The Daily Tar Heel

96th year of editorial freedom

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What's missing in this picture

board opinion

The newly established town-gown committee, which is supposed to help improve relations between the town of Chapel Hill and the University, already seems to be straying from its mission. Chapel Hill Mayor Jonathan Howes and UNC Chancellor Paul Hardin, who have chosen the members of the committee, have refused to allow representation to one of the most significant and unique constituencies: students.

Among the membership of the committee, scheduled to meet for the first time this month, the University has three representatives. The five remaining members represent other interests, from North Carolina Memorial Hospital to the town of Carrboro.

By not including students, Hardin and Howes have shown an insensitivity to the committee's goal, that is, improving town-gown relations. How can a group charged with such a mission ignore the concerns of students, who link the campus and the town and who admittedly are one of the most common sources of University-town friction?

And the fear that creating a student position would force Hardin and Howes into creating faculty and staff positions is unfounded. The precedent for treating the student body as a separate and unique entity has already been established; consider the student body president's status as an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees, or even the more recent appointment of a student as a liaison to the town council. No parallel faculty positions exist.

Finally, the most convincing argument may be that even the most radical student could, quite frankly, do little harm on this purely advisory committee. The group's utter lack of authority signals its intent to be a symbol of communication, visible evidence of the town and the University's willingness to work together. Freezing students out of this group could give people the mistaken idea that students are not interested in improving relations. Promoting such a perception could only increase bad feelings between the town and the campus.

Without a student position, the committee stands to lose the support of the largest population segment of both the town and the campus. Administrators, students and town residents who agree should let Chancellor Hardin and Mayor Howes know how they feel. It's not too late to add a student to this committee.

No admission to late-nighters

Students may lose the few remaining parking spots available to them on North Campus, as well as free parking after hours, if the chancellor's ad hoc committee on parking gets its wish. But student government has given the chancellor another proposal — one that sounds more fair and well-researched than the committee's.

The committee proposed taking 350 North Campus parking places away from students and giving them to faculty and staff members. Student government members did some digging and found some major problems with this proposal and have submitted their own counterproposal to the chancellor.

The catch with taking 350 spots from students, according to numbers given to student government, is that there aren't that many spaces allocated to students on North and Mid Campus together — including handicapped and hardship permits. So even if the administration took away all the student spaces, more spaces would have to come from another group's allocation. Even the Department of Transportation and Parking Services agreed no more than 200 student spaces could be reassigned.

Also, the committee recommended that student permits be issued for the new P3 lot at the airport. No, not P lot — which is somewhere near outer Uganda — but P3, which is even farther away. The committee assured students the lot will be well-lit, with frequent shuttle service.

If so, would it not be suitable for faculty and staff as well as students? The student government counterproposal recommended the 500 P3 spaces be proportionately divided among faculty, staff and students.

One of the most surprising and unreasonable requests in the committee's proposal was the suggestion students (but not faculty and staff members) be charged $2 for parking in the central campus lots at night.

No one should have to walk from the library to the Bell Tower or Rams Head lot at midnight when there's a half-empty lot just around the corner of Davis. The student proposal suggests that gates on lots at Carroll, Hill and Bynum halls be left down.

Officials need to raise additional revenue, but endangering students who want to use the libraries or any other University facilities after 5 p.m. is neither fair nor smart.

Making it expensive or dangerous for students to come to campus by making them park a quarter- or even a half-mile away does nothing to further the educational process. It just makes the walk longer and more frightening. **— Sandy Dimsdale**

Chained to a different seat

Every year, the University administration makes decisions and implements policies that seem to be bad news for students, whether they're watching their parking places disappear or realizing their poor seating situation for basketball games.

Translating the resulting anger and concern into action is the most productive response. For those too squeamish to chain themselves to a Dean Dome Lazy Boy or hold a sit-in on a North Campus parking space, vying for a seat on Student Congress is always an option.

Running for congress is much easier than it sounds, as several congressional districts usually go begging for a few good students to join the race. Thursday is the deadline for petitions, yet few seats have more than one candidate in the running, and many don't even have one interested student bidding for office.

Consider last year's election. Twenty-five candidates competed for 29 spaces on the congress. Seven seats were won by write-in candidates (one student claimed victory with a total of two votes) and 10 seats were won by uncontested candidates.

This year seems to be generating even less interest, as seven of the nine graduate districts have no candidates, and the off-campus undergraduate districts continue their history of little or no active interest in student elections. Unless a surge of petitions comes into the Student Government office today or Thursday, the congress will once again face a difficult year with empty seats.

Given this level of student participation in self-government, it's no wonder the administration sometimes seems to ignore student demands. Empty offices in congress and low voter turn-out tell University administrators one thing: students don't care.

Students interested in running for congress should go to the student government office, Suite C, Union, where the Elections Board has petitions and campaign information. Anyone who has ever had a desire to make a difference can do no less. **— David Starnes**

Caesar to Cher — it's downhill all the way

Ian Williams
Wednesday's Child

Our fine friends over at The Catalyst ran an issue last semester that parodied all the columnists here, making fun of the styles that we all seem to have fallen into — Dave Rowell's roommate pees on poor Dave's head, McCuskey has a religious experience at a Putt-Putt in Albuquerque, and I get portrayed as a rambling verbal sociopath with a penchant for lists and an almost neurotic fetish for the songs and ways of the 1970s.

But before that particular back-issue of The Catalyst found its ultimate destination holding aloft some Sergei the Ferret poop in the southwest corner of his cage, I wondered for a minute. Could it be that I rely too much on lists and bold type to prove my shallow thoughts? Is my childish yen for the '70s just further proof that I need some serious counseling? Thus I decided that this column will have no bold type, lists, or thoughts about the '70s.

In fact, upon further reflection, I decided not only did I not have a fetish for the '70s, but that it had to be one of the worst decades in written history, both for me and for society at large. And even worse, I hear, is that it's coming back; "Spy" magazine recently devoted an entire issue to the decade, and apparently those fantasy-barf styles from 15 years ago are the next spoke on the great goofy cycle of fashion. It's time someone put his foot down! How much of this nostalgia crapola are we willing to take?

Historically speaking, these '70s were a travesty compared to other centuries' '70s. Think about 70 B.C., when Julius Caesar conquered much of Europe to extend the Roman influence deep into the heart of our ancestors. How does that compare with the decade that spawned "Hello, Larry"? In A.D. 75, the Gospel According to St. Luke said, "Give, and it will be given; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lot." In A.D. 1975, Jimmie Walker said "DY-NO-MITE!!!!"

Oh God, I feel it coming on . . . .

A.D. 770s — Yeah! Constantine V starts a Dark Ages furor by prohibiting image-worship, while Charlemagne kicks *everyone's* ass up and down Europe. Hot on the shelf is Bede's "Ecclesiastical History of England" and, for the slightly less scholarly, the action-packed Geatish Harlequin romance "Beowulf." How's *that* for a decade!

The 1070s — Exactly 900 years before Lipps, Inc. storms up the charts with "Funkytown," William the Conqueror storms up the coast of Great Britain to defeat all of the native forces and thus changes the course of English history forever.

The 1670s — The hot gossip around town is that pesky plague and how nice it's been since the Great Fire of London basically cleaned house. In everyone's backpack: Milton's charming novel "Paradise Lost," and Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" (Cliff's Notes not available for another 300 years.)

The 1770s — In 1976, Sonny and Cher grabbed headlines by having a show where Cher continually made her ex-husband Sonny fall into a pit onstage — in 1776, our Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence. Chemist Priestley discovered oxygen, Hume philosophized, and Gibbon wrote a little ditty called "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." In 1770, a baby named Ludwig van Beethoven was born. In 1970, a baby named Debbie Gibson was born.

The 1870s — Yowza! The West is still wild, and so's books like "Tom Sawyer" and "The Brothers Karamazov" — Darwin's heatin' up the airwaves with his "Descent of Man" and the Victorian society is doing everything they can to stop Sex Man Sigmund from proliferating his filth. The Romantic painters have evolved into a new form called Impressionism, creating pictures that explode with vibrant dots of color.

The 1970s — And then came our seventies, the faded Polaroids of us on swingsets, Dad with huge sideburns creeping down his face, playing Gnip-Gnop on the shag carpet . . . we can't help it, but these years have shaped all of us college kids into most of what we are today. So don't be bashful — let all of these horrible things out of your system! Pet rocks! Wide ties! Disco! Platform shoes! "I'm okay — You're okay!" Bell bottoms! "Shadow Dancing!" Leisure suits!! Auuuiiggghhh!!!

. . . Feeling like a stray cow-doggie amongst the hordes of diseased cattle waiting in the measles shot line yesterday, I awaited my redemption in front of Sylvie, the self-proclaimed Death Nurse of Sarcasm.

"Sit yourself down, Red," she said, "Now roll up the sleeve on that big strong ol' arm of yours."

"Urp."

"Let's see, Williams — wait, aren't you the boy that always writes about them songs of the seventies in the Tar Heel?"

"Yeah, I guess so."

"So what'cha going to write about this week, Wednesday's Boy?"

Hmmmmmm, I thought.

Ian Williams, music and psychology major from Los Angeles, sends a hearty "just kidding" to the fine folks at The Catalyst.

Readers' Forum

WFUN isn't fun for all

To the editor:

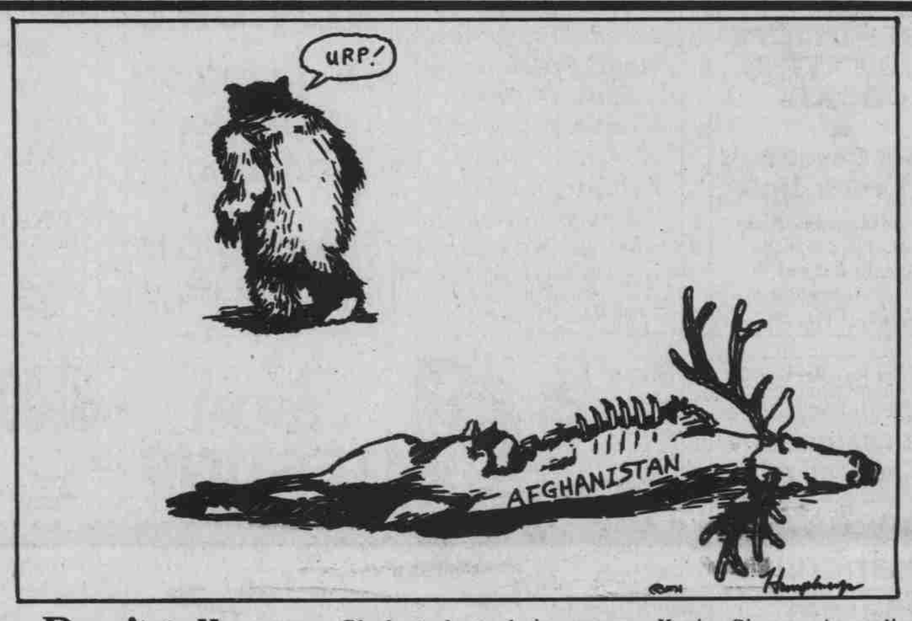
Who says discrimination doesn't exist in Chapel Hill? No this is not another article about the University police, SAT scores or a Black Cultural Center. I'm talking about a different kind of prejudice — sexual discrimination.

Have you ever noticed how underage girls have a lot easier time getting into bars than their male counterparts? Granted, bouncers are generally male; if we lived in the Amazons, dominated by women, guys might share this same advantage.

However, the current policy at WFUN is beyond my comprehension. They allow 19-year-old girls to get in three nights per week, while denying entrance to guys under 21. We should challenge this blatant act of sexual discrimination. Doesn't the Constitution have a clause about equal protection under the law for all people, including *men*? This sort of policy is what lawsuits are made of.

What if this were extended toward some minority — blacks must be 21 while whites can be 19. The NAACP would surely torch Kroger Plaza. I fail to see the difference between the two types of discrimination. Are guys less desirable to socialize with than girls? Whatever your answer, I'm sure half the population would disagree. Guys, stand up for yourselves before we have to call in your MOTHER (Men Obsessed To Have Equal Rights).

-BILL CRAVER
Sophomore
Economics



Don't talk, but act

To the editor:

Candidates for student body president should not only be cognizant of the major issues facing minority students, but must also comprehend their consequences. These persons should understand that all members of the UNC community will prosper from the construction of a more extensive Black Cultural Center. Thus, the struggle for the establishment of such an institution should not be limited to the unyielding efforts of UNC's black community.

Black students are notably concerned about recruitment, the number of black faculty and rates of retention. Cultural diversity and education are benefits which would result from an increased presence of minorities in various realms of the University.

Black students desire more than a student body president who is simply aware of their needs. We are seeking someone who will devise methods of how the realization of our requests will profit the entire University populace. As a candidate demonstrates this desire and ability, black students will feel more confident that this person is truly committed to upgrading the quality of life for minorities, and for all, rather than merely telling us what he thinks we want to hear.

ALLAN YOUNGER
Junior
Industrial relations

SBP platform very clear

To the editor:

This is a response to Alice Lutman's letter to the editor, "CGLA is no joke," (Feb. 2)

In Ms. Lutman's letter, she badly misquoted the record of Kevin Sisson. According to Lutman, Sisson's platform concerning the CGLA is to turn the members into "true citizens" and stop all "homosexuality." It is apparent to anyone who knows Sisson's platform that this is all wrong. Sisson's theme in this campaign is centered on student representation (doing what the student majority wants). I thought Lutman's letter would be coherent and well organized; however I read it hundreds of times and still can't figure out what Delta Sigma Pi has to do with Sisson's campaign.

In closing, Sisson's stand is not getting CGLA students kicked out of school or stopping all illegal activities. Sisson simply wants to defund the CGLA. Take it or leave it — it's that simple.

CHARLES TOOMEY
Sophomore
Business

A unique chance to bask in the limelight

Randy Bullock
Guest Writer

Have you been on TV yet? No? Well, then what is your problem? Shy, is it? A little reticent? Not willing to share with the millions of entertainment-starved Americans your lurid past? Or are you afraid that, God forbid, your past is not lurid enough to share? Well, don't feel down for long, because StarSystems can have you up and oozing what America wants in no time.

The great television slime-fest has begun, and not only don't you want to miss a single, fun-packed second but, chances are, with a little creativity and the help of StarSystems, you could become tomorrow's bargain basement John Hinckley, delighting the American public with your lovably misanthropic misdeeds.

Andy Warhol was right! Yes, all have to be famous one day, but a choice is still left to you. Do you want to sit around, waiting for your 15 minutes in the limelight so that by the time the media gets wind of your charms, you are too old and ugly to gloat? Or would you rather seize the opportunity now and on your own terms? And not only that, you can one-up the master and parlay your original 15 minutes into a lifetime of fame and recognition. And StarSystems wants to help.

In other words, your days of whiling away the hours, waiting to be discovered at your favorite roadside digs are over. No more cattle calls or casting couches for the discerning star-to-be. The time has come for the marketable in this country to find their market. Your big break is just a phone call away.

"Fake-a-Fetish" will outfit you with all you need to make it on today's competitive Reality TV market and make you Donahue-ready in just three short weeks. You receive knowledge of the pertinent psychological data, the behavioral tics, a brief outline of the history of your disorder and plenty of ear-grabbing anecdotes and riveting personal heart-renders that are not only guaranteed to secure you a place on the TV show of your choice, but also to astonish and beguile a jaded and near-sated viewing audience.

Or, for the more adventurous action lovers, StarSystems offers the "Homisideliners" kit for those eyeing a stint on "Cops" or "On Trial." Included in this extensive how-to package is an exhaustive listing of grudges and fixations to provide that "motivation" so sorely needed for a successful seducing of the public. You don't want to be just one other mass-murderer, lost in the shuffle, do you?

Included also is an outline of the latest in weaponry, guaranteed to make a nice, visual mess of your co-star, and a tri-color, bound handbook of all the facial expressions that have endeared and immortalized these killer-celebrities to the public. Even if you decide not to go through with your audition, this attractive, hand-tooled leather-bound edition of "lovable Faces of Death" is a proud addition to any library. The photos included virtually scream, "Hug me, love me, but don't turn your back on me, because I'm a star!"

So, you owe it to yourself, as a potential cog in the mass media machine, to be at your very best when the cameras start panning to your face. Your public is worth it.

Order before midnight tonight, and StarSystems will include a bonus manual on the insanity defense, its loopholes and limitations, and the addresses of the nation's leading media lawyers who know how to attract more attention to your case without ever overshadowing your limelight. Also, our first 100 callers receive an "Aw shucks, I'm just a killing machine" T-shirt that is sure to wow 'em at all your photo opportunities.

And that's not all! When you get on TV, you instantly receive a video scrapbook to save all the memories that you have worked so hard for. And any killer that you can prove is a copycat of yours gets you $50 in StarSystems bonus bucks to use on anything in our large line of merchandise. So what are you waiting for? Call for our free StarSystems video of personal testimonies at no risk. (Limit one per household.)

Randy Bullock is a senior English/RTVMP major from Rockville, Md.