

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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Avoiding conflicts

Porter should remain out of panel discussions

A couple of weeks ago, there was quite a stir over a supposed conflict of interest on the part of W. Travis Porter, an attorney from Durham who serves on the UNC Board of Governors and who represents UNC-CH head basketball coach Dean Smith.

The controversy stemmed from the fact that Porter was serving on a joint committee concerning whether the BOG should control contracts between head coaches of major sports and colleges of the UNC system. Porter, who handled the contract Smith signed in 1981, should not be accused of any wrongdoing, but he should make certain that in the future he does not have a role in the committee's decision.

Porter cannot be faulted because he never had a direct conflict of interest representing Smith. He did not choose to be a member of the joint committee. Rather, Porter was chairman of the Personnel and Tenure Committee, which joined with the Governance Committee to form the panel. Naturally, Porter became a member of the joint committee, but he left the task of leadership to D. Samuel Neill, the chair of the Governance Committee.

This past June, Porter relinquished his position of chairman of the Personnel and Tenure Committee to become vice chairman of the entire BOG. Thus, he no longer was a member of the joint committee.

Porter explained that the committee voted on only one matter while he was a member. The decision required that all contracts with coaches be approved by the appropriate university's Board of Trustees before considered valid.

Thus, no matter involving Smith was brought up while Porter was on the committee. Besides, Smith's current contract is already settled through 2001, and he has had no matter pending with the University since he signed the contract in 1981. It has not been feasible for Porter to use his position to better represent Smith; but more importantly, Porter went out of his way not to violate the NCSU Bar's ethics opinion concerning attorneys serving on public boards. He announced that he had an interest in Smith, and he did not deal with any matters directly involving with the coach.

Although Porter avoided having a direct conflict of interest, it is disturbing that he was allowed to be in the position where one might occur in the first place. Porter said he informed the board in November last year that Smith was his client. Yet he was still permitted to serve on the panel. One must wonder what took the Board of Governors so long to realize that Porter was in a position where a conflict could arise.

Porter is not aware of any more meetings for the joint committee. He has not decided if he will try to be active in the panel's decision on coaches' contracts. But as a member of a distinguished board that governs several prestigious institutions, his behavior must be extraordinary. Therefore, he should not further be involved in the panel; that would create a true conflict of interest if a matter concerning Smith did arise. — H. Brock Page

False accusations

Advertisements reflect senator's ignorance

Jesse Helms gets a perfect 10 on his following radio advertisement for pulling the most attacks in a single 30-second slot: "It seems Harvey Gantt is running two campaigns: a public campaign and a secret campaign. And Gantt's friends with the liberal newspapers don't want you to know about his secret campaign — that he has raised thousands of dollars in gay and lesbian bars in San Francisco, New York and Washington, that Gantt has run fund-raising ads in gay newspapers. ... The liberal newspapers also won't tell you about Harvey Gantt's secret campaign running radio ads that play only on black radio stations. Why doesn't Harvey Gantt run his ad on all radio stations? ... Harvey Gantt promises more welfare spending and more quotas for minorities. Harvey Gantt — too liberal for North Carolina."

Helms has no problem sticking to the issues in this ad; he knows who he hates. He is anti-Gantt, anti-newspaper, anti-gay, anti-Ted Kennedy and even anti-minority. Listeners can hear the Helms ad at approximately 30-minute intervals on some radio stations (country music seems to be his favorite).

But disregarding the ad's tone of hatred, it is inaccurate. It is so inaccurate that the same listener can hear a Harvey Gantt ad

— the ones that supposedly play only on "black" radio stations (if there is such an animal) — in the same sitting on the same radio station. Clearly, Gantt does not reserve his ads only for select radio stations.

In fact, the likely reason Helms chooses to spend so much advertising money on country radio stations is because he hopes to reach a smaller, supportive audience: the mostly white rural population that has historically been most accepting of him. And even if Gantt did run ads only on "black" stations, it is not unreasonable or immoral for him to do so. Targeting audiences is a part of all politics and advertising.

The reference to fund raising and advertising in gay bars and newspapers brings up another inaccuracy. "There's a difference between us fund raising and other people fund raising on our behalf," a press assistant said. "But we also are not trying to distance ourselves from that." He said the Gantt campaign does not fund advertisements in gay newspapers or raise money in gay bars, but supporters have done both.

It's pretty tough to take a candidate seriously when the only thing he's serious about is smearing his opponents. Voters know that campaign ads don't include all the facts, but giving just some of them would be nice. — Elizabeth Murray

UNC STUDENT GUIDE TO ART CRITICISM...



Aggravating others delivers sadistic satisfaction

I never realized just how easy it is to drive other people insane. A few days ago, one of my friends had to do something monumental, earth-shaking, and life-threatening: select and buy a new pair of sneakers. (The life-threatening part is true because I threatened to rip out his spleen if he dragged me to one more shoe store.) But I got even by totally screwing up his mental health. I refused to give him the opinion he so desperately wanted.

"What do you think of these?" he asked, holding up a pair of Nikes. "They're nice." "How about these?" He held up another pair that looked almost identical to the other ones. "They're nice." "What about this other pair? They're 90 bucks, but I like the colors." "They're nice." By the time we hit the third store, his eyes were beginning to bug out, and he was so confused, he could barely tie the shoelaces.

"Come on, Jenn, which ones should I get?" "They're nice." He started to get muscle spasms. "This is important to me! These are the shoes I'll be wearing for the next year! They have to look good! What do you think of the Reeboks?" "They're nice." That's when he snapped. Standing in a pile of shoes in the middle of the South Square Mall Foot Locker with a different brand of sneaker in each hand, his face turned purple, the veins in his neck stood out, and he started to shake. "Jenn," he said through clenched teeth, "you...are...driving...me...CRAZY!"

I don't know what he was so upset about. Watching three salespeople strap him into a straitjacket and forcibly eject him from the store was the most fun I'd had in weeks.

I drive my roommate crazy, too. I know the one thing that can make her fail exams, forget her schedule, and get nothing else done: a deck of cards. She'll be sitting at her desk, feverishly

Jenn Layton I Just Work Here

scribbling out a paper that is due in a matter of hours, and I'll say the three cruel, heinous, awful words: "Wanna play cards?" Her hands will begin to tremble, and she'll turn to glare at me.

"Come on, I'll say, twisting the knife. "Just one quick game of Rummy. We need a study break."

She'll toss her pencil onto the desk. "Okay, one quick game. But at 10 o'clock, I'm going back to studying." It is 9:30 p.m. when she says this.

Anyone who plays cards knows that there is no such thing as a quick game of Rummy. One hand alone can take as long as 15 minutes. After playing a full game (the effect is even better if I beat her) She'll look at the clock and groan, "Oh, my God, it's almost 11!" Panic will set in, and she'll end up pulling an all-nighter to finish the paper. And what's really insane is that she'll fall for the very same weakness the next time she has to study.

But the one who really wants to kill me is Justen. I don't drive him nuts anymore, mainly because he's moved out of Chapel Hill, (probably to get as far away from me as possible) but when we had a 10 a.m. class together a couple of years ago, I made his mornings a living hell. Want to make Justen go absolutely insane before the day is even half over? Listen to Professor Layton:

First, make sure that you and Justen both live on South Campus and have a 10 a.m. history class on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Make the history class take place in Hanes Art Center, which is almost all the way to Franklin Street. Do this in January, when the morning temperature is enough to freeze your nose hairs.

Get up early and start pounding on Justen's

door at precisely 9 a.m. (I see a few of you in the back raising your hands. "Excuse me, Professor Layton, but why so early?" Because Justen is not an early riser. He isn't able to function well enough to find his socks until at least noon.)

Justen will open the door in his underwear and stare at you as if you are the Secret Police ready to take him away in chains. Push him aside, pick his jeans up off the floor, and tell him to get dressed because class starts in an hour. Now prepare for the whining.

"Awwwww, let's skip today. It's alllllll the way across campus, and it's cooolld." You will respond, "No, Justen. We'll miss too many notes."

"Come oooooon. All his lectures come straight out of the book. We'll just read the chapters!" Ignore the whining, pry his fingers off the door frame, and drag him out into the hall. As you walk across campus, listen as Justen treats you to a less-than-impressive display of his vocal capabilities: "It's cooolld. Let's skip. Class is booooooring. Let's just go to the Record Barrrrrrrr. I want to get a new CD. Pleeceeeeee?"

Drag him into Hanes Art Center and down the auditorium steps and padlock him to a seat. Watch the professor shuffle out onto the stage like Stephen Wright with a severe hangover. Listen as this professor mumbles his way through the same chapter you read last night. Verbatim.

Write on a blank notebook page, "You're right. We should have skipped." Slide it over to Justen.

Watch Justen demonstrate his amazing ability to turn blue and purple at the same time.

Any questions? Sometimes it's just so easy....

Jenn Layton is a senior English major from Kingston, Ontario, who wonders why her friends don't call her anymore.

READERS' FORUM

Homosexuals infringe on rights of others

Editors' note: This article reflects the opinions of Jack Voigt and not the Dental School or its staff.

To the editors: In response to Elizabeth Murray's Oct. 18 editorial "Homosexuals deserve more rights," I must, in all normal human thinking, disagree 100 percent.

Homosexuals, queers, gays or whatever they wish to call themselves have, because of their unnatural lifestyles, succeeded in spreading one of the most hideous diseases known to mankind. Yet in public they demonstrate and show themselves in a distasteful manner, demanding more rights to spread the disease even more. Homosexuals, through elected bleeding hearts or some of their own kind, have had laws passed that gave them rights to infect. You say AIDS is not contagious through casual contact. Well Murray you show me where medical science gives the public an absolute 100 percent guarantee that I and others like me would never contact the disease because of the association or casual contact, and I might just relent.

The lowest form of animal life casts out the misfits to assure survival of the species. I'm not advocating we just cast them out, but I do believe that to protect our species we should isolate them for treatment. Laws to the contrary only succeed in endangering the public.

Some politicians (including Gantt) will, through the corners of their mouths, support gays in a small way to get their vote. Gantt said we shouldn't fear gays - well I do. Not only for me but my family and survival of mankind. I wonder if he will let his children near them. You might say my words are

Price not sympathetic to needs of state

To the editors: I am a retired school teacher with 30 years of experience and would like to raise the question: Why don't we have enough tax dollars for our North Carolina public schools? Congressman Price sends our North Carolina education tax dollars to the Washington education bureaucracy. Congress, in effect, decreases the tax money available to educate North Carolina's young people. How could this be?

The U.S. Department of Education's budget is \$25 billion. North Carolina taxpayers send \$547 million tax dollars to Washington to fund this \$25 billion budget. A Bureau of Census report ("Federal Expenditures by State for Fiscal Year 1989") says North Carolina schools and students receive back from Washington only \$330 million, and Washington mandates how the money will be spent.

For every education tax dollar North Carolina taxpayers send to Washington, we get back only 60 cents. Why can't Congressman Price just vote to leave our education tax dollars in North Carolina? He could have done that if he had chosen to serve on the House Education Committee, rather than Banking Committee.

The education establishment says education is a "national" problem. In that sense, the in-

Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticisms. We attempt to print as many letters to the editors as space permits. When writing letters, please follow these guidelines:

■ If you want your letter published, please sign and date it. No more than two signatures please.

■ If you have a title that is relevant to your letter's subject, please include it.

■ 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.

Homosexuals infringe on rights of others

these pieces of bronze, we should be dealing with the problems themselves. We need to get our heads out of the ovens and try to overcome our fears before the earth bleeds to death.

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Freshman
History

ELIZABETH CATES
Retired school teacher

JACK D. VOIGT
Dental Support Services

ELIZABETH MURRAY

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