

The Daily Tar Heel

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BOARD EDITORIALS

Don't Cut Off an Arm and a Leg

With a possible tuition increase on the way, federal cuts in student aid subsidies will put students out on a limb.

With tuition up and federal aid down, UNC students should be preparing for a seesaw ride from hell. The federal government's proposed cuts could be the end of the line for many students.

These cuts will affect everyone. The 35 percent of UNC students who receive financial aid are in for a big surprise. Programs that would be affected include Perkins and Stafford loans and Pell Grants.

According to statistics supplied by the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, the proposed cuts might wipe out the Perkins loans completely, eliminate the six-month grace period on repayments of Stafford loans and increase standards of eligibility for a Pell Grant, leaving 138 Tar Heels without this financial help.

Congress has made education the target of its attempts to cut expenditures. Many lawmakers

want to privatize the economy and shift responsibility for providing low-interest student loans to independent banks.

Students can not get a first-rate education if they are constantly worrying about making ends meet. Education in America will soon cost an arm and a leg.

While students at North Carolina State University are holding rallies, UNC students are twiddling their thumbs and waiting for the final hour.

While Republican Rep. Fred Heineman is in Washington voting against the cuts that would hurt the thousands of students in this district, UNC students are doing little to help themselves.

Tar Heels must get off the seesaw and stop being taken for a ride by politicians who feel they can monopolize students.

Facing Multiculturalism

Betty Crocker. You know her. You love her. You always clear your plate of her magic morsels. But, ladies and gentlemen, make a note: We're losing her.

That's right. A crack Wall Street Journal news story recently exposed malicious plans to manipulate the face of the woman our world has loved for 75 years. Harnessing the powers of technology, the conspirators plan to select pictures of 75 women from all corners of the country and digitally "morph" them into one super-duper-facial-blooper Betty.

Michael Jackson might kill for this kind of face-lift, but Betty needs no makeover. She is the kinder, gentler face on the back of our brownie-box world; the assuring smile spurring us on to bigger and better recipes. Can the face we know really be cast into the abyss of forgotten American heros and replaced by a digital morph?

Apparently, the strategy of General Mills — the men behind Betty Crocker — want the face

to be less white bread and more whole wheat. Dear God! Not that there's anything wrong with whole wheat, but how can the General rebake the Baker — the emblem of culinary arts in this country for 75 years! Sure, the new Betty will be ethnically diverse, but PC commercialism which glosses over the problem like a Dolly Parton makeover just makes a mockery of the situation. And will 75 faces really make a nice mix? One source reports the new Betty will be "the most beautiful ugly women you've ever seen."

The change does offer a unique opportunity for 75 lucky women. Perhaps some Carolina girls will get an eyebrow or a dimple into the morph. Imagine seeing your very own nostril on the back of Hamburger Helper. Who knows, maybe there could be a set of 75 facial feature trading cards complete with cake mix coupons on the back? Coupons? This is starting to sound good. We just hope they don't start messing with Aunt Jemima.

Tar Heel Quotables

"I am the lone student to stand up right now and say the faculty needs are critical, the library needs are critical."

Student Body President CALVIN CUNNINGHAM
Talking about his stance on tuition and financial needs of the University.

"During the meeting, I might put my foot on the chair. I'm not being disrespectful. I have an arthritic hip, and I'd be writhing in pain if I didn't elevate my leg."

Chancellor MICHAEL HOOKER
Explaining to the Faculty Council why he puts his feet on chairs.

"I love life, but life without freedom is only half a life. I have a responsibility to help those who are leading only a half-life."

Human rights activist HARRY WU
Speaking at Duke University about the time he spent in a Chinese prison.

"Bill Clinton, through no fault of his own, is the least consequential president since Calvin Coolidge."

Political columnist GEORGE WILL
Bemoaning the problems of the welfare state in his speech at the Hill Alumni Center.

"Chapel Hill has become a town for the rich and affluent. There's no place for the ordinary people. There's no diversity in this town."

Public-Private Partnership President JOE NAKAN
Discussing the need to include affordable housing as part of any future development plans in Chapel Hill.

"In a bill there may be 15 things: 13 you like, two you don't like. I voted for the bill that cut AmeriCorps funding for that reason."

U.S. Rep. FRED HEINEMAN, R-N.C.
Talking about the tough choices he faces in an effort to balance the budget.

Opening Our Eyes and Watching Our Mouths

Some people faced with a column to write and no clear topic might choose to ridicule gays. Since that would be crude and insensitive, I chose to do the exact opposite: write this column from a homosexual viewpoint.

However, since the idea of being attracted to a man was about the nastiest, most disgusting thing I could possibly conceive, I bagged the idea.

So with nobody to pick on, I opted not to offend. Instead, I will take this opportunity to champion politically correct speech, which helps to remove racial and gender-biased terms from our language.

Unfortunately, the fairly integrated world of college and professional athletics is one of the worst offenders of political correctness. Mascots for these teams help to show the racial insensitivity and gender exclusion typical of our society. Here are a few examples:

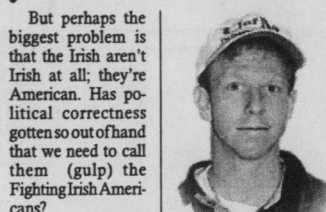
■ The Syracuse Orangemen. Are the only people at Syracuse University males? If so, send Shannon Faulkner on a mission to update New York. Otherwise, maybe Syracuse should consider the name Orangepersons. Or the Androgynous Orange.

■ The San Diego Padres. This baseball team's nickname means "fathers" or "parents," depending on your interpretation. The names Padres y Madres or Familias are obviously less restrictive.

The name Padres may also symbolize the missionaries who settled in California. In that case, the name Padres, Rabbis and Ministers would be more universal.

■ The Notre Dame Fighting Irish. There are several problems here. First, the name Fighting Irish dismisses other belligerent Europeans from representation, indicating a better name might be the Fighting Irish, Croats and Serbs.

In addition, since the Irish Republican Army's cease-fire last year, the Irish haven't been fighting very much, suggesting the name Fun-Loving Irish might be more appropriate.



ANDY DIAMONDSTEIN
SEARCHING FOR MIRACLE INGREDIENT Z-147

But perhaps the biggest problem is that the Irish aren't Irish at all; they're American. Has political correctness gotten so out of hand that we need to call them (gulp) the Fighting Irish Americans?

If the point hasn't become clear yet, let me make it now. Politically correct language is stupid. We can't say black and white any more, we have to say African American and Euro-colonist oppressor.

While the names blackie and whitey clearly pose a problem, so many people are losing sight of the fact that there is nothing wrong with black and white.

Put simply, politically correct speech is divisive and harmful to society. It tears at the very moral fiber of our lives, and if there's anything we need more of, it's fiber.

I discussed that theory with my Anglo-American roommate, who agreed that a daily intake of fiber is indeed an important part of a well-balanced diet. Seriously though, everyone is so hung up on being politically correct that we have forgotten who we really are: Americans. There are people all over the world who would give anything they have — usually nothing anyway — to have that title.

The Mexican Olympic Theory offers one example of this, explaining that the Mexican Olympic team is so bad because anyone who can run, jump or swim is already in the United States.

The Cuban refugee situation is another example. You could probably get 12 Cubans to jump in an oil drum if you told them it would float to Florida.

Yet here in the United States, the number of Americans is dwindling. Third- and fourth-generation Americans are now African Americans, Chinese Americans, Korean Americans and so forth. Yet how often do we see Greco-Americans or Franco-Americans? Probably never.

Obviously, this isn't because there are no Americans of Greek or French descent. There just is no need to point out one's ancestry in such a way. Overlook the fact that probably 90 percent of the people calling themselves African American have never been to Africa and the term is still meaningless.

Is African American preferred just because it shows a black person's ancestors came from Africa? Honestly, how stupid do you have to be to meet a black person and not realize that his (or her) ancestors came from Africa? Are we all colorblind or something?

"Oh, you're African-American? I didn't realize your skin was black."

The same thing goes for Japanese-Americans. Aren't slanty eyes sort of a tip-off? I think so. Is anybody mistaking them for Swedes? I think not.

Nor is it difficult to tell the difference between Japanese Americans and Chinese Americans. Here's a simple little trick: If dinner is raw fish or is cooked on the table right in front of you, they're Japanese. If dinner is cooked in the kitchen and then served in little white cartons, they're Chinese.

Anyway, when our forefathers envisioned the United States of America, I think they were talking about Massachusetts, Virginia and New York. Not Korean America, Mexican America and African America.

The whole idea behind this country is that anyone can be an American. But if you aren't ready to say you're 100 percent American, you're probably not ready to say you're American at all. Figure out what you are and be that.

Andy Diamondstein is a senior journalism major from Scottsdale, Ariz.



Junior Transfer Curious About Last Spring's Election

TO THE EDITOR:

As a junior transfer to UNC I have only one question: Who voted for Calvin Cunningham? I have frequently been dismayed by politicians who play both ends against the middle, but I have infrequently encountered anyone of political rank who does this as poorly as Cunningham.

Your snippet in "Quotables" referring to his contradictory statements regarding student participation in the tuition debate and the article Monday that talked of his favoring exemption for graduate students only confirms the middle of the road, "please everybody" rhetoric that I encountered while listening to his non-plus speech at junior transfer convocation. In that speech he demonstrated the lack of a major event facing our generation. It is Cunningham's intention to create a major event, he is dangerously close to doing just that by attempting to support students contributing more monetarily than they had planned on.

There is no doubt that UNC should be No. 1 in all its endeavors, but if Cunningham thinks that supporting a tuition increase that does not exempt present enrollees of all ranks is a good idea, he is setting himself up to see just how this generation can rally in the face of a common threat. My advice to him is to recant all of his positions, learn to speak directly from his mouth, rather than from both sides of it, and represent student interests like he should.

Lenwood Sherill Dean
JUNIOR
ENGLISH LITERATURE

Clapton Delivered to True Fans With Blues Repertoire

TO THE EDITOR:

As one of the truly blessed that had the opportunity to attend the Eric Clapton concert, I must say that it was excellent. Did people really expect him to play "Layla" and his other rock hits? The show was billed as an evening of the blues. As for those complaining about the acoustics, the Dean Dome was built for basketball, not concerts, so what did you expect? And as far as complaining about his one-return encore, what else could he have done to top his excellent solo during "Ain't Nobody's Business"? Nothing. That is why he saved it for last.

Those lucky enough to be able to attend the show should consider just how privileged they



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 length, clarity and vulgarity. 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 from dth@unc.edu.

Day Commemorates Town's Dedication to Equality

TO THE EDITOR:

Today is an occasion to celebrate a giant step forward for liberty and equality here in Chapel Hill.

For on this day in 1975, 20 years ago, the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen (as the Town Council was called then), in response to a petition from Carolina Gay Association (as B-GLAD was then called), adopted by unanimous vote a town personnel ordinance that included protection on the basis of "affectional orientation" for town employees.

At the time there were 26 jurisdictions in the nation that offered protection of some sort, by ordinance, on the basis of sexual orientation, but none of these were in the South.

We indeed owe our thanks to then Mayor Howard Lee and the members of the Board of

Aldermen — Gerry Cohen, Tommy Gardner, Shirley Marshall, the late Sid Rancer, R.D. Smith and Alice Welsh — for this advance in civil rights protection.

Over the last score of years, Chapel Hill and then Carboro elected openly gay officials, the first (and only, so far) in North Carolina, and more recently, Carboro and then Chapel Hill adopted domestic partnership legislation. (Indeed Orange County is the only county in the nation with two municipalities offering such legislation). And now there is a gay candidate for mayor in Carboro.

All this in many ways started 20 years ago today, when a handful of UNC students petitioned the Chapel Hill governing board and then got what they asked for. Let us rejoice.

Joe Herzenberg
CHAPEL HILL

Columnist Should Learn History Basics Before Writing

TO THE EDITOR:

While I realize that journalists have deadlines, I think it is more important for columnists to be accurate than timely. In light of this, I could not remain silent after having read Sukey Stephens' error-filled column in Monday's DTH. First, she states that World War II is known as the "Great War," when in fact it is World War I that is referred to in this manner.

Also, she also said that Americans believed that using the atomic bomb was the only way to end the war. This statement is blatantly wrong. Officials in our government knew that the war could have been won by invading the Japanese home island, but only at the cost of hundreds of thousands of American casualties.

In addition, Stephens throws the word "evidence" around like she is a primary investigator in the whole matter. Finally, she employs her best historical revisionism by judging decisions which were made over 50 years ago using information which became available well after the fact. I understand that this was an editorial column and that it could not begin to touch on all of the historical issues, but perhaps it would have been better to have not written this column at all, based on the poor information presented and the space constraints of the paper. I would be happy to discuss the war with anyone at the paper in the future.

Brooke L. Small
GRADUATE STUDENT
CHEMISTRY

THE DAILY TAR HEEL

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