

# The Daily Tar Heel

96th year of editorial freedom

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## A streetcar that's not desired

Improving Franklin Street and the downtown areas of Chapel Hill and Carrboro is an idea with which no one can argue, especially if such improvements involve only a minimal cost. The latest proposal of the Downtown Commission to the town council could be the first step in that direction, providing seemingly painless solutions to some of the downtown area's more significant problems. However, some of the DTC's requests merit closer inspection.

The apparent beauty of the DTC plan is that it raises money through a very minor property tax, approximately seven cents per \$100 of property value, and donations, both from public and private sources. The resulting revenue, possibly as much as \$150,000, would fund, among other things, a trolley system to the downtown area and special events downtown. In the short run, no one loses that much, and everyone benefits from an improved business environment.

Not surprisingly, though, such a Utopian arrangement is not without its hidden costs and motives. Consider the trolleys. The DTC proposal would expend nearly \$30,000 to operate a trolley system from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., prime hours for shopping and lunching at downtown shops and restaurants. What the proposal does not mention, however, is that Chapel Hill already has an effective bus

system. Nor does the proposal explain how the trolleys would improve the existing bus schedule.

Even if the trolleys served areas that the buses didn't, trolley riders would need a place to park their cars and wait. That could mean building park-and-ride lots, a contingency which would cost far more than the initial \$30,000 for the trolleys.

Another aspect of the proposal bearing scrutiny is the ready availability of private funds, which could reach as much as \$25,000. No one doubts the civic pride of Chapel Hill's merchants and financiers, yet money given usually brings something in return. What that return might be is not quite clear, yet a changing Franklin Street environment has already seen the closing of such student favorites as Cat's Cradle and Logos Bookstore. And the DTC proposal could increase the pace of change on Franklin Street.

The proposal is no doubt harmless in its intent, and ideas such as more special events and physical improvements in the downtown area are desirable. The trolleys, however, show that the proposal should be thought through more carefully. As for students, for whom Franklin Street is already a prime escape from campus, the watchword is beware. — David Starnes

## Leaving education in the cold

One of the most serious drawbacks to the otherwise illustrious state of North Carolina is its public education system. Our state consistently lags behind nearly all others in standardized test scores, dropout rates and teacher salaries. In his reelection campaign, Gov. Jim Martin emphasized "better schools" and pledged to raise teacher salaries to the national average by 1992 — leading voters to believe he would spearhead an effort to turn things around.

But Martin's latest proposal to delay a 5.7 percent teacher salary increase until April 1990 does not fit that image of commitment to secondary education.

On Tuesday, some 2,000 teachers will converge on Raleigh in protest of the salary freeze. In response, Martin has scheduled an "education summit" for top state officials on Monday. This summit, according to Martin, will show teachers that despite bipartisan efforts, the new revenues to support an immediate pay increase cannot be

found. House Democrats have criticized Martin for trying to use the summit to spread the blame for his own public relations blunder. But certainly the General Assembly must accept some of the responsibility. The problem is the direct result of a syndrome which is familiar to most politicians: no one wants to make the tough decision.

While it is undoubtedly difficult to find the funds for an immediate hike in teacher pay, the leaders of this state must re-examine their priorities and those of the voters. Martin and the N.C. legislature should either take the necessary steps to enact a pay raise this year, or assure teachers of a more substantial increase than the proposed 5.7 percent hike in 1990.

Especially in this time of general economic prosperity in the state, we as taxpayers should shoulder some of the burden. A small tax increase is not too much of a sacrifice to help ensure a strong educational foundation for our young people. — Louis Bissette

## Pollution crosses all lines

When it comes to environmental issues, Americans seem to have learned to focus attention on short-term gains and immediate gratification, ignoring the long-term effects of their actions.

It is this short-sighted and materialistic attitude that causes people to balk when someone actually takes a stand. Gov. Jim Martin and some state legislators have illustrated this point well with their ridiculous responses to Tennessee's crackdown on river pollution.

Martin is concerned, and with justification, about North Carolinians who may lose their jobs if the Champion paper mill in Canton has to close or decrease its production because of the pollutants it has been dumping into the Pigeon River. But Martin also knows he can't change Tennessee's laws, so he can condemn North Carolina's western neighbor all he wants. What's more, he seems to have forgotten that pollution is not a problem that can be isolated within one state; environmental problems can't be kept within state lines.

Thus, he talks about "punishing" Tennessee for not making an exception to its standards for the Champion mill. He speaks of limiting the amount of N.C. water made available for Tennessee's use and of introducing mea-

sures to penalize the state for "gassing our mountains" with air pollutants from automobiles.

This is not a surprising reaction. After all, North Carolina is the state where the Hardison amendments were passed years ago. These fine amendments prevent state environmental regulations from being any stricter than federal standards. And the Reagan administration managed to ensure that federal environmental standards never got too high. When a recent Senate majority threatened the existence of these amendments, lobbyists for business interests such as Champion International saw to it that the amendments stayed on the books.

For the 2,300 people employed by the Champion paper mill, which has already spent hundreds of millions of dollars trying to reduce its production of water pollutants, Tennessee officials must indeed appear to be the bad guys. Certainly the situation requires careful consideration so the repercussions affect as few as possible.

But this should serve as a warning. Coping with what we have done and are doing to our environment will require sacrifices from everyone. Our only alternative, however, is to continue to ignore our problems until it's too late. — Mary Jo Dunnington

## Out of the vaccination line and into exile

You would think I'd have built up an immunity to it by now. After four years of dealing with lines and forms and procedures, all designed to run smoothly, all disastrous in their implementation, I shouldn't even react to bureaucracy any more. Then the measles came to town.

I still remember my first line at Carolina. By some twist of cosmic fate, I didn't have to go to drop-add, so I thought I would take 10 minutes to get my student ID picture taken. Seniors who asked me where I was going must have felt like people watching a horror movie when the first sucker confidently claims he can spend the night in the haunted house alone; they knew I was a goner. I walked into the Union only to find a line wrapping around the second floor — twice. I swapped war stories with my freshman suitmates for days. "I waited for two and a half hours to get my picture taken." I was so proud.

"So what," said another veteran of the bureaucracy. "I was in drop-add for almost seven hours, and I'm not even through yet." Big deal. This guy was not the brightest person I had ever met, so I figured he had botched his schedule somehow. I would later learn that drop-add is not selective of its victims: We all suffer its wrath at some point.

I suffered through other bureaucratic rites of passage at Carolina. I paid my \$100 for the privilege of eating in Lenoir. I read most of the books I was buying for classes while in line at the Student Stores. I tried to get back into my dorm room sophomore year, throwing my fate into the hands of the housing department and their efficient, uncomplicated lottery. I'm still not sure whether I got back in or not.

I know these kinds of hassles are not unique. Part of the education at UNC is

### Bill Yelverton Notes from the Abyss

how to deal with an overburdened system and still maintain your sanity. To this point in my career I thought I had survived pretty well. I had conquered my final drop-add and filled out the required forms to graduate. I was home free.

Then I read about the outbreak of measles at N.C. State. What a nightmare to have to inoculate all those people. Students being kept out of class, withdrawn from school — that couldn't happen here. Then it spread to Duke, and finally to UNC. But it didn't seem like that big of a problem; it just meant waiting in line for a shot.

I went to Woollen Gym Monday afternoon and waited in line with about 200 other people who wanted to get their shots. As I was filling out the first form of the day, I noticed a warning. It said that those allergic to eggs should not be vaccinated. Small problem: I'm allergic to eggs.

I stepped out of line to get the attention of one of the volunteers. A woman walked up to me with one of those "you need to get back in line right this instant young man" looks on her face and said, "Yes?"

I explained my situation to her and her expression changed to one of concern. "Oh, I'm afraid you'll have to speak with one of our medical advisers." She was afraid? Having to see someone special is never a good thing in a bureaucracy. I negotiated a maze of administrators who all had that "get back in line look" which changed to fear when I told them where I was going. I was getting very worried.

The medical advisers explained that the vaccine was grown in an egg culture, and that it would be dangerous to inoculate me. I said I understood, and that if they would just sign my form saying I could go to class without being inoculated I would be on my way.

They told me it wasn't quite that simple. They would not give me the shot, and I would be barred from class for at least two weeks unless I could prove that at some point in my life I had been given a shot that should have killed me.

I called home that afternoon and spoke with my pediatrician. It turned out that I had been given a special shot in 1976, so I was safe. I took this news back to Woollen Gym. The medical advisers were happy for me, but unless I could show them written proof they could not let me have a card.

I checked Wednesday's mail, only to find that the records had not come yet. Yesterday I happened to have two exams, but because the mail didn't come until 1 p.m., I had to miss them. I've made arrangements to take make-up exams, but it seems absurd that I would have to inconvenience my professors because the mail was late. I realize that the measles is a serious and highly contagious disease — I would not lie about my inoculation status.

Bureaucracy is a necessary evil at an institution of this size. But to avoid crippling the institution, the system needs to have some built-in flexibility. I thought I had been here long enough to build up an immunity, but bureaucracy has struck again — and I'm definitely allergic.

Bill Yelverton is a senior English major from Darien, Conn.

## Readers' Forum

### Focus CGLA debate

To the editor:  
In less than two weeks we will once again be exercising our given rights as students to elect our student body president and Student Congress representatives. But every year, valuable time is wasted on one issue — funding the CGLA. In an attempt to save time for more useful issues, I would like to explain how the budgeting process works at UNC.

Through Student Congress, all campus organizations that are recognized by the University can apply for student funding. After submitting their proposed budgets, the groups are interviewed and questioned by the finance committee of Student Congress. The committee budgets are then passed along to the full Congress for debate and approval or disapproval. The budget is then signed or vetoed by the student body president.

The importance of this system, which is often ignored, is the role of the student body president. The president has no vote in the budgeting process; he only signs or vetoes the whole budget. Also, the president has no line-item veto — in other words, he can't single out one group, such as the CGLA, and veto them. Therefore, a student body president can only defund the CGLA by defunding all campus organizations. Furthermore, a veto would probably just be overridden by the congress.

We should not waste the student body president candidates' time with CGLA debates because their opinions don't really matter. I am not taking a stand on CGLA funding; I'm only trying to save time wasted in debating the CGLA for more important issues — student



parking, town-University relations and ticket distribution, to name a few.

If you are concerned with the funding status of the CGLA, then ask your district's congress candidates what they think of the issue. Let the student body president candidates discuss issues more directly under their control.

DAVID MAYNARD  
Senior  
RTVMP

### Thanks to AIDS experts

Editor's note: One other person signed this letter.

To the editor:  
Pharmacy education today includes not only pathophysiology and treatment of diseases, but also significant emphasis in the areas of health education, communication and counseling, and health promotion/disease prevention. The

national award received from the Department of Health and Human Services by the UNC School of Pharmacy for their AIDS awareness project recognizes the unique educational background and societal value of the profession of pharmacy. We would like to recognize Dr. Dennis Williams and Dr. Betty Dennis, who provided the responses for "Answers to tough AIDS questions" (Feb. 1). Contrary to the editor's note citing faculty members of the School of Medicine as the source, Dr. Dennis and Dr. Williams are professors of pharmacy practice at the UNC School of Pharmacy. We are grateful for their assistance with the AIDS awareness project and regret the oversight of their contributions.

DANA KISER  
Fourth year  
Pharmacy

GENE BROWN  
Fourth year  
Pharmacy

### Jesus yardstick irrelevant

To the editor:  
Thanks for the general overview you gave on religions on the campus.

However, I was a little astonished when I read that I was a "reformED" Jew; I do not think I ever committed any crime in my life and therefore I have no reason to reform myself.

It was also surprising to read that "Judaism is based on a different philosophy (than other groups of the Christian doctrine)" while "Hinduism is less different from Christianity." Indeed, I do not think that ranking religions using the "Jesus-stallion-standard" is very relevant.

All in all, being a well-rounded person is not an easy task!

SONIA ABECASSIS  
Graduate student  
French

## Non-immunized student wants answers

When I received my vaccination card Tuesday evening, I didn't think I had much to worry about. After all, the religious objection in my medical file had always taken care of any immunization requirement for N.C. public schools, as guaranteed by state law. However, a call to Student Health Service after my Wednesday classes painted me a picture quite different from the one I expected. It seemed that despite the validity of my objection, I would not be permitted to attend my classes.

I went to Woollen Gym in order to find out exactly what would happen to me and why. After waiting in three separate lines and talking to five people on various levels of the vaccination program, I was granted an audience with Daniel Reimer, director of the Orange County Public Health Department (OCPHD). In nearly a half-hour of question and answer, all he was able to convey to me was the following: 1) that he had decided to bar me from attending UNC both for my own safety and for that of vaccinated students, who were still somehow imperiled by my presence; 2) that his authority was based on N.C. General Statute 130A, sections 144 and 145, which in the current "emergency" situation of impending "epidemic" created by UNC's single-case "outbreak" of measles granted him the power to "qua-

### Neal Thornburg Guest Writer

rantine" and "isolate" (he would not specify whether the persons to be quarantined or isolated had to actually have or carry the disease or could be chosen solely at his discretion); 3) that those who could not, or would not, have the vaccination would not only be barred from classes, but also from the campus and the residence halls; and 4) that this suspension was opened, its duration to extend two weeks beyond the last reported case of measles at UNC. When I asked to see a copy of his decisions in writing he refused to give me one, saying that this was a matter I would have to discuss with the University.

The University, however, could tell me even less than Mr. Reimer. The office of vice chancellor for student affairs referred me to the office of the dean of students, which in turn referred me to SHS. There I was told that no decision concerning the academic consequences of my suspension had yet been made. They could only offer me a telephone number to call "Friday or Monday," which so far has not been answered.

Clearly the University and OCPHD

have shown tremendous irresponsibility in their attempts to handle the measles "outbreak." How can they deprive students and employees who are within their legal rights in refusing the vaccine, or who have no choice (several medical considerations can preclude the possibility of a measles vaccination), of the education they have paid for and the jobs on which they depend? How can they make decisions which so profoundly affect us without planning for the consequences or offering any official explanation? It is the latter questions which most disturbs me, because it shows the recklessness with which the current program was conceived and is being implemented. I call upon Mr. Reimer and Dr. Judith Cowan, co-signers of the vague and threatening card sent to many thousands of UNC students, and whichever University official is responsible for overseeing the rights of students, to issue a complete explanation of the threat, the protective measures undertaken, and their plan to deal with the consequences immediately, and to distribute this explanation to all who are affected.

Neal Thornburg is a sophomore history and political science major from Lincoln.