

Opinion

Question funds, not license

When the UNC Board of Governors filed suit against Franklin Street's Johnny T-Shirt for silk-screening symbols licensed by UNC on clothes without a license, the owners fought back.

Co-owner Chuck Helpingstine countersued, contending that the University is restricting free trade through its licensing program and that the program is illegitimate because UNC is a government agency and has no right being in business.

There can be no doubt that Helpingstine is in the wrong here. UNC is funded by the state, but that does not mean citizens of North Carolina "own" the University (and therefore the right to exploit its symbols for profit), any more than they own the state's highways.

Helpingstine also asserts that UNC should steer clear of business. But the University is inherently a business — it leases housing, hosts concerts and sporting events, markets its research ventures and competes to provide education. These practices are beneficial and necessary.

The University has a right to use licensing profits as it likes without having to answer to those who pay the fees, and since profit can only help the University

provide education, Helpingstine's assertion that the funds are misused is irrelevant to his case.

But while Helpingstine shouldn't question the use of the money, students should. The benefactors of the licensing fees seem somewhat hard to identify. Much of the money goes to the licensing agent and to the athletics department for scholarships.

What about the remaining money? UNC officials say it is in a fund to be used as the chancellor sees fit. Originally this was to be used for scholarships, but no scholarships have been awarded yet.

On a campus with million-dollar maintenance bills hanging over it, where the country's best professors are leaving in droves because they are underpaid, and where students in need abound, money that is misused, or unused, is intolerable.

If justice prevails, Helpingstine will be found guilty of infringing on not only the rights of this university, but of every student and alumnus. The greater triumph, however, may occur if UNC officials are forced to account for licensing fee profits, and students can see this money put to good use.

Easiest solution no answer

After two weeks of debate and confusion within the housing department, Dean of Student Affairs Donald Boulton announced his decision Tuesday to support housing's switch of Teague Residence Hall to coeducational, rather than reverse the decision and leave the dorm all-male. But the decision to go coed still makes no sense, even after prolonged discussion of the reasons behind the switch.

From the beginning, Residence Hall Association President Jimmy Randolph and Student Body President Kevin Martin could not work on the issue as they ought because housing officials kept them out of the process. Randolph's and Martin's opinions on going coed were heard only as they were on the defensive, trying to convince Boulton to reverse the decision.

The decision Boulton supports is more confusing than ever. Kicking 72 men out is a harsh enough solution; the jump to going coed doesn't follow. And housing is also allowing five of those 72 back into Teague — not exactly the clean break they were trying to make with the tradition.

Officials say they moved five back in to make the overall move appear less punitive. Now they concede that it may have been a mistake. If so, then why not reverse that decision?

This decision is also frustrating because housing refuses to put

any of the remaining 67 (except the area governor) into Carmichael or Avery dorms, which are on mid-campus next to Teague. When students rightfully challenge this decision, how will housing respond? There seems to be no satisfactory answer.

Teague is by no means a model dorm, and no one involved in this disputes that. The "pervasive Teague tradition" has been noted so often lately that it almost seems like a cliché.

But that tradition would be demolished by replacing *all* the former residents. Past problems can be eliminated by restricting the negative alumni influence, forcing Teague residents to follow the rules or kicking them out, and instilling in them a sense of pride about the dorm and the "new" traditions that housing officials, dorm government and RHA can establish.

It would have taken work, but Randolph and RHA were willing to make the effort — that's their job. If those efforts proved unsuccessful, the need for a change in Teague could be reassessed in January, before students enter the housing lottery for fall.

Reversing a decision can be difficult and embarrassing. But it would have been the right answer in this situation — not necessarily the easiest for housing officials, but the only fair answer to a complex problem.

Reader's Forum

Text assessment unfair

To the editor:

In the last issue of The Tar Heel, an ad ran which mentioned our sociology text, "Human Societies" (incorrectly referring to it as "Introduction to Macrosociology"). The ad compared our book unfavorably in terms of entertainment value to a Ludlum thriller, a Wolfe best-seller and a Fitzgerald classic, among others. That textbooks are no match in this respect should be obvious to anyone. To compare the two kinds of books is to compare apples and oranges.

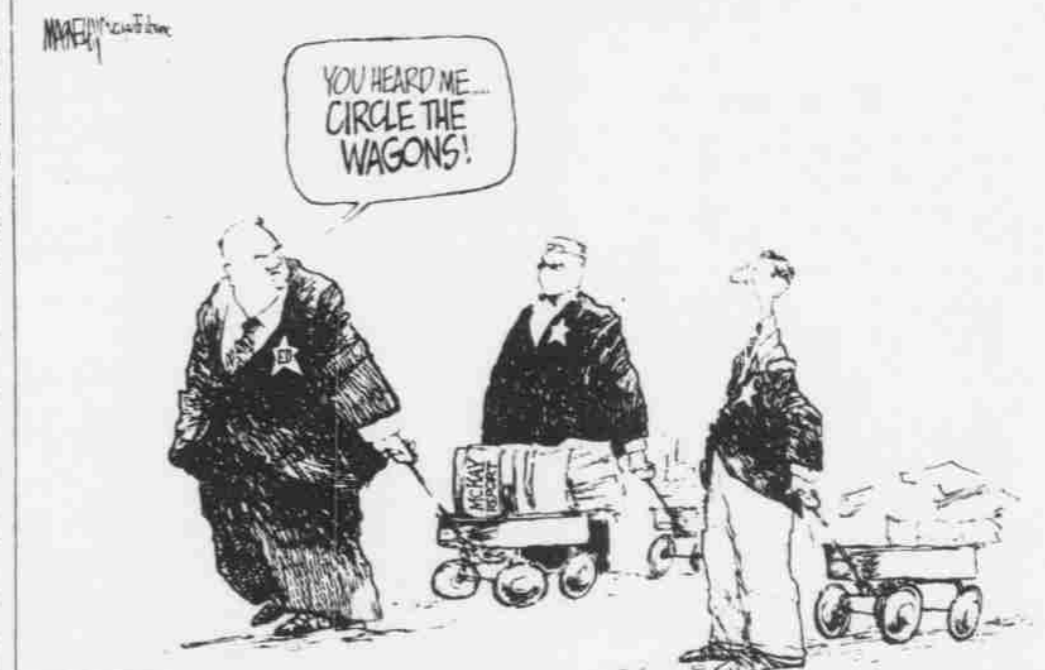
We were puzzled, however, why this advertiser singled our book out for such an inappropriate comparison. Why had he chosen it? Had he once read our book and been bored to tears? Worse yet, had he flunked some course in which our book had been assigned reading?

We decided to inquire.

No, he said, he had never read our book, nor had the person who had prepared the ad. In fact, no one in his employ had read or even seen it. How, then, had it been selected? He said it was simply picked at random. After apologizing profusely for the ad, he said he would withdraw it immediately and send The Tar Heel his own letter of explanation.

For the record, we would simply note that "Human Societies" has received very positive ratings from the majority of its student readers over many semesters, not only here at UNC but also at other colleges and universities in this country and abroad. We are quite prepared to stake the book's reputation on the judgments of the roughly half-million individuals who have read it in one or another of its five editions since 1970.

GERHARD LENSKI
Professor
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No offense intended

To the editor:

In the copy of one of two Hardback Cafe & Bookstore advertisements which ran in the May 26 Tar Heel, I mentioned by name a textbook whose title, "Introduction to Macrosociology," struck me — at the time I composed the ad — as having a sufficiently "academic ring" to it.

Although I had not read the first word of the textbook in question (indeed, it was selected for its title alone and quite at random from a stack of books spotted on a table in Davis Library), I regrettably chose to

refer to it in a context which, by implication, would seem to disparage its style, if not substance.

Further regret (and a considerable amount of embarrassment) was brought to me when I discovered that not only had I unfairly assessed the book, but that one of its authors, Dr. Gerhard Lenski, was a distinguished member of UNC's faculty.

So, my sincere apologies to the book's authors, to their colleagues, and to the University community at large, all of whom can be trusted to do a much more responsible job of research than yours truly.

GRANT KORNBERG
Co-owner
Hardback Cafe & Bookstore

Books, bombs, bankruptcy and the KGB

Week in Quotes

"I don't look forward to it. I wrote a book once and found it was quite a chore." — President Reagan on his plans to write a book countering the kiss-and-tell books of some former members of his administration. Reagan's first book was a 1965 autobiography titled, "Where's the Rest of Me."

"I'm still alive. That's what counts in a country like ours." — Beirut jeweler, speaking as he walked among pools of blood outside his shop to pick up pieces of gold bracelets, necklaces and rings. His shop was devastated by a car bomb that exploded in Christian east Beirut Monday.

"I would set up offices near here, which I will probably do. As every piece of ministry comes up for sale, I would buy it to restore it to the people it was meant for . . . I want to see the ministry restored 100 percent." — Former televangelist Jim Bakker upon his return to the Heritage USA theme park Tuesday. The ministry will come up for sale if it is liquidated in bankruptcy court.

"The president is keenly aware of the vice president's interests and the preparation for the campaign this fall . . . It's a difficult situation. It's an

unfortunate situation. It's one that obviously troubles the vice president. But in the final analysis, the only person who can make a judgment on this is the president of the United States, and the president has expressed his continuing confidence in the attorney general." — Chief of Staff Howard Baker, admitting that Attorney General Edwin Meese's legal troubles are hurting Vice President George Bush.

"If there are cameras in your room, they are probably in the shower as well. I just figured if anybody wanted to peek, let them." — Woman official with the Reagan party in Moscow, in response to other women in the party concerned about KGB agents filming them while they showered.