

The Daily Tar Heel

96th year of editorial freedom

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A tuition hike is premature

Should the University raise its tuition?

Sure, it's very low. At \$252 each semester for in-state students and \$2,229 for out-of-state students, UNC is one of the best buys around. And there's no denying the University needs money for faculty salaries, building projects, department budgets and a slew of other worthy causes.

But — and this is key — raising tuition does not guarantee more money for Chapel Hill.

board opinion

excuse. Any accountability or worries the legislators might have over whether a tuition increase is justified will be alleviated because Hardin — the man at the scene — says it is.

Hardin says he would like 20 percent of the extra tuition money set aside for student financial aid and much of the rest for faculty salaries. But again, while he can make recommendations, these are not his decisions to make; they're the General Assembly's.

It could backfire

Even if the General Assembly does just what Hardin asks — that is, raises tuition and changes the appropriations system so that the money flows directly to the University — the students could still be shafted. The folks in Raleigh must approve the University's budget each year, and it's highly possible that they could cut it to pieces, under the argument that the University can make up the difference with the new-found tuition money. And who among the assembly do you think would stand up and defend the University's right to a lion's share of taxes?

This scenario would leave the University right back where it started, with no money for faculty salaries or building projects. The only difference would be that student tuition would indirectly be paving I-40 instead of new campus parking lots.

There's no denying the University needs money. But Hardin needs to make sure he's not playing the shell game with the General Assembly before talking about raising tuition. The appropriations system should be reformed so Chapel Hill gets a return on its students' tuition, and legislators should be informed on the University's need for money so they don't castrate the school's budget. These two projects ought to take precedence over raising tuition.

Tuition goes to the state

All tuition money goes to the state; it is not channeled straight to the University. So, under the current system, raising tuition would just bring more money into the coffers of the N.C. General Assembly. Then, the legislators would decide whether to give it back to the University or to allocate it to something else.

Chancellor Paul Hardin has said he would like to see tuition raised. Although the General Assembly sets the University's tuition rates, Hardin's recommendations should have a serious impact on any legislative decision-making.

When speaking of tuition hikes, Hardin is quick to add that the General Assembly should change its appropriations system first. It makes sense that money raised from a tuition hike should come back to the University, not go to build a road somewhere.

Hardin is right on this count. Unfortunately, while the folks at the General Assembly may listen to his recommendations, they aren't likely to jump up and restructure their budget process on Hardin's say-so.

But they are likely to raise tuition, reforms or no, if they get a good

Launch more space research

Barring any further delay, the space shuttle Discovery will debut tomorrow at 9:59 a.m. The new shuttle, replete with more than 100 technological innovations, will launch after a two-year layoff. The moratorium was implemented after the Jan. 28, 1986 Challenger disaster in which all seven crew members were killed. Scientists whose research in outer space was all but eliminated as a result of the accident are thrilled about the potential for future research.

Unfortunately, the launch has not generated much excitement among government officials or the American public — a statement which speaks volumes about the future of space exploration.

In spite of the great cost and importance of restarting the launch program, NASA only received \$900 million of a requested \$967 million from Congress. After adjusting for inflation, this is less money than the agency received last year, when the organization didn't need funds to launch a shuttle. This does not bode well for a nation wishing to reclaim its position of importance in the space race.

A major problem thus far has been the lack of a firm vision for the U.S. effort. As space historian Walter McDougall said, "the U.S. has not had a real debate over what its goals ought to be in space ever since the moon program."

The country's efforts now are focused on the \$25 billion manned space center, which, at present funding levels, will be operational by the year 2005. Leonard Fisk, associate administrator for NASA, feels that the new station will have an enormous impact upon our view of the universe. "The revolution that (the space station) will cause . . . will rival the one that occurred when Copernicus showed that the Earth was not the center of

the universe." Also being planned is a manned flight to Mars and the construction of solid-fuel rocket boosters, to decrease the reliance on the shuttle to launch key satellites.

However, the main obstacle, as always, is apathy and money. While other nations such as Japan, France, Israel and the Soviet Union are expanding their role in space exploration, the United States is standing still at best.

In addition, a recent poll indicated that three-fourths of those surveyed feel that NASA funding should either remain at the same level or be further decreased. Neither government officials nor the general public view space funding as a crucial issue; those surveyed ranked it behind issues such as crime and education in importance.

Further complicating matters is the presidential campaign. Neither candidate has introduced a compelling program for outer space, and Congress has tied all funding to the wishes of the new president, whomever he may be. For the record, the Republican platform calls for the space station, an expanded shuttle program and a new rocket fleet. Typically, Dukakis is vague about his intentions. After opposing the space station for months, he recently reversed his position and now calls the station "one of our top priorities."

Exploring space is important for reasons besides the national pride that comes from successful interplanetary voyages. Space research provides scientists with many clues as to how our planet works. This information will be increasingly vital as we seek answers to the environmental problems of the 21st century and beyond.

The next president must have the vision and foresight to expand rather than limit our role in the exploration of the truly last frontier. — Dave Hall

The life of a freshman in an X-wing fighter

Ian Williams
 Wednesday's Child

Dear Mom, Well here I am in my fourth week at Carolina and I finally have the wherewithal to write home, but don't think it's been easy, because I feel like I've been mentally treading water in a vat of Mrs. Butterworth for the last month. I arrived here clueless as the wind, and it's taken me so long to figure out what stuff like "cross-listed prerequisite" and "prorated refund" means that I haven't been able to figure out how to get my dorm mailbox open.

When Dad and I pulled up in front of my dorm on the day I moved in, my mouth dropped open. It's called Hinton James, and it sort of looks like the building where they stored all the bodies in the movie "Coma." Architecturally speaking, it can best be compared to an X-wing fighter with ten floors, built during the late '60s a testament to how ugly student housing can be and still have running water. Apparently it's named after the first student ever here, a dude that walked here from Wilmington, so I guess you have to credit Student Housing for providing a realistic almost-like-you-were-there recreation of his light-year walk to class.

Inside, it's not bad — if you had an unlimited meal card and the ability to subsist on Ding-Dongs, you could probably live there for the rest of your life without ever leaving. There's a snack bar on the ground floor that specializes in student impulse, so they have every candy bar, food coloring, and polysorbate chemical known to man. There's a law here I can't figure out that says that by living in the dorm, we have to have a meal card with a bunch of money paid on it whether we like the food service or not — you also need a little card to Xerox anything, so I guess pretty soon there'll be a mandatory Xerox meal plan too.

The bathrooms in my suite are okay, as long as you're not an incontinent toilet paper user. When there is toilet paper, it's locked onto this thing called the Sav-Haf holder, a dispenser invented by a dyslexic engineer who woke up in the middle of the night with the vision that if you couldn't get any toilet paper off the roll, you would certainly be saving a lot of it. The toilets

are, of course, from our friends at Quiet-Flush II — a toilet so loud that I'm sure it sets off the seismograph over in Raleigh — personally, I'd love to hear what the Quiet-Flush II sounded like.

Thomas Andrew Smith is my roommate, and he is about as fascinating as his charming moniker. He's a sophomore, and he didn't even show up until the first actual school night; around eleven o'clock he bashed through the door, plopped down an industrial-size fan and threw a Remington 12-gauge shotgun on the bed. He took a look at my poster of Beethoven and said, "Mmmph."

That began one of the most special and rewarding relationships I've ever enjoyed. Here are a few choice examples of our male bonding:

"So, you're from Edenton . . ."
 "Mmmph."
 "You like hunting, huh?"
 "Ughh."
 "You use Crest! Wow, so do I!"
 "Glurb"

From four weeks of close psychological inspection, the only brain waves that I can pick up from Thomas is that his sole hobbies in life are reading back issues of Guns and Ammo, and seeing how long he can go on one pair of socks. Perhaps I needn't mention that the room doesn't exactly smell like a stroll through a spring garden, but as long as the Lysol doesn't run out I don't think we're breaking too many health codes.

Actually, Thomas is a breath of fresh air compared to my suitemates, who I think go out of their way to make sure I have the Southern Experience. The guys next door chew amazing amounts of tobacco, which in itself doesn't bother me, but Mom I swear to God, one of them has saved every bit of spittle he's created since mid-August. His oral refuse now fills three two-liter bottles, which stand proudly on his shelf illuminated by the fluorescent light

so that the whole room is bathed in a brown aura. He also gets drunk every weekend on Ol' Grandad and sings the "Go Bananas" cheer at the top of his voice until the RA can't stand it anymore. To be fair, they're really nice guys, but they make California seem like it's on another planet.

Classes here are great; we talk about Gregorian chants in Music class, and orgasm in Psychology — I try to slice open a sorority chick in Fencing, and then paint her gentle visage in Art class — it beats the hell out of the trigonometry bile I had to swim through in high school.

Academically I think I'm fine, but sometimes it's hard to tell when I'm sitting in an auditorium where I can barely see my professor. There are more people in my astronomy class than were in my entire high school graduating class, and sometimes I feel like my social security number is going to be the only thing that sets me apart from all these other kids. Which is basically the only real problem I have here; I'm an out-of-stater who came here not knowing a single soul, and now I watch my classmates giggle and scream about the things they did on the weekend with all their friends. Although I've met so many people, I haven't found my niche yet, so I wander the Pit alone and sit by myself in the back of the dining hall. Carolina is an amazing school with flowing fields of grass and flowers, huge stately trees set against 18th century towers, and gorgeous sunsets that set the campus awash in a rich orange glow, but if I don't find some friends soon the medics will find me glossy-eyed on the Quiet-Flush II.

But don't worry, Mom — I'm still happy and doing the best I can out here away from the nest. I won't tell you what time I went to bed last night, but rest assured that I'm not doing anything that you guys probably didn't do when you had my hormone level. I love you (please send money!), Ian.

Ian Williams is a senior music and psychology major from Los Angeles who is feeling much better, thank you.

Readers' Forum

Light way to improvement

To the editor:

Exiting the parking area of the Smith Center after concerts is rapid because of the well-organized system of monitors and police officers that orchestrate a smooth flow of traffic up to and on Manning Drive.

From there, motorists heading north are at the mercy of traffic lights that answer only to the great god of transportation planning. Lights with three cycle delays stop traffic at Columbia Street where it crosses Raleigh Road and Cameron Ave. Then come the grand masters of delay, Franklin and Rosemary Streets.

The lights at these intersections are set so that traffic finally crossing Franklin after four delays will have to stop at Rosemary Street. This means that only a certain number of cars can cross, determined more by space available than by traffic flow.

If you have ever driven down Columbia Street, you will agree that each of these lights have extremely long cycles, even if no cars are crossing.

On activity nights, why can't these intersections be manned by officers for the hour necessary to direct traffic smoothly from our city? If your objection is cost, weigh officer cost against the energy cost of cars or buses bogged down in unmoving traffic.

Lastly, these intersections are a continual hardship for every motorist commuting to work as well as those attending football games and Smith Center events. Why can't lights be cycled differently at different



times of the day? At hours where northbound or southbound traffic is heavy, the cycles should be timed to permit the maximum number of cars to flow smoothly.

These are solutions that can be implemented now, at no or little cost to the city.

ED TOSTANOSKI
 Health Sciences Library

Just one bad apple

To the editor:

Daniel Conover, in his article "Saving the world or making a glorified beer run" says that we should listen to his views because "about seven years ago, (he) too was a campus

liberal." I, however, find his conclusions that "radicals don't go to Disneyworld. They go to a bar," and that these groups are ultimately led by "screaming blue wierdos," to be anything but insightful, and downright ridiculous. These absurd generalities derail any point which the author intended to make.

I have just transferred here, and I am not completely familiar with the actions of Dale McKinley. Yet, when I do judge McKinley, it will be based upon his own actions, not on those of some group that I have come into contact with in the past. Does Conover honestly believe that we should condemn all student radical groups because some guy at Appalachian State almost refused to pick up his

beer tab in 1982? I absolutely agree that the actions of the Students for Nuclear Arms Awareness group at Appalachian, as Conover has stated them, are a disgrace. I found the story of the unconcerned, self-interest motivated marchers, especially their use of collected funds as beer money, to be very tragic. Yet equally tragic is the fact that the author has over-generalized the actions of this particular group to be those of all "radical" groups.

Please try to judge people by their own actions, not on the actions of those that you associate them with.

JON LOHMAN
 Junior
 Psychology

Honor Court trial threatens student rights

Daniel Foster
 Guest Writer

On Thursday, Sept. 29, the UNC Honor Court will charge several undergraduate members of the CIA Action Committee with " . . . disruption of legitimate university activities." Because this is a serious charge that can result in expulsion, the University must not be permitted to hide these proceedings from public scrutiny.

The issue here is not whether you agree or disagree with the Action Committee's method, or, for that matter, whether you see the CIA as a terrorist organization. What is at issue here is whether the University can be permitted to use an ambiguous, open-ended regulation to sanction students who participate in an act of conscience. Based upon moral conviction, these students work to prevent what they perceive as massive crimes against humanity. By employing this obscure and open-ended regulation, the University can expel any student it dislikes or disagrees with. This is precisely what could happen this Thursday. The University has found a means to silence these students by threatening to cut short their tenure here at UNC. The evil of this policy is self-evident.

The University's intention, however, is

much more insidious. By bringing charges that can result in expulsion, the University is not only attempting to silence the CIAAC's voice of moral indignation, but it is also seeking to intimidate any student who may entertain the idea of having a conscience. Thus any and all who find it necessary to step outside of the tight constraints of social structures to reveal the abuses that grow like a cancer within the system could find themselves deviously forced into doing only those things approved by the University if they wish to graduate.

Thus, we have revealed UNC's brand of democracy: "You are free to do anything; if that anything is on the University's approved list." Having a conscience is clearly not approved. Therefore, students are not permitted to act against the cancer of CIA atrocities that is blighting the face of the Third World. The University is not sanctioning these students because it finds their actions

disruptive. Rather, it is bringing these students before Honor Court to make them examples to the rest of us so that we will be coerced into non-involvement. The administration desires complacent students who are deaf to the human suffering our government is causing in the world. It is time the University understood that intimidation will not silence men and women with consciences, nor will coercion prevent the student body from resisting illegitimate action against its members.

The student body should take a clear stand against the administration on this issue and attend the Honor Court hearing Thursday. This would force the University to hold public hearings and let them know that we will be neither intimidated nor coerced. It is time that the student body recognized its identity of interests with their fellow students against the administration and supported Dale and the Action Committee Five against this illegitimate political trial. This court proceeding can only injure the entire student body, and thus, can only be stopped by the unified action of the student body this Thursday.

Daniel Foster is a graduate student in political science from Jamestown, N.Y.