

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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Necessary compensation Maternity leave policy needs revision

The general attitude among faculty members seems to be one of camaraderie and support, especially when a professor is in a bind. Professors fill in the gaps, giving and taking to get the job done.

But when it comes to maternity leave, things get a little more complicated. As it stands, a female faculty member may take up to six weeks of paid leave to recuperate and spend time with a new baby. But neither individual departments nor the University provide money for a replacement. Someone within the department must take over the extra work with no extra pay.

It is unrealistic to expect the University to allocate money for compensation right now. That would be fair, but when budget cuts prompt the libraries to hoard staples and employees to pay for photocopies, talk of extra funding is just that — talk.

When UNC can, it should ask the General Assembly for compensation money. But in the meantime, creative ways to make this policy more fair for all University faculty members are especially important. Chancellor Hardin, in a meeting this week with the Women's Concerns Coalition, has

already expressed his willingness to consider revisions in the policy.

While UNC is waiting for the budget forecast to improve, perhaps employees on leave could give some of their salaries to the professors who substitute for them. The employee on leave would sacrifice some income, but the colleague would at least be partially compensated for sacrificing time.

The University should also change the "maternity" leave policy into a "family" leave policy. Male faculty members should also be included if they want or need to take time off to spend with their babies. As the policy reads now, it only applies to women. A "maternity" leave policy perpetuates the inaccurate idea that men play an insignificant role in the care of children.

By making the leave policy a high priority, the University would not only show support for faculty members, but would also maintain nationally competitive standards. The University should request funds for compensation at its next opportunity. Until then, it may be necessary for faculty members on leave to make some monetary sacrifice. — Elizabeth Murray

No-win situation

Admissions lawsuit attacks fact of life

When many Carolina students came to campus as high school seniors, they were less than excited about dragging their parents around with them. The support was nice, but it was difficult to have a "college experience" with Mom and Dad in tow.

But for Nicole Dee Hall, things are even worse. Hall applied to UNC and to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1989. She was wait-listed here and accepted at UT, her first choice. Her father, however, thought UNC had discriminated against her and sued the University. Although he dropped the suit to wait for a Civil Rights Commission study, he renewed it in October. In effect, Don Hall is dragging his daughter, now a sophomore at UT, around a campus she doesn't want to be on.

Hall says that the UNC admissions office discriminates in favor of male minorities, athletes, out-of-state students and children of UNC-system employees and alumni. Last week, he said, "I think they're wanting to establish a so-called balance by letting in Orientals and blacks to take the place of qualified whites." He says his daughter met the University's standards of admission with a 2.8 GPA and about 900 on her SATs but was rejected, while athletes with lower scores were admitted.

While Hall is correct in saying UNC does not admit every qualified applicant, this does not equal discrimination. More than 7,000 in-state students who met those standards applied in 1989, but only 2,621 enrolled. The University has a competitive policy. Meeting those standards includes a

student in the pool of applicants, but it does not guarantee him or her admission. If Hall wants enrollment to increase so that more students can enroll, he should sue the General Assembly, not the admissions office.

And there is nothing discriminatory in the policy about admitting minorities. More than 20 percent of the state's population is black, compared with about 10 percent of UNC's undergraduates. Other minorities are also under-represented on campus. Correcting these discrepancies is a moral obligation, not the creation of an arbitrary "so-called balance." The UNC system was required to recruit minorities up until 1988 under an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education. Since then, the University has continued those practices in the hope of further diversifying the campus.

The sad part is that there will be no winners here. For Hall, the suit will only bring headaches and lawyers' fees. For his daughter, it will publicize her high school academic record for the sake of berating a university she never wanted to attend. And for UNC, the suit will reinforce rumors of racism at a time when the admissions office is trying to correct the underrepresentation of minorities.

The UNC admissions office is trying to create the most diverse campus it can with a limited number of enrollments; using competitive standards for academics and extracurriculars is the best way to do so. Scarcity of resources is a fact of economic and academic life, and one lawsuit can't change that. — Kelly Thompson

Editorial Policy

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The Daily Tar Heel

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MC 'THROW THIS MUTHA OUT' WORLD TOUR



JEFF MAXIM DTH

New telephone system will be a welcome change

It seems as though lately just about everything in the news has been negative. To a certain extent, news, by definition, is the bad stuff — car crashes, murders, avalanches, cheating politicians and so on. But from the states in front of Davis, the hate crimes on campus, the Gantt-Helms Senate race, to the state budget cuts, the news particularly seems to have been such a downer lately.

So I was pleased to see something new in the news that will have a positive effect for students on this campus — the University Physical Plant will be taking over telephone operations for the residence halls, which in turn will help some of us college students save money. As Bill and Ted would say, "Excellent!"

According to the plan, this new telephone set-up, scheduled to be in place by fall 1992, should work out well. Students in the residence halls will pay for their local calls as a part of their housing rent each semester, and the rate will be equal to or less expensive than the current rates. The details for specific services, such as call waiting and call forwarding, have yet to be worked out, but they will still be available to students.

There are definitely positives to this new system. First of all, those students living on campus will no longer have the pleasure of figuring out the phone bill, an experience I find to be a major pain in the rump. Don't be in a bad mood trying to figure it out, because it never

Kimberley Maxwell Strictly Business

fails, one of the following things happen while trying to crunch the numbers correctly:

- (1) No one living with you either knows or will admit who made the three-hour phone call to Billings, Montana at noon on a weekday, or
 - (2) The figure I think I owe Southern Bell is \$10 lower than what they think.
- What do you end up with? Major frustration, and probably a headache. Now that I think about it, my phone bill is coming soon. AARRRGGGGHHH!!!

Second, students don't have to worry about connecting and disconnecting their phones, and the rip-off charges that go along with them. For some of us, that'll be a big help. A friend of mine told me a story about a freshman who asked when her phone would be hooked up about two weeks in to the semester. My friend told her whenever she had it hooked up and bought a phone. Obviously, this new system will help those who have a hard time getting with the program.

Third, this plan will help students who have a roommate or roommates who either don't pay their phone bills on time, or charge up phone

calls that they can't pay for later. Unfortunately, this does happen. I know it's kind of hard to not make a lot of long-distance phone calls sometimes. There have been times that I look at my bill and think "When did I call So-and-So?" However, the plan will protect those students who inadvertently get caught in between a conflict between a roommate and Southern Bell.

Last summer, I had the opportunity to stay at a college that provided such services for its students, and it worked out well. Heaven knows it was nice not having a phone bill. The only problem was that the city (Charleston, South Carolina) is below sea level and can flood heavily when it rains hard. On several occasions, the phone service would go out because of the flooding, but this was just a problem related to that particular area. The telephone service should be similar to the service students now receive.

This new telephone system should be great for students. Of course, all this stuff, like Caroline, happens when I've got one foot out of the door. It seems like it's a plot, but for me, Mr. Murphy strikes again. This system should be a pretty good deal, for those of you who get to actually use it.

Kimberley Maxwell is a senior journalism and political science major from Marietta, Ga.

READERS' FORUM

'New Carolina' elects Gantt to U.S. senate

To the editors:
 So, Harvey Gantt lost the election. Come on, all you semi-literate, un-bigoted, able-to-spell-your-own-name people, don't get too upset. There is still hope. Actually, there is a simple solution to this hateful problem and it goes something like this...

Let it be known that the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill and the town of Chapel Hill do hereby withdraw from the state of North Carolina. Upon secession, we request statehood from the United States of America, to be hereby known as New Carolina, and elections as soon as possible with the suggestion of Harvey Gantt on the Democratic ticket.

We're ready. We're capable (probably more than any other part of the state). We even have our own state slogan. Upon the brilliant suggestion of, your hero and mine, Jesse Helms, we could just throw up a fence and call ourselves "The Zoo State." Our state bird could be the last feathered creature left gasping for air after Helms kills the environment. For lack of any better ideas and because we got smashed last night after hearing the election results, we think Buffett's "Margaritaville" should be our state song. Our state flag should include all the colors in the world, since our Zoo is not monochrome.

If you're interested, give us a call. D.C. thinks it can do it, with Mayor Marion Barry and all, so why can't we? Oh, and tell Quebec we'll take Newfoundland.

SUZANNE RICHARD
 Sophomore
 Drama

LORI WOGON
 Sophomore
 Political Science

Important issues won state for Jesse Helms

To the editors:
 The results of the Nov. 6 elections prove that there is still hope for North Carolina. In the present day, where the absence of law and order and the presence of legislators who spend too much of our tax money, common sense prompted N.C. voters to re-elect the man who stands for N.C. values: Jesse

Helms.

So hats off to the 8 percent undecided who decided that the issue of balancing the runaway federal deficit was more important than the issue of abortion; an issue decided in the Supreme Court anyway. Hats off to the same people who also believe that the proper prosecution of felons is more an issue which needs to be addressed than allowing so-called "artists" to peddle their "art" at the expense of our tax money. And we should also thank the "swing" voters for helping elect Jesse Helms, a man who clearly sees that cutting our defense while a country of 17 million people and an army of one million threatens our allies in the Gulf.

So while the spread of liberalism threatens to engulf our state, it is with relief that North Carolina has proven herself once again to be a bastion of conservatism and morality. It is also with relief that the people of North Carolina (save the 46 percent who voted for Gantt) chose important issues relevant to the senatorial race over personal, single issues. So for all you single-issue voters: lobby the Supreme Court if the abortion issue is that important to you. Write and call your representatives and our governor to clean up the N.C. education mess (which our state legislators should be doing anyway), and judge Helms by his outstanding, outspoken, conservative senatorial leadership. So once again, thank you North Carolina for choosing traditional, conservative values over the infectious liberal ones.

D. STEPHEN NORTON
 Junior
 History/Geography
Campus Exxon boycott is counterproductive

To the editors:
 I am a Clemson student with some friends at Chapel Hill, and I have been reading The Daily Tar Heel lately. I have come across letters and articles expressing desires to boycott/protest the Exxon recruiting team's UNC campus interviews. This seems to be a rather rash decision on the students' part, and I would like to offer some views that may not have been considered.
 First of all, how much effect will a campus boycott of Exxon have? One campus can not do very

much except annoy the recruiting team. An angry recruiter will not hire students, and this will cost future UNC graduates jobs they could have had if Exxon had recruited at UNC. Sending a recruiting team to a campus is expensive, and UNC should feel honored that Exxon values your students enough to come looking for them.

Secondly, you cannot possibly hope to put Exxon, Inc. out of business. Yes, the boycott will raise campus awareness, but so will posters and public announcements. Posters and announcements will not, however, irritate an Exxon team. How about inviting an Exxon representative to come speak on campus? They responded to the Clemson Chemical Engineering Department's request without hesitation.

Also, what happens if your boycott works? What if (by some miracle) Exxon shuts down? What happens to all those unemployed people? Exxon is a very large corporation with thousands of employees worldwide. And what about the facilities? With the fuel production economy in the present situation, there are not very many buyers for the equipment. Instead, it will just sit in the oil field and pose more of a health hazard unattended than if Exxon were responsible for it.

Lastly, I would like to make a suggestion. Go interview with Exxon. Try to get a job with them. Once in the workplace, you will have more of an impact on the company and its policies than if you were just another protester. It's easy to complain about a situation, but it takes an effort to make a difference. Let Exxon know that you care about the environment and want to help them correct their mistakes. They'll even pay you money to do it (much more profitable than a boycott).

AL TURNER
 Chemical Engineering
 Clemson University

Budget cuts threaten prestige of University

To the editors:
 When I received my letter of acceptance from Carolina I was excited to know that I would be attending one of the finest universities in the United States. Since my arrival, that excitement has turned into fear for the prestige of

the University. These cuts affect every student and professor at the University.

The budget cuts are a result of several factors. Slow tax collections, shortfall on tax collections, unexpected expenses (i.e. Hurricane Hugo) and an overall slowdown in the economy all contribute to the cause of these cuts.

By now, everybody is probably aware of the effect these cuts are having on the students and faculty. For those who aren't, let me inform them of a few. Courses have been dropped, there has been a reduction of TAs, over 500 titles have been dropped from the library and the library hours have been shortened.

I find it hard to believe that our state government can actually think that cutting education funds is the solution to solving our deficit. Lowering the education funds leads to a decrease in the quality of the education we receive. This can only hurt us more in the future.

If we don't do something about these cuts now, there will definitely be more. This is why everyone needs to help out. Don't just sit back and complain about the cuts; call, write, or even visit someone in our state government and let them know that cutting education funds is not the answer. Maybe we can get these people to open their eyes and realize this if enough of us let them know where we stand. Only by doing this can we save the quality and prestige of our fine University.

JIMMY ORR
 Freshman
 Biology

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 to be published, please sign and date it. No more than two signatures please.
- All letters must be typed and double-spaced.
- Please include your year in school, major, phone number and hometown.
- 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.