

# The Daily Tar Heel

96th year of editorial freedom

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## Steer students, don't drive them

Last Wednesday, Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan, the Democratic candidate in the 1988 governor's race, set forth a program to reduce the number of high school dropouts in North Carolina. Among other things, the program called for appropriating \$7.6 million to establish special counselors for potential dropouts and revoking or withholding drivers' licenses from students under 18 who drop out of high school.

Jordan's proposal shows an admirable commitment to education. He cites figures showing that one-fourth of all ninth graders in North Carolina will have dropped out by the end of Gov. Jim Martin's term. Action should be taken to lower the dropout rate. The allotment for special counselors could be a good investment in N.C. education.

But Jordan's well-intentioned proposal to deny licenses to dropouts approaches the problem from the wrong angle.

Rather than coercing students into attendance, he should concentrate on improving the schools themselves. After all, high dropout rates are merely symptoms of other, larger educational problems. In the long run, making students want to learn and providing quality educational facilities will be much more effective than snatching

their licenses away.

Furthermore, licenses have nothing to do with school. Jordan could just as well have proposed prohibiting dropouts from watching television, charging them fines, or grounding them. All of these methods sound silly; but revoking drivers' licenses is just as ridiculous.

If nothing else, this *could* have been a gutsy proposal, despite its flaws. But Jordan hedged in order to make his program more acceptable, hastily adding that dropouts who need a car for work would not have their licenses revoked.

This extra stipulation pulls the teeth from Jordan's proposal. Every high school dropout could claim he needed a car for work; thus, no one would be denied a license.

By straddling the fence, Jordan shows the attitude he expressed before black newspaper executives two weeks ago. At the time, Jordan said, "I'm not going to come out with programs that will defeat me, no matter how I stand on the program, because I want to get elected."

Jordan took the already-flawed dropout proposal and amended it into no proposal. While he is right to make education a priority, revoking drivers' licenses is not the way to keep students off the streets. — **Matt Bivens**

## Racial murder a call for action

"The tension problem in Robeson County is as bad as it has been in 20 years and is forcing us to move back when we could be progressing forward."

Julian Pierce spoke these words on the UNC campus a week ago.

Just after midnight Saturday morning, Pierce, a Lumbee Indian and candidate for a Superior Court judgeship in Robeson County, was killed by three shotgun blasts fired at point-blank range.

The strife in Robeson County should come as no surprise to state officials, since warning signals of rising racial tensions have been numerous.

Robeson County has a population that is 37 percent Indian, 37 percent white and 26 percent black. Active discrimination against Indians and blacks has occurred for decades in the county, where Indians hold few political offices despite their numbers. Pierce was trying to become the county's first Indian judge.

In 1986, an unarmed Lumbee Indian was beaten to death by Robeson police officers, enraging the Indian community. Last month, after the death of a black jail inmate, two Tuscarora-Cherokee Indians took hostages at the local newspaper office in Lumberton, demanding officials outside Robeson County investigate the inmate's death.

They also asked for a meeting with Gov. Jim Martin. Martin declined the meeting, instead sending Paul Kirk, his chief of staff, to meet with the Indians.

He also established investigative task forces to "study" the problem.

Understandably, the Indians in Robeson County feel helpless. They are left with a corrupt local government that they are unable to change — even through the electoral process, as Pierce's murder proved.

Martin's insensitivity to the county's problems has allowed the racial tension to escalate. Lumbee Indian Jim Hatcher, a candidate for a local office in Robeson County and friend of Pierce, revealed the frustration of his people when he said, "The people are wanting to talk, but they're scared. Either Martin's going to do something, or else."

Martin found time to boost the campaign of a Republican candidate for mayor in Charlotte. He also found time to visit the coast, eating shellfish to prove that the Red Tide hadn't harmed them.

However, he couldn't find time to visit Robeson County.

In the Student Union four days before his death, Pierce said that "no matter how you color it, this will be racial election." He recognized the seriousness of Robeson County's racial divisions. Unfortunately, Martin didn't.

Pierce's death now compels Martin's attention. It's a heavy price to pay to force North Carolina's state government into action. — **Stuart Hathaway**

### Clip-n-Save

See Dick go to college. Study, Dick, study.

See Dick get good grades. Dick is on the honor roll. Good, Dick, good. Mom and Dad are proud of Dick.

See Dick watch basketball. See Dick cheer. Rah, rah, rah. See the players run up and down the court. Run, run, run. Dick likes basketball.

See Dick watch basketball instead of studying. See Dick get bad grades. Bad, Dick, bad. Mom and Dad are not proud of Dick. See Mom and Dad take Dick's car away. Bye, Mom! Bye, Dad! Bye, transportation!

See Dick watch basketball instead of spending time with Jane. Jane is very lonely. See Jane dump Dick.

See Dick neglect Spot. Dick is too busy watching basketball to play with Spot. See Spot dump Dick. See Spot and Jane call Dick nasty names and plot against him. Plot, Jane. Plot, Spot.

See Dick park in front of the TV and not move for weekends at a time. See the tall men on TV make baskets. Shoot, J.R., shoot.

See Dick cheer. See Dick's eyes bulge. See Dick's face turn red. See Dick's arms

flail. See Dick jump up and down and act like a madman. Dick likes this. Go, team, go.

See Dick's team play in the ACC tournament. Oh, boy. See Dick drink beer. What's wrong, Dick? Why are you acting funny? Stagger, Dick, stagger. See Dick's friends carry him home.

See Dick's team play in the NCAA playoffs. Go, team, go. See Dick's team beat Loyola. Dick is very happy.

See Dick's team play Michigan. See J.R. make lots of baskets. See the team win again. See Dick drink more beer. See Dick toast Dean. Good, Dean, good.

See Dick's team go to Seattle. The team is playing Arizona. See the team play hard. See J.R. miss lots of baskets. Bad, J.R., bad.

See the team lose. Poor, poor Dean. Dick and Dean are very unhappy. See Dick swear. Swear, Dick, swear. Why are you swearing at Dean, Dick?

See Dick's team come home. The players are very sad. Sad, sad, sad.

See Dick lose \$50 to his cousin in Arizona. Cry, Dick, cry.

Cry, cry, cry. See Jane and Spot smile.

## Readers' Forum

### Parking misconceptions run rampant

Robert Foster  
Guest Writer

Health about cars parked illegally in their spaces.

I am amazed at the ignorance that some people have about parking on campus. I have no complaints about permit holders who are upset because they cannot find a space, but when writers such as Felisa Neuringer complain about the inconvenience of parking without a permit ("Campus parking: a bureaucratic adventure for all," March 28), I am appalled.

First, many misconceptions have to be cleared up. The new security building is not surrounded by "State-owned vehicles only" signs. There are several "Visitors only" signs there. And why is it so important to drive there anyway? Didn't your first ticket inform you that you shouldn't park on campus without a permit? If it is so inconvenient for you to walk across campus (an act which South Campus residents do every day), then you should mail the payment to the traffic office.

Second, let's discuss the Student Health spaces. Although some people have, unfortunately, been ticketed while getting their permits (an oversight which is easily appealed if the person doesn't wait for the appeal time to expire), the vast majority of cars are parked there illegally because people have been too ignorant to get a permit, or because they are not even at Student Health. This is a fact corroborated by the number of complaints from Student

Health about cars parked illegally in their spaces. Another point that was made was the need for 10-minute spaces on campus. For starters, there are a limited number of these spaces behind Hanes building. The number is limited because if there wasn't someone present to enforce these spaces, the student who comes for "just five minutes" would stay all day.

Also, if people would just organize themselves better so they turned in papers or returned books during the normal course of events on campus, there wouldn't be this need. If people find themselves in a situation when they must drive to campus, they should either bring someone with them to watch the car, leave a message for the monitor (yes, monitors will wait five minutes before writing a ticket) or be prepared to appeal the ticket.

Working with the traffic office for the last year has brought new insights into how students view parking. "Fire lanes" become "temporary loading zones." Because

walking is such an unhealthy activity for young adults, parking is legal so long as it is in the closest space to where they have to eat or go to class. And finally, everyone unfortunate enough to get a ticket was parked there for "only five minutes." This complaint was reinforced when one violator, whose car was in the process of being towed, said after a monitor had been with his car for 45 minutes, "I have only been here for five minutes."

The parking system is not perfect. Student permit holders complain about not being able to park at night, so the traffic office patrols those lots until 9 p.m., only to get bombarded with complaints from students who have tried to bring their cars to campus. Even with the proposed parking deck, there will not be enough spaces on this campus, but complaining about this fact is not going to make the situation better. If everyone would respect the rights of those who pay to park on campus (a foolish assumption based on how the word "park" was redefined in the article), the University would be able to focus its concerns on finding available space, and not have to worry about towing cars down Airport Road.

Robert Foster is a senior history major from Palmyra, New Jersey.

### Art abounds on campus

To the editor:

I read your editorial of March 23 concerning the lack of art on the Chapel Hill campus ("Lack of campus art is appalling") with some astonishment. In what seems to be a careful catalogue of works of art available to students, and of spaces exhibiting works of art, no mention is made of the paintings in the Morehead rotunda, a distinguished small collection, nor of the Di-Phi collection, a group of pictures unique, so far as I know, in concept and quality, nor of the Ackland Art Museum, one of the finest university museums in the United States. Although the Ackland is presently closed for a University-sponsored renovation that will double its original gallery space, I hope the adventure of walking to the "far removed" corner of Franklin and Columbia Streets will not in the future make the Museum's beauties inaccessible to students.

As to the continuing need to add to the University's aesthetic resources, your conclusion that, "Future graduating classes, artists and people who wish to make donations to the University should consider giving art works or money for the purchase of art works" is certainly a sound one. The Class of 1988 did, in fact, consider such a donation but rejected it in favor of the fountain mentioned in your article. Perhaps a future class will consider a project such as the creation of an appropriately landscaped sculpture garden in the space between the Ackland and Hanes buildings. Pending such donations, I would argue that "Art and other forms of creative expression" are already "readily available to everyone in the University community" who chooses to seek them out, and that what the University is able to present to its students is exceptional.

CHARLES MILLARD  
Director  
Ackland Art Museum



### Pornography enslaves women

To the editor:

One accomplishment of Women's Awareness Week was that it allowed women to voice their opinions on the way that our society has wronged them. As a man, I think it is important to be sensitive to women's issues.

One way that our campus actively promotes the exploitation of women is through the sale of pornography in the Student Stores. This material utterly degrades women, reducing them to objects of sexual pleasure. It defines the value of women in terms of "what can this do for me," and totally ignores their personhood, robbing them of all self-esteem. It promotes a narcissistic tendency in relationships, with personal fulfillment at another's expense becoming the ideal. It also puts pressure on women to measure up to the unrealistic fantasy world created by pornography in the reader's mind.

As long as pornography is sold on this campus, women attending this University will not be free. How dare we point our finger and criticize other nations for human rights violations while as a campus we tolerate and condone the exploitation and dehumaniza-

tion of 60 percent of our population?

THOMAS JACKSON  
Senior  
History

### Plan parking for tournament

To the editor:

We are writing to address a serious problem confronted by many students on this campus this past weekend: the parking problems that the finals of the State High School Basketball Tournament presented.

This past Saturday, some 20,000 fans supporting 16 different teams invaded Chapel Hill for a one-day championship round of basketball. The problems arose when these people tried to find parking spaces near the two venues, Smith Center and Carmichael Auditorium. Numerous fans parked in the lots reserved for students. At Hinton James lot, there was not a space to be found as of 4 p.m. We have heard similar reports from residents of Teague and Carmichael dorms.

Either the University or the North Carolina High School Athletic Association should have used greater foresight in this problem. Nearly two weeks ago we were bombarded with another event, the NCAA tournament. Whereas the University staffed the parking lots for

the NCAA's, in much the same manner as a regular Carolina basketball game, we witnessed maybe two or three such personnel for the high school tournament.

This is the third year in which the NCHSAA has held the finals of boys' and girls' basketball in Chapel Hill. Indeed, there is much to be gained by having the best in prep basketball play at the best college basketball facilities in the nation. It is probably one of Carolina's best recruiting tools. It would be a shame if this parking situation would begin to cause a strain in the relationship between the students of Carolina and the NCHSAA.

Our hope is that the University will address our and other students' concerns about this matter to the NCHSAA. Simply planning ahead is all that is needed to stop this great inconvenience.

PAUL TEAGUE  
Sophomore  
English/History

JANEL PUSTILNIK  
Sophomore  
Business Administration

### Letters policy

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

## Panamanian rights and interests denied

To the editor:

I must say that the student body got a little more educated Tuesday on the subject of U.S. involvement in Central America. Jurgen Buchenau's March 22 column ("Reagan's policy repeats past mistakes") was clear and to the point, that being, "Haven't we learned from history yet?" It seems with the current administration's policy on Central America that we are doomed, as a nation, to repeat ourselves. How depressing. Our children may as well read our history books; just change some names and it will be more or less the same.

But how many of you can read what the history books tell us and not be incensed by it all? Jimmy Carter (I know not many like him), despite everything else, had a conscience when he dealt with Panama in the '70s. He conceded to former President Torrijos's every demand, by returning U.S. government land to Panama through gradual steps, decreasing the number of U.S. citizens working outside of the military in Panama and setting a date for final U.S. withdrawal

from Panama. Politicians and even educated students say we gave back too much, that the Panamanians won't take care of "our" interests and that the government and the people are too unstable or distrustful.

But we've gotten away with so much in the past that it's the Panamanians who have the right to distrust us. We had set up our own little country in the heart of theirs; wouldn't that rile an American in all his dignity if it happened here? Imagine the implications of our own little democracy in their country, where we followed our own rules while disregarding theirs. Where the hell did diplomacy, common courtesy and common sense go?

We have even been known to send U.S. ambassadors to these countries without any knowledge of the native language or customs (read about Mexico). Would we accept the same? We have Japanese businessmen who study our customs and language in order to communicate with us. Immigrants who had to overcome language barriers and many other difficulties to assimilate themselves into our society

would not have gotten anywhere in this country unless they had made such efforts. Going back to the case in point, we haven't been making an effort since banana plantations were set up in Central America in the late 18th century, and we have continued this "policy" today, by playing cat and mouse with the contras and whining because Ortega didn't say "pretty please" to us when he first asked for our support.

One last note. I've been hearing that Nicaragua is becoming another Vietnam in our mental history books. Here's another one for you: we are deliberately making it another Cuba — parallel the Bay of Pigs invasion of 1962-63 to the contra movement of today. In both cases, the citizens of the attacked country did not rise up in arms to support the insurgents. Instead, they saw a clear reason behind their country's problems — us, and as Jurgen put it, our "Big Stick."

SUSAN LEE  
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