

# The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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## Students not on trial McKinley's punishment too severe

When CIA Action Committee members Dale McKinley and Jerry Jones were recently convicted of trespassing and willfully obstructing UNC operations by University student courts, both received definite probation sentences, which prohibits them from representing the University and from participating in extracurricular activities. However, McKinley has learned that his sentence prohibits him from teaching his political science class — a punishment that would unfairly disrupt his class and deny the students a full education.

The protesters do deserve some sort of censure for their activities, according to their conviction. The terms of the probation barely affect Jones, because he does not represent the University in any official capacity. But McKinley and several others did not immediately realize that the probation sentence would not allow him to teach his political science course on contemporary Africa. Upon this realization, McKinley filed an appeal to the Graduate Student Court on the basis that his due process was denied.

Some members of the court did not seem to intend for this punishment to deny McKinley his job as a teaching assistant, and the sentence is obviously proving to be too severe since McKinley's leave would produce chaos within the class. Most of the 50 students in the class signed up for the class because of McKinley — this punishment would hurt the students more than McKinley. He is the only expert on African contemporary affairs in the political science department, which would make

### board opinion

finding a replacement especially difficult. In addition, McKinley would unreasonably suffer since this position represents 80 percent to 90 percent of his income. Banning him from the classroom — in which he gives by far his greatest contribution to the University — would basically expel him from the University. Ironically, while McKinley and Jones were tried for obstructing the University, this sentence only perpetuates an obstruction of education.

According to the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance, every sentence of probation prohibits the student from representing the University and participating in extracurricular activities. The Graduate Student Court seems to have its hands tied in lessening the severity of a probation sentence. But McKinley has filed an appeal under the premise that his due process was denied, a rather vague argument that could be difficult to prove. He would have a stronger chance in the appeal were based on the severity of the sentence. We hope that the court includes this in the consideration of his appeal.

The Graduate Student Court has an opportunity to alter the punishment of Dale McKinley. The Instrument does not give the court the flexibility to soften the terms of the probation, but the court does have the power to reduce the sentence or even to dismiss the charges. McKinley's well-being should not be the primary consideration to change the punishment, but rather the well-being of the 50 students who will be abandoned. The students should not carry the burden of McKinley's infractions.

## Condom controversy Ignorance grounds safe-sex message

Tempers flared last week after an announcement that a 12-story, hot-air balloon shaped like a condom was going to stretch across Durham's skyline this weekend. After much discussion, Durham County officials announced they would not let the aircraft lift-off from county-owned property. In a city known for its medical facilities and research, it is sad that Victorian views would prevent a promotion encouraging safe sex.

The promotion was sponsored by a Durham-based, private, non-profit group to encourage people to use condoms to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. The bright yellow balloon and its "I Save Lives" slogan were messages to Durham County residents that these diseases are problems in every community and in their own backyards.

According to Durham County officials, more than 200 people in Durham County have tested positive for the AIDS virus since 1985, and more than 100 people have confirmed AIDS cases. Durham County also has more than 750 pregnant teen-agers each year. These statistics show there is a need for increased education, but county officials chose to ignore this need.

Church members and residents living in Durham contacted a county commissioner to complain that the balloon flight was tasteless and inappropriate. The commissioner contacted

other board members, who voted to reverse a decision made by the county manager to allow the flight. Ironically, the county commissioners' decision to cancel the flight resulted in media coverage that spread pictures of the balloon across the state.

One commissioner said she might have had a different reaction to the balloon flight had she been given more details. "Not knowing much about it, I responded conservatively," she said, reflecting a traditional attitude taken by politicians to issues regarding sex and AIDS.

While a 120-foot-tall condom may not have been eye-pleasing object, it would have been eye-catching — and that's the point. The safe-sex message is one of life or death. It should not be silenced because of small-minded ideas of good taste. Education and public awareness are potent weapons against the spread of AIDS, but in Durham, it seems that the political attitude toward safe sex is "out of sight, out of mind."

By failing to support a public service announcement because it was controversial, Durham officials chose to promote ignorance. In the "City of Medicine," people should not refuse to accept that a health danger as great as AIDS must be fought regardless of the means. Politicians need to abandon their hot-air rhetoric, or the fight against the disease will never get off the ground. — Charles Brittain

### the last word

a major earthquake, its spontaneity is shocking. Hugo was something we felt sure everyone was aware of, and it happened on a weekend dominated by hurricane-related stories.

Beginning with Jim Zook, the past four editors have made University news and student-written articles the focus of the front page. As a student paper, student-related news should go on front.

Zook, who was editor from 1986 to 1987, moved all but the biggest wire stories from the front page to page two. By the next year, wire stories were practically outlawed by editor Jill Gerber.

University and town news that doesn't make the front page runs on page three, which now comes complete with the logo "Campus and City." The use of logos should make the newspaper more user-friendly, making it easier to find local and state news, arts and sports.

By February, University news alone should fill page three most days, although the town police roundup will probably still run in the left-hand briefs column one or two days a week. With that expansion of coverage, along with increased business coverage, we hope to keep students reasonably informed of both local and national news. — Karen Dunn and Tom Parks



## Readers' Forum

### Phrase should not be made a racial issue

To the editor:  
 In regards to Courtney N. Gallop's letter ("Black Monday perpetuates racism," Oct. 27) concerning The Daily Tar Heel's use of the phrase "Black Monday" to describe the recent predicted stock market disaster: Her attack on the DTH was completely unwarranted and lacked foundation. If Miss Gallop would realize, the phrase "Black Monday" was not only "considered to be sound in terms of journalistic style" by the DTH, but also by NBC Nightly News and ABC World News Tonight. Do you honestly believe that national networks that depend on viewers for their survival would intend to offend an entire race of Americans? I certainly do not, and in my opinion, The Daily Tar Heel would also not have that intent.

I believe that Miss Gallop is taking this issue and making it a personal one when she clearly has no basis to do so. All of us have been taught about certain connotations that are associated with the different colors. These connotations are a running theme throughout centuries of literature. While you feel it is now necessary to remove these connotations from our language, you base that claim on one phrase that is not even remotely associated with black people as a race. The phrase "Black Monday" refers to an economic situation that unfortunately brings about images of dread and badness. Are you suggesting that we remove connotations such as someone who is considered cowardly as "yellow," and what about psychological groupings of anger for red and jealousy for green? Quite honestly, you have no basis for turning this one phrase into a racial issue which does not need to be.

I would suggest to Miss Gallop that if she is offended by the phrase "Black Monday," she should create a new one and introduce it to the business world. Otherwise, please consider all aspects of criticism before you present them.

JOHN P. McGRAIL  
 Freshman  
 RTVMP

### Coverage of College Republicans was fair

To the editor:  
 As an employee of the University rather than one of its students, I usually avoid commenting on matters concerning The Daily Tar Heel as it is and should be a student publication. But after reading Charlton Allen's senseless diatribe against the DTH editorial

staff in his letter to the editor ("DTH misrepresents College Republicans," Oct. 25), I couldn't remain silent.

Allen is totally off-base in his criticism of the DTH for its coverage of the College Republicans, and particularly their protest of FMLN spokesman Arnaldo Ramos. The newspaper's coverage of the event and the CR's actions was fair and unbiased. I'm also shocked to hear Charlton is distressed by the DTH's alleged preference for those of the "liberal persuasion." Imagine that, a college newspaper promoting progressive ideas. What is this world coming to? Maybe Mr. Allen would be happier if the DTH would revert to the kind of thinking that was popular in Calvin Coolidge's day.

I do agree with Charlton on one point. He is right in asserting that the College Republicans are representative of the national Republican Party as a whole. That national Republicans, like the College Republicans, have successfully purged their ranks of their moderate and liberal elements over the past two decades. The ideological focus of both groups is now mired in the far right wing of American politics. I would suggest, however, that Allen choose his role models a little more carefully. He quoted RNC Chairman Lee Atwater in his letter to the DTH. Now we all know what a great guy Atwater is. This is the same person whose entire political career has been based on character assassination, a man who has managed some of the most foul and vituperative political campaigns in American history.

I only hope that four years in Chapel Hill will help open Charlton's mind to ideas other than those espoused by the College Republicans. Or hopefully that he'll understand that the DTH, in reporting the incident which stirred his ire, was not necessarily advancing the liberal views he abhors, but rather doing its job in an efficient and factual manner.

DAVE LOHSE  
 Assistant Director  
 Sports Information

### Board's criticism of Spangler debatable

To the editor:  
 For a great university newspaper, you sure managed to botch the facts in your editorial "Spangler strikes out: UNC-system president should resign" (Oct. 26). To mention a few:

1. You say President C.D. Spangler "gave few concrete, practical initiatives to clean up academic abuses at NCSU and protect the system from future NCAA violations." Attached is a

list of his 14 recommendations for all campuses, adopted by the Board of Governors as university policy and made available to reporters, presumably including yours, at the August 25 meeting. (You got the month wrong, by the way.) The board directed the chancellors and boards of trustees to put in place procedures for each campus to ensure there is an effective faculty committee on athletics; prohibit admission of any athlete who fails to meet the board's minimum admission requirements; ensure that student athletes follow coherent course of study leading to a degree; and ensure that athletes in academic difficulties not be allowed to play. That is only a partial list of his recommendations designed to clear up academic abuses. The president also proposed, and the board adopted, a policy of mandatory drug testing for athletes. What kinds of concrete, practical initiatives were you hoping for?

2. You ignore the fact that President Spangler's report to the board followed Sam Poole's memo by two months. During that time the investigation into athletics at NCSU continued, and some things that were dangling got nailed down. As Mr. Poole said when his draft was released, parts of it were no longer true. This is one good reason for not releasing that draft, which was not, as you wrote, "a report his commission compiled." Instead, it was, (again I am quoting from Poole's published statement) a "working paper, roughly written" by Poole alone that "cannot be construed as the product of the full commission." Because the president's report was designed to present a more complete picture, it was far more detailed than Sam Poole's memo, with considerably more data and information about many matters, including the academic side of things — from players' SAT scores to graduation rates.

3. Your facts are wrong about President Spangler's meetings with students at the N.C. School of the Arts during the turbulence there last spring, and you imply that he refused to see them. As I recall, he met with student emissaries twice here in Chapel Hill and he also met with them in Winston-Salem. Throughout that very difficult experience, he made very clear, in public and in private, that the students were his No. 1 concern. Moreover, speaking generally, if there is someone in the university system more concerned with students — of all races and all incomes — than this man, I have yet to meet that person.

Finally, if your staff finds the president "invisible," you don't speak for the students who dine regularly in Lenoir Hall, where he can be seen having lunch practi-

cally every week.  
 Now, let's get back to fair and accurate journalism.

WYNDHAM ROBERTSON  
 Vice president  
 for communications  
 General Administration

### Sentence does not just punish the guilty one

To the editor:  
 I'm sure we've all heard the name Dale McKinley somewhere around campus. Anyone who has followed his case knows that he is on probation and is prohibited from representing the University in any official way. This includes teaching his Poli 59 class, of which I am a member. Apparently, there is no one else qualified to teach this course. Whether he deserves his sentence, it directly affects students.

He is one of the most interesting teachers I've had at UNC. Even if somebody was ready to take his place, the class wouldn't be the same, and probably wouldn't be as good. But this is not the point. The point is that the University did not give any thought to students when it barred McKinley from teaching. He is appealing their decision, and until the appeals process is finished he will continue to teach. What if he had decided not to appeal? Fifty students would be left in the middle of the semester with three less credit hours. The administration obviously did not take into consideration people on financial aid or living in dorms; they are not allowed, according to University policy, to drop below 12 hours. Nor did they stop to think about seniors who had calculated their hours, and would have to take three extra hours the following semester in order to graduate. Yes, it would be a problem to have a teacher, and thus a class, disappear mid-semester.

UNC has not been faced with a "Dale McKinley situation" before. Oh those liberal-radical-trouble-making types! But who's to say this situation won't arise again? It is understandable that the Honor Court wants to give him a just sentence. Whether or not it is fair to him, it is not fair to us, the students. The University should not be able to completely disrupt a class because of how it feels it should punish the teacher. Were he a murderer or a rapist, I would understand that the University might feel compelled to immediately bar him from the classroom. But an activist? Give me a break. McKinley was on trial, and he is the one to whom the punishment is supposed to be directed. There is no reason for 50 students to be punished alongside him.

LISA JORDAN  
 Junior  
 French

## Community deserves truth about research

To the editor:  
 I wish to address a statement Andrew Peterson made in his letter concerning animal research at UNC ("University needs to work with SETA," Oct. 20). He makes the outrageous statement "animal research is archaic." No, animal research is not archaic, it is necessary. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals are constantly calling for a stop to animal research and a start for alternative methods. Don't you think if alternatives were available scientists would use them?

The facts are that alternatives have not been developed to address many of the questions that most researchers are asking today, and any alternatives which are available have been developed by animal researchers!

I must also point out that alternatives to animal research, such as computer models, are themselves based upon animal research. Animal research must continue, for the sake of science today and the hope for alternatives

tomorrow.

Most importantly, Mr. Peterson says he was "shocked and embarrassed" when he read a pamphlet by PETA claiming "atrocities" were occurring at UNC. I believe the University community deserves the full truth about the allegations presented by PETA as "fact." About half of these claims were based upon an illegal entry of an animal facility by PETA last spring.

Among other claims, they accused UNC of the following "atrocities": cats having ear mites and health charts which had not been kept. The full truth of the matter is as follows: Yes, the cats had ear mites — and were being treated by a veterinarian for it! The claim that health records were not being kept on the animals is outrageous. The full truth of the matter is that old health charts were hanging in the animal rooms untouched — untouched because the animal care facility had just switched over from an outmoded system of monitored animal care to a more efficient,

more people-oriented system. The old charts were no longer in use. PETA interpreted the empty charts hanging on the walls as not keeping records when, in fact, a more efficient method of monitored animal care was in place.

Each allegation that PETA made in its pamphlet, when fully and truthfully explained, becomes not a matter of animal abuse but a matter of misinterpretation presented by PETA to the public. The actions of SETA/PETA have been extremely irresponsible and Mr. Peterson wonders why the University seems unwilling to engage in dialogue with animal rights groups. Unbiased, good journalism by the DTH would reveal their distortions. It is time that PETA is held accountable and liable for its accusations. I believe the University community has a right, and should demand, the full truth about such matters.

MICHELLE NICOLLE  
 Graduate student  
 Neurobiology