

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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One more year? Leaders deserve second shot at office

In the past week, as Student Body President Brien Lewis has grappled with whether to run for a second term, students have discussed the merits of a re-election campaign. While there are many valid arguments against an incumbent trying to stay in office, it could be an idea long overdue.

board opinion

Regardless of whether Lewis has done a good job as SBP, he and any other elected officials should have the right to run again. Some students may think this is an unfair use of power as an incumbent, and it definitely goes against tradition — no SBP has done it before — but this race should be no different from other campus races.

Two years ago, Carolina Athletic Association President Carol Geer won a successful re-election campaign. By staying in office for two years, Geer was able to establish a successful relationship with athletic officials that made her successor's job easier. And leaders who have begun in their last few months in office to build solid relationships with administrators would have a chance to put those relationships to use.

As campus issues grow more complex, a one-year term may prove more frustrating than worthwhile — after an initial period of learning about and settling into the office, little time is left to implement long-term plans. Staying a second year would give officials the chance to work for a full year without that initiation period.

But running for re-election creates problems, both for other candidates and for an official's co-workers. An incumbent undeniably has a leg up in a campaign, but that shouldn't discourage others from running. For a change, students would

have a chance to examine their president's record, making their officials more accountable for their actions after the election. As it stands, presidents of the student body or other organizations have fairly free reign once they're in office. If this University wants its government set up much as the federal system is, student leaders should be held more accountable.

On a broader level, a second term may seem unfair to potential candidates, because it deprives them of the chance to learn how to be an SBP. That would seem to go against a basic mission of UNC, but more important than whether one student has a chance to learn is whether the government is effective. If incumbents can prove to the voters that their administration can do a better job by following through on long-term projects, that should take precedence. So long as government does not keep people out by not changing administrations, a second term is not inherently unfair.

A more practical reason against running for a second term comes when a student body president has to take time away from his duties to campaign. Although candidates do not necessarily quit student government during a campaign, trying to be the top official in government while running for re-election would be difficult. If an incumbent does run again, voters have the right to expect a very well-organized, delegated campaign, one that would distract minimally from presidential duties.

But for the good of government, to accomplish long-term goals that often get dropped when a new president takes office, and to hold student leaders accountable for their administrations, running for a second term could be a worthwhile effort for future presidents.

Breeding boredom Students ignore education's purpose

A recent report by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching reveals many problems facing higher education in America today, but the greatest problem of all is that most college students fail to recognize the meaning of education and are swept up by a trend of "careerism." The report compiled survey responses from 5,000 professors on the condition of college teaching and its effects on students. Its discouraging conclusions represent a national problem, and the students and faculty at this university are no exception.

Academic performance, according to the report, is hindered at American colleges and universities partly because public school systems are producing inadequately prepared students. As a result, college instructors must teach basics that students should have learned in high school. While this is due mainly to the mediocrity in public education, part of the responsibility lies with the individual student, who must recognize the value of education and the breadth of his or her own ignorance.

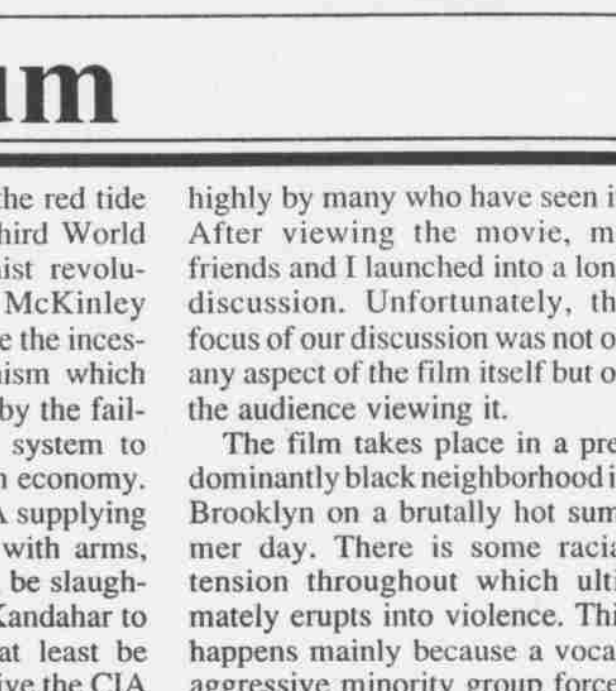
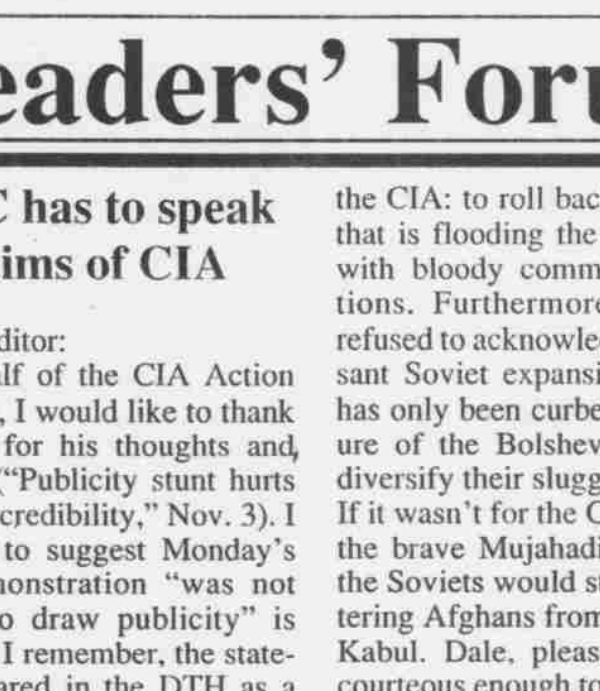
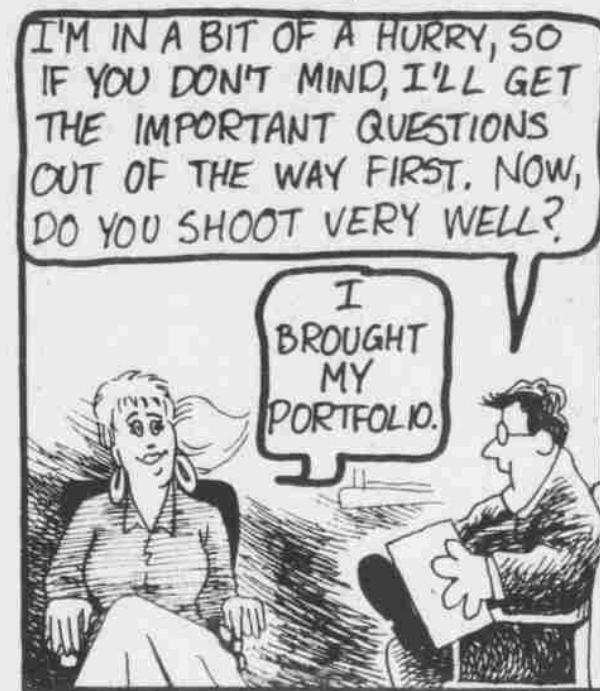
Very often the term "higher education" is a misnomer, even at UNC. Many college students graduate without basic knowledge in fundamental disciplines such as history, geography and literature. The perspective system at this university partly prevents this, but even perspectives benefit only those students who actively seek to broaden their own intellect.

The president of the Carnegie Foundation summarized this as "a growing tension between the interests of the faculty ... and the focus of a substantial number of undergraduates to get a 'credential' that will get them a job." Students are more career-oriented but less willing to work hard, and more willing to cheat for good grades, according to the report.

This trend of students attending college for career training becomes more evident every day. It seems, there are more and more freshmen entering college with inflexible ideas about career plans; for example, the classic freshman who wishes to major in business administration before attending law school. Thinking toward a career is fine, even necessary, but too many students make that their primary focus, and a passive approach to a liberal education develops.

Following this course, Americans will be well trained for specific occupations, but they will have no respect for the capacities of the human intellect and even less desire to develop their own. As a result of our being poorly educated, we will become a boring nation.

Students must evaluate their own definitions and purposes for education and recognize the differences between education and training. In the end, regardless of university rankings, departmental rankings and state funding, a quality higher education depends on the student. — James Burroughs



Readers' Forum

Communication good first step

To the editor:
 On Nov. 1, three student organizations: SETA, Student Government and the Whitehead Society (the organization of medical students), were represented in a comprehensive tour of the animal research facilities here at UNC. Four members of the medical staff, including the director of laboratory animal medicine who conducted the tour, took part in the three hour examination of the facilities.

As student government representatives, we chose to participate in the tour in order to serve as observers of the communication and interaction between differing groups. The most important and positive aspect of the tour was the open and earnest discussion which occurred throughout the afternoon. We were never denied access to any area in which animals are kept. In addition, we did not receive the impression that the researchers were being either vague or evasive in attempting to answer specific questions. For example, one doctor took the time to explain her research in great detail and engaged in a lively discussion about the use of animals in research.

In turn, members of SETA posed many challenging and well-informed questions. They were obviously very interested in hearing what the researchers had to say and were able to listen to the views of the doctors, while making their own arguments clear.

Granted, a three-hour tour will never completely resolve large differences of opinion such as those that exist between SETA and the UNC medical researchers. However, it is important to applaud the efforts of both groups in establishing an open line of communication. Communication is a necessary tool in the resolution of any conflict — SETA and the medical researchers are on their way to utilizing this tool.

MERIDITH RENTZ
 Sophomore
 Chemistry/economics

RUFFIN HALL
 Sophomore
 Political science

CIAAC has to speak for victims of CIA

To the editor:
 On behalf of the CIA Action Committee, I would like to thank Jim Hock for his thoughts and criticisms ("Publicity stunt hurts protester's credibility," Nov. 3). I agree that to suggest Monday's tower demonstration "was not intended to draw publicity" is absurd. As I remember, the statement appeared in the DTH as a paraphrase, rather than a direct quote from Dale McKinley. I don't know exactly what Dale said, but please understand that we get misquoted a lot.

The upcoming trial on November 16 won't be drawn out. I'll be representing myself and will plead guilty on all three counts. It should be over in a few hours — I'd encourage anyone interested to attend.

Finally, I think many people share Mr. Hock's sense of disgust for the CIA Action Committee's tactics. Although it would be much easier for everyone if we limited our statements to the type made at last month's Career Fair, sometimes that isn't enough. It's not proportionate to the violence sponsored all over the world by the CIA, nor does it represent the outrage such brutality deserves.

The CIA Action Committee does not advocate on its own behalf — we speak for those who cannot speak for themselves; those who must live lives of quiet desperation under CIA-sponsored terror. They wouldn't accept the apathy and shoulder shrugs given by the UNC administration, and neither can we.

JERRY JONES
 Senior
 Religious studies

CIAAC protests don't change things

To the editor:
 We were very pleased to read Harrison A. Latimer's well-thoughtout critique of the CIA Action Committee's irritating and ineffectual methods ("McKinley should try positive leadership," Nov. 8). We feel, however, that his front page-seeking fanatics have obscured the true mission of

the CIA: to roll back the red tide that is flooding the Third World with bloody communist revolutions. Furthermore, McKinley refused to acknowledge the incessant Soviet expansionism which has only been curbed by the failure of the Bolshevik system to diversify their sluggish economy. If it wasn't for the CIA supplying the brave Mujahidin with arms, the Soviets would still be slaughtering Afghans from Kandahar to Kabul. Dale, please at least be courteous enough to give the CIA credit where credit is due. Even if you aren't going to mention the beneficial activities of the CIA, please at least acknowledge the fact that the KGB poses a much greater threat to liberty. If the CIA were as bad as you say, right now, you would be modeling concrete shoes at the bottom of Jordan Lake.

A second gripe we have about the CIAAC pertains to the sensationalist and self-aggrandizing stunts that have been smeared across the headlines of the DTH. There are more rational ways of getting the public's attention than climbing towers and chaining oneself to furniture. These "pet tricks" really inspire nobody. The more the CIAAC alienates the student body, the less impact their handouts and vigils will have.

We understand that Mr. McKinley wants us to know that he is an angry man. With all due respect, we want him to know that we are a bit perturbed ourselves. What he is really doing when he insults the CIA is tearing at the very fabric of our democratic institutions. Remember, Dale, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

CHRISTOPHER D. HAYDEN
 Freshman
 American History

CHAD PIKE
 Freshman
 International Relations

Small groups can't speak for majority

To the editor:
 On Tuesday night I went to see Spike Lee's "Do the Right Thing" at the Student Union. I wanted to see a film that has been regarded

highly by many who have seen it. After viewing the movie, my friends and I launched into a long discussion. Unfortunately, the focus of our discussion was not on any aspect of the film itself but on the audience viewing it.

The film takes place in a predominantly black neighborhood in Brooklyn on a brutally hot summer day. There is some racial tension throughout which ultimately erupts into violence. This happens mainly because a vocal, aggressive minority group forces events to occur while the more level-headed majority is silent.

In this aspect, the film parallels what happened in the audience. There was loud cheering and laughing throughout the film which made much of it inaudible. Originally, I thought that most of the people were talking but came to realize that it was a small, vocal minority. Very few people tried to quiet down the loud ones and hence the noise continued.

This is a common phenomenon: the will of a few extremes dominating that of a whole group. Historically, the consequences of this have been great. While a few loudmouths shouting throughout a film may be due to a lack of sensitivity, the refusal of others to attempt to quiet them is truly reprehensible. If we fail to speak up against small, extreme groups, we allow them to speak for us. So next time you're in a theater and someone bothers you with constant noise, "Do the Right Thing" and tell him to be quiet.

MICHAEL SHERMAN
 Graduate student
 Statistics

Letters policy

- When writing letters to the editor, please follow these guidelines:
- All letters must be dated and signed by the author(s), with a limit of two signatures per letter.
- All letters must be typed and double-spaced.
- Letters should include the author's year, major, phone number and hometown.
- Place letters in the box marked "Letters to the Editor" outside the DTH office in the Student Union annex.

Snippets (Part 4) Slim, sleaziness and booty shakin'

As we all struggle through the endless abyss that exists between Fall Break and the big Turkey Day, this is as good a time as any to let our frustrations out on the institutions, customs and stupid things that really tick us off.

Have you ever wondered ... why some people buy Slim Whitman records. Yes, he has a new album! Who keeps this guy in business? Is there an unknown cult of little old blue-haired ladies sitting in their parlors playing these things backward? How's this for his next album: Slim Whitman, Boxcar Willie and America's Number One Cowboy, the late but still great Marty Robbins Sing Their Favorite Truck Driving Folk Ballads. We wait in breathless anticipation.

Why is it that ... people insist on calling those 900 numbers that promise smut, sex and sleaze at 2:14 a.m. during the commercial break of shows like the Ric Flair's Mid-Atlantic Wrestling Challenge or GLOW (Gorgeous

Ladies of Wrestling)? Do you just want to hear a sweet, smiling voice or do you want a woman's point of view? Call 1-900-GET A LIFE!

Who was the genius ... who decided that we enjoy listening to the Muzak version of the Spandau Ballet's classic "True"? Who decided that this was anything resembling entertainment? Tipper Gore? Nothing makes a ride in an elevator more pleasant than a rousing Muzak chorus of Motley Crue's "Shout at the Devil" or K.C. and the Sunshine Band's "Shake, Shake, Shake your Booty." What's next? How about Debbie (Tiffany) Gibson?

On a more serious note ... Why are blue books an uneven 11 cents? Why don't the ice machines in Union Station and Lenior ever work? How could people decide that even though there is an Alumni Building and an Alumni House, we need to chop down the Big Woods? We may never know.

Entrepreneurs Club record set straight

Editor's note: E. Christopher Morton is president of the UNC Entrepreneurs Club and operations director of UNC Student Agencies.

To the editor:
 In an attempt to correct some of the mistakes made by Kevin Greene in his article on the UNC Entrepreneurs Club ("Entrepreneurs Club making preparations for its own business," Nov. 2), I have decided to write this letter so that the DTH and the UNC student body can better understand the position and purpose of our chapter.

There are many errors in the DTH article that I would like to clear up.

Mr. Greene claims that the Entrepreneurs Club will soon start a club business on campus in the Student Union. This is an inaccuracy. There has been talk of setting up some kind of business (whether real or pseudo) in an attempt to show some of the budding entrepreneurs in the club the steps that need to be taken to start your own business. However, the business that Greene outlined in his article is not the same idea we have.

It is true that some of the members of the Entrepreneurs Club are indeed in the process of starting various services on campus, possibly as early as the spring semester. It is also true that it will be a non-profit organization with all excess funds — after utilities have been paid and after money for new services has been put aside — going into a scholarship fund to be used to help students in need.

This project, which is called the UNC Student Agencies, is in no way affiliated with the UNC Entrepreneurs Club other than that there are members of the Entrepreneurs Club who are directors or managers of the agencies and that the idea for the agencies was developed at the Entrepreneurs Club meetings. In fact, after much discussion with Dean Donald Boulton, Student Body President Brien Lewis, Student Congress Speaker Gene Davis and many others over a year-long period, the agencies are now a sub-committee of the Student Affairs Committee of the Student Congress.

Why the fuss over confusing the Entrepreneurs Club with the actual agencies? Quite simply, I see the confusion harmful to both the Entrepreneurs Club and to the student body.

The Entrepreneurs Club was created to encourage entrepreneurship on campus, not to get involved with running an actual business on the scale that the agencies will be. Surely you can see that by devoting a portion of the Entrepreneurs Club meetings to discussion of the goings on of the agencies, very little discussion of new business ideas from those not involved with the agencies would occur. It simply sets a bad impression of the Entrepreneurs Club.

Another bad impression of our club that the article gave was that one has to be "ready to work," so to speak, and that one would have to be a business or economics major to even understand what is going on in the chapter.

Again, this is implied by mistaking the agencies for the Entrepreneurs Club. I'd like to stress that one need not have a business or economics major, nor does anyone need to be involved in the agencies. I'm sure that you can see that the impression of the organization given by the article is sure to prevent students from coming to our meetings, which is why I say both the chapter and the University would suffer.

I fear that maybe Mr. Greene misunderstood Ken Honeycutt and Nat Shaw when asking them about our chapter. Implying news stories and assuming you understand what a source is telling you when you are not really sure you understand, in my opinion, sets a dangerous precedent. I only wish that Greene would have waited to speak with me instead of printing the story prematurely. I apologize to him for being too busy to get back with him at his first request and at the times he specified.

I am not, however, trying to crucify one of your reporters. I am only attempting to set the record straight and clear up some of the mystique of two of the organizations of which I am involved.

I hope this letter succeeds in doing just that.

E. CHRISTOPHER MORTON
 Senior
 Economics/
 political science