

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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Not quite No. 1 UNC can't rest on its ranking laurels

On the surface, it's been a good year for UNC. Earlier this month, the University was named the fourth-best public university in the nation by a U.S. News and World Report survey. Since then, the book "The Insider's Guide to the Top 25 Colleges" named UNC the top public college in the country. While these accolades are appreciated, it's hard to believe that with all the problems UNC faces, it could possibly be the cream of the crop.

board opinion

Of course, UNC retains many qualities that make it one of the best colleges in the nation. An excellent faculty (the ones who have stayed, anyway), many opportunities for a decent social life and outstanding extracurricular activities make UNC a pleasant place to be. But as we bask in the glow of these ratings, we must be realistic. Thinking about life at UNC shouldn't be all gloom and doom, but many facets of the University demand attention, fast.

To begin with, the lack of leadership for the UNC system has become increasingly alarming in past months, so that the system has been led by a wayward Board of Governors member and, in part, by Chancellor Paul Hardin, rather than by the system's president. That has put Hardin out of touch with students in Chapel Hill as he spends his time raising money and starting discussion as a president should on increased financial autonomy for universities.

In addition, students' educations are hampered by a lack of funds for the libraries and a lack of adequate funding to pay

teaching assistants and other faculty members. Research grants earned by faculty endeavors at UNC are cut substantially, with a percentage given to the state, which hinders the University's ability to keep up with other institutions. And though this community seems well-off, the University continues to pay housekeepers barely enough to live on. At the same time, the General Assembly this year gave matching funds for a new business school building, a project that wasn't even on the Board of Governors' priority list for funding.

And UNC still suffers from social ills that should no longer be prevalent. The most obvious of these is the sense that relations between the races have taken a step backward. It's hard to say that UNC has high quality of life when the campus remains segregated and overwhelmingly white, not to mention never-ending barriers to the construction of a Black Cultural Center. And a high rate of sexual assaults in the last few years hardly makes this a comfortable place for women to walk alone.

UNC continues to offer one of the best education bargains in the country. But it's too easy to sit back and refuse to face the problems that compound daily, or too easy to focus on one problem at the expense of others. While University committees debate racism, the segregation — and alienation — continues. While outside donors contribute to the University's 1993 bicentennial fund-raisers, graduate students need more money now. It would be nice to celebrate these questionable rankings, but there's too much work to do.

Another credit card? Meal card use off campus unrealistic

Wouldn't it be great to have mom and dad to pay for that pitcher of beer at the Rat? How about a few burritos across the street at Taco Bell? Sounds great, doesn't it? In fact, it sounds a little too convenient to be realistic. While the idea of possessing a mini-Mastercard — disguised as a meal card paid for by parents — probably appeals to most students, using cards outside of the University would only promote student financial irresponsibility and would also put Marriott in deeper financial problems.

Using meal cards off-campus is a plan begun by Student Congress meal card subcommittee chairmen Mark Bibbs and Mark Shelburn. The committee has researched the idea and talked with the owners of several area restaurants. However, amid all these plans, the Marriott Corporation was not even approached about the idea for several weeks — and after discussing it with committee members, the manager doesn't seem interested.

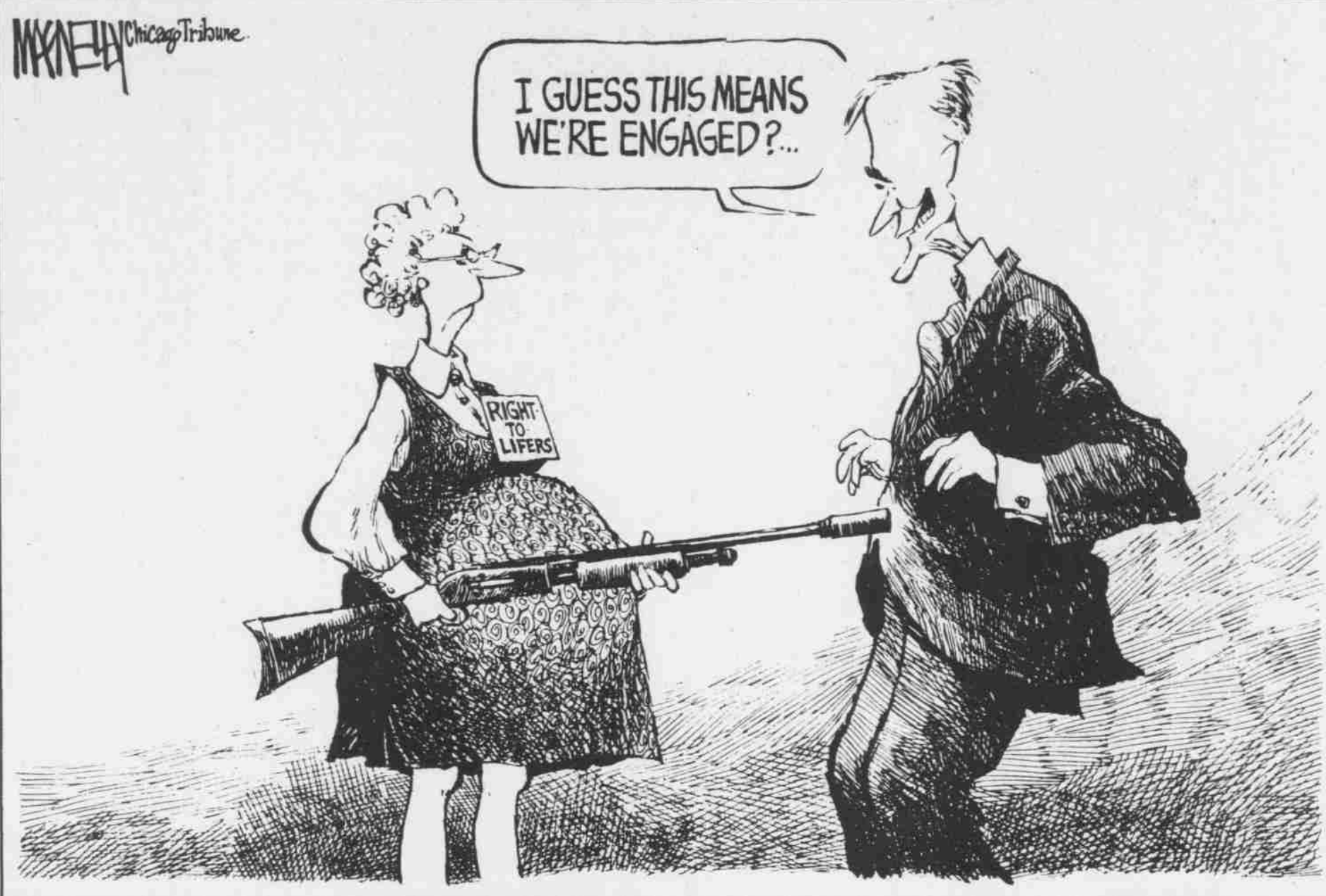
Bibbs and Shelburn compare the idea of using meal cards outside the University to Duke University's system, where students have two options. One plan obliges students to put a certain amount of money on the card that can be used at any food service on campus. The second plan, the one that the chairmen are referring to, allows students to purchase anything on their meal cards, including books, T-shirts, haircuts and movie tickets. However, the catch is that all of these services are located on Duke's campus and are campus-operated. So the committee's plan really does not parallel the system at Duke.

Even if a system did exist at UNC permitting students to use meal cards on Franklin Street, it would destroy the independence that college students are supposed to be developing. How can students expect to learn to budget money when Franklin Street bills are simply charged to an account often paid for by their parents? Most parents are more likely to add money to a food account than to the student's bank account where the money could be used for anything — no parents want their children to starve.

In addition, Marriott continues to have financial problems, and this added competition would only put Marriott in worse economic trouble. Marriott would then have to increase the prices, inevitably hurting students. Marriott is a national corporation and cannot compete with local independent businesses.

A possible compromise would be consolidation of all the food services on campus and possibly the University bookstore. Students could then use their meal cards in more places without destroying Marriott in the process. However, a problem arises because the profits of these independent services are used for different things. Some of the bookstore's profits go to scholarship funds, whereas Marriott's profits are solely Marriott's.

Despite the downsides of this idea, it can be developed into something successful for students if changes are made to protect both students and Marriott. Until then, students will have to either handle using real credit cards or eating cafeteria food. — Jennifer Wing



BCC deserves top priority at UNC

Editor's note: The author is the Black Cultural Center project leader in the Department of Minority and Women's Affairs.

James Sweet
Guest Writer

In recent months the student body has been inundated with both the positive and negative rhetoric surrounding the building of the Alumni Center and the Student Recreation Center. Lost in this crossfire is the continuing effort to build a Black Cultural Center. While I come to you not to deny the benefits of either the Alumni Center or the SRC to the University community, I do question the commitment and priorities of the University in the effort to build a Black Cultural Center.

After an extremely long and bitter struggle, the BCC was established on July 1, 1988, as a new department within the Division of Student Affairs with the approval of the University administration. The "temporary" BCC site was established in a small area of the Student Union which formerly housed several snack vending machines. While this gesture may have been seen as the end-all token of appeasement to many people, even as the BCC was establishing itself, the BCC Planning Committee began meeting to discuss plans for the "real" BCC. In September, the committee completed a feasibility study for the construction of a BCC which calls for a 23,000 square foot building (Howell Hall is 25,000 square feet) at a cost of approximately \$2.92 million. The proposed building includes a library, a reception gallery, a media room a multi-purpose room, a music/dance studio, a kitchen, office space and yes, even restrooms!

In the year that has passed since the establishment of the BCC, several disturbing events have taken place which bring into question the University's commitment concerning the construction of a BCC. An Alumni Center was proposed. A site was chosen. Construction promptly began this summer. Why was this degree of urgency not shown concerning the

BCC construction? Perhaps even more graphic and definitely more pertinent is the case of the SRC. Former CAA President Carol Geer's poorly conceived proposal steamrolled through Student Congress and passed easily in the February referendum vote. At \$13 per person, little did the students know that they were getting a building which has no proposed restrooms, is in reality nothing more than a student funded annex to Fetzer Gym and may never truly be student-run after all. I am sure that these minor errors will be corrected before actual construction begins on the SRC; however, this does not excuse the system's willingness to accept such a shoddy proposal bestowed upon it as one student's personal legacy. Perhaps the students should have questioned the viability of the SRC before they so hastily agreed to fund it.

Finally, I would like to make a few comments on the apparent priorities of the University community. As the BCC Planning Committee organized and took proper steps toward reaching its ultimate goal, the University community embraced and hastily proceeded with plans to build two new facilities centrally focused on athletics. In an age when the University wants to maintain its reputation as one of the top academic institutions in this country, how is it that these two facilities were so quickly approved while the BCC was put on the back burner? The academic integrity of the University depends upon additions like the BCC which promote intellectual, cultural and social diversity. Athletic concerns such as the Alumni Center and the SRC should be considerably lower priorities.

The new BCC is going to become a reality, but there are two major questions that remain unanswered. When will it be built and from where will the money come? The first question cannot be answered without first answering the second question. Several proposals have been offered by the BCC Planning Committee, including having a fund raising drive, obtaining grants and raising student fees. The problem with the first two is that they are long drawn out processes with no guarantees. If we were to wait on these, we may not see ground broken on the BCC until 1992. On the other hand, an approval of a February 1990 bond referendum raising student fees could enable ground to be broken as early as late 1990.

With the recent tuition increases and the student fee increase due to the SRC, I realize that I am asking a lot. The increase would be quite small compared to the \$13 per student paid for the SRC (somewhere between \$5 and \$7), and I feel that the benefits would be much greater. While the priorities and commitments of this campus would be questioned by this referendum, so too would the state of race relations.

It would be redundant for me to say that the BCC is not only for black people on this campus. This point has been argued numerous times and can be proven by the overwhelming number of whites who have shown up at race relations workshops at the present BCC. The real question here is whether whites are willing to fund a facility whose main focus is the black cultural and intellectual experience in America. Ethnocentrism has no place on a campus as diverse as this one, especially when the point in question costs so very little. You just spent \$13 for a gym addition. How about \$6 for a Black Cultural Center?

James H. Sweet is a senior political science major from Charlotte.

Readers' Forum

Crum's performance did merit criticism

To the editor:
On behalf of Dave Glenn, I would like to address the letter by Chris Harff ("Stomping Blaming Crum for football failures," Oct. 20) in which he criticizes Glenn's ideas on Dick Crum, former head football coach.

Mr. Harff, obviously you have little knowledge about the UNC football program. Allow me to explain the ideology players use in determining where they want to play in college. High school football players want to go to a school which they like, which is a definite power in the ACC and which will give them an incentive (a scholarship, for instance) to play at that school. In the 1970s and early 1980s, the two teams in the ACC were North Carolina and Clemson. Consequently, a majority of high school players wanted

to go to these two schools.

Enter Dick Crum. When Dick Crum became head coach in 1978, he had the cream of the crop players to work with. And for five or six years after he became head coach, he still was recruiting good players — not because of him, but because UNC was winning its ball games. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that Carolina should have gone to six bowl games. Eventually, however, word started to spread about Crum as a coach. He ran the same plays over and over, yet they were successful because he had players who could make them work. But his attitude and monotony, as well as inconsistency, preceded him. Fewer players wanted to play for him. They wanted to play for Carolina, true, but with a more innovative, original, well-organized staff and an exciting team, none of which Dick Crum could offer. Four of the worst recruiting years on record resulted. Then we got to see if

Dick Crum really could make things work, and as it turned out, he couldn't. It was the same old ball game. Run, run, run, punt. Dick Crum was paid to leave. He received over \$900,000 to leave before his contract was up. I believe if I were paid that much money, I would have left UNC quietly as well.

Enter Mack Brown. A man with a plan. He looked at what he had and accepted that little good could come from it. Mr. Harff, you have stated that "proven coaches do not make excuses." Mack Brown has a definite excuse for his record here. Its name: Dick Crum and his recruiting maladies.

But Mack waded through his miserable first season and came out on top. He is straight with the college, he is optimistic, he has a good attitude about football and he isn't afraid to let the quarterback pass the ball! (It may not work every time, but practice

makes perfect.)

Words spread again of big changes at Carolina. Interest in the high schools toward Carolina rose. Consequently, the 1989 recruiting year was the best one in six years. Now, Mack Brown has a future team, chosen by him and his staff, which he feels will make the Carolina football team great once again.

Incidentally, Mr. Harff, Dick Crum has a 0-7 record at Kent State, with more experienced players. So if you think he's "doing well," then you need to think again. It's one thing to argue a point logically, but unless you have the information to make a case against the sports editor, whose job it is to know what's what in sports, please do the people who really know about Dick Crum's athletic program and football in general a favor and get your facts straight before you speak up.

SHANE HASTY
Sophomore
Journalism

Public should have say on art funds

It was a clash of the Titans — the sanctity of the artist to "paint what he sees" came face to face with the unpredictable demands of government funding. Our own Sen. Helms, in leading the efforts to reduce National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding in the amount used to sponsor two sexually explicit and religiously offensive exhibits, stands convicted of violating the ages-old prerogative of the artist.

Because I am going to find for the defendant in this case, let me explain that I am myself an aspiring artist, a writer. I have three unpublished books and numerous essays at home, if anyone is interested. Furthermore, two years ago I quit my job to write and to study writing. Obviously, I support the prerogative of the artist.

However, as someone who has worked full-time for years and who continues to work to support himself, I also support the rights of the taxpayer. And the most obvious argument for the NEA funding cut is that, while the artist can create whatever he or she chooses, the taxpayer should not be forced to pay for it. While this raises the undesirable specter of our senators deciding which art is "worthy" of our

Dale Berryhill
Guest Writer

patronage, it is nevertheless a legitimate point.

Freedom of expression is merely one of the rights inherent in a government in which the people are the rulers. And if the people are the rulers, they have the right to grant or withhold funding as they please, even if they are doing so because they are uneducated dullards who cannot see the artistic value in a photograph of a man dressed in full sado-masochistic leather regalia.

I'll admit that I'm not particularly comfortable with the idea of taxpayers exercising this right in a specialized area such as art. But their right to do so sprang from the same rationalist philosophy as did freedom of expression — the philosophy that the individual is supreme. Argue against one right and you undermine the other.

With the two legitimate rights colliding (and with the one holding the purse strings the

probable winner), what can we say about the unsettling prospect of the government controlling art? Does the NEA funding cut mean, as a museum asserted in a full-page ad, that we are letting "politics kill Art?"

Of course not. Art does not live or die by government funding. It's ironic that the art world is utilizing the same type of rhetoric for which "moralists" such as Jesse Helms are so often attacked. The art world should be careful: the contention that the power to cut funding is the power to destroy would not lead to more funding, but to a separation of Art and State allowing no funding at all.

Like it or not, we are stuck with a hybrid. We will support art, and we will attack as few strings as possible, but there are lines that cannot be crossed without awakening even the great silent majority. Those lines are pretty far out on the horizon of good taste, and they are clearly visible. In crossing them, the art world has brought this situation, and the dangerous precedents it sets, on itself.

Dale A. Berryhill is a graduate student in English from Raleigh.

The Daily Tar Heel

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