

# The Daily Tar Heel

96th year of editorial freedom

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## Case study in student activism

Last Sunday, Elisabeth Zinser was appointed president of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., the world's only liberal arts university for the deaf.

### board opinion

The next day, students at Gallaudet protested the appointment, blocking off campus entrances at 6 a.m. and closing the university down. They demanded that Zinser resign, and that a deaf president be selected. They also demanded the resignation of Jane Bassett Spilman, the chairwoman of the university's board of trustees, as well as a restructuring of the board to include a majority of deaf persons.

A week later, all of their demands have been met. Both Zinser and Spilman have resigned. Gallaudet's board of trustees has selected a deaf president. The trustees have agreed to form a task force to study the composition of the board, and they have promised to ensure that a majority of the school's trustees are deaf.

It seems almost too easy. From the beginning of their protest, the students enjoyed extensive media coverage and a broad base of support. The students took immediate action, and within days, the Gallaudet administration was forced to comply with their demands.

## Don't play politics with BOG

Last summer, the General Assembly passed a bill creating "member emeritus" positions on the 32-member Board of Governors. Under the legislation, all former board chairmen under 70 became non-voting members of the board, which oversees the 16-campus UNC system.

Now, some state senators say the move was a mistake. They're right.

Traditionally, BOG appointments are political prizes, awarded to the most aggressive players in North Carolina's game of power politics. When the member emeritus bill was passed, it made life easier for the lawmakers who were making appointments to the board. For instance, former chairman William Dees was seeking another term as a board member. Rather than choose between Dees and another candidate, the legislators made him a member emeritus, leaving an opening for a voting member. Thus, they were able to grant two political favors instead of one.

But the maneuver, while politically astute, could cause disastrous long-term results. Each member emeritus may participate in all board discussions and deliberations. Taking advantage of the expertise of former chairmen is a good idea, but guaranteeing them an official position on the board goes too far. Although they cannot

In an age when activists are often mocked and scorned, the deaf students provided an excellent example of effective protest. Some may attribute their quick success to their deafness, which helped make their protest unique and newsworthy.

But that's not the only reason the students won their battle. The protesters were unafraid to buck tradition. Gallaudet has never had a deaf or hearing-impaired president in its 124-year history, but that didn't keep the protesters from expressing their frustration with the system.

Also, the students made simple, reasonable demands. They wanted adequate representation among their own leaders, and they made a realistic proposal to attain that goal: replace Zinser, Spilman and other trustees with comparable deaf administrators.

Others soon recognized the legitimacy of the students' demands. Their protest was strengthened by the support of the 275-member Gallaudet faculty, prominent alumni, national and international organizations and members of Congress.

All students can learn from the Gallaudet incident. Students can and should have an impact on administrative decisions, and reasonable protest is still an effective way of making concerns known to those who do not wish to listen.

This letter is in response to the resolution passed by the Board of Trustees concerning the CIA protest.

1954, *Guatemala*: The CIA engineered the overthrow of the democratically elected Jacobo Arbenz. Arbenz was a liberal reformer who considered Franklin D. Roosevelt his role model. Since 1954, Guatemala has been cursed with a series of brutal military regimes and sporadic civil wars. (For more information, see "Bitter Fruit: The Untold Story of the American Coup in Guatemala" by Stephen Kinzer.)

1960s, *The Congo*: The CIA was involved in the destabilization of the popularly elected government of Patrice Lumumba. At one point, the CIA sent operatives a syringe full of a lethal substance, with instructions to inject it into Lumumba's food. (Senator Frank Church, "The Covert Operations," Center Magazine 9:2 1976)

1970s, *Chile*: The CIA spent more than \$7 million to destabilize the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende. The CIA played a direct role in planning the coup that toppled Allende and brought General Augusto Pinochet to power. Pinochet's regime is considered the most repressive and dictatorial in the Western Hemisphere. (New York Times Sept. 14, 1974, Church, "The Covert Operations")

1975, *Angola*: The CIA cooperated with

## Readers' Forum

### Injustice shown in CIA track record

Joey Templeton

Guest Writer

South Africa in efforts to install Jonas Savimbi and his guerrilla force UNITA as the government of Angola following the Portuguese withdrawal. The CIA lied to Congress and planted disinformation in the American media. The CIA continues to support UNITA's efforts to overthrow the Angolan government. (See former CIA agent John Stockwell's account, "The Search for Enemies: A CIA Story")

1984, *Nicaragua*: The CIA mined the harbors of Nicaragua and ordered the contras to take credit for the action. The CIA continued to fund and assist the contras, even though Congress forbade the United States government from providing support to forces attempting to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. (Edgar Chomorro with Jefferson Morley, "Confessions of a Contra," Aug. 5, 1985)

Each of these actions in which the CIA was involved broke many American, as well as international, laws. Two of the laws broken are:

■ "Organization of American States Charter."  
Article 19: "No State may use or encourage

the use of coercive measures of an economic or political character to force the sovereign will of another State and obtain from it advantages of any kind."

■ United Nations, "Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States"

Article 1: "Every State has the sovereign and inalienable right to choose its economic system as well as its political, social, and cultural system, in accordance with the will of its people, without outside interference, coercion or threat in any form whatsoever."

Oct. 28, 1987: Protesters of CIA recruitment on campus are arrested. (DTH, Oct. 29, 1987)

Feb. 2, 1988: Protesters start an indefinite fast, to encourage the University to break all ties with the CIA and to cancel CIA recruitment on campus. (DTH, Feb. 3, 1988)

Feb. 22, 1988: Protesters break their fast and hold a demonstration at the University Inn, where the CIA was recruiting. The recruiter cancels all interviews and leaves. (DTH, Feb. 23, 1988)

Six protesters were charged, but not convicted, of breaking one law — disorderly conduct.

These are the facts; now you make the decision. Who are the terrorists?

*Joey Templeton is a sophomore political science and drama major from Gastonia.*

### Rodeos inflict pain

To the editor:

On Feb. 18-19, a rodeo was held on the N.C. State Fairgrounds. The rodeo is an American tradition, and therefore accepted as a fun and exciting sport by many people. But it is time for this sport to be re-examined, for much unnecessary harm is done to the animals forced to perform in rodeos. All of us can contribute to the weakening of the rodeo's acceptance in America.

Bucking and calf roping are the most popular events in the rodeo. Bucking is not a natural instinct, as spectators are led to believe; it is a response to pain or fear. The more pain an animal caused, the more it will buck, and the more exciting the performance will be. Electric prods, which send up to 8,000 volt shocks, are given to the animal before it is released from the chute. The animal wants so much to escape from this pain, but is confined by the walls of the chute. Therefore, once the gate opens, the animal bolts out.

To continue the savage display, bucking straps, rider's spurs and jabbing are used on the animals. The bucking strap applies pressure to the internal organs and to the nerves, which are unprotected by the rib cage. Once the gate is opened, someone hidden behind the chute tightens the strap, increasing the pressure on the animal's abdominal area. Sometimes the strap can move to the animal's genital area, unnoticed by the person tightening the strap. The person continues to tighten the strap, inflicting much pain on the animal.

The scoring for the bucking event depends partly on the animal's bucking display. The fact encourages handlers to inflict the most pain they can on the animals, who often become so frantic that they injure or even kill themselves.

In the calf roping event, electric prods and tail-twisting send the calf out of the chute



at approximately 27 miles per hour. The goal of this event is to rope the calf around the neck, flip him off his feet and tie three of his legs together in 10 seconds. Calf roping can result in broken necks and backs, internal hemorrhaging and crushed throats.

Some people think that the animals forced to perform in rodeos are the lucky ones. This belief is not true. First of all, most of the horses and bulls would not have been brought into the world if not to be used for the rodeo. After they have endured their painful lives for years and are no longer useful, they are sent to the slaughterhouse. Calves and steers used in the roping events are also destined for the slaughterhouse.

It is possible to change this situation by not watching or supporting rodeos. If you really want to help stop the harm done to animals, a reasonable approach is vegetarianism. If you have compassion for animals, then it is the perfect way to express your feelings.

LEIGH ANN MCCULLOUGH  
Sophomore  
Education

### South Campus misrepresented

To the editor:

This letter is in response to a statement made in the March 1 article, "Some students win, some lose in University lottery." Lorie Steinhagen, a North Campus resident, was quoted as saying, "Now we don't have to worry anymore. Now we don't have to live in James." As two-year, soon to be three-year, residents of Hinton James, we take pity on Steinhagen. She is obviously unenlightened as to the erroneous stereotype of our home.

Let us point out that James has its own snack bar (you may love hiking over to the Circus Room, but we like our first-floor store), its own little library and proximity to the Smith Center (we are sure that North Campus residents enjoy the half-mile hike to get tickets; we jog the hundred or so yards in about 20 seconds). This includes the Koury Natatorium. We also enjoy six tennis courts, a volleyball court, and a full basketball court within 50 yards of the building. Plus, we have 10 lounges (some for study, others for recreation),

nine kitchens (five of which have microwaves), a pool table, two ping-pong tables, and a foos-ball table. We do not have to walk for anything except classes.

The most important aspects of South Campus life, however, are the widely diversified population and the sense of coming home each evening. At James, we have so many people that learning to deal with all types is mandatory. Does this bear any resemblance to the "real world"? We like to think so. You complain about the walk. Quit whining and ride the bus; some people enjoy the time to be alone with their thoughts. The distance makes a separation, however slight, between the stress of classes and the comfort of home.

Finally, let us congratulate North Campus residents on their lottery successes. It takes an open-minded person to thrive in a diverse society like Hinton James. Obviously, this does not include some students.

PAIGE DEAKINS  
Sophomore  
Music Education

DAWN DEL VECCHIO  
Sophomore  
Biology

### True Christians will forgive Swaggart's sins

I am writing in response to Paul Teague's column, "Like the rest, sin took hold of Swaggart." (Feb. 25) Teague's best point is quickly observed in the title of his article. Yes, Swaggart, "like the rest," has sinned. In fact, Swaggart, "like the rest," has sinned from the time of his birth right up to the present, and he will probably continue to sin for the remainder of his life. But, fortunately for Swaggart and "the rest," sin is not the focal point of the Christian gospel or Swaggart's preaching — grace is.

By grace, I mean God's response of forgiveness for past, present and future sins to anyone who will receive it and admit that Jesus Christ is Lord. The bottom line of this theology will tell us that Swaggart is indeed "pious" and not a "charlatan," not because he can control his lustful desires, but because God had already decided to look upon Swaggart as pious, based on the previously stated conditions. Although the world can condemn Swaggart, no Christian may rightfully do the same, as Swaggart has already been forgiven by the one who counts in the end.

One may choose, then, to judge Swaggart, keeping one of two stances in mind. One of these stances is the worldly stance, and one is the Christian stance. Before you choose to judge Swaggart, however, I

Jeanne Newman  
Guest Writer

would ask only that you remain consistent with the standard that you choose to use. Teague chose to judge Swaggart by worldly standards. He accuses Swaggart of being a charlatan, viewing pornographic acts, dressing in expensive attire and receiving money from the American public. But do his accusations hold water when you view them in terms of wordly standards?

For example, let us compare Swaggart with another popular public figure — Michael Jackson. Jackson, who has probably received much more money from the American public than Oral Roberts, Bakker and Swaggart put together for his antics, is well received by the public even as he loudly proclaims his sexual promiscuity across the nation and sells innumerable albums to "disadvantaged" teens. Quite unlike Swaggart, Jackson charges the public about \$20 to observe a performance for no more than two or three hours, while one may view Swaggart several hours a day on television free of charge.

Now, I have no intention of picking on Michael Jackson. I am a music major, and I know a good entertainer when I hear

one. Jackson could easily be replaced by several other entertainers. Swaggart, in contrast, remorsefully admits his sexual sin and submits to church discipline. Yet in paradoxical fashion, the entire nation, after learning of Swaggart's sin, is up in arms. For one who refuses to follow the commands of Jesus Christ, this is the epitome of the double standard.

There is an old Indian saying that may be worth quoting: Do not judge someone until you have walked a mile in his moccasins. To those who have yet to identify themselves as Christians, I would only ask that they look into real Christianity by examining Christ and the Bible — not by watching human beings. I would then ask you to accept Christ and try to live by his commands. After you fail a few times and get a good look at your dark side, you will be able to understand what it means to be given grace.

Teague is right. Swaggart "will come back from his rehabilitation stronger than ever," not because he is a talented entertainer, but because the gospel of Christian forgiveness has already set a precedent for his return.

*Jeanne Newman is a senior religion and music major from Cary.*

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 Printing: The Chapel Hill Newspaper.