

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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The last straw

Chancellor growing impatient with Greeks

UNC fraternities are in danger of losing their freedoms because campus administrators are not pleased with the negative images created by recent fraternity-related incidents. Another fraternity scandal could result in a severe clamp-down on now unrestricted fraternity activities.

Chancellor Paul Hardin and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Donald Boulton have both expressed displeasure with recent well-publicized happenings involving fraternity members or taking place near fraternity houses. Hardin has threatened to exert control over fraternities if they aren't more careful about what happens at their functions.

Although the fraternity system is an easy scapegoat for many late-night indiscretions common on college campuses, Hardin's complaints are not unfounded. The recent SAE "chicken kickin'" might have been the straw that broke the chancellor's back. Tension between administrators and the fraternity system has been building ever since fraternity pledges were caught streaking last year in the parking lot of Morehead Planetarium. A tear gas bomb thrown at an all-campus fraternity party added to the strain. Whether the fraternities in question were responsible for these incidents or not, their mere association has left a nasty taste in administrators' mouths.

The situation can be improved, however, without fraternities relinquishing all

control to campus officials. Administrators have enough policy problems to worry about without added Greek concerns, and fraternities have their own watchdog, the Inter-Fraternity Council, to establish policy and impose punishment on fraternities that don't comply with the council's rules. Theoretically, with this system in place, the Greeks should be able to patrol themselves without administrative intervention.

Unfortunately, the IFC has fallen short of its expectations. Granted, it has implemented a dry rush policy and made motions to install police officers at fraternity parties. But it doesn't have the power to enforce its policies. Fraternities are not even required to be members of the IFC. Thus, for the organization to work effectively, changes need to be made that will make fraternities take the rulings more seriously. This may be the only way administrators will feel comfortable allowing fraternities a free rein.

Hardin is meeting with IFC President Robb Beatty this month. With any luck, they will be able to restructure the IFC so that it does not greatly infringe on fraternities' freedoms yet establishes concrete guidelines that fraternities must follow. Allowing fraternities to police themselves might not solve all fraternity-related problems, but it is the only reasonable solution for the situation. — Crystal Bernstein

from the Ombudsman ...

This column is both a tribute and an explanation to those of you who, from time to time, are compelled to use one of the ways available to gain direct access to the pages of The Daily Tar Heel.

First, the tribute: This semester, many of you in the University community have put the Readers' Forum to excellent use in voicing your opinions and contributing to the marketplace of ideas in this community. It is a definite change from the spring of 1989, when a shortage of letters caused cartoonist Pete Corson to shut down the forum with an editorial cartoon saying it was closed "due to severe apathy."

Topics you have chosen to discuss this semester include the battle between bicyclists and pedestrians for walkway space, the Davis Library statues, gay and lesbian rights and DTH reporting and/or coverage.

Now, the explanation: How does the DTH handle the letters you send to the forum for publication?

The answer is simple. Due to exams, newsmaking incidents (or lack thereof), timeliness of an issue or something in the DTH that either encouraged you or rubbed you the wrong way, Forum Editor Lynette Blair and Opinion Editor Crystal Bernstein receive between 15 and 50 letters per week for publication.

The number of letters they receive is crucial; it determines whether a letter will run, how much it will be edited and how fast it can be printed. It also means letters

cannot be guaranteed immediate publication, may be printed with slight or major editing, or may not be published at all.

The letter's topic is also important because the forum editors try to choose a wide range of topics and the diversity of viewpoints they may bring. This ensures an issue will not become so dominant it chills discussion of other topics of interest. The most recent example of this was during the first week of the statue controversy; in that week, 50 letters to the editor about the statues were not printed due to space and time limitations.

Some readers say the DTH purposely publishes letters that instigate controversy. That may very well be true. But the important thing to remember is that the material printed is supplied by the readers — and moreover, it is printed in a forum where views can be discussed, whether they prove to be out of step with the readership or not. The letters are not printed for the mere purpose of sparking controversy, but for sparking discussion — and the expression of different ideas.

So keep watching, and if some issue catches your eye, write your feelings down and make your contribution to the marketplace of ideas known as the Readers' Forum. And if you'd like to make some comments on these or other issues, my assistants and I will be in the Pit this week — from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. See ya. — James Benton

The Daily Tar Heel

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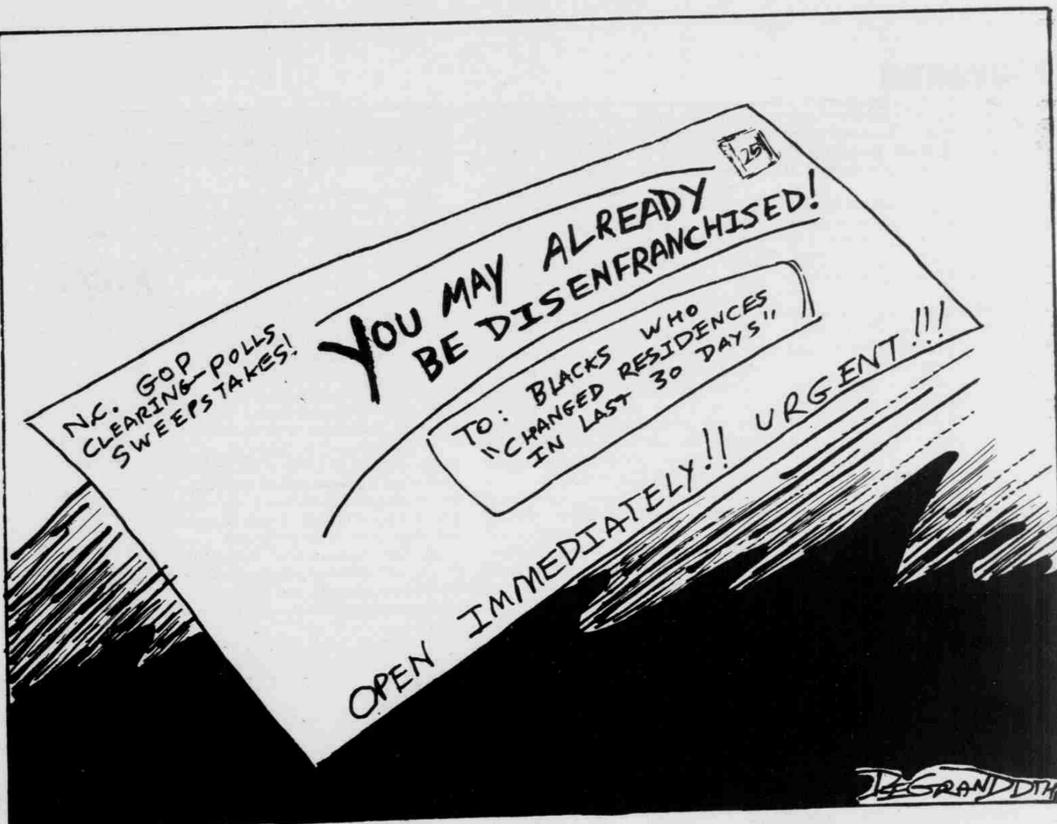
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A vote not cast is better than an ignorant vote

Two years ago, I asked a 16-year-old friend whether she considered herself a Republican or a Democrat. She stared at me blankly, shuffled her feet a bit and replied: "Well, I mean, I always thought Republicans were the good guys and Democrats the bad ones."

She is eligible to vote in tomorrow's election, and this worries me.

My concern is not of her party stereotypes. The "accolades" could be reversed, and I'd be just as nervous. The dangerous implications of her answer are woven within the next minutes of our conversation.

I asked her opinions on specific, high-visibility issues such as abortion, the death penalty, tax raising, etc. She didn't know where either party traditionally stood on each issue and in many cases she had their stances mixed up.

That is OK. No one has to be politically aware. A lot of people find politicians, elections and parties to be absolutely boring and undeserving of their attention. But if we think that way, and we don't know about the issues and don't care about the candidates, we shouldn't vote. We hear all the time, "It doesn't matter for whom you vote, just use your con-

Wendy Bounds
 Staff Writer

stitutional right and vote." This advice is both unsound and dangerous.

What is the point of helping to elect someone whom we know nothing about and giving this individual the power to change our lives, simply for the sake of "using" our rights? Our right to vote is guaranteed; it has been since 1971. I am not meaning to imply in the least that we should not be utterly grateful for this privilege. But we cannot abuse this right, which is what we do if we vote uninformed.

I ask, which is worse: to postpone using our right to vote until adequately informed or to abuse the right by electing officials through ignorance and heresy? Some might argue this mentality encourages people without political interest to never use their constitutional right. I believe, in time, some political figure or issue will awake the conscience of every person, driving him or her to care about an election.

READERS' FORUM

Budget cut solutions merit consideration

To the editors:
 Recently, a fellow classmate posed the question, "Is your education being screwed?" I was appalled that such a question had to be asked. Not only are our educations being screwed, they are currently being chopped up and beaten down, almost to the point where a degree from UNC won't mean anything by the time I graduate. Moreover, many students are complaining that they are tired of hearing about budget cuts. Of course they are! According to the co-chairman of the department of economics, third year Ph.D student Jerry Bradshaw, "the present reductions are now Carolina's fourth year of budget cuts."

So... why don't we do something about this problem, instead of waiting and wondering if the sharp blades will ever cease tearing through the threads that struggle to hold the bonds of our education's future together? A very good question! Many intelligent students have brought up some extremely interesting ideas in previous issues of the DTH that may prove to be beneficial to our situation. Maybe it is time that we listened to their suggestions and started putting them into use.

To begin, Randy Basinger, a senior here at Chapel Hill, feels that we can delete many of our unnecessary expenditures in order to free ourselves from the tightening grip that these cuts have gotten on all of us. Some of these outrageous expenses include the building of the Alumni Center of which will not benefit the students or any canceled classes. Will we really suffer if we pay more attention to our failing University instead of another building project that probably won't be finished for a few years anyway? Moreover, Chris Hunt, a freshman here at Carolina, suggests that students could help themselves by means of T-shirt sales, raffles, and even donations. Is it so horrible that we have to chip in to save the prestige of our school? As Homey would say, "I don't think so!"

Finally, everyone must be willing to help in defeating these dreadful budget cuts. The time has come to enact some of the ideas that have been suggested so that worries and complaints may be

brought to an end along with the cuts. Besides, no one is going to help us until we at least try to help ourselves.

GWEN WATKINS
 Freshman
 Computer science

Library would offer town needed services

To the editors:
 This is in response to Chris Martin's letter, "New town library a waste of tax money," (Oct. 19). I am amazed the DTH would print a letter from someone who obviously has not a clue about the subject upon which he chose to comment.

Martin insisted that spending tax money on a new Chapel Hill public library would be "one of the most absurd suggestions I have yet heard in this town," because the Chapel Hill public could use our university library.

Martin, there is a world of difference between a public library and an academic library. The collections are completely different; yes, the undergraduate library does have a fiction collection, but it is definitely not their highest priority. A public library has a greater range of fiction and nonfiction, with less scholarly works, more magazines and of course, a complete children's collection. You forgot one of the biggest groups of library users! There are children's programs, storytimes and much more. I'm sure a six-year-old would have a ball in Davis Library.

Also, a public library staff is geared to assist a different range of questions, more general questions about fiction, like "If I love Margaret Atwood, what else should I read?" Public libraries have all sorts of special programs, film series, author series, and the like. A public library is a haven of sort, a comfortable, safe place to spend an afternoon browsing the shelves or reading newspapers. Another thing: Just getting on campus is impossible. We all know there isn't any parking. No Chapel Hillian should be limited to using UNC's libraries.

Martin, have you ever been near the Chapel Hill public library? There is barely any parking, there are books absolutely everywhere and there are also tons of people. This library gets a lot of use. They need more room, and if the people want more room, then they will

interest and awareness will grow from there. Until then, I hope this individual will vote only for the candidates about whom he or she is informed. This courtesy will protect the significance of votes cast by those who do know for whom and what they are voting.

One might insist that this philosophy only encourages voter apathy. Possibly. But the intent is to protect the purity of the voting system (if such an ideal exists) and not to mindlessly elect officials because we like their commercials or see one name on bumper stickers more than another.

And if we vote one way because our parents and friends do, let us be certain our ideals truly match those of these people whose advice we are trusting. Until each of us as a voter is at least informed on the major issues to which candidates adhere, we should be selective and particular for whom we vote.

And tomorrow, if we say we have voted for less, it may well mean we have voted for more.

Wendy Bounds is a sophomore journalism/Spanish major. She writes for the state and national desk of the DTH.

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Martin, have you ever been near the Chapel Hill public library? There is barely any parking, there are books absolutely everywhere and there are also tons of people. This library gets a lot of use. They need more room, and if the people want more room, then they will

vote for it. The academic flavor of this town makes it more necessary to have a better public library.

So, is the difference between an academic and a public library clear yet to you, Martin? I certainly hope so. Why don't we make a deal? I'll promise not to write any letters about international studies if you promise not to write any letters about library science. OK?

BETH LIEBMAN
 Graduate student
 Library science

Raising tuition would ease budget crisis

To the editors:
 For the past few weeks there has been a loud clamor raised by the University against the harsh state budget cuts. The state, however, is undergoing tough economic times and all state programs are being cut. The University must accept the fact that it will receive a smaller piece of the budget pie. University leaders menacingly warn of the hard choices that need to be made without specifying them. A solution to the crisis might be found by raising tuition and slashing the bloated athletic department.

First, raise tuition. The tuition here is a ridiculously meager portion of the total budget. Tuition should be increased by 50 percent for in-state students and 75 percent for out-of-state students over a four-year period to cover the loss of state funding.

Second, all the money raised by the Rams Club should go directly to the University to compensate for the loss of state money. Money should not be given by the alumni to build a palatial sports facility or to recruit star athletes so the Heels can stamp State. The University's mission is to educate, not to provide sports entertainment for alumni. If donors cannot accept this fact, tell them to give their money to the Charlotte Hornets.

In dealing with the budget crisis, the University must look at what is important. Every student must be able to take the classes he needs with the best possible instructors and materials. In a budget crisis, the athletic department must lose its exalted status. Even a basketball or soccer team that wins hundreds of games must be sacrificed before academics.

Otherwise the "University of National Champions" is in danger

of becoming another athletic giant/academic midget like Nevada-Las Vegas or Oklahoma where a game ticket is worth more than a degree.

The University has questioned the state government's commitment to education. When the University cuts funds to the history department and not the athletic department, then I question the University's commitment to education.

It is important for people to realize that libraries are designed specifically to meet the needs of various users. Libraries cannot be measured solely by square footage, number of volumes, or number of users. The services a library provides to its community are a far more important measure, and while the UNC libraries are large, they do not provide all the services that the Chapel Hill community requires. A patron of the UNC libraries would be hard-pressed, for example, to browse shelves of the latest bestsellers in order to select some leisure reading. Parents with children, too, would find the libraries inhospitable. We don't show movies, or have a story hour, or arrange readings by local authors, or provide community services like voter registration.

The libraries on campus welcome users from the community, the state and indeed from all over the country. We do not, however, have everything or provide all possible library services, and we rely on the public library for those materials and those services. Look at the public library as an extension of the library services available in your community and see the needs of others as well as yourself. Vote "yes" for the library bond issue on Nov. 6.

RIKKI MANGRUM
 Microcomputer services librarian
 Davis Library

CHRIS VANN
 1st year law student

Library bond deserves "yes" vote on Tuesday

To the editors:
 Chris Martin, in his Oct. 19 letter "New town library a waste of tax money," suggests that a new public library in Chapel Hill is a waste of taxpayer's money because of the size of the libraries on the UNC campus.

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