

The Daily Tar Heel

96th year of editorial freedom

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Students deserve a free ride

"Gee, isn't this new free bus service between North and South Campus at night a great idea?"

So says the student who discovers that she no longer needs to shell out 25 cents for a safe trip back to South Campus after a night of hitting the books in Davis Library.

But, while enjoying the free rides this semester, students should remember the favorite saying of administrators everywhere, stated most recently by Scott McClellan of Chapel Hill Transit: "There's no such thing as a free lunch."

The 25-cent fee for riding the L Route, which travels from the F-lot on Manning Drive to Boundary Street from 7 p.m. to midnight, hasn't really been eliminated; it is merely being paid by someone else.

For this semester, that "someone else" is Student Government, the Residence Hall Association, the Department of University Housing and the transportation department. But the student organizations intend to withdraw the funding after this year, in hopes that the University will accept the burden of funding the free service. But the University hasn't promised to accept that burden, leaving the future of the free shuttle service in doubt.

Providing "fare-free" service is not as simple as it sounds. Student organizations do not have enough

money to take on the full operating costs of such a service. And even if administrators wanted to swallow the costs of the service, bureaucratic barriers would still exist. According to transportation officials, some fare system must be used if the administration is to continue to receive federal funds. The fare money must come from somewhere.

Locating that somewhere is the hard part. Making all students pay transportation fees, as Duke University does to fund its free shuttle system, is a possibility. However, students who don't ride the bus would pay the same as frequent users. Although such a system could create resentment, it's an option that deserves to be considered — North Campus residents could view the fees as payment for the luxury of living so close to their classroom buildings.

Expecting the transportation officials to fund the system out of the goodness of their hearts is as unrealistic as it is unfair; the department would have to make up the difference by increasing rates for all services.

Students deserve a free ride between North and South Campus, especially during late-night and early-morning hours. Students and administrators should start planning next year's free shuttle service now. Otherwise, the free ride will be over just when students start depending on it. — Jean Lutes

Don't rush into Greek life

"Is the Greek system right for me?" Hundreds of UNC students ask themselves the question at the beginning of each school year. Many undoubtedly make their decision without a true understanding of fraternities and sororities and their role in the University community.

It is easy for a freshman in particular to form a misconception of social life at UNC. A student in an unfamiliar and seemingly threatening environment naturally seeks security, and the Greek system may appear to be the solution. But these students should avoid making a hasty decision. New students owe it to themselves to first explore the other social outlets this University offers.

At many schools, the Greek system is so dominant that there are few social opportunities for non-Greeks. On these campuses, fraternities and sororities are too influential. Students either join the system or spend four years outside the mainstream of campus social life.

But this is not the case at UNC. While the Greek system is a substantial force, its influence is far from overbearing. Less than one-fourth of the student body is affiliated with social fraternities and sororities. Life does

exist outside the Greek system. Students here do have a choice.

For non-Greeks, numerous social outlets are available. Residence halls and many other organizations frequently sponsor parties and serve as an excellent means to meet people and find a "niche" at Carolina. Several service fraternities, usually co-ed, attract a significant percentage of students. All-campus and court parties, arguably the center of UNC social life, are open to all. And Chapel Hill nightlife, while admittedly lacking variety, still has a lot to offer.

The Greek system here has a distinct position in the University community. It is large enough to provide social opportunities for all students, yet small enough so that it does not threaten the social independence of the rest of the student body. This balance must be upheld if we are to continue to benefit from the relationship.

The Greek system at UNC can be a supplement to your years at Carolina. If you decide it's not for you, however, don't dismay. The social opportunities will still be there. We should feel fortunate that UNC is able to sustain such a balance between its Greek and non-Greek communities. — Louis Bissette

the last word

I know a dirty combination of three letters. It conjures up terrible images; it makes my stomach jump and my breath come a little faster. The acronym I'm speaking of is "FTR."

FTR means "For The Record." An FTR means someone at The Daily Tar Heel has goofed. When that happens, a correction must be run to set the record straight — hence the name.

On the editorial page, which is the responsibility of myself and the other associate editor, Laura Pearlman, FTRs run under the headline "We Goofed." But we still refer to them in jargon as FTRs. Mistakes. Screw-ups. I hate them.

I know I speak for all the editors and writers when I say we hate to make mistakes. It's terribly embarrassing to screw up before an entire campus — 20,000 times. In print.

It also undermines our credibility, which is already suspect because we're student journalists. But student journalists or not, we want people to be able to say, "It has to be true — I read it in my school newspaper."

This is a lofty goal, and to achieve it we have to set high standards. Our reporters get three mistakes at the most before they're fired; and even one mistake, if it is careless, sloppy or serious, can spell the end of the DTH line for a budding journalist.

Like all newspapers, we also have an entire portion of our staff — the copy editors — devoted to proofreading all stories. Our news editors are in charge of

the copy editors, who read every story several times, looking for grammar and spelling mistakes and figuring out things that simply don't make sense. Before the copy editors see a story, it has already been edited several times by a senior member of the staff — a desk editor or an assistant desk editor.

Despite this brigade of nitpickers, mistakes do slip through. Sometimes big, stupid, ugly-looking mistakes slip through. There could even be a typo in this column — do you see one? Rest assured, we also see it by now. The moment an editor picks up a crisp new DTH and starts scanning it, perhaps with satisfaction at a job well-done, all the lurking errors leap out. The story could be worthy of a Pulitzer prize, with a captivating opening paragraph and a boatload of valuable information, but all we'll see is the sentence fragment flashing in neon lights across the page.

On Friday, we made one of the worst mistakes on the back page I've ever seen. We ran an editorial discussing the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution, but it was actually the 201st. Needless to say, we feel awfully silly for not catching such an obvious mistake.

In the journalism school, professors subtract 50 points from any story with a misspelled name. At the DTH, we run a correction. Given a choice between the F and the FTR, I'll take the F every time. But, of course, we have no choice — if we did, we'd opt for perfection every time, instead of just striving for it. — Matt Bivens

Campaign '88: how about some specifics?

Stuart Hathaway

I Spy

In November, registered voters will go to the polls to elect the next president of the United States. Republican George Bush and Democrat Michael Dukakis are the major candidates for the office, and each now has close to 50 days to convince the American public that he should be the next occupant of the White House.

I have followed both campaigns fairly closely, and I often get frustrated at the ridiculous rhetoric both parties use when dealing with the "American people."

My grievances with the campaigns do not follow from the gaffes or misstatements both candidates may utter from time to time, although some subconscious meaning may lie behind them, but rather from their obvious and intentional inconsistencies, half-truths and superfluous frothings.

My first complaint is easily illustrated by each party at their respective conventions. Each party apparently assumes that it has the morality market cornered, and that the other is inherently evil and wrong and generally consigned to hell. At the Democratic Convention, the Reagan-Bush administration couldn't do a thing right. The only person with the respect to admit the Reagan-Bush administration did a few good things was — of all people — Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.).

On the Republican end, Bush came out of the convention firing both barrels at Dukakis and the Democrats, blaming them for all the problems of the nation. Yet at the same convention, the Republicans quoted Democratic presidents John F.

Kennedy, Harry S. Truman and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Come on, guys! How can you condemn those "liberal Democrats" on one hand and support them with the other?

Half-truths have been popular in this campaign, particularly among the Republicans. Does George Bush really believe that Mike Dukakis is not patriotic? That Dukakis does not love this country, the same country Dukakis defended in Korea? The Pledge of Allegiance "issue" has nothing, nothing to do with the presidential race. The bill Dukakis vetoed in Massachusetts was unconstitutional; the Supreme Courts of Massachusetts and of the United States said so. Fully knowing this, Bush beat the drums of nationalism for weeks, drowning out the truth. Bush's campaign has since admitted that Dukakis did the right thing in vetoing the bill.

The Democrats must share some of the blame for this issue-less campaign. Dukakis has proposed very little in terms of concrete programs, and trusts that voters will give him the benefit of the doubt. More specifics — like his student aid proposal — and less generalizations should be the first order of business for the Dukakis campaign.

Bush, however, needs to find himself. If he has compromised his true beliefs as vice president for the last eight years, then

let's hear what he wants to do. After supporting the president who wanted to eliminate the Department of Education, Bush now says he wants to be known as the "education president." Whoopie-doo! Will the real George Bush please stand up!

Bush's running mate, Sen. Dan Quayle (R-Ind.), said recently that Dukakis' idea of an agricultural policy was flowers growing in Harvard Yard. And what's Bush's idea of a policy? Flowers growing in the meadows of Yale? This stuff is disgusting. Both presidential candidates attended premier universities. Is there something wrong with this?

Today's presidential campaigns are nothing like the first campaigns this country saw; they're much more tame. For example, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams had a particularly nasty campaign in 1800. "Wife-beater, adulterer, drunkard, gambler, liar, spy and murderer" were popular campaign issues.

Today, the candidates themselves engage, to a lesser degree, in the same irrelevant and dirty activities as the mudslingers 200 years ago. Bush and Dukakis are the leaders of their parties, candidates for the nation's highest office and symbols of the American democratic ideal. They set the level of the debate, the issues of the campaign and the degree of their country's integrity. We can and should demand that from them. Let's all do a better job at it.

Stuart Hathaway is a junior political science and history major from Charlotte.

Readers' Forum

Streaker photo hypocritical

To the editor:

Just exactly what kind of a paper is this, anyway? Would you please make up your mind about which side of the fence you wish to be on? I find it astonishing that the Daily Tar Heel could print an editorial condemning the football mikeman for obscenity and vulgarity ("Don't be crass; show some class") and then turn right around and print a photograph of the Lewis streakers on the front page of the Sept. 15 issue ("Running Bared").

The editorial that Matt Bivens wrote for the Sept. 12 issue of the DTH put the mikeman down and implied that he was embarrassing UNC. Anyone who might have been offended by what he was saying probably was not paying attention anyway — it is not that hard to tune a voice out of your head. But how can a person ignore a vulgar, obscene photograph taking up roughly one-fourth of the front page? I think the DTH must surely be confused about where it stands on obscene issues. The editorial about the mikeman followed by the photograph of the streakers reminds me of George Markham's column on hypocrisy.

ANDREW BLANTON
 Freshman
 Applied Science

Don't invite killers to UNC

To the editor:

With great disappointment I read that UNC's placement office has once again invited the CIA to campus to interview



UNC students for careers in terrorism and assassination, with the opportunities to meet world-famous drug dealers and to interfere in the internal affairs of foreign countries.

Dean of Students Frederic Schroeder refers to the right of the CIA to recruit on campus. He says it is not his place to "differentiate between which is a good organization and a bad organization." We are not talking about rights, we are talking about invitations — in making a selection and offering an invitation to the CIA, the placement office certainly is using some differentiation procedure. What are their standards for offering an invitation? Does an organization that wants to recruit Carolina students to perform criminal acts deserve an invitation to campus?

Those that believe the CIA is just another government agency, such as Health and Human Services, are woefully out of touch with reality. The abuses of the CIA have been

proven to be standard operating procedure. Congress and some past U.S. presidents have made attempts to bring the CIA back within the bounds of international law and ethical behavior, and, as the last eight years have evidenced, they have failed miserably.

Some have justified bringing the CIA to campus on the grounds that, if the CIA hired some good Carolina students they would be a better organization. What a naive view. Do they really think that a few rotten Yankee apples spoiled the CIA barrel? I think the protests of the informed and caring UNC students against CIA recruitment on campus will go further toward reforming the agency. Maybe if the CIA was offered fewer invitations they could stay home and reflect on the cause of their unpopularity.

DIANA McDUFFEE
 Director
 Social Sciences
 Data Library

Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticisms. When writing letters to the editor, please, follow these guidelines:

- All letters must be signed by the author(s), with a limit of two signatures per letter.
- Students should include name, year in school, major, phone number and hometown. Other members of the University community should include similar information.
- All letters must be typed and double-spaced, for ease of editing.
- Place letters in the box marked "Letters to the Editor" outside the DTH office in the Student Union.
- The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.

The Rapture, Hatcher, hardships and crime

Week in Quotes

"Every prediction we made 10 years ago has come into being. We're not going to get serious about the war on drugs until we get serious about dealing with our number one addicting drug." — Rep. Coy Privette, a Republican from Knapolis, on the state policy of allowing liquor to be bought by the drink.

"A rising tide does not lift a boat with holes. If we are going to keep from creating an alienated underclass, we have to repair those holes." — George Autry, president of the Chapel Hill-based employment policy research firm MDC Inc., describing the unemployment situation.

"Ya know, this is a very weird night. It could go either way." — Arlo Guthrie to a sold-out crowd at the Carboro ArtsCenter.

"The old saying, 'They don't rebuild, they reload,' was pretty obvious. But our young guys hung in there and fought 'em." — Football coach Mack Brown on UNC's 28-0 loss to Oklahoma.

"East Franklin Street has traditionally been considered the 'golden block,' and there has been a preconception that all Franklin Street merchants are millionaires." — Mark Fisher, secretary of the Downtown Chapel Hill Association and owner of Small World Travel.

"It's getting more attention than it deserves." — Father Joseph Vetter, director of communications for the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, on "The Last Temptation of Christ."

"After about 7 p.m., we're going to start paying close attention to who's here and who's not. After all, there are only a few spaces left." — Chris Bowman, an agitated junior waiting in line for a hardship parking permit.

"Increasing tuition is a thought the chancellor has had, but he is aware that this is not a wealthy state." — Dennis O'Connor, acting provost, on Paul Hardin's proposal to increase tuition.

"I'm a pastor of one of the most conservative churches in Chapel Hill. No one that I know of takes it seriously." — Jim Abraham, pastor of the Chapel Hill Bible Church, on Rapture '88.

"I told them that I support Eddie in his decision because I think he had legitimate reasons for not turning himself in." — Student activist Dale McKinley on his

statements before the grand jury investigating the disappearance of Eddie Hatcher. Hatcher is accused, along with Timothy Jacobs, of holding a Lumberton newspaper staff hostage. He disappeared Aug. 31, the day his bond was revoked.

"He never had that kind of guts. He wouldn't kill a fly or a mosquito." — Justine Bush, on her husband James Henry Bush Jr., who has been arrested in Liberia for treason.

"A lot of times I don't have cash on me to buy snacks with." — David Kessel, a freshman distraught over the removal of the meal card service from the Pit Stop.

"Our obligation is to reserve space for liberal studies (in the larger universities). It can be done, and it should be done." — Darryl Gless, associate dean of General College and organizer of the education symposium scheduled for Sept. 16-18.

"It makes no sense not to warn people. I'm not letting the students run into any danger. To me that's defeating the purpose of security." — Sgt. Rodney Carter of University police on the need to inform students about campus crime.

Compiled by associate editor Laura Pearlman.