him to run a clean program, not field a championship team every year. The University made a commitment to Crum, and should have shielded him from the pressure that forced him to resign.

More importantly, the buyout raises questions about the priorities of alumni donors. The Rams Club is very generous in funding athletic scholarships and facilities. However, it has spent \$800,000 on a contract termination while the book-buying budget of the University's libraries has been cut by 17 percent.

Just one-third of what the Rams Club has raised for Crum would have covered this year's inflation in periodical subscription rates. Instead, the serials department has been forced to cut back the number of subscriptions available. This is just one example of where more money is needed to maintain the quality of academics at UNC.

Admittedly, the Rams Club is not responsible for funding any part of the University apart from the athletic program. However, the alumni who have money to give should rethink their priorities. They should decide which is a better use of nearly a million dollars — funding UNC's educational facilities or exerting pressure on University personnel.

What big iron teeth he has

As NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw was leaving New York for his much-anticipated interview with Mikhail Gorbachev, a friend warned him, "Watch for the nice smile with iron teeth."

On Monday night the American public was given the opportunity to judge Gorbachev for itself. He revealed both the smile and the iron teeth.

The Soviet leader did not say anything new in his first especially-for-America appearance, a prelude to his arrival next week for the summit. He stressed the same themes that he has focused on since he gained power. On the surface he came across as a confident, dynamic, visionary leader, speaking about a world in which the United States and the Soviet Union can join hands as allies.

Yet when answering tough questions about restructuring Soviet society and applying his much-heralded new openness to specific cases, he sounded like the rigid conservative leaders who preceded him.

When asked how he could persuade the world to believe in the new Soviet sensitivity while preventing people from coming and going freely, Gorbachev blamed the problem on a

United States that is organizing a brain drain.

On the question of emigration of Jews, he said, his iron teeth clicking: "I think that right now we have among those who have not received permission only those who cannot leave because of state security reasons. There are no other reasons, and we will continue to act in that way."

About the Berlin Wall, he said East Germany has the sovereign right to have it, and the Soviet Union will not interfere. His answers only raised more questions. How real is glasnost? How far does he mean to take it?

Gorbachev's evasiveness was disappointing. The ideas he has expressed eloquently in abstract terms before a Soviet podium did not come through in the interview. Much of his failure was destined. He is not a closet capitalist nor a secret admirer of Western democracy.

The fact that Gorbachev's conservatism came out in his interview should temper the rosy picture that Americans have of glasnost. Americans who realize the limits of Soviet reform while admitting their country's shortcomings could lead to a better relationship between the two nations. — Jon Rust

Readers' Forum

In search of the 'average' student

Brian McCuskey
 Editorial Writer

The task seemed easy enough. For the last part of the series "Who's Next — The Chancellor Interviews," I was to find a random student in the Pit and ask him a few questions about their views on the next UNC chancellor. We had interviewed administrators, faculty members and the student body president, and now wanted the opinion of an arbitrary, "average" student. I was not supposed to know the student personally, just to pick a likely face from the crowd. The questions were very general — what qualities the chancellor should have, the nature of his relationship with the students, what issues he should address upon taking command, etc.

The cold weather had thinned out the late-morning Pit crowd, and I began my search on the steps of Lenoir. Continued my search on the outskirts of the Pit. Gave up my search outside the Student Union. Half an hour and 20 students later, I still had not found anyone willing to be interviewed. The rejections ranged from "I don't have time to be interviewed" to "I don't know enough about the chancellor to answer any questions."

I explained that I only wanted some general thoughts on the subject. I offered to give the potential interviewee a list of the questions to think about for 24 hours, and interview him the next day. I pleaded that I was not out to make him look ignorant on the back page of the paper;

I just wanted his candid opinion. In all cases the final answer was "I just don't know enough about it. Thanks anyway."

Perhaps, I thought, people won't talk to me because they don't know me, and are afraid I will misrepresent them in print. Breaking the rule of anonymity, I asked a few friends if they'd consent to be interviewed, but the response was the same — nobody felt they knew enough to answer even the most general questions.

By this time I wondered if there was such a thing as an "average" student willing to express "average" views. I gave up on the interview, deciding instead to conduct an informal poll of 100 students to get an idea of how concerned and informed students are about the chancellor search. Only 100 students does not give a completely accurate cross section of the campus, but it should give some indication of student thought. The results:

■ 73 percent of the students polled knew the chancellor is Christopher Fordham.

■ 40 percent would recognize him in person, and 39 percent knew his office is in South Building.

■ 80 percent said that they did not feel informed about the chancellor search. Only 59 students were interested in the search

at all, and of these only 10 felt that enough information about the search process had been made available.

■ 88 percent did not know that only one student, Student Body President Brian Bailey, is on the search committee. When asked if student input will have any effect on the choosing of the next chancellor, 41 percent said "yes," 56 percent said "no" and 3 percent said "maybe."

Again, this poll was informal and should not be taken as the definite measure of student opinion. However, the numbers speak for themselves.

At this point, many readers are probably groaning, "this moralizing pseudo-journalist is rubbing student apathy in our faces again." Unfortunately, that's right.

Simply put, the choice of Fordham's successor is one of the most important issues of this school year. The decision will directly affect the quality of education and of life at UNC for the coming years. We'd all like a chancellor who would take the student body's voice seriously, but first there must be such a voice. At present, too many students just don't care.

There should have been an interview in this space, not a lecture. But this is how the chancellor is chosen, not with a bang but a whimper.

Brian McCuskey is a junior English major from Los Angeles.

Lost in the translation

Editor's note: This letter was signed by the eight graduate students in the Slavic languages department.

To the editor:

We feel it necessary to point out a little problem with your article of Nov. 30 entitled, "Billy Joel's latest: live from behind the Iron Curtain."

We'll ignore the misstatement concerning the arrival of rock 'n' roll in the Soviet Union; it has been around longer than glasnost. But we do think it important to point out that the Russian word for concert is not "kohliept" as reported in the article. We suspect that the difficulty lies in the fact that Russian uses a different alphabet than English. While the letters, to the English reader's eye, may seem to spell something like "kohliept" or even "kohuept," when we transliterate the Russian into something that an English reader can read, we get "kontsert," a word which sounds very similar to our English "concert."

We are all, of course, pleased as punch that Billy Joel was able to perform in the Soviet Union, and are suitably tickled that this concert is available for all to enjoy. We would simply hate to see anyone in Moscow asking for tickets to a "kohliept," or even worse, anyone boasting in cocktail party conversation that they know Russian words: "kohliept," for example.

We hope that we have been of use to The Daily Tar Heel. If ever we can help out again, please don't hesitate to ask.

MARCIA GREEN
 Graduate Slavic Languages

LAURA JOHNSTON
 Graduate Slavic Languages

Let tabloids do assuming

To the editor:

Many are the occasions when I sit down over coffee in the Pit and read the editorials in the DTH; almost as often, I find my eyeballs leaving their sockets as I see yet another gross oversimplification or blatant factual error. But today, things went too far and



my poor eyeballs not only left their sockets, but twisted, turned, went red, expanded, then blew up, ruining my coffee and copy of the DTH. Jill Gerber, what are you thinking about? Your editorial "Younger men no longer taboo" takes the prize as easily the worst this semester.

For a start, I find it journalistically dubious that you have to use a "supermarket tabloid" as a source of inspiration. Those journals are better left on the shelves to provide amusement for irritated shoppers waiting in the express lane when the person in front has too many items.

However, what really ruined my coffee was that you took it upon yourself to assume that "youth equals beauty" to men in general for long as there has been the institution of marriage. Are all marriages based purely on appearance? I hope not. Then, you go on to assume that men have traditionally used their wives as assets to their careers, or nurses to look after them in old age. Never in any editorial anywhere have I seen such a blatant misrepresentation and oversimplification of men, women and their marriages. People get married for more reasons than there are words in The New York Times

on Sunday. The whole tone of the editorial pursued the idea that women are now leaving the shackles of the immature attitudes of society, a society where men have created the stereotypes and conventions — that now, finally, in 1987, "some men have decided that maturity in a woman is more appealing than youth." It sounds as if, in your opinion, men are starting to mature from those nasty boys we all know them to be. Janet Jackson would be proud.

SCOTT MARTIN
 Senior Comparative Literature

Coach-athlete relationship deserves respect

To the editor:

I consider myself an unobtrusive person. I do not feel like I am easily angered. But something I read Nov. 22 jarred me out of my typical mid-morning lull before biochemistry. It was a letter to the editor by a certain Lanis Wilson entitled "Conduct spoils victory."

First, I feel that the incident of Steve Dragisic's drunk driving arrest has been blown completely out of proportion. The only reason it has been given so much attention is the recent success of our men's soccer team. If the team had finished a disappointing season, I am sure the arrest would have gone unnoticed.

Second, for Wilson to question coach Anson Dorrance's "moral concern for his players" simply because Dorrance did not respond to the situation is outrageous. Disciplinary problems within an athletic team should be dealt with on an individual

basis between the athletes involved and their coaches.

It seems that coaching is one of the few vocations in this world where, in your supposed area of expertise, everyone else thinks he knows more than you. Instead of looking at such unfortunate incidents as a reflection of Dorrance's "moral concern," I look at more reliable indications. I would rather look at the teams he has coached as a whole, and all of the athletes belonging to his teams.

To assume that Dorrance has "failed in his most important duty as a coach: teaching his players that they represent their university, and as such should behave well both on and off the field" merely because of one mistake made by one player is ludicrous. I prefer to look upon all the athletes he has influenced as a whole. Dorrance's successes speak for themselves, on and off the field.

The athletes at this school represent UNC and its students pretty darn well. I have attended many athletic contests during my four years at Carolina. I can safely say that every athletic team at the University — whether basketball, football, women's soccer, field hockey and even swimming, golf and tennis — represents this school with class, dignity and sportsmanship. Being part of UNC's swim team for the past three years, I know that such values are stressed by each and every individual within the athletic department, from our coach up to John Swofford. I do not believe that a coach who does not impart such values on to his athletes would last very long at this university.

SCOTT HUGGINS
 Senior Biology

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