

**LA PETITE**  
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No matter what the DCD decides, Wright said, all parents, regardless of what day-care they used, needed to make themselves aware of conditions and efforts from staff to improve problems.

Chris Ketcham, assistant director of Chapel Hill Day-Care Center, said no

facility was immune to problems. But she said fixing them quickly was of utmost importance. "We've had no major problems (at Chapel Hill Day-Care Center)," she said. "But it's very important that you fix any minor problems within five days - just as long as you keep the children safe."

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**TUITION**  
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tuition increase is that it has no financial aid package. But if he's going to lobby for aid, that's totally different."

Jeff Nieman, a nonvoting student representative on the Board of Governors, said that given the unusual length of Moeser's opening speech to BOG members Friday, he had hoped for a more definitive stand against higher tuition.

"I was disappointed to hear there was no specific commitment to keeping tuition low," Nieman said. "I'm not super-excited about my initial impression on that."

Junior Michal Osterweil, also a member of the coalition, said while she was excited about the idea of developing a

working relationship with Moeser, she realized the coalition would have their hands full while fighting for access.

"Our focus right now is to establish a two-way legitimate relationship," she said. "We're excited about this new beginning, but we have a tough road ahead of us."

Osterweil said the coalition planned to keep Moeser accountable to whatever tuition plans he put forth.

The tuition for in-state students at Nebraska for 1999-2000 was \$2,829, making the school's tuition the eighth highest among its 11 peer institutions. In-state tuition at UNC stands at \$2,364, with a proposed \$600 increase in the hands of the state legislature.

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**PENNY VOTES**  
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eral budget's expenditures, because few people polled would give the military the money it actually receives. According to information from the War Resisters League, 47 percent of the U.S. Federal Budget for fiscal year 2001 will go toward military spending. "It's promoting the military when it could be solving real domestic problems," said Marilyn Dyer, a volunteer at the poll.

Joel Wilson, a graduate student in the School of Social Work and the School of Law, gave most of his pennies to the jars labeled "education" and "other."

"Education is an equalizing opportunity the people of the U.S. deserve," he said. "The courts should also be given more money because the law is the foundation of the government."

Jon Allen, a graduate student in the Department of Biology, put three pennies in the environment jar.

"There is all this emergency funding for natural disasters like Hurricane Floyd but not enough for slow emergencies like hog waste," he said. "We get billions of dollars for the short-term, but in the long-term, there's not enough being done about people drinking polluted water."

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**MEDIA**  
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turned their fingers to the same medium they had just spent days glued to.

They claimed the two shooters at Columbine acted under the influence of a violent mass media - newspapers, television shows and the Internet.

But others said the mass media merely served as a convenient scapegoat for a public unable or unwilling to deal with the real roots of school violence.

Ron Stephenson, executive director of the National School Safety Center, said the news media could play an important role in either preventing or causing school violence, depending on how reporters approached the issue.

Stephenson said reporters should place equal emphasis on the aftermath of the shooters as they did on the event itself to keep from possibly glamorizing the event in some youths' minds.

But Bob Giles, former newspaper reporter and editor and senior vice president for the media think tank Freedom Forum, said the Columbine coverage was handled more sensitively than other school shootings.

"There's nothing I've seen in the coverage of Columbine that seemed to glorify violence," Giles said. "They covered what the shooters did and the effects on the community, but that's all."

He said reporters took care to stay behind police barricades, and the television media waited to broadcast a student jumping out of a window until they were sure the student was safe and alive.

"Most significantly, when you review the videos, you see interviews with students done beside their parents," Giles said. "To me, that means they got parental permission."

"Part of a paper's community responsibility is to deal with the tragedy and with the healing process."

News media should exercise some caution in its portrayal of controversial events, he said. "It's not how you cover it, but how you present it," he said. "To readers, a story is characterized by the headlines and photographs. They either portray the story as sensational or as a horrible tragedy."

Regardless of how media portrayed the Columbine shootings, Stephenson said the widespread media coverage was one of the event's few positive outcomes. "The media coverage after the Columbine shooting showed school officials the need to prepare against something like this," he said. "Hopefully, it will help prevent a shooting."

But Stephenson said the members of the media should exercise some restraint when approaching a topic like school shootings and recognize the role they play in the community by disseminating accurate information.

The Columbine incident prompted many of these ethical questions in the wake of the event's pervasive coverage.

And Giles said the horrific nature of an event like the Columbine shootings caused people to turn toward the media for information but also to criticize it.

"Tragedies cause people to be critical of the news media because the event is so terrible, and the media is responsible for bringing it into their homes," he said.

UNC journalism Professor Jane Brown, who studies the media's effect on society, said mass media played a strong role in school violence, especially in the Columbine shootings.

"The two young men (who killed students at Columbine) felt they were not part of society," Brown said.

"They created a new world for themselves, using a new form of media - the Internet."

She said the Internet allowed people who never ordinarily would have met to contact each other, but mass media as a whole also added to the problem.

"The mass media today provides support for being fearful and disrespectful," Brown said. "Adolescents have grown up with a persistent message that violence is the way to solve problems."

But Giles said psychiatric interviews with surviving shooters of other school shootings showed that none said they were influenced by the mass media.

Other researchers also said mass media should not bear the blame for the wave of violence hitting schools.

Violence researcher Mike Males, author of "Framing Youth," a book about the myths adults have about adolescents, said media criticism was blown

out of proportion after the incident.

"Compared with other factors, media's influence (on school violence) is nearly nil," he said.

Males pointed out that children in European countries were exposed to similar - if not identical - mass media messages, but their countries still showed lower rates of school violence than in the United States.

"(Youth violence) can't be addressed until people realize that youth issues are connected to adult behaviors," he said.

Males said it was easier for people to attack the mass media instead of the underlying cultural issues contributing to school violence like poverty.

"They don't know what to do (about poverty)," he said. "It's easier ... to propose solutions like restricting media violence that doesn't really cost anything."

Jane Grady, assistant director for the Study and Prevention of Violence, also said the causes of school violence were too complex to attribute to a single factor such as the mass media. "The whole community is responsible," she said.

Grady said families, peers, school officials and politicians all played a role in preventing or causing school violence. "They just can't point their fingers at the media," she said.

But Brown said the prevalence of mass media increased children's access to violence and worsened the problem.

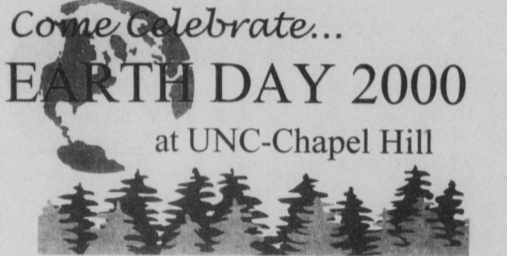
She said computer games, particularly the first-person shooter games like "Doom" and "Quake" which have both sold millions of copies, heavily influenced violent behavior. In first-person shooters, the player typically slays monsters with weapons like chain saws.

"They're desensitizing and conditioning players into shooting to kill," she said. "Regardless of what role, if any, mass media plays in school violence, Brown said the medium existed in a complex relationship with the world as a whole."

"It's a cyclical process. The media presents a narrow view of how the world works. It's more a spotlight than a reflection, and they focus on the bizarre and titillating. The world responds to that image, and so the world changes."


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Please join us for the following activities:

- ◉ Reverend Carrie Bolton ◉  
Tuesday, April 25, 7:00pm Gardner Hall  
Rev. Bolton will speak about local environmental issues.
- ◉ Earth Day Celebration ◉  
Wednesday, April 26, 10:00am-3:00pm Polk Place  
The celebration is entitled, "Sustainable College Kids: Things You Can Do Every Day." There will be information about campus and community groups, workshops, crafts, music, food and fun.
- ◉ Senator Ellie Kinnaird ◉  
Wednesday, April 26, 2:00pm Polk Place  
State Senator Ellie Kinnaird will speak about local and state environmental issues.
- ◉ SEAC's 4th Annual Vegetarian Banquet ◉  
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