

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Make a Difference: Vote!

What does one vote matter? This question is on the minds of many students around election time. In case you haven't received your public service announcement today, you can get it right now. Every vote is important.

Students often don't stop to think about the consequences of student government elections. The new student body president will act as a leader and a representative of this university. In the coming year, he or she will help decide where some of our student fees are spent and will work with the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees toward the implementation of new programs and projects that will affect the entire campus. Each and every student has an interest in who will hold this office for the next year and, as such, every student should take a

good look at the candidates remaining and cast a thoughtful and conscientious vote.

Voter turnout has been appallingly low the past few years. In 1993, only 2,789 voters came out; 4,440 students voted last year, and 3,985 voted this year. Of the 4,440 people who voted last year, only 3,884 voted in the runoffs. That means there were 292 students who didn't take the time to vote again.

These numbers show a staggering apathy among student voters. Ideally, there should be more people voting in the runoff election because the choice of candidates has been narrowed, making decisions easier. It is not too late to voice your opinion on who should be the new student body president. Be sure to vote tomorrow.

## Don't Upset the Balance

A balanced budget amendment sounds like a great idea, right? We keep our checkbooks balanced, so why shouldn't Congress? An argument for a balanced budget is valid. We have a debt of \$4 trillion and a Congress incapable of even slowing its growth.

There are unforeseen consequences to engraving our desire to rein in government into the Constitution. For years, Congress has been unable to meet its own attempt to achieve a balanced budget, the Graham-Rudman anti-deficit law. In the 1980s, its lackluster attempts to do so typically resulted in the deferring of federal obligations to the states. Programs were not actually cut, they were simply transferred to the states. The states then were forced to find means to fund them. The decline in revenues (and ranking) of UNC during the past seven years illustrates the burden states assumed in order to cope with increased fiscal responsibilities. Everyone wanted a balanced budget, right? But at what cost? Many states with balanced budget amendments were forced to borrow against future revenues in order to keep programs afloat. Interestingly enough, the federal government would not have the luxury of doing so.

Imagine the consequences. The federal government must find a way to actually meet the \$1.5 trillion demands of the budget. Everyone is

pleased — libertarians, Tsongas supporters and liberals alike — because the government is finally facing its fiscal responsibilities wisely. The only necessary choice for Congress to make is whether to eliminate Social Security or to raise taxes to the level of a former Eastern bloc nation. Not an ideal choice to make, but a necessary component of a truly balanced budget in America.

Of course there is one other alternative for Congress, once having amended the Constitution. Congress could ignore its new law, just as it does its flimsy Graham-Rudman law, and allow the deficit to continue to increase unchecked.

But a dangerous precedent for future generations would be set: the amending of our Constitution in order to accomplish the impossible. There is nothing magical about the Constitution; its articles and amendments have not forced change, people have. And while amendments have directed and redirected our nation's course, they have done so because it has been a possibility. Congress must consider whether it really wants to test the limits of the Constitution's authority. Much of the Constitution's authority resides in its limited but feasible powers. Forcefully stretching what is by definition limited runs the risk not only of weakening the authority of the Constitution but of breaking it down entirely.

## AIDS Testing: Indecent Exposure

In a society in which it is becoming increasingly difficult to defend one's privacy, when even one's e-mail is subject to violation by fellow students, those most sensitive to the need for protection have received a final intrusion. On June 15, the State Commission for Health Services will put an end to anonymous testing for exposure to the HIV virus at county health departments in North Carolina.

The decision, which overturns a prior ruling to extend anonymous testing for two years, is a serious blow for those working to increase the number of people being tested across the state. The primary goal of AIDS testing is to have as many people tested as possible so that the disease can be identified and isolated. Anonymous testing allows individuals to be tested without fear of the results being revealed. If anonymous testing is abolished, thousands of potentially HIV-positive people may decide not to be tested for fear that the information will be leaked to the state government. In a state where officials like Jesse Helms have advocated the quarantining of AIDS sufferers, the reluctance to reveal one's status to the state is understandable.

When anonymous testing is terminated, confidential testing will take its place. Confidential testing guarantees anonymity if one tests negative; if positive, one's name and address are

given to health officials. The rationale is that with a name and an address the state can contact the HIV-positive individual and assist and educate them about the disease. With cooperation, health officials can also contact those with whom they have engaged in high-risk behavior and therefore limit the spread of the disease.

While logically sound, confidential testing ignores the most salient fact in anything to do with such a sensitive disease as AIDS. People, whether at risk or not, do not want anyone to know that they've been tested or that they are potentially positive. Beyond the contention that confidential testing is a violation of a person's right to privacy, in a society that places a stigma on AIDS and the HIV virus, confidential testing is tantamount to an admission of positivity.

As long as our society continues to view those who test for the HIV virus as disease-carrying outcasts, confidential testing will be a self-defeating policy. Unless people feel that faith is put in their inherent sense of responsibility, that is, that they are given the option of anonymous testing, then they will not have themselves tested.

Until testing for HIV is recognized as a societal norm rather than a perversion and we learn to treat those who test positive with equanimity, confidential testing will be ineffective and possibly destructive.

## FRED X HALL: THE FORMATIVE YEARS



## Freedom of Speech: The Right to Be Bothered

Although I don't like to include autobiographical details in my column, I will begin this week with a personal story. This anecdote is not intended to inflict my psyche upon the reader, nor is it an explication of my opinion on religion. I just want to make my point clearer: our precious right to free speech has a price tag.

Thursday afternoon, I was sitting in the Pit, minding my own business and sulking about the ills of modern life. As it was a dreary day, and a light mist of rain was falling, I expected no one to even pay attention to me. Little did I know that I had been marked from afar for CONVERSION.

As I rose to go into Lenoir to seek my evening repast, a hand thrust itself into mine, and I was faced with the smile of a young gentleman who asked if I could talk for a moment. "Sorry," I said, "I've already got a date for this weekend." Unamused by my comment, yet undaunted, my companion offered to show me "what the Good Lord Jesus had to offer me," and he pulled out one of those black-and-white cartoon books with the devils and lots of neat one-liners.

Frustrated by this nonsecular salesman, and a little insulted by his vacation-Bible-school approach, I tried to stop the conversation before it really got started. "Listen," I said, "I'm cold, wet and tired. My girlfriend has PMS (Post Massive-exam Syndrome). I'm on the way to eat a meal that vultures turn up their noses at, and on top of it all I have to write a column by tomorrow. It's nothing personal, but I need to go..."

"Perhaps you need to talk about your problems. Let me show you just a few ways that Christ can ease your burden." I was amazed that this fellow did not realize that when someone sits in the middle of a rainy puddle and stares off into the distance, they probably don't want to be bothered, much less smiled at and practically molested. I knew that nothing short of the Apocalypse was going to free me from the clutches of this young zealot. Putting on the best poker face I could manage, I looked him in the face and said "Please don't waste your breath. I'm really from the Nation of Islam."

Finally rendered speechless, my companion acknowledged the futility of his actions, and quietly shuffled away. For once, I was happy to simply stand in line and stare at someone's back rather than carry on a conversation. I'm starting to feel like I'm the target of a conspiracy. While I actually had an interesting conversation with a grad student from a church in east Chapel Hill, two other "witnesses" had determined that I was headed straight to Hell unless I had their

personal guidance. The last time I checked, I didn't have 666 tattooed on my forehead, and my hat covers the horns, so what's the deal?!

It's been that way all week. If it wasn't someone selling God ("Yessir, call 976-4GOD and hear your own, personal message from the BIG GUY. We're trusted by the Hollywood stars!") then it was a student government campaign worker, dripping with sincerity, telling me that "not only does Stacey Brandenburg promise to deliver cable, Internet, world peace and more hours of sunlight per day, she also doubles as a handy dorm-sized Salad Shooter/Espresso Maker, which collapses into a convenient carrying case the size of a nickel!!" And she's trusted by the Hollywood stars, right? Of course.

It's times like these that make even the most fervent believers in free speech consider asking for some sort of relief. However, although free speech doesn't seem like such a good idea when you're a prisoner of someone else's rights, it shouldn't be any other way, as long as no one gets hurt. The same right that protects Mr. Minister's attempts to convert me to the "true faith" also protects my column detailing what a rude individual he was.

Freedom of speech has been an important political issue for centuries. Names such as John Milton, Patrick Henry and John Stuart Mill resound through history as great defenders of an individual's essential right to speak freely. Without free speech, our nation never would have been formed. Our Constitution would never have been ratified without the inclusion of the Bill of Rights, still alive despite the best efforts of intellectuals and the Supreme Court.

Nowhere is free speech more important than in the university, as the free flow of ideas is a crucial element in education and learning. During the '60s, the free speech movements originated at the University of California at Berkeley as students protested U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

Paradoxically, the modern university is the most unfriendly environment for free speech. Under the laughable guise of Political Correctness, university administrators have imposed speech codes at such prestigious bastions of

learning as Harvard, Yale, Penn, Princeton and Duke. That's right, Duke. All those obnoxious snots at Cameron Indoor Stadium have rules about what they can and can't say. I would laugh if the same weren't true at Carolina.

Every issue of The Carolina Review is threatened with at least one unjustifiable lawsuit. If the editor feels he should run a cartoon portraying Philip Charles-Pierre as Fat Albert, the Constitution of the United States guarantees him the right. PCP is a public figure who dishes out as much as he takes. And no matter what you think of Charlton Allen or John Phillippe, they have the right to post "Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve" fliers wherever they wish. The last time I checked, the debate over homosexuality had not been decided, and I have inside sources who inform me that the gay community does not have a monopoly on the truth. Just don't tell the Campus Y.

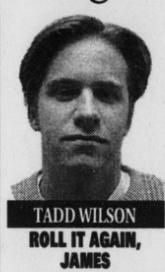
For those who habitually cry "Harassment!" don't read the material!! No one has ever forced me to read the Review, and I have yet to see a flier pull itself off of a wall and follow someone around the Pit (unlike campaign workers). If you don't like what you read or hear, either respond or walk away. Don't whine.

Concerning the notorious fliers, SBP candidate Stacey Brandenburg remarked that they made people feel "uncomfortable" and that it is an Honor Court violation to make someone uncomfortable. Sheer idiocy! Tell me Ms. Brandenburg, does that mean I can file charges against my overzealous missionary friend for making me feel socially "uncomfortable"? Perhaps I'll file charges against YOU for making me so politically "uncomfortable" that I had to write this column. Paternalism has no place in an academic community of adults.

What's the point of all this rambling? Simply that we all have to deal with situations, people, ideas and words we may not agree with. We're here to learn, which means that the chances of being fundamentally challenged, and offended, are pretty high. At no other time in life will I have perfect strangers seeking to make a profound change in my life. Even if I don't like being verbally assaulted all the time, I at least value and respect the rights of others to do so.

In short, even in the face of ignorant rantings or well-intentioned tirades, learn to respond appropriately, or simply turn your back and walk away. And if you don't like my column, SUE ME!!

Tadd Wilson is a junior English and political science major from Charlotte.



TADD WILSON  
ROLL IT AGAIN,  
JAMES

## Heineman, 104th Congress Committed to Reform

During the 1957 World Series, Yankee catcher Yogi Berra noticed that Hank Aaron grasped the bat the wrong way. "Turn it around," he said, "so you can see the trademark." But Hank kept his eye on the pitcher's mound: "Didn't come up here to read, came up here to hit."

Similarly, the 104th Congress is not in session to pay lip service to reform. It is battling a thousand on keeping campaign promises. The line-item veto, passed Monday, is one such reform that is long overdue.

During my campaign, I heard from people across the district that federal spending was out of control. People have a right to be upset. It seems that a lot of taxpayers are suffering from "shell-out shock," with little hope of relief in sight. The 15-pound budget document that was dropped on my desk last Monday from President Clinton would spend \$1.6 trillion.

One trillion dollars. To put this into perspective, Stephen Moore of the Cato Institute puts it in simple terms: "The newspaper tabloids report that O.J. Simpson is paying some \$55,000 a day in legal fees. The trial would have to last 26 million days, or almost 100,000 years before the lawyers earned \$1.6 trillion."

As the noted economist Milton Friedman once wrote, "Government spends what government receives — plus whatever else it can get away with."

Government has been getting away with overspending for years. The line-item veto is one method that will help to curb the overwhelming governmental ability to spend taxpayer dollars on repetitive, frivolous or unnecessary projects. Governors in 43 states have a line-item veto. Of present and former governors who responded to a recent survey, 93 percent believe that a line-item veto would help the president restrain federal spending.

Of course, the effectiveness of a line-item veto is dependent upon frequent and firm usage by the president. President Clinton once said, "I strongly support the line-item veto, because I think it's one of the most powerful weapons we could use in our fight against out of control deficit spending."

We are mortgaging the future of our nation on pet pork projects that vary from the sublime to the absurd. A few of the more absurd projects that your tax dollars funded include:

- \$34,645,000 for screw worm research,
- \$5 million for honeybee research,
- \$1,471,000 for a poisonous plants laboratory,
- \$1 million to conduct chiropractic demonstrations in Iowa,
- \$520,000 for the Monk Seal,
- \$300,000 for a U.S./Canada lobster study,
- \$260,000 for cranberry/blueberry disease and breeding research; and
- \$200,000 for grape virology research.

Milton Berle once said, "I am a patriotic American. But I would be equally as patriotic for 1/3 the cost." You don't have to be a comedian to realize that the government spends too much.

When I was chief of police in Raleigh, I spent less than the police department budget for the 15 years of my service. I was still able to ensure that Raleigh was one of the safest cities in America. It can be done.

Congress has an inability to curtail the cost of government and special interest spending — even of the absurd variety. One think tank estimates that the line-item veto, if effectively utilized, could pare the budget by \$5 billion to \$10 billion a year. Had the line-item veto been law during the last half of the 1980s, it would have saved \$70 billion.

President Clinton will now have his opportunity to save American taxpayers from Congressional appetites and bureaucratic whims. Money saved could go to real needs and priorities of government, or heaven forbid, back to the taxpayers.

In his inauguration speech on Jan. 20, 1981, Ronald Reagan said, "It is no coincidence that our present troubles parallel and are proportionate to the intervention and intrusion in our lives that result from unnecessary and excessive growth of government."

In a fitting tribute to Ronald Reagan on his birthday, Feb. 6, Congress passed the line-item veto.

The occupational disease of government is spenditis. It is amazing to note the generosity of even the most conservative individuals with other people's money.

American families balance their budgets and make difficult choices every day. Congress must make those same difficult choices and learn to live within their means. We must cut spending first. After all, it's the spending, stupid.

Rep. Fred Heineman is the 4th District's representative in the U.S. Congress.

## Got an Opinion? Join the DTH Editorial Board

The Daily Tar Heel is seeking new editorial board members. The board meets at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Members will be expected to write editorials two or three times per week.

We are looking for informed individuals who like to argue and write. Join the fun! Pick up an application in Union Suite 104 today. If you have any questions, please contact Editorial Page Editor Tara Servatius or Editor Kelly Ryan at 962-0245.

