

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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Lend them your ears

Too often, students are left out of the decision-making process even when policy changes directly affect them. Changes in education policy are made almost every day, and the only way to voice concern effectively is to stay informed.

This weekend, student government is giving UNC an opportunity to hear two distinguished speakers present their opinions on two of education's most pressing issues — minority recruitment and retention and the future of student aid.

The speakers are part of a three-day Student Advocacy Conference hosted by Students for Educational Access, an executive branch committee.

Terrel Bell, former U.S. Secretary of Education, will speak Friday on the future of student aid. This issue is especially timely because of the eight bills now before Congress which propose major changes in the structure of federal aid for education.

Many of the proposals say aid should be gradually replaced by national service, in which students would earn vouchers to be applied toward tuition costs by participating in civilian or military service.

Students obviously have a stake in the outcome of these proposals because the future of aid is still undetermined. To be effective in

Living out a sheltered life

Homelessness is a growing problem throughout the world. In many Third World cities up to 50 percent of the population is without adequate housing. In large American cities it can be difficult to find a corner without its "street people." Even Chapel Hill has a homeless problem, as a DTH series this week showed in graphic detail.

It is a problem without easy answers. The town has leased the old municipal building to the Inter-Faith Council (IFC) for use as a homeless shelter and soup kitchen, but the lease will run out in one to three years, possibly rendering the expensive renovations of the building obsolete. Pressure from some downtown merchants who are unhappy with the proximity of the shelter has caused people to consider the relative advantages and drawbacks of finding another site. As always, money places constraints on what is feasible.

Town officials seem genuinely dedicated to working on provisions for the homeless, an attitude which contrasts sharply with that of federal officials. (Ronald Reagan once said the homeless people sleeping outside the White House gates were there because they wanted to be.) However, town officials admit they have no basic plans; the issue is "just being floated around." Nor have they worked aid for the homeless into the town's annual budget. Defining a specific, well-researched course of action and planning for long-term funding are steps the town government should take immediately.

Leaders must respect rights

Very few things make journalists angrier than when their rights to a free press are challenged. For example, the government has tightened up on access to records that should be available under the Freedom of Information Act, and journalists have begun to protest. But conditions are not going to improve unless the politicians of tomorrow are educated about a free press today.

The most recent disturbing incident took place at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. The editors of The Duke, the student newspaper, were locked out of their offices by the student government after the paper ran an ad the government disliked. The Catholic school's government had asked the paper not to run the ad for contraceptive counseling services at a family planning clinic.

expressing whatever opinions they hold, students must have a working knowledge of the issues which could determine their future.

In the second lecture, Reginald Wilson, the director of the American Council on Education's Office of Minority Concerns, will speak about minority enrollment and retention Sunday morning.

Though UNC administrators report improvements in minority recruitment, many students remain uninformed about minority relations issues. By investigating and understanding the issues, students can intelligently voice opinions on the existence of the Black Cultural Center and the segregated Greek system.

But students should not only investigate these areas. Effective representation demands interaction between students and policy makers. Students should have a significant impact on education policy, but they cannot expect to be taken seriously until they know the facts.

Students may say a rally against apartheid or another international controversy has no bearing on their lives. But that excuse is not valid on an issue as relevant to everyone at this university as education. To influence decisions, students must first show an interest and be educated. Hear what the experts have to say this weekend.

— Chris Landgraff

Many downtown merchants, while recognizing the need to address the homeless problem, have expressed their discontent over the shelter's location at the intersection of Rosemary and Columbia streets. Their concern over something that could adversely affect their business is understandable, but the desire to make money should not obscure the fact that there are human beings without a place to live.

The IFC, the central group working to provide facilities for the homeless, plays a crucial role in providing the shelter's organization and leadership. It does all it can to raise money for Chapel Hill's homeless. However, the IFC's members must be wary of taking short-sighted steps at the expense of a long-term solution, such as a large, permanent facility.

The top priority for the entire community should be to turn the widespread concern for the homeless into meaningful action. It's often difficult for people who have life's necessities to comprehend that there are those who don't — the "have-nots" who are victims of circumstances they cannot master. Despite Reagan's interpretation, most homeless people are not merely lazy. Many need some kind of help, such as medical attention, job training or rehabilitation. Above all, they need the basics — food and shelter. There is something wrong with society if those who "have" are too sheltered to recognize the plight of the homeless and too selfish to extend a helping hand.

— Mary Jo Dunnington

University newspapers deserve the same treatment as any other professional papers, and no one would think to lock the offices of The New York Times or The Washington Post because of an ad they found distasteful. There are other proper ways to express disappointment, such as writing a letter to the editor. If students are mad enough, they can simply stop reading the paper. But there should never be government interference in the business of the press — such crossover is dangerous and violates First Amendment freedom.

That danger was obvious to the student journalists, but apparently the rest of Duquesne has yet to realize it. It is a lesson that should be learned now, because the politicians will have to deal with things they don't like in newspapers for the rest of their lives.

— Sharon Keschull

If their wizard was a wizard who'd serve

David Rowell

Pardon Me

The world would be a great place if it wasn't for a few individuals. After all, what would Iranian extremists be without the Ayatollah? Sure, they'd still be a bunch of mindless boobs with genuinely bad facial hair, but they wouldn't be so mean and evil if they didn't have a leader telling them to be.

What if the Ayatollah got on the loudspeaker one day and said, "Hey, I just read the neatest book. It's by some guy named Rushdie, and if I were you, I'd go out and buy it." Then there'd be a riot, as Iranians seem to be fond of riots, but this one would be a different kind. It'd be a friendly riot, as people went running and pushing to go out and get "Satanic Verses." Instead of Ismael and Muhammed yelling, "Kill Rushdie! Kill and Death! Kill! Kill! Kill! Kill!" they might be openly chanting, "We want paperbacks! We want paperbacks!"

The best thing that could happen to these hapless puppets is for the Ayatollah to eat some Chilean grapes (and by the way, how much longer can this guy go on? He's two years older than Grandfather Mountain!). What's so sad is that these kinds of people don't even know anything but a life full of violence and hatred. It's like the Wizard of Oz. Remember the Wicked Witch's guards? All they did was march around, singing, "O-ree-o. Oooo-re-o" and take orders from their leader. That was all they knew.

So there they were, chasing after Dorothy and her friends because the witch was screaming for them to do so. But Dorothy got lucky and hurled some water on her. Then the witch melted. She was done away with. Remember what happened then? One of the guards leaned down, saw the witch was gone, and said

in disbelief:

"You killed her."

"I didn't mean to," Dorothy said.

"Honest."

"Dorothy killed the Wicked Witch of the West. Hail Dorothy!"

For the first time they were free, and just within those few moments, they felt how glorious it was. They weren't really bad people at heart. They were just misguided. So up and down they went, singing, "Hail Dorothy! Hail Dorothy!" You have to admit they weren't the most original group of people, and you certainly wouldn't want them for dinner guests, but at least they were on the right track. That's all we can ask for.

If Dorothy's bucket had been filled with confetti instead (accidentally left on the set by the Harlem Globetrotters), then they would have been captured and ended up as assorted-characters casserole. Life would have gone back to the same old routine for the guards, because there wasn't one among them who would rebel or even think to rebel against the witch.

And so the Iranian radicals — and any other buffoon fanatics like them — run through the streets promoting violence because their leader is piping that kind of warped philosophy. I don't contend that these people are not ruthless and monstrous individuals. They are.

But while we grew up reading "The Cat in the Hat" and "Horton Hears a Who," they were being brought up with "Assault Baby: 101 Ways to Protect Your Crib."

What chance did they stand?

In the United States, Bazooka Joe was a kid wrapped around gum who told god-awful puns to his friends. In the Middle East, Bazooka Akeem was a kid who told bad jokes to his sidekicks about annihilating the community. And theirs didn't even come with gum.

I'm not saying all the world needs is some Rambo type to run into the Ayatollah's palace wearing a blue skirt and carrying a pail of water. If that would solve everything, we would have sent a super S.W.A.T. in there to hold him down while Salmon Rushdie showed him his new pop-up book. Besides, there would just be someone meaner and less photogenic to take his place.

But maybe someday, amid all the insane fighting and general bad behavior, one involved soldier or citizen will realize that somewhere, buried deep underneath his helmet, he has a brain, struggling to tell him this lifestyle is madness. Maybe he'll develop some concern about all the needless bloodshed, and before long, he'll know he has a heart. Then in time, he might have enough courage to point out to those around him how absurd their state of affairs has gotten and that action needs to be taken to turn things around and fight the ruling hand. What would be next?

"I don't think there's anything in that black bag for me."

There would be peace and harmony. A place you could visit. They might even call it a home.

David Rowell is a senior RTVMP major from Fayetteville.

Readers' Forum

Demand for blood is urgent

To the editor:

We would like to inform students of the "serious need" of O+, O-, B+, and B- blood types for the Carolinas Region of the American Red Cross. These blood types and others are used daily for the needs of hospital patients. Without adequate donations, elective surgery must be postponed, research of blood diseases is hindered, and trauma patients are placed in grave danger. "Serious need" means that there are no reserve supplies of these blood types. Currently, donation supply of the aforementioned blood types is just matching patient demand. There are no reserves of these types in case of emergencies.

The UNC campus Bloodmobiles supply over half of the donations for our chapter, therefore student participation in campus Bloodmobiles is critical at this time, especially for students, faculty, or staff who have these blood types. The next Bloodmobiles on campus are: Apr. 11 and Apr. 12 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Great Hall, Apr. 12 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Hinton James, and Apr. 19 from 4:30 to 8:30 at Carmichael dorm. These Bloodmobiles are also the last ones to count for UNC in our Bloodbattle with other ACC schools (like Duke, State and Virginia).

The act of giving blood is very easy and usually takes less than an hour, but can make a difference for so many people. Please donate.

CASEY COPP
Junior
Early childhood education

KAREN COURTNEY
Junior
Psychology

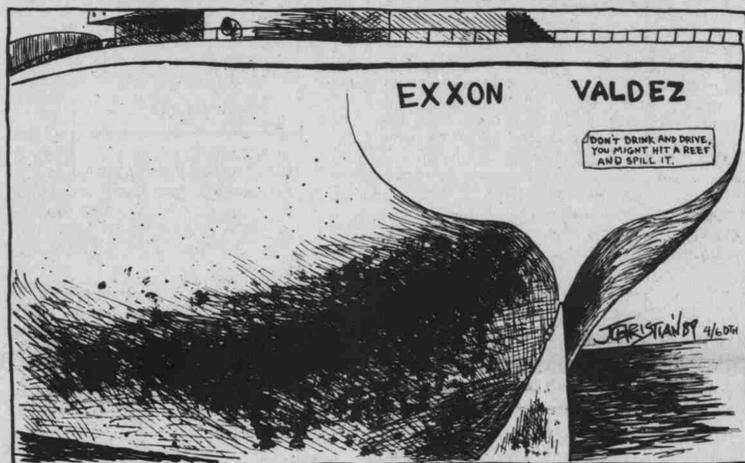
Don't ignore positive efforts

To the editor:

"Racism, one of the most baneful and persistent evils, is a major barrier to peace. Its practice perpetrates too outrageous a violation of the dignity of human beings to be countenanced under any pretext. Racism retards the unfolding of the boundless potentialities of its victims, corrupts its perpetrators, and blights human progress." (From the Baha'i peace statement.)

Recently there have been a lot of letters about the unnumbered experiences of negative racial interaction on campus. No doubt we have all seen these problems and there are no logical arguments for racial discrimination. There may be many who are apathetic or even callous to the tension between races on our campus, but hopefully they are a shrinking minority.

It is important to be aware of the injustices that occur, but it is equally necessary that we do not ignore the positive efforts that are being made.



Maybe rather than focusing on the negative facets of interracial campus attitudes, we should take a break and look at the helpful movements that exist. Friendships between blacks and whites, social interaction and even formal organizations are here and are on the increase. All these avenues exist for improving our critical frustrating situation.

I do not want to come off as a Pollyanna, but I do wish that we could take time out to appreciate the efforts some are making and get involved in these. I firmly believe that our nation is crippled by this continuing ignorance and nothing is going to change until we make it change — personally. "The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens."

JOHANNA MERRITT
Junior
Psychology

Help for our housekeepers

To the editor:

There are about 1,300 state employees who earn less than the federal poverty level for a family of four. And — surprise, surprise — 246 of those are UNC housekeepers. You know who I'm talking about. I'm talking about those men and women who mop our bathrooms and clean our toilets

after all-campus bashes such as Burnout, the men and women who clear away boxes left in the hall by people who ignore the signs asking them to take weekend trash out themselves, the men and women who scrub the sinks and microwave ovens after we have spilled unknown substances inside them and left them to be baked or hardened. Some of these people have worked from early in the morning to 4 p.m. every weekday for 10 years, performing these tasks that we so often fail to appreciate.

What do you do if your housekeeper is ill? Say, on Monday, after this weekend's Springfest and Beach Blast. If you get sick this weekend and miss the toilet or trashcan or sink, you can rest assured that by about 8 or 9 a.m. on Monday it will be cleaned up, and you'll be left with a good story — "I was sooooo drunk after Springfest!" Do you realize how small the pay is for those who clean up after our excesses? One housekeeper, who has worked here for 14 years, takes home \$329 every two weeks — that's \$8,554 a year. In 14 years, she has taken home less than \$120,000. How would you like to tell your parents that you'll make \$120,000 — in 15 years?

By now, I hope you're asking what we can do about this situation. Rep. Anne Barnes of Orange County has made it

easy for us. She has proposed a bill to the General Assembly requiring that the employees who receive less than \$11,612 a year — the family-of-four poverty level — should be given raises bringing them up to that level. We, as students, can ask the administration to support that bill; we can ask Brian Lewis to make it an issue. If we don't take this chance to support our housekeepers, we may soon see the last of those friendly faces who do our dirty work for us, as they quit work because, as one housekeeper asserts, "People on welfare make more money than us."

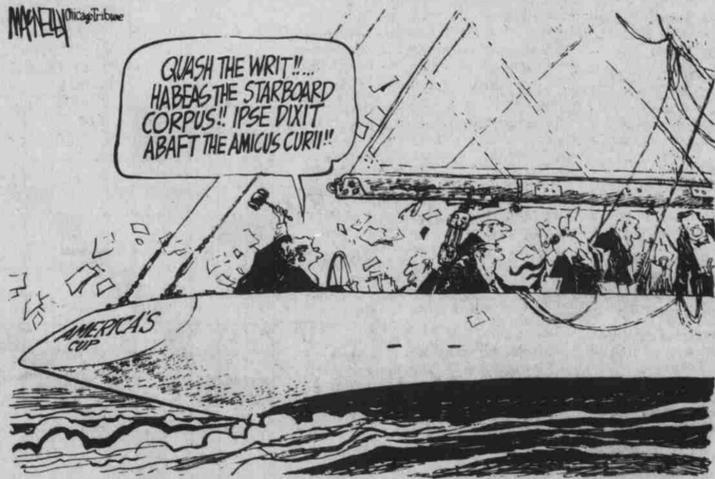
KAREN ANDERSON
Senior
Russian/East European studies

Letters policy

Students should include name, year in school, major, phone number and home town. 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.



New Nautical Terminology