

The Daily Tar Heel

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BOARD EDITORIALS

Checking the Menu

■ The Board of Governors and C.D. Spangler are acting appropriately in their handling of a proposal to revamp UNC food services.

Last week, student leaders expected a Board of Governors committee to discuss the proposal to overhaul campus food services. The proposal was approved by referendum in the February student elections.

The food services renovation won't be on the BOG agenda until next May, and it may have little chance of passing. But the actions of the BOG and of UNC-system President C.D. Spangler have been entirely appropriate.

Rather than rubber-stamping a time-consuming, expensive and questionably funded construction project, Spangler and the BOG are taking time to research the proposal before it imposes potentially astronomical costs on the student body at Chapel Hill.

Some supporters of the plan have intimated that the delay at the BOG level is a slap in the face to student self-governance. The student body, the chancellor and the trustees all have approved the plan, which would cost \$13.5 million over two and one-half years of construction.

So why are Spangler and the board even questioning it? Because that's their job. Any time a UNC school approves a fee increase, the BOG has the right to veto it. Institutional checks and balances are one of the few positive things

about the way North Carolina's public university system is organized. Rather than turning this into an issue of respect for Chapel Hill's autonomy, supporters of renovations should be glad the BOG is taking a close look.

Some critics of the plan have said the food services improvements would come on the backs of students, many of whom don't eat on campus. These objections notwithstanding, Spangler and the BOG are well within bounds to research funding for the proposal before taking action.

Recently, Spangler has taken a personal interest in the issue, as well as in a proposed fee increase at UNC-Greensboro for a new baseball stadium. Unlike the fee increase for Chapel Hill's food services, student leaders at Greensboro have opposed student fees funding the stadium.

If Spangler and the board were about to rubber stamp the Greensboro increase, you could bet students in the state would be mad. Why get mad when the general administration questions an increase at Chapel Hill?

UNC-system leadership often gets criticized for doing nothing or having no accountability. In this case, they are acting well within their bounds, and the questions they have about funding for the food services plan need to be answered.

Don't Buy Into Contracting Out

The rally held yesterday in Raleigh was an impressive and commendable way to raise awareness about the issue of privatization of University housekeepers. By maintaining visibility before the legislature, housekeepers and students can hopefully communicate their desire to fight privatization and retain housekeepers as employees and part of the University family.

As evidence of the undesirability of privatization, housekeepers from East Carolina University were given the day off by their chancellor to join the protest. ECU has recently contracted out its housekeeping services. After privatizing, students and faculty at ECU found themselves dissatisfied with both the conditions for workers and the quality of the services delivered. If privatization cannot fulfill its purpose of efficiently garnering better service at a cheaper price, it should not be pursued as a policy option.

If one UNC-system school has had a horrible experience with privatization of housekeeping, administrators and legislators need no more evidence to debunk any remaining myths about privatization. It is important the UNC community learn from ECU's negative experience and continue its efforts in opposing contracting out.

When rendering decisions about privatization at any UNC-system campus, the legislature and the BOG must take into account the failure of this policy already at one UNC-system school.

Students and housekeepers who have organized and participated in this protest should be commended. Rather than focusing unproductively on only visible, campus figures, the Coalition for Economic Justice, the Housekeepers Association and other opponents of contracting out are taking their protest where it matters most — to the legislature, the people with the power to resolve this issue in the housekeepers' and students' favor. The actions of these dedicated citizens will benefit the entire University community by preventing the privatization of UNC's housekeepers.

Instances of solidarity such as this rally testify that the University is truly a community. Housekeepers and students are integral parts of the University community. In fighting privatization, students and housekeepers working together are themselves the strongest evidence that a healthy University community must be preserved intact. A University without a solid base including all members of the community has no mission.

BAROMETER

Blacklisted?

Kudos to the organizers of Race Relations Week for inviting conservative talk-show host Armstrong Williams. Williams, who is black, writes a syndicated column and often faces derision from other black leaders for his attacks on affirmative action. You asked for diversity, you got it!

Thumbs Down

Thanks to a broken thumb, former UNC hoopster Jerry Stackhouse has most likely dropped out of the running for the NBA's Rookie of the Year award. Stackhouse will miss the remainder of his inaugural pro-season (though a similar injury hasn't kept another Tar Heel rookie out of the headlines).

Exam Time

Finally, the Chancellor's Task Force on Women has recommended that Student Health Service hire a full-time gynecologist, reducing the waiting period on appointments from 3 weeks to one. SHS should grab this opportunity — especially when it costs less than \$10 per female student.

One Order of Ramchops

Rameses XXVI's former keeper found a note at the scene of the killing depicting a ram being slaughtered, two crosses and the words "mob," "yellow" and "loving father." Yeah, that group of knife-wielding, millenarian pagans wandering around rural Orange County just had the munchies.

There's Hell to Pay When You Stand Up for Truth

When I was seven years old, I went to a Pete Seeger concert in Durham and swayed with a crowd of nostalgic children of the 1960s singing "We Shall Overcome." I felt a nascent idealism I was convinced would serve me well when I grew up and wanted to change the world.

Later, as an 18-year-old interviewing UNC alumni who were literally beaten and urinated on during civil rights protests, I couldn't help thinking I had been born at the wrong time — 30 years too late.

Now I see I wasn't. The recent debate over hate speech and anti-Semitism on campus made me realize the struggle lives on, and sometimes it's almost as dramatic as it was in the '60s.

It's simply not popular to stand up for a cause, nor is it inspiring to go against the grain. My fellow liberals — if I can call them such — sorely disappointed me over the last few months. I've criticized uniformity of thought and conformity of action throughout my time at UNC, but never thought progressive people would end up hating me for doing so.

Usually the targets of my criticism have been popular pinatas — people like UNC-system President C.D. Spangler, whose great wealth and lack of accountability have put him on many people's hit list. Or the chancellor. Or Chariton Allen. Or Student Congress.

And nobody really cares when a dry policy wonk like me writes an 800-word diatribe about some politico. I almost figured nobody really cared what I wrote anymore, except for a couple of fellow editors and my mother.

That was, until I violated the unspoken code of my liberal fraternity — one I never knew I had joined.

The transgression came when I started screaming about the thieves who stole, then returned, copies of an offensive issue of The Carolina Review.

Hypocrisy ran rampant all over campus, as the student body president-elect embarrassed himself with his smug, self-satisfied attitude, and the chancellor jumped on the bandwagon to censure the publication — but not the people who took 1,500 copies of it.

The theft and return of the magazine have been resolved. Those who took it are being dealt with in the Honor Court, where they should. But

they really aren't the problem.

The problem is with the people who smiled and giggled when they learned about the magazine theft. On election night, Aaron Nelson was prancing around the Student Union waiting for returns to come in. When I asked him whether he knew who took the Review, he grinned, blushed, turned away, then flashed his winning smile: "No comment!" he gushed.

Ha, ha. Now I ask this: What if arch-conservatives Chariton Allen and Jonathan Jordan had gone around campus at 1 a.m. and taken 1,500 copies of The Catalyst, a very liberal opinion journal? Would the student leadership, present and past, be so complacent and amused? Or would they have called for an immediate investigation, pointed fingers and muttered about fascist censorship?

Look at what happened instead. The person who had the most hell to pay was not the student leader who along with his top aides knowingly turned a blind eye to the unethical act that went on in his fraternity house. It wasn't Nelson's campaign leadership, who should have known what was going on with the Review if they were competent managers and advisers, or else they lied when they said they didn't.

It wasn't even the thieves themselves, or the student attorney general who knew what had happened, but took no steps to investigate. It wasn't University officials, who knowingly condoned the magazine's return.

No, the person who had the most hell to pay was an editor who decided to pursue the story, since no one in a position of public power or trust was willing to stand up for an obnoxious conservative's First Amendment freedoms.

I'm not trying to wallow in self-pity here; I'm trying to make a point about the near-fascism of the climate on this campus. I'm trying to explain why I was so scared in March that I ran to my car at night.

As soon as this paper started trying — in



THANASSIS CAMBANIS
EDITOR

earnest — to find out who took the Review and whether members of student government acted inappropriately, I began to receive threats. Conversations I had were intentionally distorted, and rumors began to surface — spread by people who have known me for years — that I was a raving anti-Semite.

The DTH then printed a cartoon for freedom of information day that many readers interpreted as anti-Semitic. "Ah, proof," these people screamed, "that Thanassis Cambanis is on a mission. First the Review story, now this."

People came into my office, got in my face and suggested that if it weren't illegal, they would take physical action against me. Others told me that they could sue me — for what? — but they wanted to be nice, so they wouldn't. Anonymous threats landed in my mailbox.

People I had never met approached me and told me to be careful — "There are some crazy people out there who really don't like you." So what's the point? The point is, you can't point fingers at people in power, and you can't discuss "sensitive" issues, without facing some amount of danger. I learned last month that defending free press is not only stressful, it's risky.

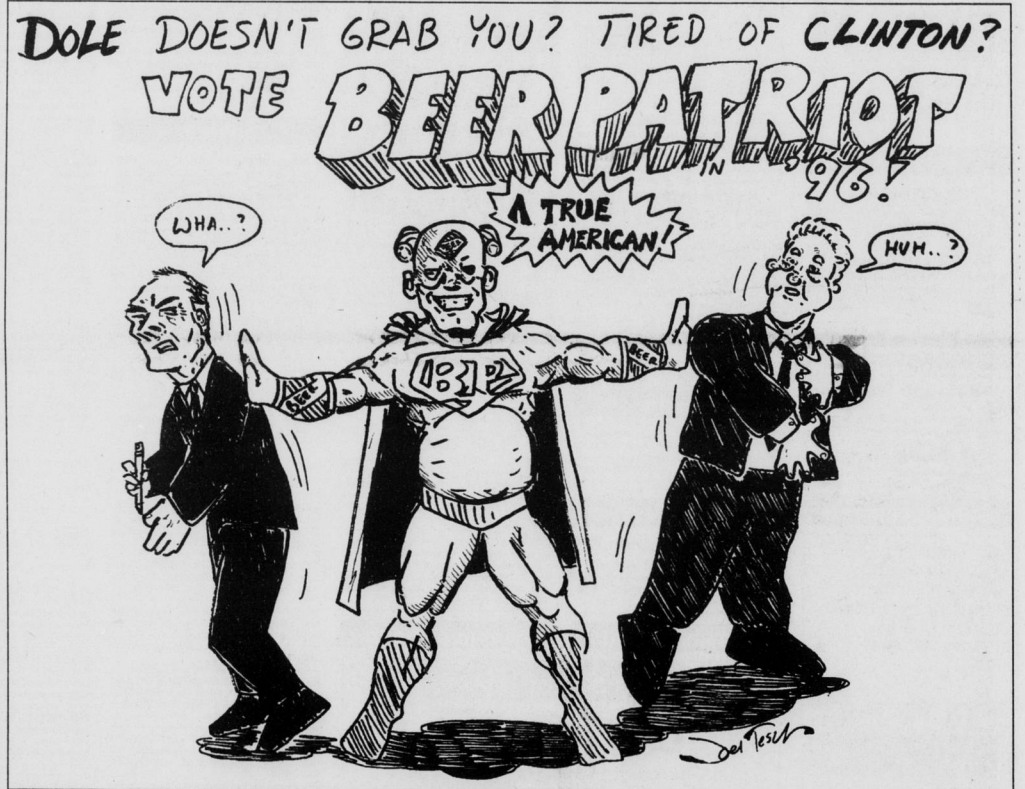
When I wrote a column calling for the resignation of C.D. Spangler almost two years ago, the richest and most powerful man in North Carolina didn't lash out against me. But when I wrote a column calling the people who took the Review "thieves" — people who probably share my political convictions and social values — I set off a torrent of fear and rage, with me as the target.

We debate whether the intellectual climate has atrophied. We complain about apathy. Some of us long for the 1960s, when activism had a clear purpose, and injustices were obvious.

Maybe there's no need to stand in the Pit holding hands, singing "We Shall Overcome," although that's not an entirely pointless idea. But as far as I can tell, there's plenty of work left to be done today.

As long as there are people who want to preempt dialogue and debate with silence and violence, we still can fight, and we still can overcome.

Thanassis Cambanis is a senior history and creative writing major from Chapel Hill.



Paltry Pay, Endless Hours and Luscious Leftovers

I hope by now the publicity machine has brought it to your attention that we graduate and professional students are currently, if only metaphorically, enjoying our moment in the sun. Yes, at last, by gubernatorial decree, this is Appreciation Week for Graduate and Professional Students. Appropriately enough, the week (or rather the Week) began Tuesday with an appreciation rally organized by the Graduate and Professional Student Federation. It seems if you want anyone to appreciate you, you'd better start by appreciating yourself, a skill grad students would be well advised to develop. Of course, there's nothing like years of powerlessness, footnotes and imitation-Kraft dinners to build your self-esteem. (I'm talking about the stuff in the two-for-a-buck blue box. I have no idea what GPSF President Katherine Kraft eats for dinner.)

An Appreciation Week (or month, or year) usually signifies that someone has noticed a particular group's arrival at the bottom of the barrel. That's why the Year of the Child happened well after many had noticed record levels of child poverty and prenatal malnutrition, and the Year of the Woman was brought about in part to suggest that worldwide cultural practices like female infanticide, clitoridectomy and the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue might not constitute giving women the right kind of attention. If you're optimistic, you could say your own Year Of or Week Of gives you a chance to educate others about your group's rich and worthy history, thus potentially improving your position in the metaphorical barrel. If you're a cynic, you might observe that announcing a Week Of invites others to assume you don't deserve any attention the rest of the time. (This interpretation bodes ill for Race Relations Week, also in session.)

Graduate teaching assistants are, of course, perfect candidates for widespread inattention. On the one hand, we are well-educated and trained professionals essential to the University's educational mission. We teach a substantial number of introductory courses at UNC, providing undergraduates with a solid educational foundation and freeing up faculty for research

and upper-level teaching, while we conduct research that will eventually contribute to the University's reputation. On the other hand, the University knows it can replace us at any time with a new crop of highly-qualified students, which is why we work for low wages and no benefits, pay tuition long after we stop taking courses and regularly sign non-renewable contracts with clauses empowering our employers to fire us instantly for any reason.

Our college classmates are becoming company vice presidents after six years of working; we're still at the same subsistence level, with no promotions, no medical, no dental and no property. But we can't walk out, because graduate credits — like frequent-flyer miles — are non-transferable. And unlike medical or law students, who can justify a few years of dog-work in view of their future moneyed prestige, grad students in many fields will eventually face a dirty fight against their friends and colleagues for a handful of low-paying, tenure-track jobs.

Little if any of this is going to change. We're going to go on helping our students write a better paragraph, writing their recommendations for jobs and scholarships and teaching them skills they can't learn from the guy at the front of a class of 200. And we'll continue to get less respect than we want from our students (many of whom feel we are less competent than professors), our departments (who pressure us to speed through our dissertations, while we fund our studies through heavy teaching loads and simultaneously try to get work published for an increasingly tough academic job market), the Honor Court (which has historically been soft on plagiarism) and the University itself, which has been slow to find funding for health benefits, tuition waivers (standard in almost every other grad program)



MARYA DEVOTO
FROM HELL TO BREAKFAST

and non-teaching fellowships.

Grad school is never going to catch up with the professional world in most of these areas; as near-permanent pre-professionals, grad students are caught in a thankless spot in the power structure. I'm glad that the GPSF is seizing Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week to bring our contributions to light. This is a great springboard for more substantive discussions of how graduate student workers are exploited. But let's not let North Carolina legislators — or the University — get away with giving us a cheap gesture of "appreciation." It's much easier for the Governor to give us a week of attention than it is for him to pressure the state to come up with money for grad student employee-health benefits. Let's embrace being under-appreciated all year, if it means more appreciation in our pay envelopes. Now put down that Tar Heel and pay attention to your TA.

While you're valuing things that are cheap and under-appreciated, you might want to cook up some chicken livers, the last delicacy available for 99 cents a pound.

Sauteed Chicken Livers

Drain 3/4 lb. chicken livers. Over medium-low heat, cook 3 strips lean bacon until not quite crisp; remove bacon, drain off all but 2 Tbsp. fat and add 1 Tbsp. butter. Raise heat to medium-high; when butter bubbles, add 1 small onion, sliced thin. Sauté until soft, 4-5 minutes. Add 1 Tbsp. butter; when melted, add livers and sauté until just firm and pale pink inside. Return bacon to pan and add 1/8 cup brandy (or 2 Tbsp. dry sherry) and 3 Tbsp. cream. Lower heat and cook for another 3 minutes. Serve over rice.

Marya Devoto is a sixth year graduate student in English.

Just A Reminder

Fall 1996 columnist and editorial board applications are available at the DTH office, Suite 104 of the Student Union, and are due by 5 p.m. April 17. Questions? Call Editor-Select Jeanne Fugate at 962-4086.

