

# The Daily Tar Heel

Jeanne Fugate EDITOR  
Office Hours, 2-3 p.m. Fridays  
Graham Brink MANAGING EDITOR

World Wide Web Electronic Edition  
http://www.unc.edu/dth

Established 1893  
103 Years of Editorial Freedom

Chris Yates EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR  
Jamie Griswold UNIVERSITY EDITOR  
Laura Godwin CITY EDITOR  
Erica Beshears STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR  
Andrew Park SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS EDITOR  
Robbi Pickeral SPORTS EDITOR  
Joseph Robison SPORTS/SATURDAY EDITOR  
Jessica Banov FEATURES EDITOR  
Melissa Mihos ARTS/DIVERSIONS EDITOR  
Julia Corbin COPY DESK EDITOR  
Michael Kanarek COPY DESK EDITOR  
Amy Quattlebaum DESIGN EDITOR  
Phillip Molero GRAPHICS EDITOR  
Robin Linehan EDITORIAL CARTOON EDITOR  
Robin Berhola STAFF DEVELOPMENT

## BOARD EDITORIALS

### Student dividends?

If the UNC system resembles a company, ignoring the concerns of employees and "stockholders" (or students) is simply bad business.

Last week, the UNC-system Board of Governors appointed three committees to search for a replacement for system President C. D. Spangler. The actual search committee is composed entirely of BOG members. The other two committees have only one student between them, a fact that BOG Chairman C. Cliff Cameron explained by saying, "It's sort of like the board of directors of a company. You don't consult employees and stockholders before electing the CEO."

It is true the 16-school UNC system is somewhat like a corporate body. And BOG members — most of whom, like Cameron, have a background in the corporate world — will likely bring a good deal of expertise to the search process. Members will pursue a system president that has the skills and experience it takes to run a sprawling university network. However, input from university employees and students would ensure that he or she is also committed to their issues and thus to the life of the university.

Whoever assumes Spangler's position will come into the system having been chosen only by executive decision, not with student and staff

approval. This condition poses an immediate handicap for the new system president, as he or she will face a legacy of exclusiveness generated by their own hiring. A president having a positive rapport with employees and students from the outset would gain a sense of confidence and direction, making the transition from Spangler to successor smoother for everybody.

Although incorporating students from the 16 system schools into the search process may sound like a daunting task, BOG members could acquire widespread, meaningful participation via a surprisingly feasible fashion.

The Association of Student Governments could select more students to join ASG President John Dervin in the search process. These students could act as liaisons to the ASG as a whole and to their respective schools, thus providing student views and reassuring students that they have a voice in the selection.

The UNC system may bear some resemblance to a corporate body, but that is no reason for the BOG to conduct the presidential search like a stereotypical big business. The system represents a merging of corporate and academic worlds. Its new leader must be chosen by representatives of both.

### OJ, the sequel

Here we go again.

In case anyone hadn't noticed, OJ II: The Civil Trial started this week. Like any sequel, it is not likely to be as creative or drama laden as the original. Again in the lead, naturally, is OJ himself.

However, OJ II will be different for various reasons, and in many ways better. It will not be the media circus the first trial was. No cameras, or even sketch artists, will be allowed in the courtroom. The format is also different. In the criminal trial, the jury had to find OJ guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt." This time, they must only find him liable "by a preponderance of the evidence."

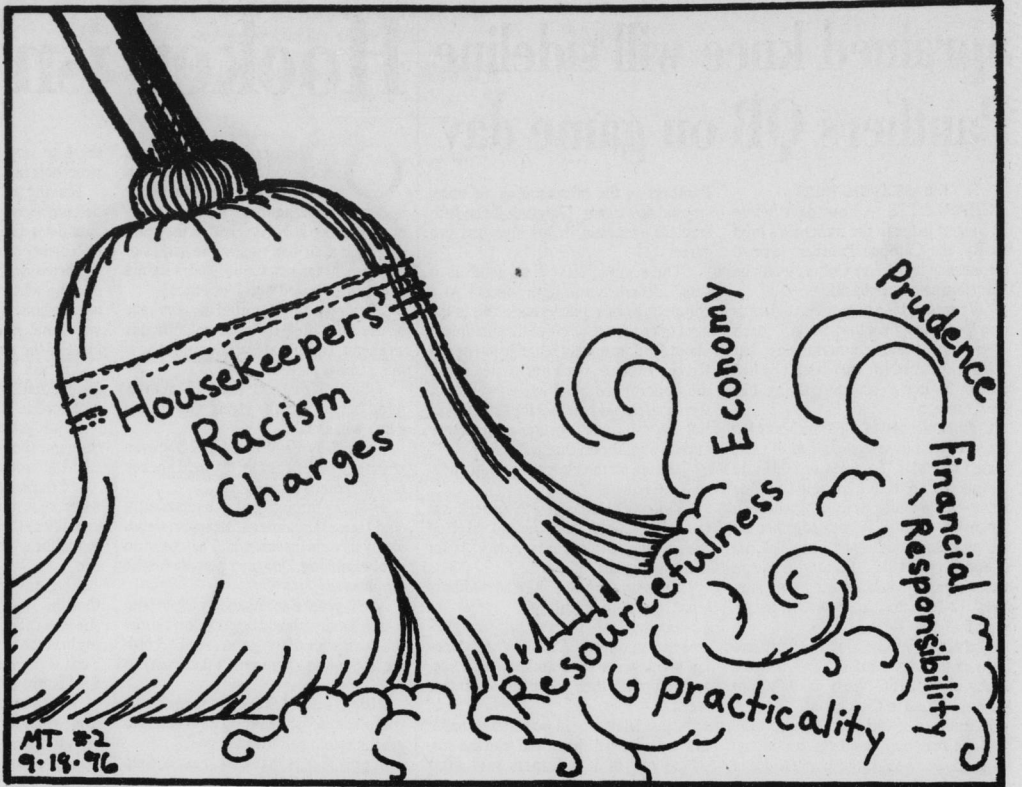
Many believe the civil trial will afford a fairer forum to look into the night that Ron Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson were so brutally murdered. Whereas the first trial became a referendum on racism and the Los Angeles Police Department, one hopes this trial will focus on the one issue that matters: Did OJ kill these people or not?

The sequel will also afford the chance to tie up one of the key loose ends the original left hang-

ing: Was there a police conspiracy to frame OJ? On the first time around, OJ's defense team convincingly showed the police and prosecution's mistakes.

The civil trial will put this theory to the test. In the criminal trial, due to different rules of procedure and evidence, the defense lawyers could argue that there was such a conspiracy whether or not there was any evidence to that effect. This time will be different. What they cannot prove they cannot propose. The judge has given the defense team until Monday to provide a brief outlining what evidence they have that a police conspiracy exists. If they can provide no such evidence, they can't argue that theory.

OJ II will be interesting not only for what the lawyers tell us, but for what they do not. Will we hear about police conspiracies, cops planting evidence or compromised blood drops? In the first trial all these themes were featured prominently. If they are not in the current trial, that is an indication of whether they were legitimate theories, or the rhetorical guiles of clever lawyers. We might just see OJ II clarifying the controversial plot of its predecessor.



### Felony murder, the United States vs. you and me

Ever heard of felony murder? It sounds like a crime more cruel than ordinary murder. But that's not what it means. Felony murder is the crime of participating in a felony in which someone dies. People have even been held responsible for their own partners' deaths when they're killed by a robbery victim. A victim suffering a heart attack could also constitute felony murder. Suddenly, simple robbery charges become murder.

Let's say you're 15. You live with friends in a poor section of Washington, D.C. You rarely see your parents; they've been charged twice previously with physically neglecting you. Your record is clean, but you grow up surrounded by crime. It is summertime. Every day is the same. Almost.

Let's say I'm a 17-year-old bad-ass who's already been jailed twice for carjacking and sexual assault. I was locked up until two weeks ago. I carry a gun and don't look scared to use it. I'm older than you. I'm more experienced, and you respect me.

During the past two weeks, I've started hanging with you. I drive you around town, get you some beer and introduce you to friends. You start to trust me. One morning, I pick you and another kid up to go for a ride. "You boys want to make some cash?" I ask. "All we've got to do is ride up on somebody and make him empty his pockets. It's easy."

Your friend, who is 16, looks scared. You're thinking about what to do, but suddenly I stop the car and jump out. "Get on the ground and empty your f---ing pockets!" I shout to a guy on the sidewalk. He runs. I chase him momentarily and return to the car. I'm slightly embarrassed. You've made up your mind; this is a bad idea.

But I'm persuasive. I bring the car up to where a mailman is eating lunch in his truck. "Come on!" I demand. Your friend gets out with me, and the two of us walk slowly toward

the truck. You'll later claim you left the car at this point and walked home. The police theory, however, is that you stayed in the car and may have been the getaway driver.

When your friend and I approach the mailman, a neighbor comes by to ask about the mail. "Hell, let's get 'em both," I say. I pull a gun from my waistline and step toward them. Your friend follows a few steps behind. I do all the talking. "Get down on the ground! Empty your pockets!" The neighbor complies immediately, but the mailman struggles getting out of the truck. I can't see that his keys, attached to his belt by a chain, are in the truck's ignition. He's panicking and can't get loose.

The man on the ground empties his breast pockets frantically. He won't stop talking. "Don't shoot me. Don't shoot me. I'm doing it. I'm doing it." He makes me nervous. I flash the gun back and forth. Within seconds, I hear a woman's voice behind me.

"I'm calling the police," the woman shouts. I turn toward her for half a second. Before I look back to the two men, I get nervous. My finger squeezes the trigger. The moment lasts forever. My eyes focus and I see the mailman bleeding on the ground. I've shot him in the head. I turn and run. Your friend goes back to the car. We escape for the moment. We didn't get a dime. A few days later, the mailman dies.

You're picked up by the police on an anonymous tip. They question you for hours. "You're small potatoes," they tell you. "We don't want you. Tell us you were in the car, and we'll let you go." After 10 hours, you break down. "Yeah, yeah, whatever, whatever," you say.



RICHARD RAY  
HOBSON'S CHOICE

You cup your fingers over your lips to hide them from any hidden cameras, a tip you got from a gangster movie — after all, you're only 15.

They formally arrest you. You've been locked up ever since. You turned 16 in jail last month.

Normally, you'd face juvenile charges and couldn't be held past your 21st birthday. But this victim was a mailman, which means federal court. Unless you testify against me — and ratting often carries a death penalty of its own in this city — prosecutors will charge you as an adult and seek life without parole. If you'd been 18, they'd push for death. Even if you don't get life, a conviction for "felony murder" would make it hard to ever find employment. Terms like that tend to carry a certain stigma about them.

In a few months, the case of U.S. vs. You will go to trial. To get you on felony murder, the government will show that you participated in a felony, and someone died.

And what is it you did? You failed to judge me accurately after two whole weeks. You failed to see that I didn't care about life as much as you did. My life's already unraveling, and now I'm taking you with me, all because you sat in my car. And I'm not just taking a month, or a year, or five years of your life; I'm taking it all.

The death of any man is tragic. Often, people are at fault and deserve punishment. But "kill them all" I don't think so. Look hard before you judge. Felony murder isn't fair. It is an archaic law that began in England and has since been abolished there. But in our nation's capital, it lives on.

This story is true. The names and identities have been changed to protect the innocent and the guilty, some of whom are one in the same.

Richard Ray is a senior journalism and creative writing major from Greenville.

## BAROMETER

### One in a hundred

Call it destiny. Author and historian John Franklin was recently honored by representatives of local universities with the "Historian of the Century" award.

### No chance for Perot

A bipartisan commission's unanimous decision to exclude Ross Perot from the presidential debates is a sharp wound to the Texas billionaire's campaign for president, mac-daddy, world leader and pesky race spoiler.

### Civilized agenda?

The jury is out on the Carolina Civil Liberties Union's desire to become more involved in our university community. Hopefully they'll do more than just tell us how unfair the world is, why mean people are bad and how everything is about "rights" (not responsibilities).

### Spatial relations

Relief has arrived for astronaut Shannon Lucid. After a record-breaking six months in orbit, the space shuttle Atlantis is returning her to earth. Now the 53-year-old biochemist will have to get reacquainted with gravity.

### Misinformation within article hinders efforts at education

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to clarify a statement that I made at the rally held by the Coalition for Economic Justice on Sept. 12 in the Pit. I was misquoted in The Daily Tar Heel article, "Housekeepers' supporters say privatization linked to racism" (Sept. 13). The article said that I thought racism was behind Chancellor Hooker's decision to investigate outsourcing housekeepers. I was then quoted as saying, "What do you want to call it — classism ... Look who's in that class. Anytime you have supervisors call you niggers, that's racism."

It appears to me the DTH took quotes from my speech out of context by putting several quotes from different parts of my speech together. Let me clarify what I said at the rally. First of all, I was talking about the racist policy of the General Administration and the Outsourcing Committee to study privatizing seven job categories that are made up of 65 percent African-American jobs, not about a direct decision by Chancellor Hooker to do the study.

Second, I explained the case of how supervisors at East Carolina University have called the housekeepers "niggers," not supervisors at UNC-Chapel Hill. I pointed out that ECU has privatized management of housekeeping at Marriott. In the future, the DTH needs to make sure that it accurately reports on events because misinformation keeps us from being able to adequately educate the UNC community about why we are opposed to privatization.

Barbara PEAR  
TEAM LEADER  
HOUSEKEEPING DEPARTMENT

### Candidate Dole has 'lost his way,' in state of desperation

TO THE EDITOR:

Republican presidential nominee Robert Dole recently proposed a 15 percent "across the board" tax cut for all Americans. He has apparently, in his desperation to close President Clinton's double-digit lead in the polls, forgotten the views he held while occupying the Senate seat from Kansas. During 35 years

## 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. 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.

fact, sacred. Along with these unrealistic and ever changing "reassurances," Dole promises yet another audience a large increase in military spending. How can one drastically cut taxes on the one hand, increase spending and simultaneously reduce a colossal national debt? Simply, it is impossible to reduce the national debt when the revenue available to the government is reduced and subsequently avoid the elimination of many necessary and valuable government programs.

Clearly Robert Dole has lost his way.

Zachary Kamykowski  
SOPHOMORE  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

### Remember Tupac Shakur as more than an ordinary rapper

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the passing of Mr. Tupac Shakur. I am sorely disappointed because many do not seem to view 2Pac's death as a loss; furthermore, some even seem happy that he is no longer of this world.

First of all, no one deserves to go out the way that he did, despite their lifestyle. Sure, he did lead a life that caused many to raise their eyebrows and shake their heads in disapproval. However, one must realize that 2Pac was more than an ordinary gangsta or rapper. He was a spokesperson for millions of people, worldwide — had his albums not sold, he would not have been the megastar that he was.

As far as his intense rivalry with the East Coast, especially Bad Boy Entertainment and Mobb Deep, perhaps he did take it a little too seriously. However, despite his lifestyle and his lyrics, 2Pac was one of the most respected rappers of all time. How should we remember him? We should remember him as a trooper — as someone unafraid to stand up for what he believed in, regardless of criticism. Hopefully society will realize the results of this type of lifestyle, while not focusing on 2Pac's mistakes but on improving the type of government and society that produced him. The rap industry certainly will not be the same without the presence of Mr. Tupac Shakur.

Joey Weeden  
JUNIOR  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

