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The Daily Tar Heel

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BOARD EDITORIALS

Crunch Time

Thank goodness interim Chancellor Bill McCoy is in no hurry to be relieved of his duties.

At the rate the Chancellor Search Committee's work is progressing, he will probably be at UNC's helm for a while.

Committee Chairman Richard Stevens announced Friday that the committee had planned four extra meetings through May 25, five months after its original self-imposed deadline and four days after UNC-system President Molly Broad's Commencement one.

If nothing else, the last few months have shown that committee members sure are good at planning meetings.

As for doing its actual job, though, the committee has left much to be desired.

The process has been marked by setbacks, and all signs point to the fact that the committee is still scrambling to compile its list of finalists.

Even if the committee does manage to make its final decision by next month, it will be some time before McCoy can bid farewell to UNC.

The committee would then have to forward its two top picks to the Board of Trustees, which will make a recommendation to Broad. Broad must then submit her decision to the Board of Governors for final

approval.

If all goes well, the new chancellor could take over sometime this summer, McCoy told The Daily Tar Heel on Sunday. But that would mean that the new leader would not have much time to adjust to the new position before students return for the fall semester.

Broad's May deadline was set to ensure a chancellor would be in place by July 1, before the next academic year begins.

But given the new meeting schedule, it seems likely the new chancellor won't even know he or she got the job until June or July. That leaves little time to tie up loose ends at his or her former job before he or she would need to come to Chapel Hill.

The odds that a candidate from another school would agree to leave his or her position in late spring or early summer to start almost immediately are slim. The top candidate should have been selected by the committee's original self-imposed December deadline so that he or she could have time to plan accordingly.

It is an embarrassment that it is April and UNC seems to be no closer to having a new chancellor than it was when Michael Hooker died in June.

The committee needs to stop making deadlines and get down to business. McCoy has been generous enough already.

Price of Protection

The Chapel Hill Town Council is currently debating whether or not it should raise taxes to fund police officers in four local schools.

But the matter, while a noble cause, is one that should not be handled by the council or included in its budget.

The town splits the cost of Chapel Hill High School's student resource officer's salary with the school district, interim Police Chief Gregg Jarvis told The Daily Tar Heel on Monday.

Federal grant money, which is set to run out this fall, and school district funds pay for the other three officers, which are assigned to East Chapel Hill High School, Phillips Middle School and Culbreth Middle School, he said.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools officials have asked the council to continue funding the officers, but they should be looking in their own coffers for the additional money. After the grant money runs out, the district should absorb the cost.

Students in both Carrboro and Chapel Hill attend schools with officers, and to place the burden on Chapel Hill when neither Carrboro nor Orange County contribute funds would be unfair.

Additionally, the school district is responsible for providing the best learning environment for its students - and that includes safety.

As the district prepares its budget for the 2000-2001 school year, it should adjust fig-

ures so that paying for the officers is included. Jarvis said the annual cost of salaries, benefits and expenses for the officers totaled approximately \$219,000. The school district paid about \$66,000 for the officers last year.

The district and the town knew that the grant money, which the town obtained in 1998, would eventually end and that they would have to then finance the officers. If they didn't intend to fund the officers once the grant money ended, why did they invest in a program they did not plan to keep?

The officers perform services vital to maintaining a proper learning environment. Having a police officer in school deters students from acting out. And if students did fight, the school resource officer could quickly respond.

In crisis situations, officers can call emergency services faster because they are connected to police dispatch. They confer with representatives from the juvenile court system and make referrals to Teen Court.

Beyond discipline, the officers get to know students and act as a resource for students' questions about the law. Resource officers direct school traffic and provide security at athletic events.

Students deserve to learn in a safe environment, and parents should feel their young ones and Johns are secure in school.

School resource officers have improved Carrboro-Chapel Hill City Schools, and now it's the district's turn to pick up the tab for this service.



Counting Heads (and Bathrooms)

How much money do you make? What is your religion and ethnic origin? How many bathrooms are in your house?

If someone other than a close acquaintance asked you any of the above questions, you'd probably think he was rather rude (or in the case of the bathroom question, very weird). And yet these are just a select few of the questions the federal government expects you to answer if you are the one out of six households lucky enough to receive the 52-question "long" census form in the mail.

For anyone who is not aware, the Constitution states the federal government must count persons for the purpose of determining the number of congressional representatives in each state.

Surprisingly, Big Brother has other plans. According to a Census Bureau letter, "Census counts are used to distribute government funds to communities and states for highways, schools, health facilities and many other programs you and your neighbors need."

In other words, the census is now a vehicle for government handouts, as Jacksonville State University economist Christopher Westley explains.

"The federal government needs this data for the same purpose that Procter & Gamble needs market research," Westley says. "The difference being that P&G will use it to try to meet consumer demands through voluntary exchange, whereas the state will use it to force involuntary exchange - to identify municipalities that should be placed on the government dole and those that should fund them."

Indeed, \$180 billion is a lot of taxpayer money that the government is expected to dole out based on census information. In order to find out who the net beneficiaries will be, social engineers must find out where the most destitute of citizens reside.

This explains Question 17, my personal favorite, which asks whether or not anyone in your home has difficulty "learning, remembering or concentrating," or "dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home."

Can someone please tell me what on Earth that has to do with counting heads to determine congressional representatives?



JONATHAN TRAGER
THE LIBERTARIAN LETTERS

I do not see the relation, and fortunately, many other Americans do not either.

Sources from MSNBC to the Drudge Report assert that calls have been flooding the Census Bureau from irate citizens who are protesting the intrusive questions. Many of these individuals say they would rather pay the \$100 fine for not completely answering the form than comply.

Now it seems dissidents might not have to pay at all.

Just last week, U.S. District Judge Melinda Harmon ruled the Census Bureau could not threaten or prosecute citizens who refuse to answer what they deem to be personal questions.

Brought by a Houston attorney on behalf of five individuals, the suit most likely is headed for a battle on the floor of the Supreme Court.

In 1990, compliance was a pitiful 65 percent. This year, most officials expect it to be about 60 percent, and if the Supreme Court upholds the lower court's decision not to penalize individuals who refuse to answer all their census questions, compliance will likely drop even further.

Consequently, Census Director Kenneth Prewitt has sent a form letter in which he emphatically writes that census information will only be used for "statistical purposes" and that no unauthorized person can find out your personal information (he even writes "NO ONE" in all caps to show he is serious).

Sorry, Kenny, history has shown us that no good comes from centralized power collecting personal information about its citizens.

The most notorious American abuse came as a result of the 1940 census, during which most Japanese-Americans dutifully noted their

ethnicity on the census form, believing the bureau when it assured them such information would be classified.

But in 1942, the federal government began to imprison citizens of Japanese descent in concentration camps with the help of the census information submitted just two years earlier.

Of course, the bureau never disclosed any individual's name or address.

Instead, the bureau told the Justice Department which census tracts (neighborhoods) had high proportions of citizens with Japanese ancestry, thus technically keeping its promise of confidentiality.

Likewise, the Census Bureau has already advertised a new commercial product, known as the TIGER (Topical Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing) system, which will help marketers and credit bureaus gather data on individual households. Names and addresses will be omitted, but the other "confidential" census data will be divulged.

At best, the 2000 Census is just a nosy government attempt to pry into the private lives of its citizens.

At worst, it is a way for social planners to use personal information stored in a collective database to justify new transfer programs in accordance with their preconceived notions of "equality."

Government questions become more detailed and invasive with each new census. By undermining personal privacy, the Census Bureau is playing an active role in the erosion of individual liberty.

Therefore, I hereby offer a Census 2000 version that would not only uphold the Constitutional mandate for enumeration but also substantially boost compliance:

Question 1: How many people live at your residence?

The End.

And if, for whatever reason, you voluntarily choose to include bathroom information, you would certainly be free to do so.

Jonathan Trager is a senior journalism and mass communication major from Long Island, N.Y. who believes the government has wiretapped his brain. Send messages via electric impulse to trager@email.unc.edu.

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes submissions from its readers for its Viewpoints page every Monday. Guest columns should be about 800 words, written by no more than two people and discuss an issue relevant to DTH readers. Submissions should be e-mailed to editdesk@unc.edu and are due by 5 p.m. the Wednesday before the column will appear. Publication is not guaranteed. For more information, contact Editorial Page Editor Scott Hicks at 962-0245.

READERS' FORUM

Column Writers Insult Non-Christians, Owe Them an Apology

TO THE EDITOR:

I might be a Christian - but that's about all I have in common with Josh Self and Marty Baldwin. Their Viewpoints column of April 3 ("Relativism Runs Counter to Tenets of Christianity") was one of the most callous and condescending things I've ever read in a newspaper of any sort.

Self and Baldwin seem to imply that anyone who isn't a Christian doesn't have a real grip on right and wrong. I have to wonder - how many non-Christian friends do they have? I have several non-Christian friends who are as morally upright as they come - even more so than some of the Christians I've encountered.

Self and Baldwin owe an apology to every non-Christian on this campus.

Darrell Lucas
Senior
Journalism and Mass Communication

Letter Writer's Reference to Meditation Not Necessarily Racist

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm writing in response to Rishi Kotiya's March 29 letter. Kotiya's claim that Julie Mancuso is a racist, in support of Amol Naik's column, has absolutely no merit.

The phrase "meditate a little longer" could have been an attack on Naik's race and religion by Mancuso, or a vehicle for overreaction for Kotiya.

As a black male, I don't automatically assume that someone believes that I am ignorant and can only communicate in ebionics when they say "What's up?" For me "What's up?" is equivalent to "Hello."

Saying the word "meditate" to an Indian does not automatically equate a reference to Hinduism. Maybe for Mancuso, "Meditate a little longer in your dank cave and come out when you actually have something to say" was the equivalent of, "think a little before you waste valuable newspaper space with your hedonistic and

condescending thoughts," not "Get on on your knees and meditate, you Hindu."

"Racist" is an extremely powerful word, and it is also a word that was brazenly thrown about by Kotiya. It's almost as bad as Naik throwing out references to beer, women, burritos and "dank" every week.

It's true that the "serious" column often gets old. Naik obviously attempts to add a little humor to The Daily Tar Heel, but does he deserve one-fourth of the back page when most times he and Kotiya are the only ones laughing?

Adaam Hukins
Sophomore
History

WXYC's Eclectic Style Relief From Monotony Of Other Local Stations

TO THE EDITOR:

Before Spring Break, several letters lambasted WXYC, demanding a more "mainstream" approach.

This is simple gluttony for punishment when there are several stations already beating the same few songs like a dead horse.

WXYC managers screen music so the station can offer something unique. "Why bother?" one might ask. Because music, like anything, is a process, and "greats" evolve from experimentation.

Van Gogh, Galileo, Dickinson and Jesus, though controversial in their time, have each made significant advances to humankind.

Furthermore, WXYC has successfully promoted many of the same beloved "mainstream" acts that first came through Chapel Hill years ago while their music was still largely unrecognized. The Smashing Pumpkins' fond memories of their first concert here prompted a return that sold out overnight. Likewise, the Squirrel Nut Zippers premiered on WXYC's "Back Yard BBQ" and went on to achieve international fame.

The flip side is that Chapel Hill gets to enjoy many benefits of a well-recognized music scene.

Another criticism was that the station fails to reflect the musical taste of the student body. There's an obvious lack of input, for jocks are always encouraging listeners to make suggestions. Furthermore, disc jockeys go to great lengths to satisfy difficult requests by playing songs of the same artists or within the same genre.

Other people attack WXYC's eclectic mix, preferring a pre-fab blend instead, but when an entire repertoire is homogenized, you stand little chance of reprieve.

It seems more comforting to know that a piece you happen to dislike will be followed by something completely different that you might actually enjoy, possibly for the first time.

WXYC should be commended for its vanguard approach. The only disappointment I have is that its tower doesn't transmit far enough, for such great programming could broaden the horizons of an even larger audience.

Dan Stern
Groundswoker
North Carolina Botanical Garden



The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments. Letters should be no longer than 300 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. 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: editdesk@unc.edu.