

When Access is Threatened, Students Must Shout

A friend asked me the other day, "Retroactive tuition increase? Is that legal? That's like going to Best Buy, buying a TV, and then two months later they tell you that you have to pay an extra \$200!" That's exactly what is going on in the N.C. Senate and House of Representatives.



JUSTIN YOUNG
GUEST COLUMNIST

are back to square one with the Senate awaiting the House's approval of a 5 percent increase in addition to the 4 percent that we've already paid from the Board of Governors.

Most of this decision-making has been taking place behind a lot of smoke and mirrors. Closed meetings, or "open meetings" — where those attending aren't allowed to speak — throws access to higher education out the window. In addition, some of these meetings were scheduled on summer holidays when many constituents were sunning at the beach.

Where is the opportunity for voters in this state to get involved in those

decisions that affect them? Why can't we communicate to those that represent us? If you needed to track me down in my office, or on the phone, or by e-mail, I would make it a priority to get back in touch with you. How else am I supposed to be held accountable to those I represent? So maybe the N.C. General Assembly just doesn't care about those it represents, or at least that's the message being sent to a lot of frustrated students.

Any tuition increase threatens access to the University! There are already students who can't afford an education at UNC-Chapel Hill, or at any of the UNC-system schools. Even worse, a retroactive increase doesn't give students time to prepare for the financial burden it would present, and it sets a horrible precedent for future increases.

In terms of financial aid, careful consideration needs to be given to assure that students are given equitable resources to deal with the increase, as opposed to financial debt that would come from loans. In this case, most will have to apply for loans instead of grants because money has already been allocated for the semester. The University should consider ways to help soften the blow of the increase being decided upon. Perhaps we should put it off until next semester to give students and their families more time to better handle the increase.

Basically what I'm trying to say is that big decisions are being made without the student voice being respected. Communication about our needs can't come from me alone. We need everyone to step up and tell the General

Assembly how we feel.

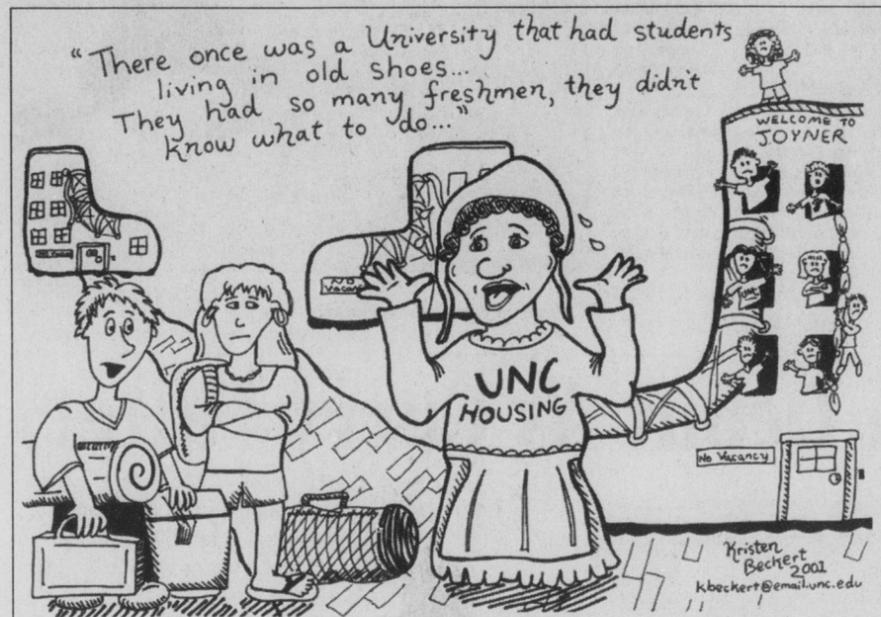
I mean think about it. You go and buy your first car, a nice sport utility vehicle or trendy Toyota Corolla, and after you drive it off the lot you get a call saying, "Yeah, one more thing, I know you already paid for the car, but we're going to have to charge you a little extra, or just take the car back!" That's bad business, and the General Assembly puts the University in an awful position when bad decision making like this takes place within their chambers. We need to raise legislative awareness on this campus! We need to be involved, and I want to help.

Contact your representatives to tell them that although the state's budget is not finalized, we, as well as our families, have already decided on ours; dipping into our wallets with an increase

imposed during the semester is unfair! You can contact the General Assembly through its Web site at <http://www.ncleg.net>, or e-mail them through our Web site at <http://www.unc.edu/student/orgs/studgov/fight>. Tell them how this will affect your paying for a quality education!

We will be out in the Pit today at noon to join together to make a statement and start our crusade of legislative involvement and awareness. Through the Carolina Lobby Corps students can get involved in the issues and make an impact. Please come out and voice your concerns and join other students as we begin to fight back and have our voices heard!

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When Sports and Commerce Collide on the Playing Field

A week before I arrived in Chapel Hill, I sat in the tightly erected seats at Fenway Park — the home of the Boston Red Sox. With my father to the left of me, my mother to the right, it seemed picturesque. The summer-time rays put us at ease, the company of the two people who truly loved me created a sense of euphoria, and despite being a adamant Yankee fan, I knew that Fenway Park is a national landmark — similar to Bunker Hill, Mount Rushmore, and Hinton James.

JON HOFFMAN
POINT OF VIEW

However, the building that houses baseball immortals soon will be replaced by an elaborate corporate extravaganza that will knock the Sox off (pardon the pun) the competition. Soon one might see Polaroid Park sprawled across the outfield facade. As much as I hate to admit it, the sports world has changed.

I am a sports purist and I enjoy seeing a stadium remain unaffected. My father saw Ebbetts Field as his second home, entering the Boston Garden was a religious experience, and Lambeau Field still holds the fiercest home field advantage in the NFL. Where is my generation supposed to go for those memories? Safeco Field, QualCom, and Continental Arena?

It's clear as a Chapel Hill sky that the sports world has sold out for valuable cash and prizes. It's something so simple and subliminal that one probably missed the transition. One of the true behind-the-scenes legends of the

NFL was Jack Kent Cooke of the Washington Redskins. In 1961, Kent Cooke bought a 25 percent share of the team and became the majority owner of Redskins by 1969.

Upon his death, Kent Cooke's will stipulated that the team be sold and the proceeds donated to charity, and so it was, with Daniel Snyder becoming the new owner. Upon assuming control of the team, Snyder made it his business to strike Cooke's name from the field, renaming it Redskins Stadium until he could find a sponsorship deal. Now, what was once Jack Kent Cooke Stadium is now FedEx Park, and Snyder is \$500 million richer.

And this stadium-naming syndrome is not foreign to us. The Entertainment and Sports Arena has placed "This Space for Rent" sign on its front door — seeking out the highest bidder. Charlotte plans to erect a brand new basketball complex that will sting any visitor with excitement, but it too seeks corporate sponsorship.

As much as I hate to declare, there are some benefits to sponsorship. Particularly in baseball, where there is no salary cap or revenue sharing, medium-market teams like San Francisco, Milwaukee, and Pittsburgh need new stadiums to stay competitive and profitable. Milwaukee's new retractable-dome stadium keeps fans coming even when the weather is horrible, as it often is, and the sponsor could hardly be better connected to the team.

Unfortunately, there are ways in which commercialism in sports can become too disgusting: KFC, for example, had plans to buy the Vancouver Grizzlies and move them to Louisville to become the Kentucky Colonels, playing in a stadium called the KFC Bucket. The plan has fallen through, but think of the possibilities.

There are certain lines of respectability that corporate sponsorship, cannot cross, although compromises can be reached. The new Broncos stadium, Invesco Field at Mile High, is such an example: Invesco is happy to gain great exposure, the owners are happy to have the money to help build the stadium (which was partially funded on a 1/2 cent increase to state sales tax), and fans are happy to still call the stadium Mile High.

Purists such as I may not be happy with the big-money era of sports, but then again, I must footnote that one of our favorite ballparks already holds the name of a gum company (thank you, Mr. Wrigley). Is there a solution? Unfortunately I would have to say no. Although I don't plan on entertaining any offers to travel to see the cursed Red Sox play, if the obligation arises I might receive a camera instead of a scorecard as I enter the gates. No worries though — I know my team in the Bronx is home for good, playing in the house that Ruth built. Oh wait, I forgot, George Steinbrenner owns the Yankees. Shoot.

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Land of the Free? Student Press Fights to Be Heard

"It can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate."
— U.S. Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas, writing for the majority in *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District*



KATIE HUNTER
EDITOR

Nearly two years ago, as a student in Chuck Stone's Censorship class, I read with a certain degree of skepticism about instances in which the government — sometimes acting through public high school or university administrators — placed restrictions on the First Amendment rights of students.

An idealistic view of America as a place where the free and open exchange of ideas is universally heralded made me doubt tales of students who were punished for starting an underground newspaper, wearing a Bart Simpson T-shirt to class or engaging in some other equally "threatening" behavior.

But one thing I have learned during the last two years is that my notion that students' free expression rights are universally accepted was sorely mistaken.

I spent the summer working at the Student Press Law Center in Arlington, Va. The SPLC is a nonprofit group that provides free legal advice to student journalists. Specifically, I wrote stories for the center's magazine, which monitors student press issues across the country.

At the SPLC, I discovered that not only are the cases of censorship that make it into the textbooks true — they only represent the tip of the iceberg. Although the Supreme Court established a precedent for applying the First Amendment's freedom of expression guarantee to students in its 1969 *Tinker v. Des Moines* decision, students nationwide are presently being stripped of their free press rights.

While I was reporting for the SPLC's magazine, I spoke to a student editor who was suspended after the newspaper ran an editorial criticizing the administration's decision to feature a bikini-clad woman in the college's recruitment flier.

I spoke to a college newspaper editor who was removed from his position after he decided to run candidate endorsements during student elections.

I interviewed a student government president who

explained to me why he believed it was acceptable for him to completely eliminate funding for the campus newspaper after it published an editorial slamming the student government.

Needless to say, my experience this summer challenged my idealistic view of America as a place where all citizens share a common devotion to ensuring that no one's free expression rights are trampled.

But more importantly, hearing the personal accounts of students who have dealt first-hand with censorship made me realize how lucky I am to work at The Daily Tar Heel.

For those of you that don't know it, the DTH is funded completely independently of the University. Since 1993, the paper has not received any money from student fees and has been supported exclusively by advertising revenue.

Prior to this summer, I took for granted the editorial freedom that independent funding allows the DTH. Although we are students, DTH staff members cannot be punished for writing a critical editorial or a hard-hitting article.

Frankly, we can write whatever the hell we want to. But I have also realized that with the right to publish as we see fit comes an immense responsibility to subscribe to the highest standards of ethical journalism.

During my first week as DTH editor, I have had multitudes of conversations with editors where we have discussed whether we could do a particular story.

But the more important conversations have been about whether we should do a particular story.

Despite negative perceptions of the media in today's society, ethical journalism is something the people who work at the DTH take seriously. In an era where the sensationalistic and the scandalous has been thrust into the limelight, members of the DTH staff realize that it is more important than ever for student journalists to bring integrity to the field.

Interacting with people whose free press rights have been restricted has made me even more cognizant of the need for journalists to set high ethical standards.

Because if we as student journalists don't preserve our own integrity, we play into the hands of those who would argue that free expression should be a privilege granted by the government and not a right guaranteed all citizens.

A History of Hate: The Shameful Legacy of the Republican Party

Last week, the ugly side of the Republican Party reared its head once more. Republican state Rep. Don Davis of Harnett County circulated an e-mail throughout the N.C. General Assembly which stated that "Two things made this country great: white men and Christianity."

CHRIS BROOK AND
SUSAN NAVRRO
GUEST COLUMNISTS

When asked to apologize for distributing such hateful comments, Davis defended the e-mail saying, "there's a lot of it that's truth." Davis's actions underline the fact that the most consistent stance taken by leaders within the Republican Party in the past half century is that of hate-mongering against minorities.

This trend began with the furor surrounding Civil Rights Act of 1964. This act, which prohibited employment discrimination based on race, sex, national origin, or religion, was uniformly opposed by the Republican Party. Sen. Jesse Helms referred to this bill as "the most dangerous piece of legislation in American history." Why was this legislation so dangerous? Republicans, incapable of grasping the blatant and widespread discrimination against minorities and the disadvantaged, responded that it was unnecessary government intervention. While such a response reveals, at best, a party stunningly out of touch with reality, the true, racist rationale becomes clear when placed in perspective of actions taken by other Republican leaders.

During his administration, President Richard Nixon taped discussions with his closest advisers. When these tapes were made public by the Nixon White House during the Watergate scandal, they revealed not only that Nixon had schemed to steal the 1972 presidential election but also that he was also an incredible racist. Throughout the tapes,

Nixon refers to African-Americans as "niggers" and in one particularly notable exchange with a counselor, Donald Rumsfeld, exclaims that blacks "are basically just out of trees." Republican leaders, throughout the years, expressed sorrow over Nixon's comments, but their actions demonstrate their tacit approval for his conduct. Rumsfeld, who can be heard expressing his agreement throughout Nixon's diatribe against African-Americans, served as Secretary of Defense for both President Gerald Ford and currently holds the position under President George W. Bush.

Unfortunately, Republicans' bigotry is not reserved exclusively for African-Americans. Homosexuals are also a frequent target of the Republican Party's conservative wing. For example, in the 1996 presidential election, Bob Dole refused to meet with a group of gay Republican activists by the name of the Log Cabin Republicans. Even more notoriously, our great Sen. Helms sent his condolences to a personal friend whose son, Mark, had died from AIDS and wrote, "As for Mark, I wish he had not played Russian roulette with his sexual activity." Such a comment would not be welcome in the vast majority of America's living rooms, yet Republicans glorifies such intolerance as "standing by your principles."

Further, the 2000 presidential election confirms the rot at the core of the latest incarnation of Republican leadership. In 1999, as George W. Bush's campaign for the presidency began in earnest, word poured forth that Bush was a new, "compassionate conservative." The hollowness of this claim quickly became obvious. Following John McCain's shocking upset of Bush in the 2000 New Hampshire primary, it

was clear that Bush's road to the White House had met a serious obstacle. Bush's response to this? Bob Jones University. Bush visited this South Carolina campus which, at that time, stood by its claims that Catholicism and Mormonism were "frightening cults" and would not allow interracial dating among students. Caught with his proverbial compassionate britches down over the mistake, the Bush campaign held its ground and defended its decision to visit Bob Jones. After all, Bush folks argued, South Carolina's Democratic governor, Jim Hodges, had visited the campus as well. However, he had been watching his daughter perform in a play, not delivering a speech. When push came to shove, the new, "compassionate" Bush campaign snuggled up to the bigotry that has haunted the leadership of the Republican Party for the last half century.

The party of Lincoln is now a party that Lincoln would be embarrassed to call his own. While there are certainly many within the ranks of the party who harbor no ill will towards minorities, their more tolerant voices are all but silenced by the despicable words and actions of past and present Republican leadership. Any compassionate individual can recognize that all of America's hard-working individuals, regardless of their creed, sexual orientation, or color of their skin, have made this nation great. Unfortunately, the evidence demonstrates that the leadership of the Republican Party refuses to embrace the American ideals of compassion, empathy, and equality.

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