

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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Make Carolina Inn compete

The recent financial difficulties of the Carolina Inn have left UNC administrators and Carolina Inn employees searching for a solution, unable to agree on the future of the inn. While the University may be unwilling to relinquish control of the inn, the best way to ensure it continues to function is to allow private management contractors to run the University-owned inn.

The Carolina Inn, which made a profit of \$500,000 as recently as 1983-84, is predicted to lose \$110,000 this year. The problem stems from the relatively high wages the hotel pays its workers.

Because the inn is subject to state salary and purchasing regulations, its wages are much higher than other hotels in the Chapel Hill area. In order to compete, the inn must be free of state salary regulations.

The average wage at the Carolina Inn is almost \$2 per hour higher than those of comparable hotels in the area. Sales have risen in the last few years and revenues are expected to reach an all time high of \$4 million this year, but over 60 percent of this revenue will go towards paying wages. A privately managed Carolina Inn could be more competitive because it would be exempt from state salary standards.

The University currently owns the Carolina Inn, so all its employees are state employees, even though the hotel is self-supporting. This is an unfair disadvantage to the inn, which is competing in an area in which hotel space has doubled in the last six years.

Some of the employees fear that

private management would mean that the 98 full-time employees would lose their jobs, but this is preventable. They would undoubtedly be forced to take a pay cut, but it is unlikely that they would all lose their jobs. In addition, UNC officials have indicated the employees could be reassigned to other duties.

The Carolina Inn employees are already among the lowest paid state employees, and they work very hard to keep the inn a pleasant place for visitors to stay. But their salaries must be compared to other hotel employees, not all state employees. If the University does not take action soon, the inn could go out of business, forcing its employees out of their jobs.

The Carolina Inn faces other problems as well. Some of the rooms in the 65-year-old inn lack modern amenities, and other areas need renovating. If a private company does not take over, UNC would have to pay for the needed work, which amounts to \$6.5 million. UNC officials have said they will raise \$2 million through fundraisers. But the University would still be forced to pay \$4.5 million for something that has nothing to do with academics.

Opponents of a privately managed Carolina Inn fear it would take something away from the charm of the Chapel Hill landmark. But these concerns are premature. By keeping many of the same employees and providing the needed renovations, a privately owned inn could maintain the charm and improve the accommodations of the inn. — Chris Landgraaf

Putting women in their place

Women are an integral part of this University, comprising a large majority of the student body. Women do not, however, fill an acceptable number of professorships or other faculty positions which promise advancement, a situation which the Faculty Council addressed at its meeting last Friday.

A report presented to the council showed that women fill only a few of the high-level administrative and academic jobs, with little promise that the situation will be rectified soon. Of the University's 841 professorships, only 9 percent are female. Five of the University's 119 distinguished professorships are women. In 1978, 16.5 percent of the faculty was female; by last year that number had only grown to 19.8 percent.

The most disturbing statistic, however, is that women hold a mere 14 percent of the positions which eventually lead to tenure or advancement. Most female faculty members serve in jobs which offer almost no career advancement: of the University's 301 non-tenure faculty positions, nearly half of which are filled by women. As long as UNC continues such hiring and job placement practices, men will continue to hold most of the professorships, and the male-female faculty

ratio will improve as little in the next decade as it has in the one past.

The University could argue in its defense that one-third of all open faculty positions in the past four years were given to women. The University even ranked second among 19 peer institutions in naming women to assistant professorships. A female candidate is being considered for dean of the law school, and, if selected, she would be the first in the school's history to serve in that capacity.

UNC also could claim the difficulty of finding experienced female candidates for its top-level jobs. However, with so few women being groomed for promotion internally, the University cannot say it is doing its part to resolve this problem. The law school, for example, is breaking tradition to search for a new dean, looking beyond its own faculty for candidates.

The committee made several recommendations which the University would be wise to follow. These include emphasizing the hiring of female minorities and ensuring that women serve on committees which consider hiring and promotions for faculty positions. More importantly, the University should be willing to put women on the fast track, so they can finally begin to earn the place they deserve. — David Starnes

the last word

Everyday at 3:30, the various editors of The Daily Tar Heel get together to decide what goes in the paper the next day. Because we are a student newspaper, most of our front page articles are University-related, and the University editors — Jenny Cloninger and myself — help the editor decide which stories will be on the front and which will be inside. This is an important decision which we base on a number of criteria.

So when readers write in to tell us a story shouldn't have been on the front page or call and demand that an event they are sponsoring should be a front page story, we get a little frustrated. To us, it's like they're trying to do our jobs for us. If we tried to tell these people how to run their groups or events, they probably wouldn't appreciate it.

In the first place, when we talk to people on the phone we have no way of knowing what will go on the front page in three days. Those decisions are made only the day before. And more importantly, we feel we are qualified to judge what is important enough for the front page on a given day, because we know the University pretty well.

It's not that we don't want people to bring things to our attention — we certainly do. Without people bringing news items to our attention, we'd be lost. But let me explain briefly how we decide what is a front page story.

■ **Newsworthiness:** We decide which stories are the most relevant and important to students and to the University community in general. A story about a proposed fee increase or a student being brought up on charges of a Campus Code violation will almost definitely be on the front page.

■ **Timeliness:** If it's a slow news day, something might make the front page even if it usually wouldn't. On the other hand, if there's a lot going on one day, something that is ordinarily a front page story, might make page four.

And please don't try to convince us by telling us what kind of play another newspaper gave the story — we are our own newspaper and have different priorities. If you have a gripe about story placement, call the editor, because it's ultimately her decision, but realize that she gave us our jobs because she trusts our news judgment. — Justin McGuire

Readers' Forum

FOCUS: ABORTION

Circumstances critical in making decision

To the editor:

In the past few weeks, during the recent explosion of abortion debates on the UNC campus, I've been reading the letters to the editor and any other articles The Daily Tar Heel has published on the subject, and I've been growing more and more dissatisfied. I was unable to attend the Weddington-Schlafly debate last Thursday night, and while I wish I could have been there to hear what was said, I imagine that I probably would have sat there feeling helplessly frustrated at the important aspects that were being glossed over or ignored completely (as is the case in all the other panels or debates I've witnessed).

There have been two distinct sides presented to us: one that says life begins at conception, and therefore we have no right to choose to end it, and one that says a woman should decide for herself whether to give birth, and should she decide not to, then the government should allow her that choice. Neither of these opinions say anything about the circumstances of the pregnancy in their arguments, and to me, that seems a key issue.

In Craig Tidwell's letter "Pick adoption, not abortion" (March 31), he writes "The pro-abortion movement is selfish! It says that since it is not convenient, not wanted, unplanned, kill it!" Craig, that's not all the movement supports. When a 14-year-old friend of mine was raped a few years ago by her father and became pregnant, she was lucky enough to be able to abort

legally. You call it murder; I call it self-defense.

What about the case of a fetus being diagnosed as having Down's Syndrome? The most common result of that discovery is an abortion. We are saving the unborn child from a brief, miserable life. If pregnancy is the result of either a rape or an accident, and the circumstances surrounding birth and infancy are obviously going to be detrimental to the child's health and well-being, then an abortion in this case is also saving the unborn child from a miserable life.

I assure you that I don't support abortion as a form of general birth control (pregnancy control makes much more sense). There will always be women who abuse their right to choose abortion, and who carelessly become pregnant then decide they "don't want to mess with a child right now," and I see that as a stupid waste of human potential (especially when the same women routinely choose abortion over the much simpler and safer birth/pregnancy control). My opinion used to be, "if you're responsible enough to have sex, then you're responsible enough to either prevent pregnancy or take care of any resulting child," but since the incident of the friend I mentioned earlier, I've had to modify that opinion. It wasn't that she was responsible enough to have sex and get pregnant; her father was irresponsible enough to rape her. I refuse to support any group that would try to make it illegal for her to have an abortion safely. You

can't convince me that her life (emotionally as well as physically) wouldn't be ruined by giving birth, or that any child resulting from such a union would have a worthwhile life.

In all rape cases I feel the same way. There is no way, however, of making a law that says, "abortions will be illegal unless giving birth will endanger the mother's life, or if the pregnancy was caused by rape." For how is a rapist defined? A strange man in a dark alley? A boyfriend? A priest? A husband? A father? How can a woman prove she was raped? And a mother's stability and health are very important — who can know better than she can whether she's prepared (psychologically or physically) to be a mother? How can it possibly be the court's decision for her to give birth or not?

If the law ever declares abortion illegal, it seems likely that there will be fewer unborn children killed. It's also unavoidable that if this happens, there will be more women killed, along with their unborn children, when they try to have abortions under illegal, unsanitary and unsafe conditions. Legalized abortion is the way our society can protect a larger portion of the population, and though it will always be seen by some as murder, I sincerely believe it is the lesser of two evils.

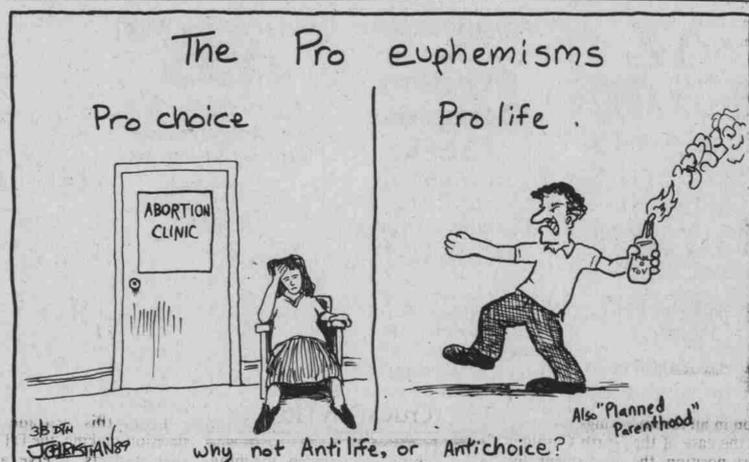
GRETCHEN DAVIS
Sophomore
English

Pro-choice, not pro-abortion

To the editor:

After reading Craig Tidwell's histrionic cry for "Adoption, not abortion" (March 31), I felt compelled to respond. Mr. Tidwell's hysterical, and completely erroneous, attack on the National Organization of Women shows a rather frightening lack of reason on his part. The term "pro-choice" is not synonymous with the term "pro-abortion." In fact, I don't know of a single person who claims to be pro-abortion. Rather than the pro-choicers "missing the whole point of the matter," I believe it is Mr. Tidwell who has missed the point.

I wholeheartedly agree that the attitude of using abortion as a solution for one's carelessness is wrong. However, no person has the right to tell another person that they must, by law, complete an undesired pregnancy. Mr. Tidwell speaks of the "abortion industry" that is "out to make money." He also suggests that the "brothers and sisters" of "pro-abortion" see movies like "Silent Scream" to graphically see what an abortion does to a fetus. Perhaps Mr. Tidwell should see a movie or two about the horrors of coat-hanger abortions and what they can do to a woman's body before he canonizes himself. The billion-dollar "abortion industry" will not disappear if abortions are made illegal. It will only go under-



ground and become more dangerous for the women who decide, or are forced, to get an abortion.

DEANNA RAMEY
Junior
English

Be informed about abortion

To the editor:

Abortion is a topic that is extremely controversial and highly disputed. Many people have widely varying opinions concerning the right to life for unborn babies, a woman's right to her own body and the actual justification for abortion on

demand. However, contrary to popular belief, there are also many people who haven't yet decided what they believe about abortion. Here are some facts that may be relevant to this controversy.

Did you know that 4,000 babies are aborted each day in the United States? Did you know that each year in North Carolina 35,000 babies are aborted? That is equal to the population of Chapel Hill. Did you know that Roe vs. Wade allowed abortions through the ninth month of pregnancy? Did you know that by 14 weeks an unborn baby's heartbeat and brainwaves can be measure and monitored, through EKGs and EEGs? Did you know that

the National Conference on Abortion concluded (with one dissent) that life begins at fertilization? Did you know that there are alternatives to abortion and assistance for crisis pregnancies?

If you were not aware of these facts, there may be much more you don't know about the abortion issue. If you are interested in the pro-life movement, then contact a local pro-life organization for ways you can become involved in saving lives — mothers' and babies'.

CHARLES BALAN
Senior
Interdisciplinary Studies

Dictating morals removes rightful choice

To the editor:

I am writing this in response to the letter to the editor from Craig Tidwell ("Pick adoption, not abortion," March 31). In that letter he spoke out in favor of adoption over abortion. I realize that the abortion issue is a very emotional one. At first glance, his is a very reasonable thought. However, while "pro-life" advocates claim that there are two lives to be considered, and that is true, they always seem to ignore the mother. Let me offer several points.

The first point has to be the question of choice. When Ronald Reagan initially ran for office, he claimed that he would "take government out of the back pocket of the American citizen." But, if anything, what he did during the eight years he was in office was impose his morals (or those of the religious right) on everyone. This nation was founded on the right of freedom of choice; humans seek options. Neither Mr. Reagan nor Mr. Bush has ever offered any choice on the question of abortion. If given the opportunity, they would dictate your morals for you on this case; they would protect us from ourselves. I personally believe that American women are intelligent enough to make their own decision.

Adoptions may be part of the answer, but certainly it is not the answer. There are approximately 1 million couples seeking to adopt a child. There are an estimated 1.6 million abortions a year. If there were suddenly no abortions, and every child were put up for adoption, there would still be 600,000 children left over. What happens to those children? Do you ask people to "take two — they're small?" And the next year, after all of these couples have adopted their two children, there will be another 1.6 million children offered for adoption. Will there be another million couples ready to adopt them? It does not look that way.

Statistics show that most couples seeking adoptions are requesting white males. That says several things. It says that most people seeking adoption are white, and the implication is that they are part of the middle class. But what happens to the child born with severe mental retardation or other birth defects? What happens to the black child that does not get adopted? Then, you are right back to the initial problem which is unwanted children. And there will be no one, and nothing, there to help these unwanted children.

Making something illegal has never stopped a human being from wanting or getting that thing. Prohibition did not work. The war on drugs is not working. Making abortions illegal will not stop women from getting abortions. The only difference is that abortionists will be forced to the dirty "back room" abortion clinics with staff that may be less than competent, and conditions that are less than sanitary, which would place the woman at risk for infection, disease or worse.

However, I am not saying that abortion should remain legal because women (and men) will seek abortions regardless. What I am suggesting is that lawmakers and the American people should consider the woman in this as well, since abortions are traumatic enough by themselves. Is it fair or just to force a woman to carry a child to term that she knows she cannot care for or support? Is it fair or just to force a family of four to deal with the financial and psychological pain when the mother is told that her child will be born deformed or retarded and will not live? That is the reality.

The third point is one of an even greater reality. This country, this planet, will ultimately support only so many people. As farmland disappears with shopping centers and office buildings taking its place,

the thought that technology can continue to produce an infinite amount of food becomes a very naive one. Abolishing abortion may indeed secure the rights of unborn children, but it does not by any means ensure them, or those who cohabitate on the planet, with a good life. The basic problem becomes — who takes care of these children?

The Reagan administration, and the Bush administration in its wake, time and time again, has cut all programs which were intended to provide this care, programs which operated on budgets less than the cost of one B-1 bomber. This administration has reduced funding to Planned Parenthood clinics, has cut funding for contraception programs, has cut funding for nutrition programs for poor mothers, and treats food stamps and welfare as if every person on those rolls is stealing from the government. Further, Mr. Bush has placed those same restrictions as contingencies for aid to foreign countries.

It is easy to look down at this from an ivory tower and pontificate on what is "right and moral." It is especially easy when those doing the pontificating are males; who have never had to deal with the trauma of carrying a child. If you are an anti-abortionist, how would you react if you were put in another person's situation, like that of a single, pregnant woman with no job, no family and no support from the father? What if the pregnant woman were your sister? You might be glad that a choice exists. You might be glad that this decision was not dictated to you by someone sitting in Washington who does not even know you or understand why you would make the decision you did. Given all this, you might wonder what is truly right and fair.

WALLACE HARRINGTON
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