

The Daily Tar Heel

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Make a First Impression

All the promises have been made. The good-will handshakes have been shaken. Committees have met and issued reports.

Let the real games begin. This week, town-gown relations face the biggest test in several years, with a Michigan-based consulting firm in town to meet with Chapel Hill and Carrboro residents and UNC faculty and administrators about the future of UNC's outlying properties.

When this preliminary meeting ends, Johnson, Johnson & Roy will go back to Michigan with an almost complete long-range plan for the Horace Williams and Mason Farm tracts. Those two pieces of land alone — all 2,200 acres — are UNC's future.

Don't let the consultants take off without putting them to a rigorous test.

UNC has the leverage to forge a truly productive relationship with the town by not just encouraging open debate about development but actively soliciting input from all interested parties.

So far, UNC officials have made strides in the

right direction. The energy can't stop now but must continue throughout the land-use study.

In 1991, the University learned its lesson — it can't operate in a vacuum. With only shadows remaining of the South Loop Road debate — in which UNC officials wanted to build a road that would have routed traffic through Odum Village — residents must be outspoken now so that the plans get off on the right track.

The number of public forums on development already far surpasses the 1991 fiasco in effective communication. But the participation must work both ways.

University and town leaders are on the same side — both want the best, most attractive use of the space on the satellite properties.

Take advantage of the University's hindsight and attend one of the open forums that will be key in shaping UNC's growth objectives.

Public meeting: 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. today in Friday Center's Redbud Room

Open campus forum: 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Thursday in 1301 McGavran-Greenberg Building

Take a Bite Outta Education

In the recent tide of new legislation originating in the newly Republican U.S. Congress and N.C. Senate, tax cuts have been a key issue.

Tax cuts are, in theory, a good idea, if used the right way. But it is a good idea for our governing bodies to slow down and take a look at what they are affecting, and quite possibly unnecessarily damaging, in achieving their mission.

The most glaring impending disaster involving the N.C. General Assembly is a cut in funding to the UNC system. Does anybody deny that this state has reaped the benefits of UNC for more than two centuries now? Yet how can a state unanimously recommend that funding for one of its most steadfast resources be significantly reduced? Likewise, how can a Congress that sees an economic upswing propose to deny crucial scholarship funds for college students?

It is time for our legislators to rethink their strategies for reducing taxes. And it is time for

us, in turn, to take responsibility for opposing such misuse of responsibility.

There certainly lies no evil in the idea of creating middle-class tax breaks. The question remains though: How much will quick-fix tax breaks help the middle class, or all classes, if they come at the cost of children's education? In the long term, which will produce the greatest benefit to this country?

Obviously our representatives prefer the short term solution — to re-election. These cuts are being pushed for in the N.C. General Assembly, and (more arguably) in Congress. But it is time for this country to consider what we lose in quick and thoughtless cuts of government funding for all levels of education. Student action is needed to help curtail this disregard of education. Now at issue are not just the usual controversial topics of welfare, defense spending, etc., but the future of many of America's students.

Landfill: To Recycle or to Complain

"A day late and a dollar short" may be only a cliché to some people, but to anyone in Orange County who might soon have a landfill near his or her community, these are words to live by.

With the date on which the Landfill Search Committee will release the recommended site for the new landfill approaching, residents of these areas are clamoring to protest.

However, many people seem to be missing an important underlying message here. If everyone was doing all that was possible to be conscientious recyclers, the location of new landfills wouldn't be such a pressing issue because there wouldn't have to be as many new landfills.

The present recycling systems in Chapel Hill and in Carrboro might not be as extensive as or effective as some people would like. However,

residents are obviously not doing their part to help the system. Of recyclable materials such as paper, plastic and organic waste, almost 52,000 tons were dumped in 1995. With 128,500 tons of material dumped, almost 40 percent of what was dumped could have been recycled. The pervasive, apathetic attitude toward recycling is responsible for the resource shortages we are experiencing today.

Take the time to put newspapers and aluminum cans in the recycling bins. Remember to return plastic grocery bags where they can be recycled. These things might not seem important or significant, but they do add up, and will add up — to landfill No. 3. With more action and less whining, the community as a whole can alleviate this problem in the future.

Wanted: Opinions

Got something to say? Applications are now available for fall editorial board members and summer and fall columnists. Applications are in The Daily Tar Heel office, Union Suite 104.

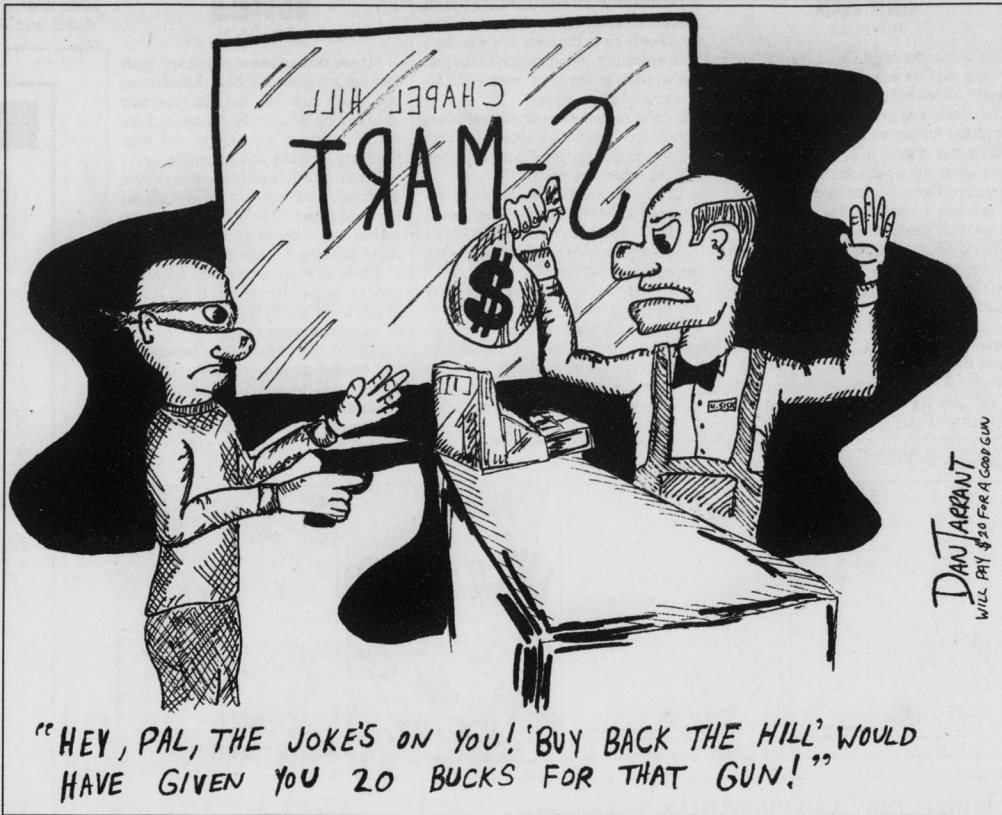
The editorial board comprises seven or nine members, including the editor and the editorial page editor, and is responsible for writing the unsigned pieces that appear on the left side

of the opinion page.

Each week, the editorial board meets Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday nights for about an hour and a half.

Columnists write the signed pieces on the right side of the editorial page that appear every week of the semester.

Questions? Call Editor-select Thanassis Cambanis at 962-0245.



True Political Oratory Lost to the Snappy Soundbite

Like it or not, the end of Newt Gingrich's 100 Days on Friday was one of the most important moments in contemporary American politics. And befitting the occasion, politicians of all stripes were on hand to capture the moment in rhetoric. How did they fare? Newt Gingrich opined: "We must restore freedom by ending bureaucratic micromanagement here in Washington." Not exactly Churchillian. And President Clinton's vision? "Grow the middle class, shrink the upper class and speed up the opportunities for entrepreneurs." Stir the blood doesn't it?

The conclusion? Political oratory is dead. Stone dead. You don't believe me? Here is a single sentence from a Churchill speech in 1940: "History with its flickering lamp stumbles along the trail of the past, trying to reconstruct its scenes, to revive its echoes, and kindle with pale gleams the passions of former days."

You say it's unfair to compare Newt or Bill with one of the greatest orators since Demosthenes? True. But recall, Churchill was considered the last of the Victorian orators by his contemporaries, but not necessarily the best. He was only one of many orators who created the late-18th and 19th century classical age of English oratory. Pitt, Chatham, Disraeli, Gladstone, Chamberlain, Burke; the list is impressive and lengthy.

In those days, open air oratory was the most efficient means of mass communication. Lord Chatham's voice was so resonant, that his speeches could be heard — unamplified mind you — on the streets in front of the House of Commons, several hundred feet away. People complained during the 1930s that the boom of Churchill's voice heard over the radio could topple dishes from the table. On the hustings in 1879, William Gladstone spoke for two or three hours at a time to thousands of people on issues as complicated as what to do about the Balkans. And people listened. Prior to the modern TV age, political oratory, and political attack, was a rare and respected art form. Let's consider what we're missing.

Here are my Top 10 Highlights from the Age of Oratory (with thanks to Greg Knight's collection "Honourable Insults").

10. "If a traveler was informed that such a man was Leader of the House of Commons, he might begin to comprehend how the Egyptians worshipped an insect." — Benjamin Disraeli on a rival, Lord John Russell.

9. "And as anything less than liberty is inadequate to Ireland, so is it dangerous to Great Britain. We are too near the British nation, we are too conversant with her history, we are too

much fired by her example, to be anything less than her equal; anything less, [and] we should be her bitterest enemies..." — Henry Grattan, fighting abolition of the Irish House of Commons, April 1780.

8. "I remember when I was a child being taken to Barnum's circus. The exhibit which I most desired to see was one described as the 'Boneless Wonder.' My parents judged that the spectacle would be too revolting for my youthful eyes. And so I have waited 50 years to see the Boneless Wonder sitting on the Treasury Bench." — Winston Churchill on depression era Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald.

7. "The mediocrity of his thinking is concealed by the majesty of his language... He refers to a defeat as a disaster as though it came from God, but to a victory as though it came from himself." — Aneurin Bevan, on Winston Churchill.

6. "Mr. Hastings guarantees to the allies of the company their prosperity and his protection; the former he secures by sending an army to plunder them of their wealth and to desolate their soil. The latter produces the misery and the ruin of the protected. His is the protection which the vulture gives to the lamb, which covers while it devours its prey; which stretching its baleful pinions and hovering in mid-air, disperses the kites and lesser birds of prey, and saves the innocent and helpless victim from all talons but its own." — Richard Brinsley Sheridan, prosecuting Warren Hastings in the House of Lords for corruption and abuse of authority as Governor-General of India.

5. "War, with all its evils, is better than a peace in which there is nothing to be seen but usurpation and injustice, dwelling with savage delight on the humble, prostrate condition of some timid suppliant people. And therefore I say, that until the aspect of that mighty mass of iniquity and folly is entirely changed; — until the character of the government is totally reversed; until, by the common consent of the general voice of all men France is no longer terrible for her contempt of the rights of every other nation — until in the situation of France we have exhibited to us those features of a wise, a just, and a liberal policy, I cannot treat with her." Prime Minister William Pitt refusing to negotiate with Napoleonic France, June 1799.

4. "The government has turned its back on the country and now has the temerity to say the county is behind it" — F.E. Smith, First Lord Birkenhead.

3. "A Conservative government is an organized hypocrisy." — Future Conservative Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli.

SCOTT SYFERT
GUEST COLUMNIST

2. "Magnanimity in politics is not seldom the truest wisdom; and a great empire and little minds go ill together." — Edmund Burke on reconciling with the American colonies.

1. "And do not suppose that this is the end. This is only the beginning of the reckoning. This is only the first sip, the first foretaste of a bitter cup which will be proffered to us year by year unless by a supreme recovery of moral health and martial vigor, we arise again and take our stand for freedom as in the olden time." — Winston Churchill, summing up Britain's predicament after the 1938 Munich sellout.

The brilliance of the great orators was not only their ability to capture the quiddity of high ideals, but also their ability to attack their opponents with rapier-like thrusts. Imagine, for example, you are John Foster Dulles. How on earth do you counter the progression, "Dull. Duller. Duller." (Coined by Churchill?) Or (of Clement Attlee) "a sheep in sheep's clothing?" Or, on hearing it said of John Bright that he was a self-made man, Disraeli replied: "I know he is. And he adores his maker." Can you imagine any contemporary politician coming up with anything so witty?

But more importantly, why has oratory degenerated? Several reasons, more or less interconnected. First, less attention is paid to the Congressional or Parliamentary speech. In the 1880s, fully three-quarters of the front page of the London Times was devoted to transcripts of debates. Politics was entertainment. The growth of mass entertainment movies, mass media — undercut politics as a key form of entertainment. With it, the piquancy of the spoken word declined.

At roughly the same time, speaking to mass audiences, which fostered high oratory, became a secondary form of political dialogue. TV became a much more efficient way to reach broad audiences than public speaking. Press releases can be faxed within seconds to express an opinion on any breaking topic; a riveting speech, by contrast, cannot be thrown together by a college-age volunteer.

More crucially, television rewards not the full text of an hour address. (Except on C-Span, which may yet help revive the spoken word.) For television purposes, a coherent and complicated argument, such as Burke created, consumed by a fiery peroration, is far less important than a pithy phrase. Judging by the results of last Friday's celebration, we are the worse for it.

Scott Syfert is a first-year UNC law student from Charlotte.

Local Jihad, Round 3: Nation of Islam Is Not Truly Muslim

TO THE EDITOR: Incredible how, sometimes, a religion uses the name of another to describe itself. Those who read Friday's Reader's Forum know what I'm talking about.

The author of the letter "Members of Nation of Islam Do Practice True Islam" seems to have a confused concept of what true Islam is. True Islam is what was established hundreds of years before Elijah Muhammad. It doesn't change.

The Nation's members call themselves Muslims. The author of Friday's letter states, "Most Muslims do not draw upon the Bible for guidance." Muslims most certainly do not draw upon the Bible for guidance. Why not? Because Muslims already have a book. It's called the Koran. A Muslim would never start drawing upon the Bible for guidance just because they're in America and deal with black Christians, as stated in a conversation of mine with the author.

The author also states, "It should be obvious that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was a Messenger for the people of Arabia and not us, because we speak English, not Arabic." Prophet Muhammad's message, according to true Muslims, was for all of humanity. No Muslim would believe that black Americans needed another messenger; why didn't anyone else get one?

No one should doubt the accomplishments of the Nation. Louis Farrakhan is definitely a leader for black people. Unfortunately, this hardly qualifies him as a leader for Muslims. What has Farrakhan done for the vast majority of nonblack Muslims? I'm Pakistani; how is he a leader for Pakistani Muslims? No one in Pakistan has even heard of Louis Farrakhan.

I do not wish to continue this debate; I feel that I have said what I needed to, and hopefully enough people have read my words and understood the distinction between the Nation and Islam. My point remains the same since my



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. Send e-mail forum to: dth@unc.edu.

letter last week ("Members of Nation of Islam Not Truly Muslim," April 3): the Nation of Islam is a religion and worthy of respect just like any other; it's just wrongly named. It is not Islam, it is Farrakhanism.

Hassan Ahmad
JUNIOR
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

There Is More Than One Academic 'Hero' on This Hill

TO THE EDITOR: We are writing in regards to your April 7th article ("Taking the Fast Track to Academic Success") about Shep Dunlevie's "Hero on the Hill." This is not the title to put Dunlevie's accomplishments down, but we want to ask that next time you put someone on the front page of the DTH and label them "hero," please do more research.

We aren't the type to write letters of complaint to the editor, but we couldn't let this pass

us by. The article had good intentions and was well written on a well-qualified person, but not as qualified when compared to other UNC students. Our roommate, Hunter Cherwek, has also gone through his entire UNC academic career with nothing less than an A (not even an A minus). He's a junior, graduating in three and a half years with a B.S. in biology. What is interesting is that Hunter is on track to triple major in biology, chemistry, and psychology, but under University policy only one B.S. is allowed.

Yet, Hunter (also a Phi Beta Kappa) has much more than just a perfect academic record. He has helped save numerous lives while volunteering 12-hour shifts on the EMT Orange County Rescue Squad. He also volunteers once a week at Duke Hospital's pediatric ward to help children with AIDS. He is actively involved with the Order of the Bell Tower which gets alumni involved with many different University activities. He participates as a member of the Chi Psi fraternity and St. Thomas More Catholic Church. He is involved in intramural sports and recently won an expense-paid fellowship to Africa for an anthropological study. Last summer, while in England, he also helped several research scientists study a new strain of AIDS. These are just a few of Hunter's extracurricular activities. On top of all this, he has kept a flawless academic record.

This is not written to brag on Hunter Cherwek, but rather to use him as an example to prove a point. If you are going to put a "hero" on the front page of the DTH, pick four or five, or none at all. Because when you single one person out of the crowd, there is always another person more qualified and more deserving of the title "Hero on the Hill."

Louis Pelsang
JUNIOR
COMMUNICATIONS

Jason Driggers
JUNIOR
BIOLOGY