

The Daily Tar Heel

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Don't Settle for Cheap Reputation

The label "Best value for the money" again can be stuck on the packaged UNC education. Last week, Money magazine declared UNC's top ranking on their list of public school bargains. That title is not altogether unexpected because the reputation of Chapel Hill has always been that of a sound, affordable education.

At the same time, the University should not stagnate in this comfort zone. UNC's overall ranking in Money magazine slipped, although the University stayed tops among public universities.

This award should provoke an increased commitment to provide an outstanding higher education, regardless of the competition.

The entire concept of ratings is based on comparison. But the more important focus should be that of our own individual goals. The first priority of any university is to provide the best education possible within its financial constraints. Studying other universities should be more to check that our goals are cutting-edge rather than to ensure that we've got five more volumes in our library than University X.

To maintain the high standard of our talented and ambitious student body, it is crucial that prospective university applicants see UNC-Chapel Hill as an appealing option. Any publicity, like Money magazine's recent article, is a

positive way to spread the word.

A variety of different factors were studied before the ranks were assigned. And in the search for the best overall bargain, the university's weaknesses can be drowned by its fortes.

Reform and improvements are needed in many areas; UNC should examine these areas and do its best to remedy them. The self-study currently being conducted for UNC's reaccreditation will provide an excellent opportunity to pinpoint the University's weaknesses and propose feasible solutions.

Increasing teacher's salaries should be high on the list of priorities, partly because professor's qualifications and work demands it but also because this would attract a larger pool of prospective teachers. The ripple effect would mean an improved education for students and eventually better results.

Housing is another pertinent problem, and it demands greater attention so that students can be accommodated in dorm rooms rather than in the comfort of TV lounges.

The list of areas that need improvement is long, but perhaps this new feather in UNC's cap will tickle the university into tackling the problems. After all, decent bargains can be picked up in the Dollar Store — Chapel Hill deserves a better analogy than that.

Chavis, Please Exit Gracefully

Just days after being fired as head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by its board of directors, Benjamin Chavis filed a lawsuit to get reinstated to that position, claiming he was denied a proper hearing.

Now, the organization, which he left \$3 million in debt and from which he requisitioned, without board knowledge, \$332,400 to settle a sexual discrimination case out of court, will face untold thousands of dollars in legal fees. Chavis' actions are inexcusable for someone as clearly in the wrong as he is.

Benjamin Chavis has likened his dismissal to a lynching and to a crucifixion. However, both those terms imply that the victim is actually innocent. As Chavis has never denied taking these funds from the NAACP, his choice of words is questionable.

Chavis has been widely criticized for his policies. He took an innovative approach to the ailing NAACP, trying to make it more of an inclusive representative of America's black community.

Critics sprouted up faster than Chavis could make policy after he invited controversial Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan to a summit of black leaders. While Chavis' new policies certainly spawned discussion within the black community and were bound to lead to some

changes, his financial misconduct and his unethical reaction have ruined his chance to rejuvenate the NAACP.

The last straw for the board of directors, which already had an adversarial relationship with Chavis, was Chavis' taking of group funds, without permission, to quiet a personally embarrassing situation; namely, the sexual discrimination lawsuit of Mary Stansel.

As it stands, Chavis should be glad the NAACP is allowing him to leave without facing embezzlement charges.

To add insult to injury, Chavis, in his lawsuit, requested an emergency court order to temporarily reinstate him as head of the organization he mismanaged pending the conclusion of the lawsuit. Judge Herbert Dixon declined. Thankfully, someone has the interests of the NAACP in mind.

Chavis has stated he will continue to work "in the struggle of African-American people for justice, freedom and self-determination." If he were truly interested in these goals, he would drop his lawsuit against the NAACP and let that group continue its efforts toward them.

The NAACP, crippled by the continuing allegations against Chavis, needs time to regroup and rebuild. This unifying was supposed to take place under Chavis; now, his former organization needs peace and quiet to get on with its job.



Conservatives: Raise Your Voices for What's Right

And God said, 'Let there be light': and there was light." — Genesis 1:3.

For those freshmen (excuse me... freshpersons) who have yet to experience Chapel Hill's liberal indoctrination process, I proffer these words of advice: Be not seduced by the power of the Dark Side.

For instance... Don't lend support to whatever Cause of the Week our campus liberal elites decide to engineer.

Don't trust any statistic which seems too shocking to be true, e.g. spousal abuse doesn't really rise by 40 percent on Super Bowl Sunday.

Don't wear self-righteous, meaningless ribbons in the hope of demonstrating that you are more compassionate than everyone else.

Don't assume that men are violent, card-carrying members of Patriarchy Inc.

Don't make signs which feature such hyperbolic claims as "Women don't have the right to go out in public" (see last Monday's DTH).

Don't dedicate your life to promoting the awareness — a popular word here on campus — of ignorant people less enlightened than your glorious self.

Don't sexually harass women in the manner of Benjamin Chavis, Bill Clinton and Teddy Kennedy.

And finally, never under any circumstances portray yourself as a helpless victim of an "oppressive" society — unless you're from Cuba, China or other horrific countries where the interests of the state supersede those of the individual.

As should thus be apparent, I am a devout right-winger, an endangered species on these pages, to be sure. If you now stereotype me as intolerant because of my deep conservatism, just remember that such an act is the epitome of closed-mindedness. Far from being the mindless, reactionary dolts that our media portrayal suggests, we on the Right are quite intellectually fluent and possess a rich philosophical heritage.

What then are the canons of the American Right? Three aphorisms of conservatism are as follows:

(1) Private Property Rights. The right wing recognizes that freedom and democracy are mutually exclusive in a country which ignores the sacredness of personal possessions. Without private property protections, ballot booth democracy becomes a tool of class envy as the majority is apt to rape and pillage those individuals who prosper in the name of sharing the wealth. Eventually, though, no citizens are safe from encroachments on their liberty and property. The collectivist spirit soon feeds upon itself and the Leviathan begins to devour the fortunes of everyone except the ruling cadres in government.

History proves as much. The Russian Revolution began as a revolt against a repressive aristocracy but ended with Lenin and the boys confiscating the livestock of the lowliest farmer. The appetite to seize and control was too voracious to be contained. Attacks on property rights lead a nation down a slippery slope to tyranny and public ownership of everything.

(2) Free Markets and Free Trade. Right-wingers believe that economic affairs are best conducted without government interference. Individual human beings act with diverse goals in mind.

The variety of these actions — and the different subjective values attached to them — ensure that planned economies are doomed to failure. Bureaucrats lack the knowledge and know-how of an entrepreneur moved by the profit motive to provide for human wants.

Although no economic system is perfect due to the fact that uncertainty of the future makes economic forecasting imprecise, free enterprise allows for the best allocation of resources because it is consumers, i.e. everyone, who are the ultimate sovereigns of such an arrangement. If

the people demand something, then that product will be supplied. Ultimately, government intervention creates the very problems which opponents of the market use against capitalism: inequality, monopolies, the business cycle, scarcity, inflation, etc.

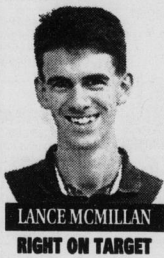
(3) God. For conservatives, morality is derived from superhuman instincts prompted by an Almighty Being. The designs and forces of this Deity are too great for man truly to appreciate and comprehend. When the human race loses touch with this spiritual element, secular man himself becomes a god whose will and passions are not to be challenged or checked. Restraint is a moral construct which loses its foundation when reverence for Divine purposes diminishes — why not fulfill every appetite and desire imaginable if this life isn't a temporal one, but our only one?

Social chaos is the result of such a breakdown of the moral order. Lack of restraint breeds disillusionment, anomie and a pathological use of violence, e.g. the inner cities. The law-abiding are thus forced to submit themselves to a treacherous authoritarian regime for the simple reason of immediate physical security. Freedom, then, cannot exist in a society devoid of morality — and God.

I realize that most citizens at large and students on this campus are apolitical and only want to be left alone to live their daily lives (a conservative impulse in itself). However, the time for passivity has passed. Throughout this campus and the nation, our institutions are controlled by social planners who are confident in their ability to give us health care, educate our children, make us more tolerant, spend our money more wisely than ourselves and the like... We must act.

In the words of Ludwig von Mises, this century's greatest economist and a champion of liberty, "Everyone, in his own interest, must thrust himself vigorously into the intellectual battle." Let the games begin.

Lance MacMillan is a junior political science major from Atlanta, Ga.



Union Films Belong on HBO, Not in 'Diverse' Programming

TO THE EDITOR:

Fred Jones and the rest of the Carolina Union Film Committee owe the UNC community an explanation: How can they reconcile their stated aim of "providing a diverse schedule of films" with the fare they're offering this year? We've had some lousy schedules in the recent past, but this year's selection reads like the catalogue for Blockbuster Video.

Diversity? Thirty-two of the 50 films were produced in either 1993 or 1994 — i.e., practically two out of every three were made in the last two years. What conceivable logic, what delusions about contemporary achievement in film, could justify such a monopoly of recent releases? I've heard stories about the foreshortened sense of history among the present generation of college students, but this beats all.

The schedule's geographical diversity is no better. Forty-two of the 50 films are made in the USA (or the Western edge of it). The rest of the globe is represented by two films each from Great Britain and Spain, and one each from France, Italy, Mexico and Vietnam. The only director making more than one appearance is Steven Spielberg, four of whose blockbusters contribute to the diversity. And the committee's Statement of Purpose speaks of promoting "a sense of being-in-the-world" (Whatever that means — a misprint for "being-in-the-mall"?)

It's too bad. The year when the Union finally updates its equipment, when we can at least walk into the Union Auditorium without the near certainty that the projector will break down or the sound will be inaudible, we're treated to a schedule like that of any commercial theater.

I suggest the DTH perform a public service by publishing the schedule of films showing at Duke this year. That's where many of us (even diehard basketball fans) have had to go for alternative films the past few years anyway. And film committee members might see about picking up English 42 ("Movie Criticism") this semester. It's probably closed, but I'll bet any instructor who's seen this year's schedule will gladly give you a seat.

READERS' FORUM

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticism. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 words and must be typed, double-spaced, dated and signed by no more than two people. Students should include their year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff should include their title, department and phone number. The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity.

General Assembly Should Lower Taxes, Not Spend

TO THE EDITOR:

The General Assembly showed its true colors when it redistributed about \$1 billion of our extra money.

They didn't even seem to give a serious thought to some sort of tax relief. Speaker of the House Dan Blue opposed any tax cuts this year as did other key House leaders. Governor Hunt suggested that some sort of tax relief may be possible next year.

The reasons given for no tax cuts this year included a need to maintain a responsible fiscal posture and a lack of time to examine the issue. This last excuse is somewhat interesting, since the legislators did manage to find the time to get through a cornucopia of pork barrel items.

Based on information from the John Locke Foundation, here's a list of some of the pork that was dished out this session:

President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Dare, got \$5 million to improve the Elizabeth II site in his hometown of Manteo, plus \$800,000 to build the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum at Cape Hatteras.

Speaker Dan Blue, D-Wake, an NCCU alum, snagged \$8 million for a new biotechnology center at North Carolina Central University.

House Majority Leader Toby Fitch, D-Wilson, got a hold of \$3 million for his hometown's

new recreation center at the Eastern North Carolina School of the Deaf.

Senator George Daniel, D-Caswell, a Wolfpack alumnus, grabbed \$6.5 million for the N.C. State basketball emporium being built in West Raleigh. The legislature also voted itself a 50 percent increase in their own pensions, which will result in us paying an extra \$776,000 each year to fund this increase.

With a \$1 billion surplus and about 7 million North Carolina citizens, the average household could have expected about a \$400 tax cut. The cut could have come in several forms. Some may argue that \$400 is just a drop in the bucket, but I would respond to that by simply saying, "Think of what YOU could do with that money."

I find it very offensive and condescending that many government officials feel that they know how to spend my money better than I do.

As you can see by the pork barrel projects mentioned above, instead of offering a tax break that would benefit all the people of the state, the legislature chose to redistribute the wealth to a select few, many of whom just happen to be within the jurisdictions of powerful House members.

In 1991, the corporate tax rate was increased from 7 to 7.75 percent to help close a \$1.2 billion budget deficit. At that time the state had also promised to roll back some of the taxes they raised, as soon as possible. North Carolina now has one of the highest corporate income tax rates in the Southeast, which may hurt the state's effort to attract new businesses or keep existing businesses and jobs in the state. We'll never know for sure how much that played in Mercedes' decision to locate in Alabama.

Have you also noticed that Ohio has a Honda plant, Kentucky has a Toyota plant, South Carolina has BMW, and Tennessee has a Nissan and Saturn plant, while poor ol' N.C. has nothin'? HMMMMMMMM.

The truth of the matter is that North Carolina is already gaining a reputation as a high-tax state. In a competitive global economy this is NOT good. With all the talk about the economic development plans the State government is considering, maybe the easiest and most efficient plan to implement would be to simply CUT TAXES.

Gene Galin
UNC MBA
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THE DAILY TAR HEEL

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