

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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Release the records Public documents must be disclosed

What goes on behind University laboratory doors is a mystery to many. **board opinion**

Because of that, the Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (SETA) is demanding that the doors to the UNC labs be open to the public by suing the University for access to documents dealing with animal research. Under the Freedom of Information Act, SETA has a right to view any government document composed in UNC labs, a stance that even pro-animal research groups support.

SETA filed a lawsuit on Oct. 9 against UNC labs — specifically against William Huffines, chairman of the UNC Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee — after the labs refused to show SETA minutes of a committee meeting reviewing protocols that describe animal treatment during experiments. Protocols serve to fully detail that treatment and must be approved by the Institutional Animal Care committee before the researcher draws up a federal grant proposal. SETA's lawsuit asks only for the release of four specific protocols submitted to the committee, but leaders in the group hope that by winning the case all government documents will have to be released for public perusal.

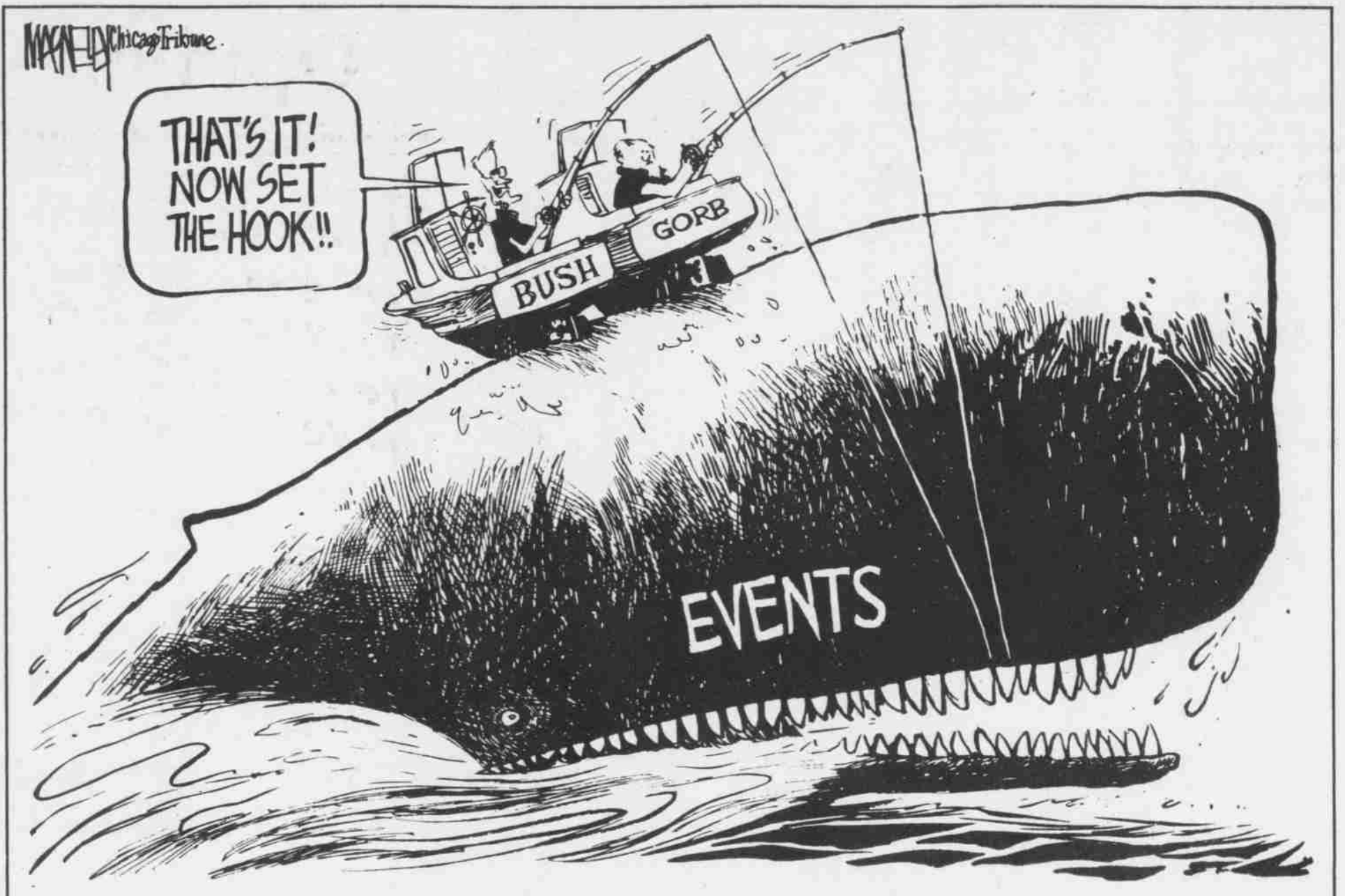
An opposition group to SETA — the Coalition For Animals and Animal Research (CFAAR) — supports SETA's efforts to view all government documents that fall under the Freedom of Information Act. Members of the pro-animal research group do not think SETA should become involved in the review process, but they do think the group should be allowed to ex-

amine any records related to the review process if the courts rule that protocols are government documents.

SETA has a strong lawsuit against the University labs. According to leaders of the group, the lawsuit is, after months of negotiations, the final step that can force the labs to release documents detailing animal use in experiments. SETA argues that if UNC has nothing to hide, it should be accountable for its experimental methods and open its records.

The University's defense against SETA's lawsuit is that the academic freedom of researchers is infringed if they are forced to reveal all experimental methods. The University claims researchers will leave the public realm to protect their research techniques and move to private institutions. While this may be a valid concern, because many researchers do not want to release their secrets, this should not be used as an excuse by the University to cover up information that should be part of the public domain. When they become part of a public institution's research team, experimenters should know they fall under a public records act.

As long as tax money is used for lab operations, the public has a right to know what's going on and how experiments are run. If (and there is no proof of this yet) there are infractions of the Animals Welfare Act, which outlines correct animal treatment during experiments, then revealing the procedures could clear them up. Animal research is controversial enough on its own — don't cloud it further with secret documents.



Readers' Forum

Cell has shown ability and attentiveness

To the editor:
In light of recent commentary in The Daily Tar Heel regarding the reappointment of Dean Gillian Cell and, in particular, Dean Cell's support for minority students, I wish to put to rest two very suspicious misconceptions.

First, the claim that Dean Cell is not sensitive to the needs and concerns of minority students is unfounded. On the contrary, her efforts to institute changes in existing programs and to develop new ones offering new opportunities for minority students have been exemplary.

For example, Dean Cell has worked steadily and successfully to increase minority participation in the Honors Program. This has included steps to identify and recruit academically talented minorities and to assure minority representation on the Honors Program

Student Advisory Board. The Institute for the Arts and Humanities, a new College program begun during Dean Cell's tenure, is designed primarily to support faculty research in the arts and humanities. With her enthusiastic support, however, the Institute has invited minority students participating in the graduate school's Summer Pre-Graduate Research Experience to participate in its summer faculty seminar program. The Institute also maintains an informal and ongoing relationship with participants in the University Minority Post-Doctoral Program. Her financial, administrative and moral support for these and other programs of special interest to minority students — e.g. the UNTAS program — belie any allegation that the dean is insensitive to minorities on campus.

Second, I wish to reiterate my complete and unequivocal support for Dean Cell in her role

as chief administrator of the College of Arts and Sciences. Administration of an academic unit as large and diverse as the College is a complex task demanding intellectual honesty, organizational savvy and sheer physical stamina. Dean Cell possesses each in abundance and has demonstrated this time and time again. The same may be said of her *bona fides* in addressing the often conflicting but equally meritorious needs of her many constituents.

Dean Gillian Cell has demonstrated her ability as an administrator no less than her attentiveness to the interests in and concerns of minority students. She has my support and my thanks.

J. DENNIS O'CONNOR
Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

DTH should defend freedom of the press

To the editor:
In the past The Daily Tar Heel has taken positions against the interests of students; now it has taken a position against student journalists. I almost wrote last month when the newspaper sided with food services and other privileged entities by asserting that the use of a meal card in downtown restaurants by 20-year-olds would result in fiscal irresponsibility. Others wrote for me concerning your coverage of the Young Democrats' rally and your non-coverage of the debate on El Salvador. In regard to James Burroughs' editorial concerning the racist parodies printed in The Jaberwocky, however, I feel I must write in.

I have not seen the cartoons in question, nor do I think it relevant how tasteless they were or how many people were offended by them. In case no one at the DTH has noticed, journalism in America is going through ominous changes; the pressure to churn out the feel-good, easy to understand copy has reached new peaks. The resulting self-imposed censorship on the part of the major network news organizations (not to mention the Gannett-owned USA Today, which practically invented the style) is aggravated by the activities of the U.S. Supreme Court in regard to first amendment freedoms. This is not a good time for a campus newspaper to take a position against the First Amendment.

The issue of racism is a sensitive one, particularly on these two campuses, and no one wants to be perceived as defending the voices of insensitivity and journalistic incompetence. Defending the free-

dom of the press, however, by necessity, involves the defending of unpopular voices. When I came to this university in 1985, the DTH came under a lot of fire for printing Nietzsche's quote, "God is dead." Campus groups were formed (remember GIANT? God is Alive Now, Today) and howls for the editor's head were heard daily. People were mortally offended, as they often are in a nation where the presses are controlled by editorial decisions rather than the tastes of the majority.

Libel, the printing of lies, is grounds for forced resignation of an editor. Insensitivity and irresponsibility is not. A campus newspaper should be able to make the distinction. Shame on you.

TOBY GRAY
Senior
English

Learning English can help immigrants

To the editor:
I would like to offer a word of hope to Matt Bivens, The Daily Tar Heel columnist who wrote the sad tale of Alistair Cooke's disgrace, "Cooke brings melting pot to a boil" (Nov. 30th). First of all, I've got to admit that I really don't know Cooke very well. When I think of him I usually get the mental picture of Kermit the Frog's imitation of Cooke in Sesame Street's "Monster Piece Theater." Well, he was your idol, Matt, not mine. But Bivens, I've got good news! Cooke might not be such a bad guy after all. Yeah, Cooke probably does believe that the United States should have English as a national language, but what is wrong with that? Adding an amendment to the Constitution which would make English the United States' national

language would benefit immigrants by giving them the opportunity to prosper in this country's businesses which are almost entirely managed in English.

The immigrants who cannot speak English aren't, and never will be, the upper class or even middle class in the United States unless they learn English. Let's be realistic. Ever been to a big city and met people who live there and don't speak English? Well gosh, you don't even have to go to a big city to meet these people; they're here in Chapel Hill. What kind of jobs do these immigrants have — construction workers, dish washers, and yes, of course, taxi drivers. Ever meet a person who doesn't speak English and works at a high level position in a major American corporation? I didn't think so. Chances are that some of the immigrants who don't speak English could hold good jobs if they spoke English. I suspect that some of these immigrants are even geniuses. But, I guess that really doesn't matter since as long as they don't know English they'll always be taxi drivers. Learning English is essential for immigrants to have the same opportunity for success as we have. I'm going to assume that drug dealing doesn't count.

Now, this is the really good news. Adding an amendment to the Constitution which makes English the national language would advance the effort to teach immigrants English. Picture this — the amendment is passed. Now it's a law. It must be enforced. Immigrants who don't speak English come to the United States. The law says they have to be able to speak English. Are you starting to get the picture? The enforcement of the law would be to teach immigrants English. Get it — federal funding for education. I

know, you thought federal funding for education was almost extinct, but with this amendment, the government would have to fund teaching English. Maybe sacrifice a missile or two to start seeing some of that "All men are created equal" stuff.

JOEY PENTA
Sophomore
Biology

We goofed

In the editorial, "Architectural integrity: Trustees need to heed SRC choice" (Dec. 1), the statement about the political nature of the Board of Trustees should have said that the governor appoints four members and the Board of Governors, whose members are elected by the General Assembly, appoints the other eight. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticisms. 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, for ease of editing.
- Letters should include the author's year, major, phone number and hometown.
- The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.
- Place letters in the box marked "Letters to the Editor" outside the DTH office in the Student Union annex.

Bravery in Beijing Student doesn't deserve punishment

Last week, a Wake Forest University student was found guilty of violating the school's honor code because he supposedly deceived his professors about his whereabouts while in Beijing during the Tiananmen Square crisis. Should an adult be placed on trial for doing what he thinks is right? After hearing the evidence from both sides, it appears that China is not the only place where students must fear injustice.

Timothy Bell, a business major, was in Beijing as part of a study abroad program with 28 other students when he witnessed the student uprising in Tiananmen Square last summer. Bell's professors on the trip say the student lied when he told them he would not go to the square after he left the group's hotel.

Bell and another student received permission to leave the group to visit a friend of Bell's who worked at the Washington Post's Beijing bureau. The professors told the Wake Forest Honor Court that permission was granted on the condition that Bell not go to the center of the city. Bell was also told that if he encountered any danger he was to return immediately to the hotel, and he was asked to call the professors to let them know he was safe.

Bell called his professors twice to let him know he was safe, and he told them he had been forced to change his plans and stay with another foreign correspondent because the situation on the streets was too dangerous. Bell told the honor court he was unaware that he was forbidden to go to the center of the city and argued that the group's hotel was only three miles from Tiananmen Square. As a graduating senior, Bell probably understood the danger and the risk, and he certainly did not need his professors to play nursemaid.

Before he left Beijing, Bell agreed to carry a tape with footage of the Tiananmen riots out of the country for NBC News — the first scenes of the mayhem and violence in China seen in America. NBC officials have said this is common operating procedure and that Bell's assis-

tance was very important in ensuring that the American public learned of the events. But the professors accused Bell of endangering the entire group with his actions and filed a report with the Honor Council when they returned to the United States.

The professors' accusations fall under a Wake Forest Honor Code provision against any "deliberate attempt by a student to make a personal gain at the expense of another member of the college community." But the professors concern about the safety of the students was not great enough to heed State Department warnings against going into the region during the crisis, and that seems no greater a sin than Bell's actions.

Bell, who went on to make an A in the study abroad program, is being punished for taking advantage of an opportunity to witness history and for helping to bring this event into American homes. While his professors were in their hotel rooms, Bell was seeing the heroism and sacrifices of the Chinese students firsthand. Bell probably learned more in that one night than during his entire stay in China, but because he decided to try to share this education, he is being punished.

The university Honor Council found Bell guilty of the charges against him and placed him on probation until he graduates in December. The terms of his probation include writing a letter of apology to the professors and the students involved. The Honor Council should be commended for seeing that this incident did not lead to Bell's suspension, but the professors who filed the charges have much to learn.

This summer, students across China stood up for what they believed in, and many of them paid the ultimate sacrifice. Timothy Bell wanted to play a part in this event and because of his actions, millions of people learned of the crimes in Tiananmen Square. While professors and honor courts are condemning Bell, many Chinese students would probably praise his bravery and thank him for his efforts. We should do no less. — Charles Brittain

The Daily Tar Heel

The Daily Tar Heel is published Monday-Friday, according to the University calendar. Callers with questions about advertising should dial 962-1163 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Classified ads can be reached at 962-0252. Editorial questions should be directed to 962-0245/0246.

The Daily Tar Heel's office is in suite 104 of the Student Union. The campus mail address is CB 5210 Box 49, Student Union. U.S. Mail may be addressed to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3257.

Some race relations proposals unrealistic

To the editor:
I am writing in reference to an article, "Group submits race relations proposal" (Nov. 20). Some of the proposals mentioned in the article are naive and need to be considered more closely by this group.

The first proposal was "requiring all freshmen to live in the same area, such as South Campus, rather than having the majority of blacks on South Campus and the majority of whites on North Campus." This proposal makes it sound as if the University places people in certain areas on campus based on their race. This is not true. There is a mixture of races and cultures on South Campus, and many of these people were placed there because they requested it, not because of their race.

The next proposal is "denying roommate requests for freshmen, which would encourage the interaction of races." The policy of requesting roommates needs to remain. The transition from high school to college, from life at home to semi-independence, can be a very big step. There are some people who are not able to handle the transition well. If a

freshman chooses his roommate, then he very likely has chosen someone with whom he feels comfortable and with whom he could spend several months. There are some students here who, if they were put in a room with a stranger, would not be able to adjust quickly to the situation. The pressure of having to adjust to a new environment with a new person, may be too much for a person to handle easily.

Both of these proposals take away the right of freshmen to choose where they would like to live and with whom they would like to live. When a person is denied his rights, then he is being discriminated against. And that can be interpreted as racism. These proposals are a prime example of such discrimination because they deny freshmen the right to freedom of choice in order to make up a "proper" racial balance. This can rightly be called racism.

There is another proposal which needs to be reconsidered as well: "erecting a monument to a prominent black alumnus to provide the campus with a balance for the Silent Sam statue, which is a symbolic reminder that this part of the country fought to keep slavery." For

whom does Silent Sam represent "a symbolic reminder" of slavery? Most of the students on this campus see Silent Sam as a symbol of the legend it holds about virgins. Few people relate Silent Sam to slavery. Also, the erection of the monument to balance Silent Sam would cause many people to have adverse feelings about the new monument.

Some of the proposals mentioned in the article could lead to improvement in racial relations on campus. But, the ones mentioned above would promote racism. Denying a person's rights is discrimination, and racism is based on discrimination, so a person trying to alleviate racism should be careful not to promote it by supporting ideas which are discriminatory. Racism can not be alleviated by measures that promote greater resentment than is already present. The group which designed these proposals needs to think about the effects they could have on the campus, and reconsider submitting them to the chancellor.

ROSS BERRIER
Freshman
Undecided