

## The Daily Tar Heel

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## IN DEPTH

# N.C. views on work, welfare revealed

Editor's note: This is the first in a three-part series examining the results of the 1990 Carolina Poll.

By DAVID ETCHISON  
Staff Writer

North Carolinians still cling to a strong work ethic but are divided about how to deal with poor families and government welfare, according to the results of the 1990 Carolina Poll.

Questions dealing with poverty, government programs and responsibilities and beliefs about work were asked during one section of the random telephone poll. Respondents were asked to select their answers from one of five choices: strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree or don't know. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus four percentage points.

The study began with questions about work attitudes. According to the poll results, 94 percent of those surveyed said it was the duty of every able-bodied citizen to contribute to society by working. In addition, 92 percent said that every person in our society had a right to interesting and meaningful work. However, the respondents were evenly split when asked if people should work at any job they can get, even if it does not pay enough for them to live on.

Concerning welfare, 83 percent agreed that having the lowest-paying job is better than being on welfare. Fifty-nine percent agreed that government assistance to the poor takes away poor people's motivation to work.

"There is a concern," said Richard Cramer, associate professor of sociology. "Some (government programs) have the potential at least to create a dependency in people. But, most government programs are not enough for people to live that comfortably to give up improving themselves. Most of these programs don't reach most of the people

## CAROLINA POLL

that are eligible for them."

Ninety-one percent of the respondents said people who are able to work should have to work to receive money from government assistance programs.

"That's the idea of welfare," Cramer said. "The problem with that is that there aren't enough jobs for the people who need them. Whose responsibility is it to provide the jobs?"

In addition to these questions, the participants in the poll were read a list of programs designed to aid low-income people. For each one, they were asked who they thought should pay for the program: the government, private businesses and charities, a combination of the two or no one.

The programs mentioned were housing for low-income people; child care for working mothers in poor families; helping low-income people learn jobs skills and get a job; and providing health care, including adequate food, for low-income people.

On questions concerning low-income housing, 50 percent thought the government was responsible, while 42 percent suggested low-income housing should be the responsibility of the government and the private sector. Even more respondents supported government health-care provisions for the poor, with 58 percent in favor. Thirty-two percent favored government and private sector joint action.

Forty-two percent thought child care should be paid for by a combination of government and business. Twenty-nine percent said the government should pay, and 20 percent thought it should be the responsibility of private business. Forty-five percent also favored a com-

ination to pay for job education; 38 percent said only the government should be responsible; and 14 percent said private business alone should pick up the tab.

Seventy-four percent of those asked said they would be very willing or somewhat willing to pay an extra \$100 in taxes each year if they knew the money would be used to help low-income people.

The poll is conducted by the UNC School of Journalism and the Institute for Research in Social Science (IRSS). The poll was created in 1975 by Bob Stevenson, professor of journalism.

"Originally, it (the Carolina poll) was a class exercise, and because we (the School of Journalism) were teaching social science research methods to our students, we wanted to give them practical experience in doing it," said Jane Brown, professor of journalism. "It was to provide experience to a couple of classes in journalism in how to do public opinion polling."

Beverly Wiggins, associate director for research development at the IRSS, said, "The poll is used for two purposes. One is to train students in journalism. They teach both graduate and undergraduate courses with the poll."

The poll consists of 72 questions. One-third of them are supplied by the IRSS, one-third by the school of journalism and one-third are basic demographic questions.

The school of journalism focuses on a different topic each year. This year their focus was on poverty. The IRSS takes a different approach.

"IRSS is interested in developing social interest indicators," Wiggins said. "We'll repeat questions over time."

This year the poll was conducted from February 25 through March 1. A random sample of 595 adult North Carolinians was interviewed over the telephone by journalism students.

Random-digit dialing was used to determine which households would receive a call. Telephone numbers were bought from a company in Connecticut called Survey Sampling, which provided all the possible telephone numbers from the 30-plus independent companies operating in North Carolina.

Out of all the phone numbers, a random sample of 800 was drawn. From this number, responses were received from a few more than 595 households. A few respondents had to be rejected because they actually lived over the N.C. border.

Each number had to go through a screening process. First of all, the number had to belong to a residence. Secondly, each person in the house was given an equal chance of being interviewed, not just the person who answered the phone. This was accomplished by asking for the person with the next birthday.

If that person was unavailable, four more calls were made to that household in attempt to reach the desired person. If he or she was unreachable, a time to call was set up for the next day, or the call was considered a refusal and discontinued.

The results were weighted by household. The mean number of adults in each household was computed and the number of people in each household were divided by this number to determine the household weight.

This was done to subtract weight from the people who lived alone and add to large households. It also corrected for the disparity between men and women. In North Carolina, more women than men answer the telephone. Some reasons for this are that more women than men live alone, men are more likely to refuse to talk or more men are at work during the time the poll was taken.

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**Seniors 1991 Calendar**  
Pete and Chris will continue to hold Pit Sits Thursdays from 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. Please bring by any idea for a Senior Class Logo or by Suite B anytime. This week we want to hear what you think the role of the Senior Class should be. In addition, all Marshal interviews will be held in the Senior Class Office, Suite B. See you!

**SENIORS 1991**

**Campus Calendar**

**TUESDAY**  
11 a.m.: CUAB Performing Arts Committee announces that the Undergraduate Art Association and Individual Artists will hold an exhibit in Great Hall until 4 p.m.  
2 p.m.: The Pauper Players will act out excerpts from "Grease" in the Cabaret.  
3 p.m.: UNC Anthropology presents "Culture Change in the North Carolina Piedmont AD 1000-1700," an IRSS Southern Studies Faculty Working Group, with Craig Ward of Steen Widmuth-Davis, in Wilson Library Assembly Room. Call 966-1345 for more info.  
4 p.m.: The Campus Y Big Buddy Program will have an Easter Egg Hunt at the Alpha Chi Omega sorority house, 215 East Rosemary St. All big and little buddies are welcome. Remember to bring your basket!

**Career Planning and Placement Services** will hold Job Hunt 101: Basic information on how to use the UCPPS Office for seniors and graduate students in 210 Hanes.  
5 p.m.: The Lab Theater will present Christopher Marlowe's "Dr. Faustus," in 06 Graham Memorial. Admission is free and tickets are available 45 minutes before each performance.  
5:30 p.m.: CUAB Performing Arts Committee announces that the Carolina Tarheel Voices, Clef Hangers, Heels to Heaven and the Loreleis will hold Carolina Campus Jam in the Pit until 7 p.m. Rain site in Union auditorium.  
The Rare Book Collection and Friends of the Library announces that Dr. David Ganz of the Classics Dept. will speak on "Medieval Manuscripts in Chapel Hill," in the Wilson Library Assembly Room until 7 p.m. continuing the Book Collecting Seminar series. This event is free and open to the public. For additional information, call 962-1143.

6 p.m.: The Order of the Bell Tower reminds all members to come to our BBQ/meeting in the Forest Theatre!  
6:30 p.m.: CAA announces that the Carolina Fever Blue Blitz Committee will meet in the CAA Office. Any interested members are welcome.  
7 p.m.: Labor Union Recruiters Come to Campus: Allison Porter of the AFL-CIO Organizing Institute will give a talk entitled "Union Organizing in the 90's: the Best Job in America," in 423 Hamilton Hall.  
The Ebony Readers Onyx Theater will be performing "Mandela, The Land and the People," a compilation by D. Soyini Madson of South African poetry, prose, memoirs and music, in Hanes Art Center Auditorium. Admission is free. Sponsored by the BCC. Performance tomorrow night also.  
Carolina Cheerleaders announce that there will be a Varsity Cheerleading Tryout Information Session in 210 Union for the men and 218 for the women.  
7:30 p.m.: Student Government Tutoring Program offers free tutoring for Math, Econ., French, Spanish, Italian and Stat until 9:30 p.m. on 3rd floor Bingham.  
8 p.m.: The UNC Young Democrats will host a representative of NARAL in 208 Union. The speaker will discuss the choice issue and how it affects North Carolina politics. All interested persons are invited to attend.  
CUAB Performing Arts Committee announces Jazz Night: Quintet in the Cabaret until 10 p.m.  
UNC Program in Social Theory present "Ethical Issues in Information Technology," with John King of the University of California-Irvine, in Toy Lounge of Dey Hall. Call 966-1514 for more info.  
8:15 p.m.: UNC Speech Communication Reader's Theatre present "The Lost Boy," in 203 Bingham. Call 962-0012/1127 for more info.

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