

The Daily Tar Heel

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Office Hours, 2-3 p.m. Fridays
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Out of state, out of mind

■ An increase in UNC's out-of-state student quota would only compromise the University's traditional obligations to the citizens of North Carolina.

The motive of Chancellor Michael Hooker's proposal to increase UNC's out-of-state student population from 18 percent to a minimum of 25 percent contradicts the original mission of the University and undermines the value of all students to UNC.

With aspirations of becoming the best public university in the country, Hooker seeks an out-of-state student population comparable to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and the University of Virginia.

But the corresponding decrease in in-state students will compromise the University's primary obligation: to serve and educate the people of North Carolina.

Funded with fewer state tax dollars than UNC, the University of Virginia has less of an obligation to educate its citizens. UNC is sustained by a significantly higher sum of tax dollars and must fulfill the mission set out in its original charter.

Currently, certain applicants barely gain admittance to UNC because of insufficient grades, low SAT scores or the misfortune of attending a very competitive high school.

Under Hooker's proposal, these students will unfortunately be denied admission to the University and the opportunities a UNC education provides.

Hooker mentioned out-of-state students are better for the University because they pay higher

tuition and suggested one of the reasons UVa. is ranked so high is its large out-of-state population. The implicit message is that students are only as good as the amount they pay, and in-state students are not "as smart" as their out-of-state peers. Such comments insult the intelligence and contribution of in-state students, in particular, and devalue the importance of all UNC students.

Hooker also mentioned increased revenue and "a cross pollination of ideas" as other reasons for the increase. Issues of revenue and finance are administrative concerns and must not impede deserving individuals access to a higher education.

More diversity is a worthy goal, but the means to its fulfillment is not a matter of numbers or money.

As it stands, 18 percent is a significant percentage of the student population and out-of-state students make an immeasurable contribution to student life at UNC.

The manner in which the subject arose makes it even more galling. Hooker did not discuss this increase with University officials, students or even the sage legislators in Raleigh. Rather, he broached the issue at a speech to an alumni organization in Los Angeles, Ca.

The chancellor obviously did not take his plans seriously enough to present them reasonably. Why should we?

Drugs of a feather

■ The results of a recent study prove that sentencing disparities for possession of crack and powder cocaine are inherently unfair.

According to the current mandatory-sentencing guidelines set by the federal government, a large disparity exists between the punishment rendered drug offenders who are convicted of offenses involving crack cocaine and those convicted of ones involving cocaine hydrochloride (powder cocaine).

This sharp contrast has been based on the consideration that crack has always been regarded as a far more addictive and dangerous drug than powder cocaine.

However, a new study conducted by Dorothy Hatsukami and Marian Fischman of the University of Minnesota reveals the two drugs are so similar in both their psychoactive and addictive properties, that the existing discrepancy in sentencing laws is excessive and in serious need of re-evaluation.

Currently, sentencing is based on the quantity of the drug involved. For two individuals charged with possession of either substance to receive the same sentence, the powder cocaine offender would need 100 times the amount of the crack offender.

In 1995, the United States Sentencing Commission recommended, in light of similar stud-

ies, that Congress all but eliminate this gap in sentencing. The recommendation was denied. This response only lends credence to those who claim that the federal courts have a racist agenda. Blacks represent more than 85 percent of all crack offenders and only 27 percent of powder cocaine offenders.

Comparatively, those who are convicted of using powder cocaine, which is far more expensive and considered an upper-class "designer drug", are consistently and overwhelmingly white.

In light of this new scientific evidence, the federal guidelines require an intensive review. If the physiological and psychoactive differences between both drugs are negligible, then the disparity in sentencing should be removed from current legislation. Individuals convicted of powder cocaine offenses deserve the same punishment as those convicted of crack cocaine offenses.

Otherwise, what has been regarded as an unintentional tendency to engage in a racial sentencing bias will become nothing short of a concerted and racist effort to specifically incarcerate African-Americans.



Thanksgiving's history relevant to modern times

Lately some friends have accused me of using my columns to suck up to various teachers. To those friends I want to say, "What's your point?" This one's for you, Dr. Kaufman...

I doubt this will come as a surprise to any of you, but Thanksgiving is coming this Thursday. With it will come many of my favorite traditions and food. Football, turkey and pumpkin pie are just a few of the things I associate with this holiday.

Because of this approaching day, it was with vague interest that I learned for the umpteenth time the origins of the Thanksgiving tradition. While we all know the stories of the Pilgrims and the Indians, I was more interested in learning the reasons behind the Pilgrims' trek to the New World.

Most of us are familiar with the Pilgrims' background and their quest for religious freedom. I would wager, however, that a far fewer number are familiar, then, with the motivation behind the Pilgrims' quest. It seems these Pilgrims, or Puritans as they might also be called, fled England to seek a place where they might practice a more pure version of the Protestantism that held sway in England in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, hence the name Puritans.

England in the 16th century proved a religious battleground that swung back and forth between Catholic and Protestant reforms. The last such swing began with the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Seeking to reclaim England from its most recent swing toward Roman Catholicism, Elizabeth chose to create a religious environment somewhere in the middle. While devoid of many of the ritual symbols of Catholicism, this religious state proved neither Catholic nor Protestant in its entirety.

In response to Elizabeth's attempt at reform, a new group sprang up in protest. This group wanted England entirely Protestant, centering around the reforms of such notables as John Calvin and Martin Luther. This group, the Puritans or Purifiers, wanted a more pure religion and felt that Elizabeth's reforms had

not gone far enough.

This new group alarmed Elizabeth and the English church which she, as England's ruling monarch, headed. It seemed the Puritans were preaching the law. Later characterized as "fire and brimstone," puritanical teaching was criticized for trying to scare people into accepting God.

Puritans felt by showing people the impossible scope of God's law, they could push their listeners to accept God's grace when they realized they were incapable of saving themselves by following a set standard.

In reality, the only aspect of the Puritans teachings that stood out to the English church leaders was the idea that biblical law was unattainable in its demand for perfection. They saw this doctrine as a seditious teaching which might lead to widespread disobedience of governmental rule, reasoning that if people knew one set of laws couldn't be followed, then English citizens would cease trying to follow any law, secular or religious.

Applying this idea broadly, they came to fear a society where people wouldn't stop with disobeying God's law but would engage in civil disobedience as well.

Fearing potential anarchy, church leaders persecuted Puritans in an attempt to stop the spread of their teachings and ideas. This persecution provided the impetus for the Puritans' voyage to the New World. Feeling that God's divine providence and will had led them to a new haven, they so named their new settlements, Providence and New Haven.

Most interesting to me was to learn of the Puritans religious struggles once they reached the New World. It seems that following their



MATT OSMAN
OSMANIA

friendship with the Indians, they sought to proselytize their new-found friends, like the Jesuit and other missionaries in South America had done before them.

However, it seems these early attempts failed miserably as the Puritans struggled to convey what they thought was the gravity of their message of salvation. It seems the Indians had no use for the fear mongering and guilt the Pilgrims were peddling. In retrospect it seems rather obvious that the Indians would fail to understand concepts of guilt and sin, two concepts with little weight in their world prior to the Pilgrim's settlement.

The Puritans, it seems, failed to understand their audience. They didn't tailor their message to the logic and perceptions of their listeners and because of this faltered in their evangelistic attempts.

Maybe if the Pilgrims had attempted to understand their audience, they would have found a better tack. Perhaps a focus on God's love and creation would have been more appealing.

My experience in religion classes, both past and present, has shown me that Christianity has many facets. Choosing one focus is important when sharing with others, provided that this focus is not taken out of context. Rather this facet, in agreement with the whole from which it has been culled, should point to the abounding love and grace found in God.

It may seem like I went a long way to make a point. While that may be the case, I don't want to lose sight of the significance of this holiday as a chance to reflect upon and be grateful for the many blessings I have been granted.

What are you thankful for? Why? Like the Pilgrims who thanked God for protecting them through their quest for religious freedom, I hope there are things for which you are grateful. If there aren't, then what is important in our life, and why is it important if it isn't worth being thankful for?

Matt Osman is a senior history major from Charlotte.

Editorial cartoon insensitive toward victims of tragedy

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in response to the cartoon titled "Fraternities Respond to Town Ordinance" featured on the Editorial Page of the Nov. 20 Daily Tar Heel. I was shocked that the cartoon was approved for publishing; it hit a sensitive spot in the hearts of those of us who suffered the loss of a friend in the Phi Gamma Delta fire in May.

Being from Rocky Mount, I saw my little brother cry because he lost his swim team coach. I saw my good friend, along with countless Phi Gams, cry because he lost his older brother. I saw my Pi Beta Phi sisters cry because they lost a sorority sister and a best friend. Words cannot describe the experience of attending three funerals within a period of two days. Anyone who walks by the skeleton of the Phi Gam house everyday relives those two days almost every time.

The cartoon was an unsuccessful attempt to make light of a situation that is not a laughing matter. Despite the factors involved the night of the Phi Gamma Delta fire, lives and loves were lost, and those of us who suffer with each reminder will never recover. Let the fraternities and sororities do what they must do in order to make their houses safe, and please do not mock us for our efforts. It does nothing but remind us of our losses.

Hays Ferguson
FRESHMAN
PSYCHOLOGY

Exploitation of Greek system 'pseudojournalistic pap'

The author is a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

TO THE EDITOR:

The fraternity fire ordinance cartoon you ran on Nov. 20 not only trivializes an issue of vital importance, it went so far as to insult the memory of those lost in the tragic fire of May



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.

12. Your decision to run this cartoon is just another example of the pseudojournalistic pap put out by The Daily Tar Heel.

As if you have not exploited the fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta enough over the past year, you choose to rub salt in the wound with garbage like this. I sat through an entire semester while you milked the rush letter for all it was worth, and held my tongue. Well, no more! I'll be damned if you'll use the deaths of five good people to move more of these rags off the

Your lucky day

Got an opinion? We want to splash it across the back pages of The Daily Tar Heel.

That's right. It's that time of year again: Applications are out for spring 1997 columnist and editorial board positions.

Applications will be available today in Suite 104 of the Student Union, otherwise known as the DTH office. They're due by 5 p.m. Dec. 2, which gives you all of Thanksgiving to ruminate over your feast and a snazzy application.

Don't delay. Contact Editor Jeanne Fugate at 962-4086 if you have any questions.

stands. I only hope in the future you will use a modicum of decency and discretion when choosing the contents of this fish wrapper you call a newspaper.

Dean Hingston
JUNIOR
ECONOMICS

Swim test letter perpetuates myths of female helplessness

TO THE EDITOR:

We are writing in response to Tamara Reynolds' ridiculous complaint regarding the timing of the swim test ("Required Swim Test Ignores Female Biological Phases," Nov. 19). Besides being statistically improbable, the article presents a ludicrous picture of women as debilitated for a great part of the month, so much that they are unable to complete a graduation requirement. In speaking for an apartment of six girls, we sincerely doubt that the swim test is a plot contrived by the male-dominated administration to punish or to suppress women. Under the guise of promoting women's rights, she is actually undermining the efforts for equality by pleading for special concessions.

Furthermore, this is a private matter that should have been taken up with the administration, not brought to the attention of the entire student body.

In the future, Ms. Reynolds, please don't take the liberty to speak for the rest of us.

Aubrey Sabala
SOPHOMORE
PSYCHOLOGY

Laura Gilbert
JUNIOR
JOURNALISM

For the Record

In Thursday's Barometer ("Busted," Nov. 21), the CIA director should have been identified as John M. Deutch.

The DTH regrets the error.

THE DAILY TAR HEEL

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