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BOARD EDITORIALS

Cold and Hungry

Students returning from Thanksgiving Break found locked doors when going to Lenoir Dining Hall for lunch. Demand better service.

Hungry after getting back from break? Don't count on using your meal plan. For even though UNC residence halls reopened at noon on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, Lenoir Dining Hall did not open its automatic doors until 5 p.m. that day. That's ridiculous.

Students purchase meal plans for the convenience of eating on campus. So when they begin returning from a break, services should be made available to them, including dining halls. Students should not have to scavenge around campus for food – or pay money out of pocket for a meal on Franklin Street.

Carolina Dining Services would argue that it is not profitable to open dining halls for the staggered midday arrivals of students. The small number of students eating would not be able to cover operating expenses.

But CDS is not a business in the purest sense. Most people who eat at campus dining halls already payed for their meals through meal plans or flex dollars. So for CDS, it is more profitable to be open fewer hours.

But the dining halls are there to provide a service in a cost-effective way, not to turn a huge profit.

CDS is here to provide food for the University. It would seem logical for them to operate when there are students on campus.

If CDS takes a financial hit a few days a year, they can make it up. After all, many people do not use all of their meals, and students do not get refunds for unused meals.

Top of Lenoir and every food station in Lenoir does not have to be up and running on slow days such as last Sunday.

But CDS should at least provide some small number of dining options for students on campus, whether it be Chick-Fil-A or simple sub sandwiches. They pay for the service – and it is the responsibility of CDS to accommodate their needs as best as possible.

Unfortunately, Lenoir Dining Hall was not the only door locked on Sunday.

Student Stores was closed all day, so after finding the dining halls vacant, students hungry at lunchtime did not even have the option of grabbing a candy bar or soft drink right across the Pit.

Students: Let CDS know that you want some dining service as soon as residence halls open.

It's your money and time.

Benefits for All

Rural N.C. counties strongly supported the higher education bond. Now, the state must ensure that those residents reap the rewards.

Hertford County, North Carolina doesn't have its own university. In fact, it doesn't even have a community college.

But residents of rural North Carolina counties understood the importance of education and supported the Higher Education Facilities Improvement Bond in high numbers.

Why is that? Rural counties might not seem to be great beneficiaries of the \$3.1 billion bond. But the truth is, their residents stand to gain a great deal.

Many rural residents enroll in nearby community colleges for job training. And the bond allocates \$600 million for improvements to our state's 59 community colleges.

By providing funds for enrollment growth at the 16 UNC-system universities, more rural students will be able to earn a college degree and land a good job after school.

Hertford County's support of the higher education bond is indicative of widespread support in all corners of the state.

Voters have put the money in the hands of legislative leaders and university administrators. It is now their job to see that the money is spent in a fair and cost-effective way.

One responsibility: ensuring the admission policy of all UNC-system schools admit a number of students equal in percentage to each county's representation in the state.

Higher education in North Carolina is not solely designed to beef up the transcripts of suburban students looking for good jobs when they graduate. It is a gateway out of poverty for many people in the state.

These students come from rural areas of North Carolina, sometimes without the solid test scores of a student from Charlotte. But when they earn their degree, they leave on equal footing as their Charlotte peers.

Even more importantly, these rural students get quality jobs and exit the cycle of poverty that is nearly impossible to break without a college education.

Sending students to UNC-system schools from these rural counties dissolves pockets of poverty throughout rural North Carolina.

The UNC-system is as much a resource to rural areas as it is to urban centers.

The state must be wise stewards of the billions of dollars pouring into the universities and community colleges across the state.

North Carolina has always committed itself to a form of higher education that provides opportunities to all of its residents, even those living in rural counties.

And with the plethora of opportunities made available through the higher education bond, now is the time to bestow the benefits to all of North Carolina's residents.

Would You Like to Be a Campus Celebrity?

Apply to be a columnist, editorial board member or cartoonist for spring 2001. Applications are available at the DTH front office in Suite 104 of the Student Union and are due back by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6. Those chosen will be notified by 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11. Questions? Call Editorial Page Editor-select Jonathan Chaney at 962-4086.

READERS' FORUM

UNC Failed to Give Coach Carl Torbush Chance to Succeed

TO THE EDITOR:

I was greatly disappointed to learn that the University had dismissed Carl Torbush as head football coach.

In making this decision, the University chose to listen to a discontented minority of fans; it failed to make the best decision for the future of Carolina football.

This action was particularly painful to me because I know that Coach Torbush is not only a fine coach, but a fine human being. The first N.C. native to coach UNC since 1943, Torbush has shown his humility and high moral standards throughout his coaching career.

He helped his players become winners in every aspect of their lives: academically, athletically and morally.

This, I think, is the reason that Coach Torbush's players have shown so much respect for him and rallied around him after last year's difficult season.

By firing a man who has brought class to the football program on the field, as well as off, the University is making the wrong

decision both for the players and for the success of the football program overall. The current coaching staff is one of the best in the ACC.

And had they been given a chance, I believe that Carolina would have risen to be one of the top teams in the conference. In seeking another coach, the athletic director is chasing the wind.

I do not believe that the University will be able to get a coach better than Carl Torbush.

Ben Milam
Freshman
History

Death Penalty Column Offensive, Crammed Full Of Contradictory Ideas

TO THE EDITOR:

Jon Hoffman's opinion piece on death row inmates, "Death Row Inmates Treated in Too Humane Manner" (Nov. 27), made me so sick to my stomach that I regretted trying to eat lunch while reading it. I was offended not just by the manner in which he described Mr. Byrd's murder (for a hor-

rific crime it was), but I was equally horrified by the notion that Mr. Hoffman believes the same fate should be thrust upon someone else. If it is sick and twisted to drag one person to his death, why is it acceptable to do the same thing to another person (even if he did something very bad)? And if self-defense is the only justification for taking a life, would Mr. Hoffman consider "capital punishment" self-defense? Or is there a special category for justifiable murder when the government does it?

In this country, we recognize the wrongfulness of murder and to show how wrong it is, we kill people. We're more likely to kill blacks and significantly more likely to put to death people who murder whites. And we might occasionally kill people who are innocent of the crimes to which they are convicted. None of this is justice.

Killing is wrong. "Capital punishment" is killing. Ergo, capital punishment is wrong.

Even more wrong is the mere idea that we should recreate murders in order to punish the offenders. That's just sick.

Anne Wolfley
Senior
Psychology

When Toeing Party Line, At Least Back Up Politics With Valid Reasoning

TO THE EDITOR:

I think that the students at UNC seriously need to examine their political beliefs – and the almost violent reaction they have to anyone opposing said beliefs.

Every Tuesday and Thursday before class, I enjoy reading the columns by Craig Warner and William McKinney. Being neither a Republican nor a Democrat, I am free to view these columns with what I consider to be an objective and nonpartisan analysis. What I find upon analysis is incredibly disturbing. It seems to me that a vast majority of people are Democrats without realizing what that means. Similar to William "I enjoy putting utterly biased slander funny only to fellow Democrats as people's middle names" McKinney, what you then get is a mass of people so devoid of intellect that all they can say is "Republican bad. Bush bad. Gore good."

This, of course, is ridiculous. That is not to say that either candidate is superior to the other (I personally would have preferred Harry Browne, the much-neglected

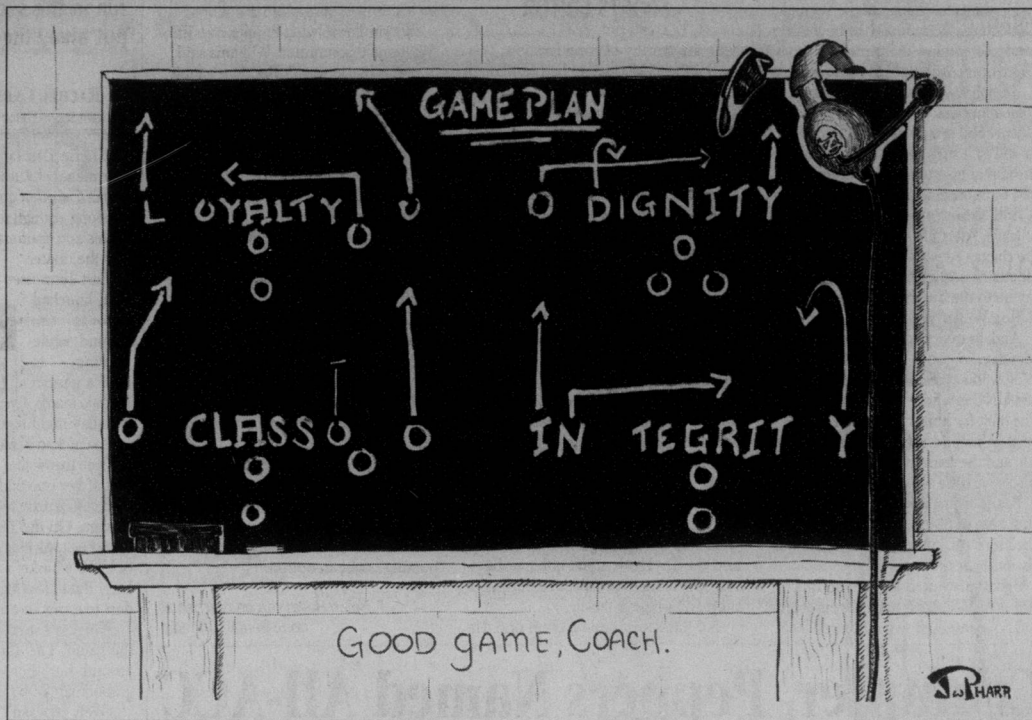
Libertarian candidate), but if you're going to believe in something, be a member of a party and vote so that your views are imposed upon all the rest of the population, at least have an inkling of an idea what you're believing in.

By voting Democratic, you are mandating the government to take large portions of your paycheck to pay for things in which you might not necessarily believe. By voting Republican, you are allowing the government to restrict your rights and tell you what you can and cannot do with your love, your body and your life. Both parties are stealing something from you, but at least the Republicans aren't trying to pretend that they're honest.

That said, I strongly admire Craig Warner's dedication to at least attempting to prove his point. You might not like what he has to say, but at least he is giving an arguably valid reason for his assertions.

Someday, perhaps, all the rest of us can overcome the prevailing phobia of self-analysis and actually have justification for what we claim to believe.

Andrea Weber
Senior
German Studies



Looking for Substantive Opinions

"Harsh Light" has been an experience. From the beginning, I've been determined to write a serious column of ideas. Further, I wanted to cut through the propaganda that commonly distorts our public dialogue by emphasizing the facts. I also thought I'd ("occasionally") drop a few hints about my own opinions.

As it turns out, this combination is harder to achieve than one might think. For one thing, balancing fact with opinion is a delicate act. In my series on racism, I received complaints because I used too few facts. Then I cited facts and statistics – and received more complaints because the facts were "insulting."

UNC can be a tough crowd. Nevertheless, my semester on your back page has been a great and humbling adventure – and I'm proud of the conversations I've shared with you during the past months.

Accordingly, I'd like to offer a quick thanks to all those who have helped make "Harsh Light" a meaningful experience.

First, my wholehearted gratitude goes to the editorial page of The Daily Tar Heel – and especially to my editor Jonathan Chaney.

I often hear my fellow conservatives complain that the DTH is biased against them. My experience has proven to me that any liberal bias at the DTH is simply due to an abundance of liberal writers – not to any censorship or unfairness. The editors have never tried to edit my content, censor my ideas or challenge my editorial freedom. For this I offer sincere thanks.

Second, I'd like to offer thanks to Megan Botteg, Jonathan Lewis, Locoya Hill and my brethren in the Clef Hangers (especially Josh Arthur) for their help in evaluating my ideas – and for their willingness to make objections while evaluating my work.

Finally, thanks to all who sent encouragement, dissent and ideas. I have been truly inspired and humbled by our conversations and debates, and I sincerely hope that you'll stop me on campus to keep the conversation alive in the next six months.

And now, a challenge. For the next two weeks, the DTH editorial page will be accepting applications for column-



CRAIG WARNER
HARSH LIGHT

nists and editorial board members. The applications take some work, and the actual job takes a lot of work. But if you have strong ideas, there is no better forum for sharing them at UNC than a DTH column.

Details are available daily this week on this very page. I hope particularly that those conservatives who have given me such eloquent and passionate encouragement in past months will consider taking up the gauntlet and applying for my job.

It's worth the work. Trust me.

Meanwhile, I remain serious about writing a column of substance – and I feel compelled to put my thoughts about the recent election on record. Thus, five comments on the Florida fiasco:

1) No matter what anyone says, it is fundamentally unfair to count the ballots of two counties in Florida under one standard (hand-counted dimpled ballots included), while counting every other county in Florida under a different standard (standard machine counting with dimpled ballots excluded).

Every vote should be counted or discarded under the same uniform standard – even if that uniform standard leaves out certain questionable votes.

And yes, I'd think so even if it didn't benefit the GOP.

2) This Democratic talk about the "will of the people" being more important than the original rules of the election (i.e. the original certification deadline on Nov. 14) is nonsensical propaganda.

In a functioning democracy, the will of the people is divined by procedures and criteria set up before the election – not by procedures

altered constantly afterward by local partisans. If the rules are imperfect (and they almost always are) then we should change them – for the next election. But the constant rearranging of the law and the rules in Florida – after the fact – has been blatantly unfair.

3) The Electoral College is good. It ensures that citizens in each state have weight in the election, it preserves the individuality and power of the states, it protects us from the dangers of mob rule and it requires presidential candidates to address the concerns of almost every region of the nation instead of just a few metropolitan centers.

The United States is a democratic constitutional republic of federated States – not a single conglomerated pure democracy. Long live the Electoral College. Long live the Republic.

4) What's all this I hear from Joe Lieberman about "Republican mob rule" in the streets of Florida? Let's be realistic here, folks.

Left-wingers spent the last 40 years burning down ROTC buildings and barricading the doors of college classrooms – without a solitary criticism from the Connecticut senator. Now conservatives want to chant in the street to protest an unfair recount process (with no real violence or property damage) and Lieberman thinks they're a "danger to the rule of law." Sorry, Joe. Free speech is for conservatives too.

5) For the record, Al Gore did not win the popular vote. He's ahead by fewer than 200,000 votes, while 1 million overseas absentee ballots remain valid but uncounted (they're irrelevant in their respective states). These ballots (mostly military) heavily favor Bush.

The point? The popular vote is a statistical draw – and Gore should stop trying to bash the president-elect over the head with it.

Craig Warner is an SWM (6'1", 190 lbs.) ISO conservative, Christian SF to share deep conversations, high ambitions and athletic ventures. Tolerance for strong personalities, opinions and sarcasm an absolute must. Write him at cmwarner@email.unc.edu.



The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticism. Letters to the editor 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 for space, clarity and vulgarity. Publication is not guaranteed. 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.