

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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Spangler strikes out UNC-system president should resign

After a long battle, UNC Board of Governors member Samuel Poole this week released the report his commission compiled last semester on athletics at N.C. State University. UNC-system President C.D. Spangler had, in the manner of anyone but the president of an entire university system, agreed to keep the report from the public until Poole released it in the face of a lawsuit over his violation of the Public Records Law. Spangler has made a mess of this affair and embarrassed the universities by hiding information from the system's governing board. Given his apparent disdain for his job, in this and other incidents, and his lack of appropriate background, it is time he resign.

board opinion

Poole, a lawyer, said it was not a violation of the law to keep the report private — although it was paid for with \$40,000 from taxpayers — and he admitted he was trying to circumvent the law by only giving Spangler an oral report. The written report released Saturday to Board of Governors members — none of whom had seen the report before, despite the fact that they control the system — went into further, disturbing detail than had Spangler's report to the board in September.

President Spangler spent this entire episode cowering behind Poole, doing whatever he said. These past few weeks, in which BOG members have had to beg to see the report, have been an embarrassment to the entire system. When Spangler spoke to the board, he gave few concrete, practical initiatives to clean up academic abuses at NCSU and protect the system from future NCAA violations. The BOG adopted his mostly vague recommendations but has done little since then. Part of the problem, of course, is that board members had little to go on in deciding the future of our system.

Understandably, BOG members like a president who does as they wish, giving them more power. But even they should be frustrated at this latest episode, and they should be tired of a president who shows inadequate concern for education and the system he should be leading.

This is not the first time that Spangler has embarrassed this system and shown a

real disdain for its members. Last year, students at the N.C. School of the Arts were upset with their chancellor. They came to Chapel Hill to discuss this with Spangler; he ignored them and they were forced instead to protest on Franklin Street. Spangler may have disagreed with their complaints, but to act as though they were not his concern was unacceptable.

Spangler also has continuing ties to the business world that distract him from education. Clearly, business is his first love, but when he ignores the problems facing this system — and they are numerous — he hurts many people in the process. Everyone makes mistakes and deserves forgiveness, but for too long now, Spangler has put students' futures and faculty and administrators at a clear disadvantage.

Spangler's business background obviously did not prepare him to lead a public education system. Anyone connected to the system should be disappointed in the way this has been handled, in the way Spangler allowed himself to be led by a lawyer who had little regard for the law, in the way the system's integrity has been compromised. Spangler has done nothing thus far to redeem himself, to show that he has learned from all this. And until this issue arose, he was practically being an invisible leader, forcing other leaders such as Chancellor Paul Hardin to call for new initiatives, to lobby the General Assembly for financial freedoms.

The decline in the quality of the system may not be screaming at us yet, but within a few years, the lack of leadership at the top will be evident. Spangler cannot set policy — that is up to the BOG — but he can take the initiative on academic and athletic issues, leading the board down the path to a bright future. We have the right to expect this from our leader, to expect strong, bold, even radical initiatives that will keep the system at the forefront of education.

The last thing this system needs is more upheaval, as would result from a search for a new president, but that seems to be the only way out. Spangler should return to his business interests and leave the General Administration office to someone who cares about this system and the future of education as much as students and faculty do.



Rusty infiltrates the campus animal testing labs.

Proclaim religion without shouting

Religion has been on my mind lately. Frankly, I'm a little concerned with the behavior of some of our campus religious activists.

A friend of mine was Pit-sitting a while ago when a young woman approached and asked him to take part in a survey. My friend agreed. First the woman asked about his favorite Top 40 song. Then she asked about his favorite sort of music and then his favorite rock band. Finally came the kicker: Are you familiar with the Bible? Would you be interested in joining a Bible study group?

My friend was irritated. He felt he'd been manipulated, and rightly so. Clearly the woman wasn't interested in his views on pop music; she simply wanted to blindside him with an unsolicited religious pitch. Of course, such occurrences aren't uncommon. If you stand still long enough on this campus, someone will decide you look lonely or homesick and thus ripe for conversion.

I'm sure the people who came up with this survey had the proverbial good intentions. Their reasoning probably goes something like this: "People don't think enough about religion, and so they don't realize how relevant our religion/the Bible is to their everyday lives. Therefore, it's up to us to back them into an informal religious conversation and get them thinking."

So these people mean well, even if they are a little pompous in assuming that the rest of us can't think about religion without their help. But while they may think they're serving their religion by seeking recruits, I think they are actually cheapening the very faith they hold so dear, by using the trappings of business salesmanship to "sell" their faith.

Many of us have encountered the religious activist. He seems like a great guy, and he listens to you talk with an intense look on his face. He's got a huge smile and a firm handshake. He nods a lot while you talk. You think you've found a new friend. But beware — before long, he'll have managed to work God into your friendly chit-chat, and then it's, "Did I mention, a bunch of us get together for Bible study every Friday?" And unless you attend that Bible study group, it's unlikely you and your new "friend" will see much of each



Matt Bivens

Rat Salad

other; in fact, inside of a month he'll probably be positively cool towards you.

I don't like this high-pressure sales approach to religion. Clever sales tactics and firm handshakes are better suited to selling soda pop or breakfast cereal, not a life-guiding philosophy. Religion isn't a product, and it shouldn't be treated as such. Those who really care about the truth, whatever it may be to them, know instinctively to avoid sneaky arguments and coy games. If they have the urge to discuss their faith, they go about it honestly.

Choosing a religion — even if it means simply sticking with your parents' choice — is a deeply private decision. Many of us have strong personal convictions about religion — too personal to discuss with some overly friendly stranger in the Pit, especially when we think that stranger is only humoring us by pretending to listen to what we think. I know when a religious activist asks for my views on God, he's not interested in a true exchange of ideas. He already knows the truth, he talks to God, so if my views differ from his he'll seek to correct me. Ughh. Just thinking about it frustrates me. If such a stranger approached me, I'd sooner discuss my finances or love life than my private religious convictions.

It's bad enough that religion is treated so callously. Far worse than that, it's seen by some people as something to scream about or to threaten with. These people demand unquestioning fealty to their view of God; they use the twin fears of death and hell as bludgeons to ensure mindless devotion and obedience.

In past years, campus religious activists have distributed pamphlets with covers that read: "What you miss by being Christian," and, on the inside, "HELL!" Attitudes like these scare me. Why is this necessary? This is

the sort of behavior one would expect from the Ayatollah, not from a UNC sophomore.

The shouting also concerns me. Why shout to people that they're going to burn? Are these people shouting, as some say, out of love and a desire to "save" that person? Or is it self-righteous elitism?

Even worse, is it a thinly disguised brand of hate? Masquerading as concern for another's soul, such hate would let a campus zealot screech furiously at a Jew for being a Jew. If a Mormon is going to burn in the afterlife anyway, how much value needs to be placed on his human life? Isn't someone with a doomed soul somehow less human, less deserving of respect? It's an easy conclusion to reach. In fact, it's the same reasoning some people have advanced in arguing that AIDS is God's tool for punishing gays and drug abusers.

Religious tolerance was one of the founding principles of this country. But this tolerance seems to be slipping away from us. When Duffy Stroud, North Carolina's child street-corner preacher, leapt out of his chair on the Carson show to screech and wave his Bible, it was sort of amusing. The same goes for the protesters who attended the Union showing of "The Last Temptation of Christ," to shout their views at the closing credits. It's all sort of funny. But it's also disquieting. Christianity, like many religions, has so much to offer some people; it's a shame to see its message reduced to intimidation, to shouting down other opinions and beliefs.

Clearly some of us need to change the way we think about and act upon our religious beliefs, if religious tolerance is to have any future in this country. People who use salesmanship to push religion bother me. But people who shout about religion worry me far more.

Instead of bothering so much about the rest of us sinners, these religious activists ought to engage in a little introspective soul-searching of their own. If they really care about the truth, they should have the courage to confront it in themselves. And while they're at it, they could do us all a favor and ask themselves where the intimidation and shouting fit in.

Matt Bivens is a senior political science major from Olney, Md.

A just punishment Televangelist abused religion's power

The decision is in, and the earthly judgment day of televangelist Jim Bakker has finally come. But a mere jail sentence and fine seem trivial next to the years of lying, cheating and adultery which he committed in God's name. While Bakker will forever remain a disgrace to religion, and mankind for that matter, we can gain hope in the precedent that his pathetic case sets. People who attempt to deceive others, especially in the manner of Bakker, are not beyond the law — mortal or divine. Most importantly, the entire affair sends another message to the innocent souls in America who believe in these impostors: folks, it's time to wake up and smell the coffee.

Bakker was sentenced Tuesday to 45 years in prison and fines of \$500,000 — not a bad deal for Bakker, who faced a maximum punishment of 120 years and \$5 million in fines. The PTL founder must also serve a minimum sentence of 10 years before possible parole, by which time Bakker undoubtedly will have attempted to "preach" his way to freedom on good behavior. Some friendly advice, however, for Bakker to keep in mind: 10 years is 10 years, but hell is eternal, and you won't receive any monetary favors for this ministry.

Too harsh for someone only convicted of fraud? Take the words of U.S. District Judge Robert Potter, who handed down the decision: "Those of us who do have a religion are sick of being saps for money-grubbing preachers and priests. Worst of all, it appears that Mr. Bakker feels he was deserving of his gains from the little people who sent in their savings." Bakker, as he was escorted from the courtroom in handcuffs and ankle chains, even had the nerve to acknowledge the crowds with his devilish ear-to-ear grin.

The fact that Bakker cannot express remorse

or admit his wrongs simply demonstrates the greed and drive for power which have completely enveloped the man. Mocking his responsibility of spiritual leadership to millions of PTL viewers, Bakker "preached" for seven years following an adulterous affair with the now infamous Jessica Hahn, to whom he paid \$265,000 to keep silent. But this facade of integrity was only the beginning of Bakker's downfall.

As a part a PTL fundraising project, Bakker promised "lifetime partnerships" — including three nights of free lodging for life at Heritage USA, PTL's ministry resort — to all those followers who donated \$1,000 to the PTL "cause." Bakker was charged with taking a cool \$3.5 million for himself and his extravagant lifestyle, and \$154 million more was at his disposal. Meanwhile,

innocent viewers — many of whom have trouble supporting themselves — were making offerings to Bakker's god and guiding spirit — money.

Bakker and others who mix greed and religion are nothing more than cult figures in the worst form. Both Bakker and Jim Jones, for example, used charisma to beguile and manipulate unsuspecting followers. Although one made hundreds commit mass suicide, another may have caused thousands to doubt their faith in God and his clergy.

Those masses who seek religious happiness through their televisions must be cautious and even consider taking their faith and money elsewhere; indeed, the possibility of another Jim Bakker springing up always exists. As for Bakker himself, let us be thankful the man is finally off the air and out of North Carolina. Wise citizens in any state, wherever he finally lands, should ride him out on a rail. — James Burroughs

Justice wasn't served for battered woman

To the editor:
I am so glad someone finally wrote in complaining that the DTH had entirely overlooked the murder of Dawn Jolly ("Woman's murder overlooked by DTH," Oct. 20). I regret that I have not written in sooner and would like to express disappointment in my own and their negligence.

Not only was the Jolly incident in the headlines for days in Chapel Hill, it is still receiving substantial coverage in area papers and on television. I was highly surprised that there was no mention of it on campus, not even of the candlelight vigil held at the post office where at least a hundred people showed up in memory of Dawn.

Christine Wicher's letter mentioned some critical facts about battery and urged us to take Dawn Jolly's case as an example of something of which we all could become a victim. Being from Hillsborough and knowing some of Dawn's friends and having met her, I have had the unfortunate privilege of hearing the history of her problems with her husband a long time before they came to a head. Her death hit home for me in a big way.

The battery of women not only makes the battered woman a victim, but her friends and family as well. Dawn Jolly's predicament seems to have become even more heated when she tried to seek refuge with her friends, making them active participants in her struggle to be free.

Along with many others, I am incensed that the Orange County

Students must avoid plastics to save earth

To the editor:
It's 6:55 p.m., and you've just gotten out of your Math 242 class. With your eyes glazed and your brain muddled, you mechanically plod into Lenoir for some victuals, only to realize that you have a SEAC (Student Environmental Action Committee) meeting in five minutes. Your churning stomach compels you to order a cheeseburger to go, and out you dash with a squeaky white foam box in your hand. An hour and a half later, your eyes have focused, your brain is cleared, and your stomach is satisfied, but your conscience is raging over the crumpled box in the wastebasket that will take centuries to disappear — if it ever does. This is the morally disturbing predicament that many environmentally-aware students have been befuddled by as a result of the Carolina Dining Services' use of styrofoam cups and boxes. What can be done about it? According to the DTH ("RHA seeks end to

COURTS WERE NOT "ABLE" TO DO ANYTHING MORE TO PROTECT DAWN. I feel that here is yet another example of how the legal system did more to protect Randy Jolly as an assumed innocent (even though he had been brought in on warrants for assault against Dawn before) than Dawn as a victim. She appealed to her friends, to the police. It still didn't do any good. All she wanted was for him to leave her alone.

CYNTHIA SATTERFIELD
Senior English

Styrofoam use in dining service, Oct. 2")

Styrofoam use in dining service, Oct. 2"), Marriott, the company in charge of the Carolina Dining Services, has been working toward switching their foam products to paper products. I think that they should at least have a trial period of using cardboard boxes and cups, if not in all the dining areas, then maybe just in Lenoir. This idea was already tested last year in The Pit Stop and was met with much enthusiasm, but, unfortunately, The Pit Stop was closed and nothing more was done with the idea of using cardboard cups and boxes.

So what's wrong with using foam products instead of paper products? Foam may be cheaper than paper now, but in the future it will probably cost much more to use foam cups than paper cups, just because the disposal of styrofoam is such a problem. OK, so you can't leave your Coke in a cardboard cup for days on end. Who wants to drink two-week-old Coke anyway? And maybe paper does transmit heat more readily to your hand, but having warm hands should be an advantage in the cold mornings in wintertime, which is when most people drink hot beverages anyway. So your lasagna seeps through your cardboard box a little, just wipe it off — people have endured far worse things.

All these little inconveniences now can prevent a huge inconvenience later, when all your Lenoir takeouts haunt you in the form of sweltering heat and rampant skin cancer — the result of ozone layer depletion caused by the chemicals in styrofoam. And you may even have your very own dump site in your backyard when all the nation's landfills are chock full of

Readers' Forum

garbage, which, incidentally, will probably be within the next couple of decades. Not only that, but that foam box you just chucked can't be burned, because burning it produces a toxic residue, the disposal of which poses another problem. The other major alternative would be to recycle the plastic, and even though it helps, recycling alone is not enough to reduce the huge amount of styrofoam being used and produced.

That is why Marriott should at least try to switch from foam products to paper products and maybe even recycle them as well. Marriott's support is needed to help combat our plastics problem — and so is yours. Maybe you don't think that it's worth your trouble. Maybe you don't think you'll make a difference. You're wrong. If everyone does a little, those little things will turn into something big — and something big is what we need to save this earth. This earth that we have abused and taken for granted for so long. We need to save the earth not only for ourselves, but for our children, before it is too late and there is not an earth to save.

YU-YEE WU
Freshman English

Letters policy

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• All letters must be dated and signed by the author(s), with a limit of two signatures per letter.
• The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.