

The Daily Tar Heel

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1998
Volume 105, Issue 143

News/Features/Arts/Sports: 962-0245
Business/Advertising: 962-1163
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
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Partisanship occasionally splits Suite C

Political ideologies play a small but sometimes vital role in student government.

BY JOHN SWEENEY
SENIOR WRITER

Forty years ago, the political dividing lines on campus were clearly drawn. In those days the University and Student parties dominated student government.

The party system is gone now — swept away during the 1970s — but the politics of partisanship remain at UNC.

In one sense, the "liberal vs. conservative" dichotomy is artificial. All student leaders advocate for student interests, and those interests are fundamentally the same.

"I try to operate as far as what would be best for students, what's best for the University," said Speaker of Student Congress James Hoffman. "But student issues have nothing to do with whether you're liberal or conservative."

But in another sense, political ideologies do play a tangible role in the process of governing the student body.

In Student Congress, it is most evident in the allocation process. There, student groups with particular political leanings have faced opposition from representatives on the other side.

"In Congress, the groups they deal with are a lot more partisan," Student Body Treasurer Marc McCollum said. "So I think political ideologies can play a bigger role."

Bill Heeden said he had seen it firsthand. As publisher of the Carolina Review, a right-wing campus publication, Heeden appeared before Congress in 1996 to ask for funds.

Heeden said Congress simply rubber-stamped less controversial groups' requests, but he said liberal representatives forced him to endure hours of questioning and debate.

Such treatment of conservative groups convinced Heeden to run for — and win — a Dist. 16 seat.

"The whole process seemed to be inconsistent, and it could have been more fair," he said. "That motivated me to become a part of the process."

Since he took office in April, Heeden feels he and other representatives have made that goal a reality.

"(This year), Congress as a whole has done a good job being apolitical about funding issues," he said.

Occasionally, non-funding issues do cause controversy in Congress. Last fall,

SEE CONSERVATISM, PAGE 5

Committee sets list of priorities for funding

BY BETH HATCHER
STAFF WRITER

The University Priorities and Budget Committee released Thursday a tentative set of five priority areas to consider for upcoming reallocation of University funds.

Student government leaders, faculty members and student body president candidates met with the committee to discuss the drafted priority areas.

The proposals fall under five main categories: ways to improve campus diversity, build on areas of excellence, foster interdisciplinary programs, enhance the use of information technologies and intensify the intellectual climate on campus.

Provost Richard Richardson said there was no distinct time line for when the funds would be allocated.

The committee also suggested improving academic spaces, such as libraries and classrooms, to help the intellectual climate.

Junior Lacey Hawthorne, a candidate for student body president, questioned if the committee's planned use of funds for more campus construction would hinder the intellectual climate.

Hawthorne said recent construction proved to be a distraction to students in classes.

"I'm already in class where there's a jackhammer outside my door," Hawthorne said.

"It's really hard to learn in that envi-

"I'm already in a class where there's a jackhammer outside my door. It's really hard to learn in that environment."

LACEY HAWTHORNE
student body president candidate

ronment."

Marc McCollum, student body treasurer, said he thought the intellectual climate could be improved if funds were allocated to train graduate students as teachers.

McCollum said he had taken a few courses instructed by first-year graduate

students who had not taught very well. "It hindered my educational experiences in the courses," McCollum said.

Funding was also proposed to improve scholarships, upgrade available information technology on campus and strengthen research programs.

Student Body President Mo Nathan stressed the importance of using funds to increase interdisciplinary programs not only between faculty but between students, as well.

Beth Hedt, the Human Relations Committee chairwoman for student government, said she would like to see this interaction between departments result in a simplification of perspective and major requirements.

Hedt said the large number of neces-

sary requirements often made it difficult for students to graduate on schedule.

"I have to be out of here in four years," Hedt said.

"It's hard to do everything I want to do and still be on track."

Richardson reminded the group that the proposals were still in their initial stages.

"This is a document that has 'draft' stamped all over it," Richardson said.

During the next few weeks, the committee will meet with the Executive Council, the Dean's Council, the executive committee of the Faculty Council and executive committee of the Employee Forum to discuss further plans and action for the allocation of University funds.

Remembering the war era: Abroad and at UNC



Fighting in far-away Vietnam caused controversy on campus as students and faculty took to Franklin Street to protest the war.

- 1968
 - January - Tet Offensive launched.
 - February - UNC establishes a system to advise students about the draft.
 - March - My Lai Massacre — American forces conduct a vicious and shocking "search and destroy" mission.
 - President Lyndon B. Johnson announces he won't run for re-election.
 - 15 UNC students arrested at a protest against Dow Chemical, maker of Napalm.
 - April - Martin Luther King Jr. slain in Memphis.
 - 300-500 students stage all-day rally to protest the war.
 - June - Attorney General Robert Kennedy assassinated.
 - August - Violent dispersal of protesters at 1968 National Democratic Convention in Chicago.
 - November - Richard Nixon elected president, calling for "law and order."
- 1969
 - October - UNC participates in nationwide protest, students and faculty walk out of class to participate in anti-war activities.
- 1970
 - May - The United States invades Cambodia.
 - Six Kent State University students killed by National Guard troops.
 - 4000-6000 UNC students, faculty and staff march down Franklin Street and shut down the University.
- 1975
 - April - Fall of Saigon.

SOURCE: DTH ARCHIVES, WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA

DTH/JAKE ZARNIGAR, BRIANNA BUSCH, BRIN SWANKE

Student culture makes protesting thing of past

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
ASSISTANT SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS EDITOR

The Tet Offensive — have you heard of it? "I've heard of it, but I don't know what it is," said a sophomore business major.

"Does that have something to do with the Fourth of July?" asked a sophomore in biology.

No, not even close.

"That's Vietnam," said a junior in political science. "1971? Getting warmer."

"It was a surprise attack. The North Vietnamese invaded South Vietnam, and they attacked our soldiers, too," said a

senior in industrial relation and economics.

That's right!

"And it turned the tide of public opinion against the war," added a senior in political science, who happened to be sitting in the Undergraduate Library reading a book on political knowledge.

For students 30 years ago today, the Tet Offensive wasn't part of a history lesson. It headlined the nightly news.

On Jan. 30, 1968, Vietcong and North Vietnamese troops launched their bloodiest offensive to date, violating a truce agreement and seizing the American embassy in Saigon.

SEE KNOWLEDGE, PAGE 5

Saigon sieged, campuses seethe

Thirty years ago, the Tet Offensive enraged UNC students and sparked a campus anti-war movement.

BY MICHAEL MANNING
STAFF WRITER

Forces surged into South Vietnam, briefly seizing control of the American embassy and parts of Saigon.

Thirty years ago on Jan. 30, 1968, the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese army launched the Tet Offensive, attacking South Vietnam at 1 a.m. during a three-day truce called to observe the traditional Vietnamese lunar New Year.

Militarily, Tet was a failure for the North Vietnamese, but the attack was a psychological and political victory. In the United States, the fallout was dramatic. American media, troops and college students rose up in protest.

The Tet Offensive is frequently cited as a turning point. Some think it transformed doubts about American involvement into full-fledged opposition.

The Tet Offensive was front-page news in The Daily Tar Heel, but awareness of the war grew slowly at UNC.

"The students weren't too concerned. It didn't really engage them,"

said Joel Schwartz, a protest leader who came to UNC as a professor of political science in 1965.

Beginning with Tet, however, student involvement in the anti-war movement began to grow. And by May 1970, anti-war agitation grew so loud that protesters shut down the University and marched on Raleigh.

Protests and arrests

In February 1968, the University set up a draft-advising system for students.

In March, students jammed into South Building to protest on-campus

SEE VIETNAM, PAGE 5

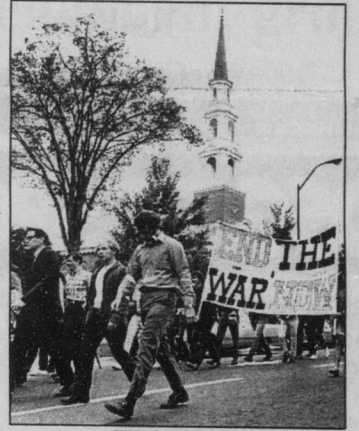
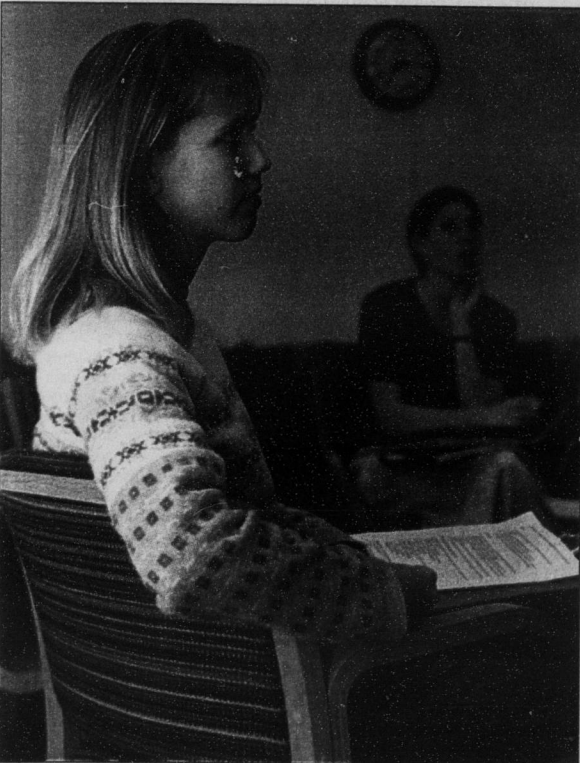


PHOTO COURTESY NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION
Protesters march past University United Methodist Church during a 1969 rally.



Sarah Thacker tries to increase awareness about sexual assault at UNC. She is co-founding Advocates for Sexual Assault Prevention.

Freshman starts sexual assault group

Sarah Thacker helped organize the Advocates for Sexual Assault Prevention.

BY LEIGH DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Freshman Sarah Thacker wants to help other women deal with a trauma she has already faced.

Thacker knows from experience that sexual assault is a reality, and she wants to help women who have been hurt regain their strength and courage.

Assaulted at the age of 13, she wants others to learn from her experience.

"I'm very open about it," Thacker said. "I don't want to be ashamed and hide anymore."

A biology and political science major from Cary, Thacker joined forces with freshman Kathryn Kooistra and Student Health Service employee Elizabeth Lindquist to start Advocates for Sexual Assault Prevention.

The trio is working to get ASAP officially recognized on campus. They are planning a tentative budget and writing a constitution and bylaws for the group.

Thacker's own ordeal spurred the idea for ASAP. She said after her assault she tried to hide and do what others said, but she realized even though physically fine, she was suffering internally. She wanted to join a support group,

but to be admitted, she had to explain the details of her assault and describe her existing support network.

Thacker does not want ASAP to function in that way.

"People have the choice to get help," she said. "I just want to give them help when they want it. I want people to be able to come in and sit in the back, be able to listen and not feel pressured to say a word."

Organizing ASAP takes up most of Thacker's free time and energy, but she finds her efforts are well-worth it.

"It takes a lot of my time," she said. "But I feel it's very important."

Kooistra, a Spanish and women's

MAKING A MARK

studies major from Cary, said, "I'm impressed with Sarah because she is responsible, dedicated, assertive and resourceful."

"She is the kind of person ASAP needs. She is placing sexual assault in the public's eyes and is raising their consciousness of it."

ASAP has several goals and objectives. The main goal is to inform students about sexual assault and to provide a forum for addressing the issue.

"No support groups exist on campus now. We want a place where victims and friends of victims can go," she said.

INSIDE Friday

UNC dismantles Coastal

The North Carolina women's basketball team got a breather from the ACC slate Wednesday, thumping Coastal Carolina 74-45 at Carmichael Auditorium. Page 7

Aging research

The UNC Institute on Aging received a five-year, \$3.1 million federal grant to create a systemwide Center on Minority Aging. Page 4

Come out and speak

The Elections Board is sponsoring a candidates' speak out Monday at 11 a.m. in the Pit. The audience can question elections candidates. Page 2

Today's weather

Mostly sunny, mid 50s
This weekend: Partly cloudy, mid 50s

The quickest way of ending a war is to lose it.

George Orwell