

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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Foolish fans Getting tickets need not incite a riot

In the wake of a disappointing football season, many UNC students have been waiting anxiously for hoops to start. But they were apparently a bit too anxious, as demonstrated by the mass hysteria early Sunday morning, when passes for basketball tickets were handed out unexpectedly. The mob scene never should have occurred, had students been able to demonstrate some sense of maturity and had the Carolina Athletic Association (CAA) made its policies clearer. The CAA seems determined to have its act together by the next distribution — we hope students can, too.

Although the Smith Center has a policy against camping out before 6 a.m., many students had lined up by Saturday afternoon for tickets to the Duke and Virginia games. By midnight, when the temperature had dropped near freezing, many of the campers had had a good deal to drink, and they were walking around socializing. Although some had heard that CAA members would distribute passes shortly after midnight, others were surprised and had to run back to their places in line. In the next few minutes, the mob of about 1,200 tightly-packed people was pushing its way toward the front, surprising the ticket distributors and ruining any sense of order.

Part of the problem was the confusion over CAA policy, which some students thought said that passes would be distributed between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m., while the CAA only said that passes would be distributed before 10 a.m. In response to the incident, CAA President Lisa Frye has taken steps to make the next distribution smoother. The passes will be distributed between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m., at least one police officer will be present, and ropes to

mark off the line may be used to discourage breaking in line.

That's the best way possible for the CAA to handle what Frye called a "freaky" incident — the policy has worked before and doesn't seem to need another major overhaul. What does need work, however, is student attitude.

Most of the complaints Frye received were more concerned with other students in line and with how much they'd been drinking. It's impossible to expect students to always act like mature adults — after all, many are still teen-agers, and this is often our last chance to be somewhat immature. But being silly and acting childish is one thing — being downright stupid and irresponsible is another. If students can't hold their liquor and keep from turning into a mass of unthinking fans, they don't deserve the courtesy the CAA has tried to show in setting up a fair policy.

Instead, administrators and police could use what happened Sunday morning as the perfect example of how students can't responsibly use the power granted them. When it takes calling the police to hand out tickets to a basketball game — just a game, not a matter of life and death — administrators have a right to be disparaging about students.

It is doubtful that administrators will tighten their control over the CAA, because the organization has handled itself well and tried to prove how organized it can be — and was Sunday night when the actual tickets were distributed. Students who spent Saturday night outside the Smith Center should be grateful for that, because they didn't exactly make students look very mature. In the next distribution, we hope students will prove that Sunday morning's fiasco was only a fluke.

Mudslinging madness Pseudo-issues persuade the public

Vote for me. I have a wife, two children and a dog and I love attending the local church on Sunday mornings. Looking at the other candidate, who apparently is going to allow Hindus to infiltrate all the churches and massively convert all us good Christians and who probably doesn't believe in neutering pets, I am the clear choice to address all of your concerns. Thank you for your support.

Campaign smears and techniques like this fictional example seem to be the way of the political future — with this year's elections as no exception. The small town of Boone, home of Appalachian State University, held its town council elections this month, but the elections were marred when voters received two anonymous letters defaming a Jewish candidate. After scaring the voters with the threat that the Jewish candidate planned to wipe out the Christian

election of a black governor in this country. But this election also was not free of mudslinging. In fact, it donned the name — "The Most Negative Campaign in Virginia's History" (although personal attacks rather than racial issues were factors in the race). While major issues were discussed in this campaign — especially abortion — they were often overshadowed in voters' minds.

And of course, questions over Gary Hart's fidelity, the Kitty Dukakis interrogation and the most memorable mudslinging election between Jesse Helms and Jim Hunt can easily fit the sleaze campaign mold. But they are unlikely to stop, as the public voraciously swallows these attacks and the media serve as an open forum for these attacks. When planning a campaign, candidates realize that the issues are not attractive enough to hold the

Mudslinging has become the campaign technique of the decade.

Saul Chase was running for re-election in the Boone Town Council race, projecting a win based on his open-minded stance on several issues — stands that were attractive to many people. But after winning one of the top spots for a runoff election, Chase's chances were suddenly slashed after voter received an anonymous anti-Semitic letter. There is no proof that the letter was sent by another candidate, but investigators are following some leads. Chase did not indicated in his first term that he planned to wipe out Christianity in the strongly religious town, but voters did not return him to the council.

The nationally-publicized Virginia gubernatorial race pitted L. Douglas Wilder against J. Marshall Coleman and resulted in the first

public's attention. Opinion is based on sex scandals rather than education policies. Until voters show an interest in their futures, campaigns will remain unpleasant.

If they are relevant to the office being sought, personal issues can be helpful in elections. When candidates have cheated on their taxes or have problems with alcohol, for example, their opponents are justified in discussing it if the problems are relevant to the office. But when personal issues completely overrun an election, how can the public be assured that the elected candidate will be a good representative if they were not elected on the real issues?

Boone has been characterized as an open-minded community and Virginia has claims to clean, non-confrontational elections. But both were subjected to dirty campaigns dealing with untrue or irrelevant issues, proving that even the most liberal communities are not protected from close-minded attacks. In the next elections, voters must avoid believing in the reactionary propaganda delivered by politicians of today and look behind the scenes to get the real picture. — Jennifer Wing

The Daily Tar Heel

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Make yourself heard—buy influence

Dear beloved people of the disappearing East Bloc.

You all must be excited by the degree and rapidity of change occurring in your respective countries. Some of your governments are being more resistant to democratic reform than others, but we feel confident everything will work out — look how fast things happened in Germany. At this pace, the Berlin Wall soon will be nothing more than a skate-boarders' hangout for Berlin's junior high kids. How things have changed since John Kennedy charismatically proclaimed "I am a jelly doughnut" at the Wall nearly 30 years ago. (Some claim he said "I am a breakfast pastry," but it's immaterial.)

We know you probably don't want to hear what we Americans think of all this excitement — y'all deserve the spotlight. But we have to give our opinions on important world affairs — especially when we can take some credit for the improvement. Besides, we have more than 200 years of experience with democracy. Surely we have some insights which should help you along on the road to establishing democracies.

Your leaders undoubtedly feel apprehensive. They know that you determine their future. The power will soon be in your hands, and you must know how to make the democracy game work for you.

MONEY. That's all you need. We've been working with this system, trying to figure out what makes democracy work, and after 200 years, the verdict is in. Money talks. Money is power. Political leaders will do things for you if you have money. Some examples to prove



Chris Landgraff
Staff Columnist

the point:

Lincoln Savings and Loan. Their president knew how to play the game. Charles Keating, the owner of the S&L, was feeling some heat from Edwin Gray, the chief financial thrift regulator. Gray thought the bank was investing in too many speculative real estate deals and too many junk bonds, putting the customers at an unnecessary risk. The bank was under investigation for investment and operational problems, and Keating didn't like the tension, so he went to go see (and make) some friends on the Hill. (That's D.C.)

He met with Sens. Dennis DeConcini, Alan Cranston, Donald Riegle, John Glenn and John McCain and asked them to "meet" with Gray and his advisers and encourage them to give Lincoln S&L time to reform. Sure, they were breaking the rules, but Keating said they were willing to change — and these senators agreed. They lobbied (some harder than others) for the individual bank.

As these five leaders fought for the existence of the bank, money began to flow into their war chests and special interest groups of their choice. When all was said and done, Keating had donated more than \$1.3 million to the accounts of these esteemed leaders. When

questioned about buying influence, Keating responded that he hoped his money would do just that.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars later, the bank was seized by the government at the mere cost of \$2 billion for the taxpayers, but democracy was served, because as the senators said, all their actions were in the service of their constituents.

When you all make lots of money in the newly liberalized economy, you too can buy the power of representation. A final example:

The HUD scandal. This is a classic example of money politics because it has so many facets and so many players. Chances are, if an American had a friend or two in high places at Housing and Urban Development during the happy Reagan years, she or he is very wealthy (or wealthier) as a result. Millions of dollars in contracts were given out to contributors to the Republican party and friends of the HUD secretary. Again, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato claims he was "just doing his job" when he sought HUD contracts for friends and New York constituents.

Both sides understand their roles in the America's game of democracy. The constituents know they can buy influence and the politicians know what to do once they see the green stuff. So take heart, citizens of East Germany, Hungary, Poland and maybe even Bulgaria. Make your voices be heard by purchasing the politician of your choice.

Chris Landgraff is a junior political science major from Atlanta, Ga.

Readers' Forum

Rally coverage was yellow journalism

To the editor:
As one who attended last week's Democratic rally, I must express my contempt for the DTH's inflating the event into a "controversy" through their coverage and in Pete Corson's editorial cartoon on Nov. 16.

Both the Young Democrats and the College Republicans behaved themselves during the event as stated in College Republican Scott Cole's Nov. 15 letter to the editor ("College Republicans receive a bum rap"). Yet, the paper failed to report this fact as well as the reasons behind the rally — the substance of Wayne Goodwin's address ranging from education to the world's environmental destruction to pride in Democratic leadership. DTH coverage only revolved around what it wished had occurred: the type of embarrassing, childish, "knee-jerk" actions as falsely pictorialized in Corson's cartoon.

Perhaps the very shouting Corson depicts as Democratic/Republican comes more from yellow journalism and our own student newspaper wishing to be heard.

DAVID BRITT
Raleigh

American students lead sheltered lives

To the editor:
On Friday afternoon at 4 p.m., most UNC students must have already been indulging in their weekend activities, for they certainly were not at the discussion in Hamilton Hall on "Hope vs. Despair: China after Tiananmen Square" for Human Rights Week. It is sad that so little interest was shown toward a momentous and tragic event that involved a group of which we, at Carolina, are also a part — university students.

Although most have at least heard of the communist crackdown in China and the massacre in Tiananmen Square on June 4th, few know of the extent of the democratic student movement in China during the past two decades. Students, not unlike ourselves, have been fighting and even sacrificing their lives for rights that most citizens of democratic countries take for granted. Two of these were, specifically, the right of university students to self-government in academic and social affairs and the right to produce a small and independent newspaper. These seemingly reasonable demands in our society were refused by the communist government in China, who stood by and watched as some

of the country's brightest students starved to death, rather than concede to demands for what we in the United States would consider basic human rights.

Though the democratic student movement in China seems to have been quelled for the time being, the spirit of hope is still alive and another student revolt in the future, perhaps of even grander size, is not unfeasible. In our sheltered and secure environment, it is easy to forget problems that occur elsewhere in the world, but could indirectly affect us. The next time you pick up The Daily Tar Heel, or read of a bill passed by Student Congress, consider the many students who gave their lives for democracy in China, and reflect on the freedoms that we, as students of Carolina, too often take for granted.

KAREN L. KO
Freshman
Business

Editorial sensitively written and inspiring

To the editor:
Thank you for printing the editorial on abortion ("Uneasy euphoria: Having abortion rights is not exciting," Nov. 15). Sharon Keschull moved me to read a view that expressed sensitivity to

the emotional and ethical difficulties of this debate. So often, one encounters harsh language and angry misunderstandings on both sides of the argument.

Thank you also for printing an editorial that acknowledges reasons why some of us oppose abortion rights. While I, too, find horrible the bombings, harangues and deceit that some who oppose abortion practice, I often feel frustrated that very little press coverage acknowledges those who, after long struggles and much thought, come to believe abortion an act of violence, but do not support violent deeds or words as appropriate means to right this wrong. Many of us who hold dear women's rights believe that our Christian or ethical commitment to the poor, to the weak and to those living things that have no power and no voice must take precedence. These convictions lead us to oppose abortion in nearly all circumstances. Some, rather than employing violent words or deeds, give up privacy, convenience and their spare bedroom for nine months to house and support a woman who chooses to bear a child she did not initially expect or wish to bear.

LAURA FEITZINGER
BROWN
Graduate student
English

Understanding won't end race problems

To the editor:

I am glad that Angela Tucker, who wrote the column "Meet the challenge instead of quotas" (Nov. 17) wants students to meet the challenge of ending racism on our campus, but it will take more than mutual understanding to make the necessary changes in black/white relations at UNC. Yes, understanding between people is the ideal basis on which sound, peaceful relationships are built. These are the kind of relationships people of different races should be able to enjoy. However, many white people still hold ingrained prejudices about black people; prejudices they express openly in light conversation or with jokes; prejudices that are reflected by the problems of race relations on the campus. These people probably feel they already have a clear understanding of blacks and their experience, when, in actuality, external changes will have to occur before these long held prejudices end.

If any given student were asked if he held prejudices about people of other races, chances

are the student would answer no. But despite the fact that most students don't admit to having racist views, there is still a problem with racism. Blacks on the campus have recently expressed concern that black and white University staff are not receiving equal treatment. In Human Rights Week discussions on racism, students indicated that action needs to be taken to alter the conditions on campus — apparently they are not satisfied with current race relations. I am saddened that such a comment as Angela Tucker's "Black people have emotions, personalities and other characteristics similar to whites" would need to be stated. The fact that the writer felt a statement, that should be so ridiculously obvious, needed to be written speaks of the size of the problem that still exists.

It would be wonderful if whites "reaching out" to blacks and coming to a fuller understanding of their race could end our problems. But the hope of this alleviating racism simplifies the scope of the issue. It took institutional

changes such as blacks being assured the right to vote to make many people realize it was a right they should have. Likewise, perhaps the enactment of changes now will be necessary to end the more subtle forms of racism that are still present.

Student discussions last week were of action. Only when action is translated into higher black enrollment, more blacks in leadership positions and equal treatment of black and white campus staff, will the still lingering prejudiced attitudes alter.

Yes, please do reach out to people of different races, understanding and embracing the differences that exist. But don't pat yourself on the back for doing so. Work for a time when people will need to be convinced to do so often as they will need to be convinced that the earth is round.

ROSALYN TANNER
Class of 1989