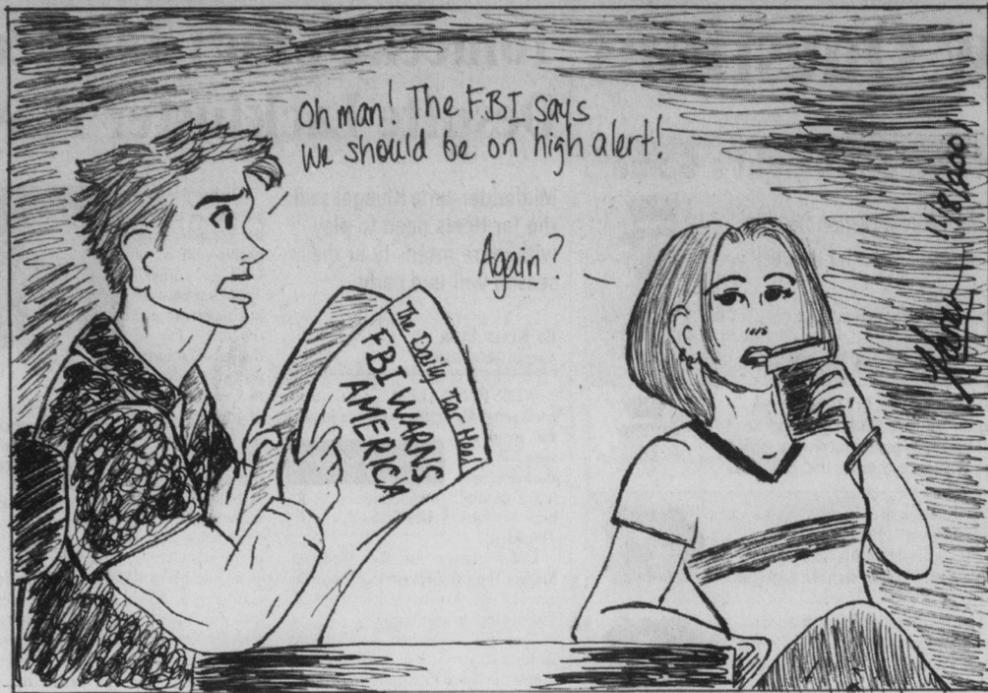


Opinion



Board Editorials

Money Maker ...

The University's plan to open a Qatari campus will benefit everyone involved

Here's a good rule of thumb: Never reject hundreds of millions of dollars unless some kind of illegal or immoral activity is involved. It's a rule that the University should follow as it considers establishing a satellite campus in the Middle Eastern nation of Qatar. The possibility of such a campus is one that benefits both parties.

Creating a UNC-Chapel Hill campus in Qatar could be a financial windfall that brings the University close to Chancellor James Moeser's goal of raising a billion dollars for the University.

Qatar will receive an addition to its growing educational area called Education City, in its capital city of Doha. Education City already contains satellite campuses of Cornell Medical School and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Kenan-Flagler will represent the business section of the city. The UNC-CH-Q campus will aid in the education of a number of

Qatari women, as the wife of Qatar's ruling emir has pledged that class size will consist of 60 percent women — much like "the ratio" here in Chapel Hill.

JON HARRIS

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

The UNC-Chapel Hill campus in Qatar will remain very much an American educational institution. UNC has received strong promises that intellectual freedom will be respected, and professors will try to create an atmosphere of class participation and discussion similar to what students here experience daily.

Competitive admissions standards will also apply, as all Qatari applicants will be judged by the same criteria as potential students at the home campus.

Furthermore, UNC has a unique opportunity for international exposure in an area of the world that has a less-than-stellar reputation when it comes to relations with the West. For example, UNC faculty would be able to teach abroad and share their knowl-

edge with a different culture.

The satellite campus will be part of a Middle Eastern state that is relatively progressive in its own right and is making a concerted effort to educate all of its citizens, male and female.

UNC should take pride in knowing that the University will play an integral role in the education of a historically underrepresented part of society — Middle Eastern women.

On the home front, UNC likely would incur no out-of-pocket costs in building, staffing or maintaining the educational facilities in Qatar, as all expenses would be taken care of by the Qatari monarchy. This way, UNC students at the home campus will not have valuable resources taken away from them.

All of the benefits created by a campus in Qatar far outweigh any negatives that are attached to the project. Given these benefits, this project should quickly proceed to the next stage of development.

... or Foreign Entanglement?

Administrators are prostituting the reputation of the University for dubious reasons

Money talks and principle walks when foreign donors come courting the University.

UNC's latest plan to increase its international prestige is a satellite campus of the business school in the obscure Middle Eastern emirate of Qatar. Administrators claim that the campus will cement the University's reputation as a school of international repute.

That might be true, but it begs the question of whether establishing such a campus is consistent with the University's mission. The administration will probably benefit from higher rankings, and Qatar will certainly benefit from the presence of a respected American university — but what about the students?

Since its inception, the University's primary mission has been to educate the native sons (and, eventually, daughters) of North Carolina and prepare them to enter

the world. Unfortunately, that mission has been obscured in recent years by the administration's quest to improve its status relative to its peers. Rankings, not students, have become the primary concern of administrators.

MARK SLAGLE

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

The University's Qatar venture merely confirms this. In all likelihood, no student at UNC will ever set foot on the proposed Doha campus.

Similarly, no Qatari student likely will ever be required to visit the University, yet graduates of the satellite business school will receive a diploma that reads "University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill."

Thus a UNC education is transformed into a commodity that can be bought and sold like a pair of sneakers. How, exactly, does this benefit students?

Administrators claim that there is nothing untoward about such an arrangement, that other universities have similar pro-

grams in Qatar and in other countries. But if "everybody else is doing it" is the best defense that they can muster, the program is truly flawed.

Beyond the question of the propriety of pimping out the University's reputation to the highest bidder, there are numerous logistical problems about locating an American university campus in an area steeped in Muslim fundamentalism while U.S. forces wage war against a perverted form of Islam. (This week a man was killed after he shot at a U.S.-occupied airfield in Qatar.) Faculty members have raised valid concerns about freedom of expression and personal safety that have not been satisfactorily addressed.

But even if these issues did not exist, the fact would remain that the chancellor and other administrators have prostituted the name and reputation of the University. But they have taught students at least one lesson: everything truly does have a price tag.

What's Going On: News You Need to Know

Sometimes stories here at the University fall through the cracks. I catch them for a segment that I like to call "I Completely Ripped This Off From 'The Daily Show.'"

Clef Hanger Ticket Scandal Uncovered

Rumors are running rampant that ticket distribution for tonight's Clef Hanger concert is rigged. Hordes of adoring fans were disappointed when they discovered that their tickets were for the balcony or mezzanine sections.

"This is crazy!" said an underclassman in a tight-fitting pink halter top. "I was 18th in line when tickets went on sale in the Pit on Monday. And now, I'm like, in the far back or something."

Her anger was made evident by her standard issue 2 1/2 inch silver hoops that smacked her face every time she tossed her hair.

Traditionally, the Clef Hangers reserve the first couple of rows for family and friends. This year, row 'R' was the first available public seat, meaning upward of 500 seats were reserved for the performance by the 16-member, all-male cappella group.

Infuriated, several female groupies lodged a complaint with the ever-capable Student Congress, demanding the creation of a new "Clef Code" seating policy.

Not even Ward Davis' randy rendition of "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You" could stop the ladies from demanding a bracelet system, complete with scanned UNC ONE Cards, and a 6 a.m. line check for the next distribution of Clef tickets.

When reached for comment, a Clef Hangers spokesman said, "What the F*#\$ are you talking about?"



RACHEL HOCKFIELD
OVER MY HEAD

Chancellor Moeser Discovers Students Attend UNC

After returning from an all-expense paid trip to the anticipated UNC campus in Doha, Qatar, Chancellor James Moeser was shocked to learn students live and attend classes at UNC-Chapel Hill. Walking outside of his South Building office Tuesday to enjoy the unusually warm November weather, Moeser noticed lots of "little people with bookbags." He pointed out this interesting collection of young people crossing the quad to a member of his entourage.

"They're students, James," the middle-aged white man responded to the chancellor's inquisitive glance. "Oh, they're the ones who do the research," Moeser exclaimed, finally connecting the research dollars he's been furiously raising with the people who use the funds.

"Not exactly, Jimbo. They're here to learn." "Learn what?" asked Moeser, who only ventures out of his office to raise more money.

"Whatever an undergraduate degree is supposed to teach them," the functionary answered. Another member of his administrative entourage piped up, "They're the ones who wave the pompoms at football games."

Moeser, who is completely unaware that his predecessor used to actually talk to students on campus, replied, "Oh, right." He then descended into his secret subterranean lair to play his pipe organ and cackle hysterically.

Administration Screws Students, No One Notices

First came the tuition increase solely for faculty salaries, resulting in an immense student protest in front of Morehead Planetarium. Then came the grade inflation report, and a handful of students attended a forum that the DTH covered.

Now out-of-state students are retroactively coughing up more than \$400 dollars, and they're too busy lining up outside the financial aid office to complain about the increase.

The University's latest attempt to screw over students is its plan to restrict residential student parking to six spaces. The Faculty Council was reportedly enthusiastic about the long-overdue changes. Students were like, "What?"

But no one really cares about any of this — so why waste space reporting it?

Students are already resigned to paying an extra grand for a 2.7 grade point average handed down by an assortment of teaching assistants and never receiving a parking space. They are still holding out hope, however, for a winning basketball season.

Rachel Hockfield will return next week with a cornucopia of touching Thanksgiving anecdotes about giving and cranberry sauce. Clef Hangers may send serenades to rachel@email.unc.edu.

The Daily Tar Heel

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READERS' FORUM

No Easy Solutions to Attendance, Apathy Problems in Congress

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing this letter in regards to the editorial entitled "Confederacy of Dunces" which appeared on Nov. 7. In the editorial, the author suggests that the current districting system, which is based on where an undergraduate lives, is the cause of the "rampant" student apathy toward student elections and suggested that changes be made to the districting policy in order to encourage better voter turnout. However, many of the suggestions voiced by the editorialist are simply not feasible.

The bulk of the editorial suggested that Student Congress abandon the current system of districting in favor of a districting based on an undergraduate's major. Student Congress cannot base districts upon undergraduate majors for a myriad of reasons.

Primarily, students tend to change their majors more often than they change their socks. There would be no real way of determining who is what major and when. And what of all

those undeclared undergrads out there? Does "undeclared" count as a major? Secondly, there are over 100 undergraduate majors offered at UNC. In the editorial, the author contends that the current 37 congressional seats should be decreased; so then why does he then suggest we institute 120-something as would be the case if Congress went to a major-based districting system.

Another issue raised by the editorialist was one of attendance in Student Congress. Yes, attendance has been a slight problem in Student Congress. Similarly, we also have attendance records of those who were present and those who were absent from Congress meetings. Our Principal Clerk Kari Hanson monitors attendance, and the records are kept on file in the Congress office.

In closing, let me state that Student Congress earnestly wants to fill the few empty congressional seats. We certainly value all student input, as we here in Congress were elected to serve you, our constituents.

Mark Townsend
Speaker
Student Congress

Writer Didn't Know What String Cheese Incident Was About

TO THE EDITOR:

In Thursday's paper there was a review of the homecoming concert presented by String Cheese Incident in Memorial Hall, "Fans Get High on String Cheese Incident." When I first read this article I noticed right from the start that staff writer Michelle Jarboe did not truly appreciate what a phenomenal show the band put on.

Also, if she knew what the band was about she would have known that they are known for their long jam sessions, which are unique in their own right, not just a ripped-off style from Phish or the Grateful Dead. Great bands don't have to run around the stage to put on a great show. Great shows are made by great bands and crowds that respond to the show with the energy that was in Memorial Hall Wednesday. An energy that lasted over three hours last night.

Joshua Mitchell
Senior
History

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.

BAROMETER



Welcome to Florida

Computer server problems complicated Wednesday's campus elections for Homecoming king and queen and congressional representatives, much to the chagrin of all 12 voters.



Three-Time Loser

Richard Vinroot dropped his bid for U.S. Senate but said he wasn't nudged aside by GOP leaders. "Shoved overboard" is more accurate.

TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

"As long as you don't make very negative remarks on their religious beliefs, intellectual freedom will be respected."

FACULTY COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN SUE ESTROFF
On the Qatari hosts of a proposed UNC satellite campus. Apparently there's no word there for "irony."

"It has been great, but I just want a little sleep and a huge gin and tonic."

CARRBORO MAYOR MIKE NELSON
After his victory in Tuesday's election. That's how we like our local politicians: lazy and drunk.



Q What?

University officials returned from a weekend trip to Qatar, where they learned about its culture and history. Unfortunately, they still can't pronounce its name.



Brokedown Palace

UNC-system officials learned they won't have to return as much state money as they once feared. Now construction will only be set back by 10 years.

"They can hide, but there are no magic carpets in Afghanistan."

FORMER NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER SANDY BERGER

On U.S. efforts to hunt down foreign terrorists. Hell, there isn't even shag carpeting in Afghanistan.

"This University is the most stupidest place I have ever been. That administration is wicked people."

"PIT PREACHER" GARY BIRDSONG
Apparently, proper grammar is pure evil.