

Opinion

Face up to the law

It's time for UNC officials to stand up and face the music coming from the mouths of Chapel Hill merchants.

The recent controversy between the University and local businesses involves the legal limits of what the University's campus stores can sell without creating unfair competition for many shops in the areas surrounding UNC.

Three words may be the only constant in this ongoing fiasco — The Umstead Act.

The Umstead Act, a state statute, stipulates that campus stores may only sell educational supplies, gift items and personal-use items. The University finally responded to complaints recently by agreeing to stop selling certain items when the present inventory runs out.

Also, the stores may only sell these items to students and their immediate families, employees and their immediate families, and to people who are on campus for purposes other than shopping at the store. Enforcement of this would be difficult, if not impossible, and the University quietly sits and hopes nobody will bring this item to the agenda.

Finally, and most disturbingly, the act stipulates that the campus stores are "operated for the pur-

pose of assuring the availability" of this merchandise and "not for the purpose of competing with stores operated in the community surrounding the campuses of the University of North Carolina."

In this instance, the law is astonishingly clear. UNC is blatantly violating the letter and spirit of the law by competing with local merchants on items that are readily available in the area. When was the last time it was difficult to find a good T-shirt to buy?

Maybe the law is unfair. Nobody liked to hear that the Student Stores' profits — a portion of which goes to a scholarship fund — were going to take a dive. But that fact has nothing to do with the law itself, and it's time for University officials to stop denying the facts and clouding the truth.

Instead of crying on the shoulder of the state's Attorney General's Office, look into alternative sources of scholarship money. Instead of twisting the law in the eyes of the public, look into potential changes in the law.

But don't deny the obvious truth of the matter — that the University is clearly violating the rights of Chapel Hill merchants.

— Dave Glenn

Parking fee, well, OK

As students pay registration fees for the fall semester they will notice the tidy sum of \$12.50 tacked on to the bill. Now wait, before we go out and burn our bills in protest of this fee increase, let's get the facts straight.

This fee increase has been under review by the administration for more than one year in hopes of finding a solution to the parking problem, and through the determination of former Student Body President Kevin Martin, Student Body President Brien Lewis and Vice Chancellor Donald Boulton, the students finally got something for the money they shovel out.

The fee increase originally began as a fee for "maintained service" of the current transportation system on campus. Fact number one is that this fee would shrink wallets and the administration wouldn't have to produce a new service for the student's money. The administration gets the money and the students, well, hasta la vista, money.

Fortunately, Boulton came to the student government and asked what the students wanted out of a fee the Board of Trustees was going to pass. Through this feel-

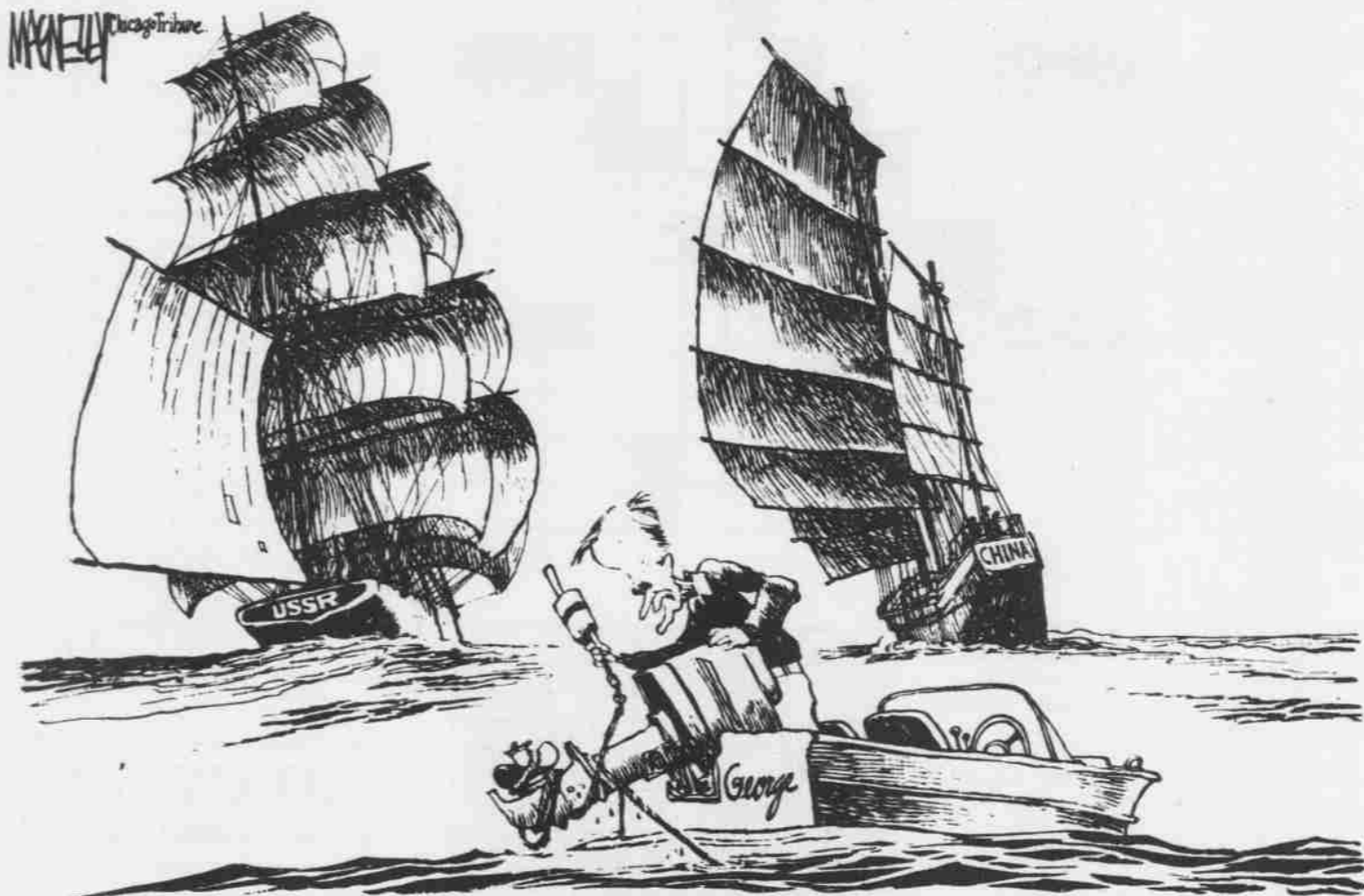
ing that students needed something for their money, a clause was added to the fee increase. Students would not go for just "maintained service," but the administration's increase would have to include "new and improved service."

Fact number two is that the students will see something for their money. The Board of Trustees passed the new fee along with a letter that carried the clause "new and improved service."

Unfortunately, there is fact number three. The Student Congress turned down the fee increase, but without the benefit of debate. They reacted as anyone would when money is being taken from them. Now, we can't say whether or not the idea would have been killed by the Student Congress after a debate, but we know what happened without one. Yet, either way the fee increase was going to pass.

With the facts straight, let's just say this. We have people in student government who are looking out for student interests, enough so that this time, we weren't totally robbed.

— Randy Basinger



A New Breeze Blowing.

Reader's Forum

Write us real letters, please

To the editor:
When a student or former student laments during the summer months about his days as a Tar Heel, the first thing to come to his or her head is sports.

Because of this, I was enthusiastic about picking up the first issue of the Summer Tar Heel and scouring through the boundless sports events that occurred while I was at home. Last year at the end of the spring semester, I bragged to all of my New

York friends about the plethora of sports at UNC and most of all the sports coverage by our own student newspaper, but, much to my dismay, upon returning to the Southern Part of Heaven, there was a virtual void of statistics, scores or otherwise useless quotes from the pages of the Summer Heel.

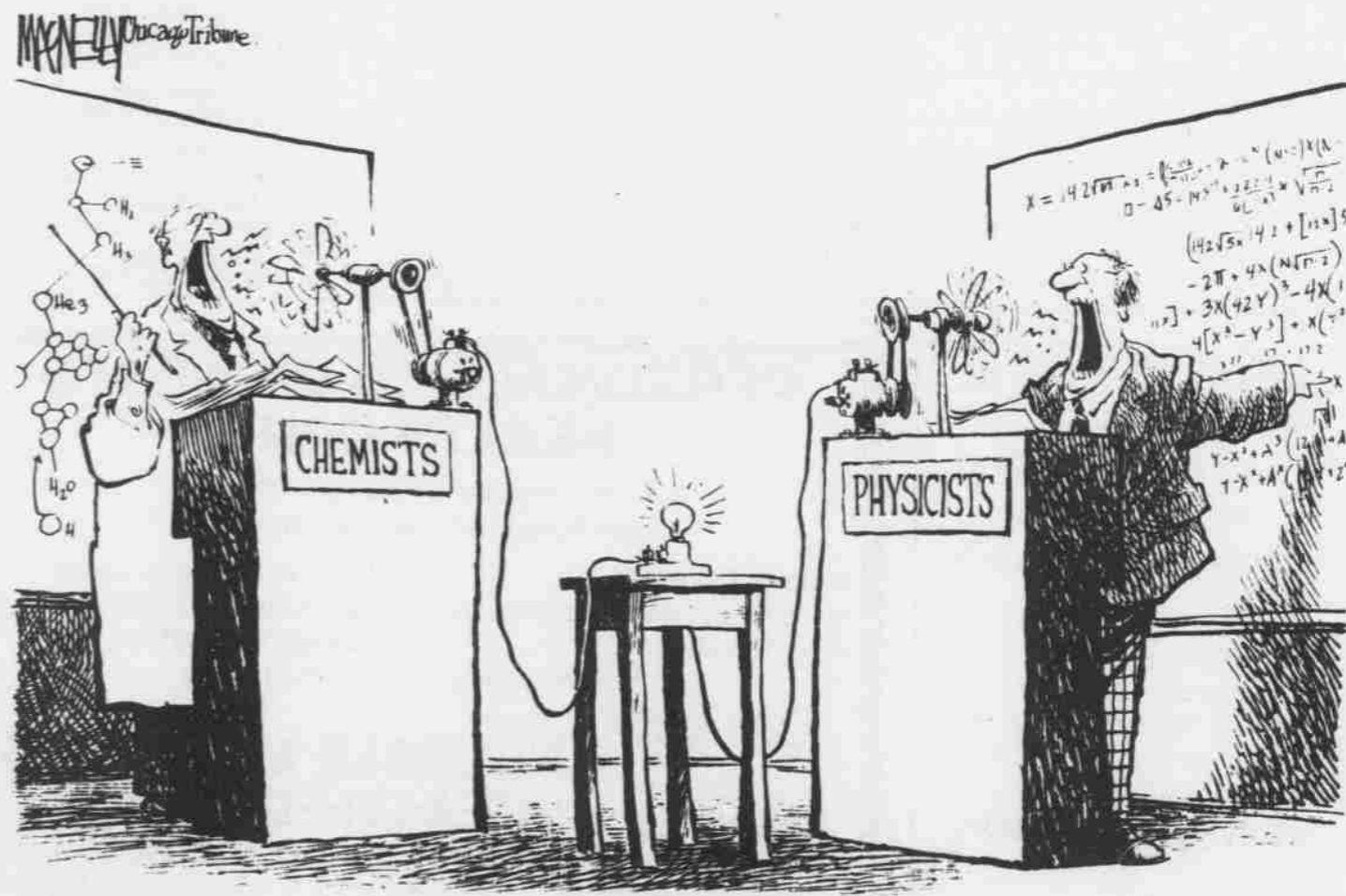
This year's long-awaited issue did not let me down.

Not only were there scores, highlights and quotes, but also there were

action photos and in-depth analyses of baseball, lacrosse and basketball which stimulated my sports palate completely.

So, thank you Dave Glenn and John Bland for your devotion to the mainstay of this campus' bragging rites, keep up the fine work and I hope that your performance and dedication will set a precedent for future Summer Tar Heel editors to come.

JAY REED
Chapel Hill (for now)



Harnessing Fusion Energy.