

The Daily Tar Heel

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Immune Alumni

While police cracked down on students with open containers of alcohol during the last two weeks, unknowing alumni were given a gentler lesson in town law.

Town and University Police need a lesson in fair play. When police chose to kick off the school year by issuing citation after citation, they sent a message that the law was to be taken seriously.

But when alumni came strolling into town for the season-opening football game, police let the law slide.

Police need to be consistent. Either cite everyone with an open container, or give everyone warnings.

The first lesson students received on the new law, which took effect Aug. 1, was a throng of charges during a party in Fraternity Court before classes had even begun.

Yet, when alumni made their first trek to Chapel Hill this year, police let many offenders off with a slap on the wrist and a request to empty a beer bottle. Not one citation was issued at

Saturday's tailgate parties. Because the law is new, many visitors may break it unintentionally. Maybe this was the logic behind the lack of citations issued at Saturday's game.

If police are going to give alumni a break and warn them about the law before slapping them with a fine, they should have done the same thing for students returning to school instead of gleefully shutting down every party serving Budweiser in and not Brie.

Many students had no idea the law had gone into effect until they witnessed the sea of blue at Fraternity Court or the unusually high number of police out on Franklin Street.

Both current and future alumni should be treated equally under the law. Whether it be football games or fraternity parties, police need to be consistent.

Media Ban Ensures Inaccuracy

Like any other defendant, Wendell Williamson is constitutionally guaranteed a fair trial. His attorneys want to ensure that he gets one, not by pursuing traditional options, but by barring the press from pretrial hearings in which Williamson's mental history will be explored.

Banning reporters from the courtroom is hardly appropriate, both in principle and in practicality. It deprives the public of their right to know what occurs in the trial, and it forces reporters to rely on secondhand, less reliable sources than their own presence in court.

Seven months ago, the entire community was shaken by the Henderson Street shooting spree that ended the lives of Kevin Reichardt and Ralph Walker. Since then, details of Williamson's mental history have been included in the hundreds of stories published and broadcast about the shooting — and concerned residents have blared that he will use the insanity plea, that he was diagnosed as a schizophrenic and that he had stopped taking his medication before the shootings occurred. What will come out in the pretrial hearings will expand on what has already been made public. Residents deserve to know the whole story.

Defense attorneys say that information from the pretrial hearings, if published, would shrink

the number of potential jurors who think they can remain fair. Their concern is valid: The magnitude and emotional aftershock of the shooting virtually guarantees that the chances of finding an impartial jury in Orange County are almost zero. The defense has several recourses to better those chances, such as moving the trial to another site. Sealing the courtroom is not one of those options.

North Carolina's laws concerning court reporting have always considered the public's right to know to be a top priority. In fact, its stance on allowing cameras in the courtroom is more open than that of most other states. The defense's motion would undermine the state's priority.

Practically speaking, the media ban would do more harm than good. Allowing reporters to observe the hearings guarantees accurate reporting. Making them resort to other sources jeopardizes that accuracy. Sources choose not to reveal certain tidbits of information, embellish other tidbits, or simply say, "No comment."

Wendell Williamson is suspected of committing a crime that left all of Chapel Hill shocked and saddened, and each step in his trial is relevant and important to those whose lives were jarred by the January shooting. Judge Gordon Battle should consider that when he rules on whether to grant this motion.

Chancellor Shouldn't Throw Out Idea of Tea Party

At Friday's reception for student leaders, new Chancellor Michael Hooker made his first impression on a bunch of student groups whose members had never seen him in person before.

You never get a second chance to make a first impression, and on most counts, Hooker scored well. But he left lingering doubts about his accessibility to students.

When a new leader takes over, expectations tend to be unreasonably high. We cannot expect all the questions we have about him to be answered after only two months on the job.

Students have no right to expect that the chancellor can or will have an open door to all of them. While Hooker has shown inordinate control over the issues facing the campus, many members of the University community have a fear that, like the Energizer Bunny, he'll keep on going and going and leave us all in his wake.

The chancellor has been more than happy to gather comments from students in his first month on the job. A question is raised, however, when we consider that all the student concerns he receives are channeled through the office of the student body president. The speaker of Student Congress has had trouble finding a spot on the chancellor's calendar. In fact, many student leaders have been told they will simply have to wait. One of the few students with regular access to the chancellor is the student body president.

Without trying in any way to discredit Student Body President Calvin Cunningham, he clearly has his own interests and agendas. If the chancellor expects one student to objectively collect and convey all student sentiment to the

administration, his hope is naive at best, manipulative at worst.

At Friday's discussion, Hooker said he "doesn't do tea," but planned to invite students to dinner parties at his home and to work with the fledgling Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor, which currently exists under the aegis of the office of the student body president.

I'm not doubting the chancellor's good will; I'm doubting his calendar. He himself joked, "I'm as accessible a person as you will find, I just don't know which year it will be." His calendar is currently booked three months in advance, although it's easier, for the time being, to get an appointment with his new Chief of Staff Elson Floyd.

What I'm worried about is not that the chancellor is trying to stonewall students — I think he cares about our interests very deeply — but that by entrusting student access solely to student government he might miss out on an array of issues and student voices.

And by appointing a chief of staff whose job it is to keep the ball rolling on issues, he might inadvertently set up a barrier between members of the University community and the chancellor, if people begin to find that they can rarely get in to see the chancellor himself.

Calvin Cunningham is not the student body; he cannot be expected to represent all 16,000 undergraduates and 8,000 graduate students on any single issue, as he has been asked to do this week on the proposed tuition hike.

Hooker has handled many of the crises thrown before him with aplomb, and he has already worn out top administrators with his intensity and hardworking rhythm.

By all accounts, Hooker is an intense man. In his meetings with other administrators and local leaders, he has impressed them with the focus and speed with which he addresses issue after issue. This sort of energy is much-needed in South Building. But by the same token, this demanding meeting style might have a chilling effect on those who do get the chancellor's ear, however briefly.

High-ranking administrators have said that when they sit down for 30 minutes with the chancellor, they have to know what they're talking about and talk quickly.

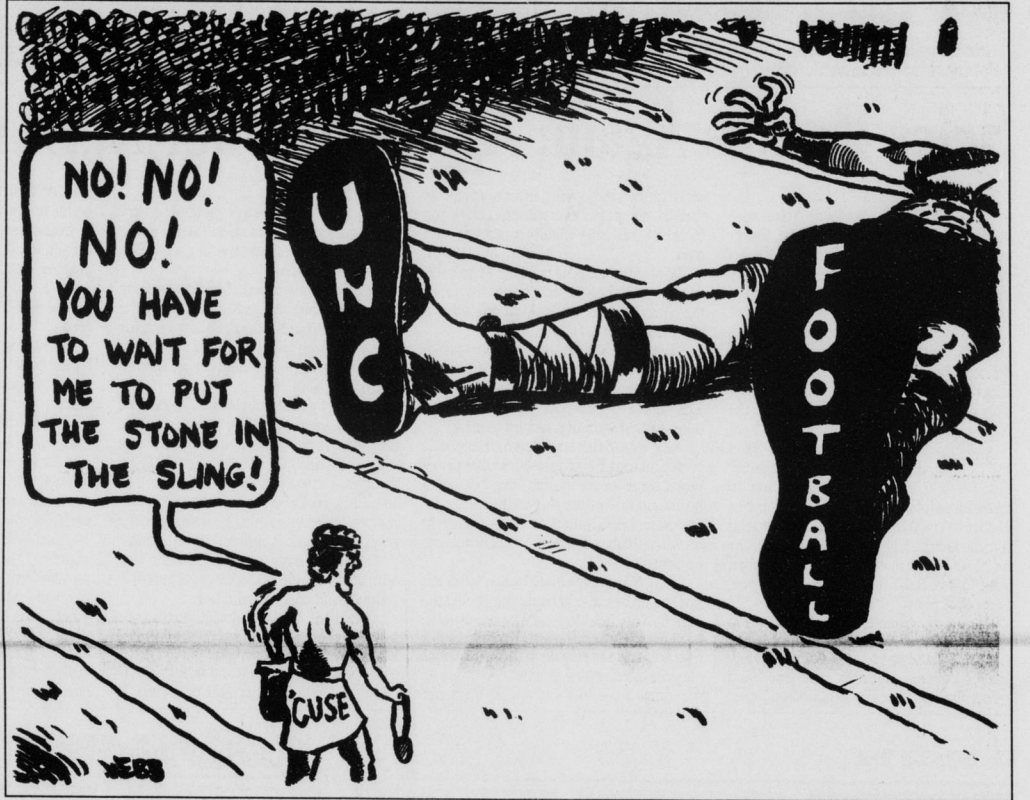
Efficiency will produce a more dynamic administration; but it might prevent people from bringing preliminary ideas to the chancellor's table and thus stifle early discussion of crucial issues.

Before the chancellor gets set in his patterns of receiving student and University community input, he needs to make sure he's doing things the way he wants to. Or else he may end up missing out on a lot of voices.

Thanasiss Cambanis is a senior creative writing and history major from Chapel Hill who has had an extensive haircut.



THANASSIS CAMBANIS
EDITOR



Distinction of 'Public Ivy' Easily Worth 134 Shakes

Four hundred bucks goes a long way at UNC: 57 pitchers of Bass Pale Ale at Linda's, 134 Trio's shakes, two dinners at Carolina Court, or an extra month or two of rent. If the Board of Trustees and the General Assembly have their way, students will be charged another 400 Big Macs (for a limited time) for the privilege of attending UNC-Chapel Hill.

It's a good thing, too! As products of a culture that has taught us that "society owes us" an education, our reaction to any challenge to our "right" is one of indignation and horror. We fail to remember that our education is financed not only by ourselves and our parents, but by the taxpayers of North Carolina. In 1994, UNC-Chapel Hill received \$877 million in total revenue, with \$283 million (32.3 percent) coming from state appropriations. Only 8.6 percent came from tuition. In essence, UNC is a huge, middle-class entitlement. The entire state pays for 3,500 new students each year to receive an excellent education.

Carolina is highly touted as the one of the "best buys" in higher education by Money Magazine. A crucial part of this ranking is quality of education. As our libraries decline, and our national ranking falls and the best and brightest faculty leave for better pay, cheap tuition becomes less of an issue. Otherwise, community colleges and Sally Struthers' correspondence schools would top every bargain list in the country. We must maintain a balance between being a low-cost university (\$1,348 for in-state students is not all that bad) and the real value of a UNC degree.

The mission statement of the University adopted by the BOG in 1994 states that UNC must "provide high quality undergraduate instruction to students." Without books and well-paid faculty, this mission goes unfulfilled.

1994, Carolina ranked 46th in average professor salaries at \$70,100; 38th in associate professor's salaries at \$51,200; and 56th in assistant professor salaries at \$41,000.

These numbers put us behind not only the top-tier California and New England private schools, but also behind schools such as Case Western Reserve University, Temple, Pitt, Hawaii at Manoa, and Maryland at College Park. Current salary increases at UNC do not even match inflation.

Unlike most of the other schools in the UNC system, Chapel Hill can actually compete with the top-tier public and Ivy League schools across the academic board. While we should maintain as affordable a tuition rate as possible, we should not compromise our university in the name of pecuniary interests.

The distinction of "public Ivy" is worth an extra \$400 a year, and if you think that smacks of elitism, you're damn right.

By paying more in tuition, we demonstrate that we expect quality education at Carolina and are willing to pay for it. Also, generating revenue (an estimated \$4 million) through tuition hikes eases our dependence on the General Assembly. While some critics argue that we must simply continue to beg the General Assembly for money, they miss a fundamental point. As the recent budget battle shows, state tax dollars are not a guaranteed source of funding.

Carolina is simply too priceless a gem to entrust to the General Assembly, and it must be

better insulated from an uncertain political atmosphere.

The financial ramifications of the hike are matters for debate. While the large majority of students will be able to absorb the tuition hike rather easily, one area of concern is the group of students at the margin — those for whom an additional \$400 pushes UNC out of reach.

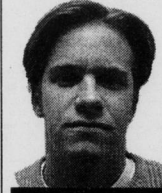
According to a chronically misquoted Wall Street Journal article, "for students with families of incomes of less than \$30,000 a year, every \$100 increase in their tuition and fees causes a 2.2 percent decline in enrollment." In order to combat this loss of students at the margin, 35 percent of the revenue generated from the tuition hike must be spent on financial aid. Some right-wingers cry that this smacks of redistribution, totally missing the fact that UNC itself is a redistributive program.

Though all redistribution is inefficient, concentrating the costs and benefits of higher education within the UNC system is more politically viable than relying on public funds simply in order to spread out the cost.

We must pay a little more in order to ensure quality of education and maintain equality of access: no amount of whining will change that. Nobody looks forward to paying more in tuition, but we have to remember that saving \$1,600 dollars now could cost thousands of dollars in potential earnings when the value of a Carolina diploma follows its national rank in its downward path.

The best defense of tuition hikes is simple: you get what you pay for. For more than 200 years we've been "getting." Now, it's time to start paying, and bolster our beloved Carolina blue with a little extra green.

Tad Wilson is a senior English and political science major from Charlotte.



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CHAPEL HILL
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THE DAILY TAR HEEL

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Many Nations Granted Women Suffrage Before U.S.

TO THE EDITOR
In the second paragraph of "Setting an Example," (Aug. 29) the editorial claims, "... the United States was the first nation to grant women suffrage." I beg to differ! This is only true if one considers the United States as the only nation in the world.

It saddened me to read that the editorial board (of whom I'm sure some are women) of the DTH, at North Carolina's flagship university would not be aware that in at least 15 nations, women were empowered with the right to vote before 1920. For example, in Finland, women could vote as early as 1906 and in Germany and England by 1918.

Perhaps most of these countries, being such "small" and "unimportant" nations in such "far-



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. Bring letters to the DTH office at Suite 104, Carolina Union, mail them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 or e-mail forum to dth@unc.edu.

away" places called "Europe," for example, do not make these facts important in the American

student's view of the "world." Insular thinking renders us incompetent in modern global society. The editorial board, as well as the DTH readers, would benefit from becoming more internationally minded. A first step would be to follow the advice of the great German philosopher, Immanuel Kant, who challenged us all with "Sapere Aude!" (Dare to know!).

Ellen Lohr-Hinkel
SENIOR
GERMAN STUDIES

There's Still Time

The deadline for editorial board applications has been extended until 5 p.m. Wednesday. Applications are available in The Daily Tar Heel office in Suite 104 of the Student Union.