

BOARD EDITORIALS

GETTING TOUGH

University housing officials should take a more aggressive approach to solving the growing problem of tailgating in campus residence halls.

There are some issues on campus that crop up from year to year as regular as clockwork, particularly tuition, parking and safety.

After a campus survey by the Department of Public Safety that revealed students readily let more than 90 percent of plain-clothes officers into residence halls, the Department of Housing and Residential Education's Campus Housing Student Safety Task Force has released a series of proposals to solve the problem of tailgating.

Tailgating occurs when someone holds the door open for others to enter the residence hall, posing a safety risk because anyone can get inside.

But the task force's proposals to halt the safety risk of tailgating simply aren't up to the task.

The committee has proposed several solutions, particularly placing signs about the practice near entrance halls and adding more call boxes.

Such patently foolish responses won't even begin to solve the problem.

After an armed robbery on campus last semester, campus officials launched a comprehensive education campaign about tailgating that targeted students' love of sweets. DPS officers in plain clothes tried to follow students into residence halls. If the students let the officers in, they received a Dum Dum. Those who didn't let the officers inside got a Smartie.

The survey, which involved 557 attempts to enter campus residence halls, proves that educational campaign had little effect — casting serious doubts that large signs would manage to be more successful.

And expecting additional numbers of call boxes to solve the problem of tailgating is nothing short of a pipe dream.

Students realistically barely use them already simply because they're inconvenient.

Why go to all the trouble of calling your friends

and making them come downstairs to open the door for you when someone's willing to hold the door open for you?

Even if the University decides to throw money away by adding additional call boxes, troublemakers aren't going to bother to call ahead before pulling a gun on a resident and demanding money.

The root cause of tailgating isn't a lack of knowledge — some students even jokingly ask if a person is a criminal before letting him in. It's the idea of hospitality and kindness pervading the University. UNC has built up a reputation as a friendly school, and that involves holding the door open for strangers.

Unless officials want to make students paranoid or turn them into rabid questioners reminiscent of the Spanish Inquisition, the problem of tailgating will only continue.

That's why it's so vital that officials respond to the problem realistically, such as by posting more uniformed officers around residence halls and ensuring that resident assistants patrol the halls frequently.

And it also means placing cameras at the entrances of residence halls.

The cameras would provide an important record that officials could use to identify a suspect after a major event such as an armed robbery or worse.

At the same time, it's important to emphasize that such cameras would not be used to find petty offenders, such as students sneaking in cases of beer.

The security cameras only should be used to put dangerous offenders off the streets to promote the overall safety and well-being of campus residents.

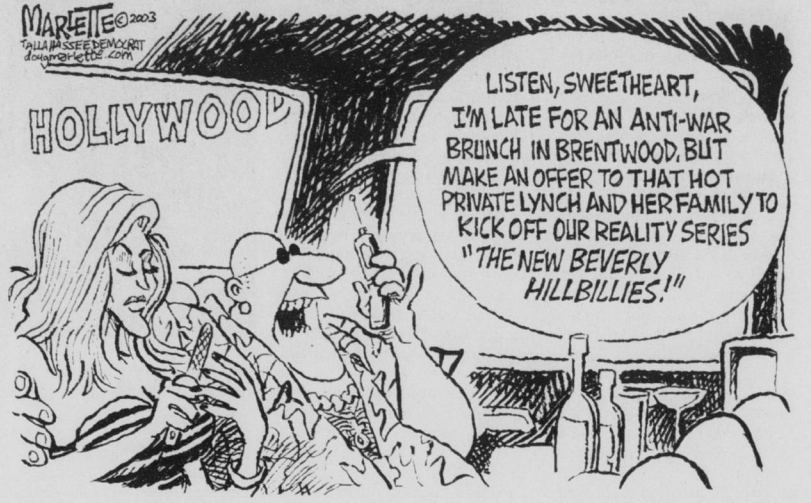
Although cameras might prove costly, they could be offset by saving money on printing signs and installing call boxes.

That way the same discussion might not crop up next school year as well.

ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another, but above all, try something."

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, 32ND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



COMMENTARY

Law attacking civil liberties virtually ignored in U.S.

When more Ukrainians than Americans know about a law that is being considered in the Oregon state legislature, something's wrong.

Especially if it's a law with a potentially chilling effect on the essential freedoms guaranteed to Americans by the Bill of Rights.

Dubbed an "anti-terrorism" bill, the legislation contains automatic sentences of 25 years to life for the crime of terrorism.

But what can be considered a terrorist act? Just about anything.

Written by Republican Sen. John Minnis, chairman of the judiciary committee, Senate Bill 742 originally defined a terrorist as someone who "plans, participates in or carries out an act that is intended, by at least one of its participants, to disrupt business, transportation, schools, government buildings or free assembly."

"Under the original version, terrorism meant essentially a food fight," Andrea Meyer, American Civil Liberties Union spokeswoman and one of the bill's most vocal critics, told Reuters News Services.

Even Sen. Minnis eventually admitted that his definition was unconstitutional, and the amended bill now being considered would define a terrorist as someone who "participates in or carries out any violent act that the person knows, or reasonably should know, could result in the death or serious physical injury of a person and is intended by at least one participant to substantially disrupt or destroy" commerce, education, assembly, transportation, or government institutions.

Though the amended version is more tolerable, it is nevertheless abhorrent. Civil liberties groups



RACHEL GURVICH
INFORMED DISSENT

have charged the bill with imposing collective guilt.

Here's what they mean: If some rabid protester throws a brick through a window, he would be charged not as a vandal but as a "terrorist" and would receive at least 25 years in prison. But even more infuriating is that other demonstrators "participating" in the protest, without having thrown any bricks, could be similarly accused of "terrorism" and thrown in jail.

There are other problems with the proposed legislation. Much like the U.S.A. Patriot Act II, the bill would exempt local law enforcement agencies from releasing information related to "terrorism" investigations as long as they remain open.

S.B. 742 would direct police agencies involved with federal investigations to ignore statutes that prohibit the gathering of intelligence, without grounds to suspect criminal conduct, about the political, religious or social views and activities of individuals and groups.

This is only a sampling of the bill's provisions.

Most people realize that S.B. 742 won't make it out of its committee because four out of six members are opposed to it. But even the symbolism of suggesting this measure is pernicious, as parts of it are clearly designed to crack down on anti-war protest-

ers. In fact, people such as Sen. Minnis have attempted to create some sort of cognitive link between "protester" and "terrorist" in the minds of Americans. The only positive outcome, now that this legislation has been suggested, is that our nation or at least Oregonians might engage in public discourse about the value of free speech or the definition of terrorism.

This incident makes me think of the man who was arrested in a mall in Albany, N.Y., just for wearing a T-shirt that said, "Give Peace a Chance." He had purchased the shirt at that very shopping center. And amazingly enough, not very many people knew about that episode, either.

Now, about the Ukraine. While searching the online database Lexis-Nexis for recent articles on Oregon's S.B. 742, I came across astonishingly little in the American press — one Reuters article, an article from a New Jersey newspaper, a few mentions in the local newspaper in Eugene, Ore. But lo and behold, at the top of my list was an article from the BBC news service, which apparently has been monitoring Ukrainian media "behaviour."

It seems that Ukrainian state TV reported that "the U.S. state of Oregon has proposed prosecuting participants in anti-war protesters as terrorists."

So you see, I wasn't kidding when I said that more Ukrainians than Americans have probably heard about this measure, which, even though it won't pass, is pretty troubling — and we expect other nations to take us seriously as liberators.

Contact Rachel Gurvich at gurvich@email.unc.edu.

THE RIGHT TO KNOW

Officials must re-examine their open meetings code after shutting a reporter out of a meeting likely about former Coach Matt Doherty.

As the details regarding former Coach Matt Doherty's disappointing departure from the University continue to mount and to drag UNC's name through the mud, a particularly disturbing detail has emerged that has been overlooked.

The (Raleigh) News & Observer recently reported that the Faculty Athletics Committee closed doors, in possible violation of the state's open meetings law.

An N&O reporter attempted to enter the meeting only to have Chancellor James Moeser shut the door in the reporter's face.

Director of Athletics Dick Baddour also was at the meeting, which was held only hours before a press conference announcing Doherty's allegedly forced resignation.

Moeser and Baddour were almost certainly at the meeting to brief faculty about the Doherty situation and were understandably hesitant to make public the details behind their decision.

But that doesn't justify the decision to close the meeting.

As of Monday afternoon, the Faculty Athletics Committee was listed on the University Web page under the "open meetings" section, meaning that reporters should be allowed to attend meetings of the group.

That agreement was part of a 1996 settlement between the University and the N.C. Press Association clarifying which campus committees were public and which weren't.

The agreement, worked out to stem a potential lawsuit, is in danger of falling apart if campus officials continue to play fast and loose with the public's right to know what campus officials are discussing — particularly when it's an issue affecting campus life or one that may care about such as removing a basketball coach.

Campus officials have claimed that the group is not a public body, defined by the UNC-system as a policy-making group appointed by a University or system official, because it is elected by the faculty.

But that simple fact only further bolsters the argument that the meetings should be open. As elected officials, board members have an obligation to their constituents to operate in the public spotlight. Failure to do so betrays the public trust required to hold office in the first place.

As The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board has emphasized repeatedly in the past, perhaps the most crucial check on the abuse of power is forcing officials to operate in the public spotlight by holding open meetings.

Without that vital check, the only real thing restraining officials from abusing their offices is the strength of their own ethics. And generations worth of scandals at all levels of politics illustrate the futility of blind faith.

As the University, particularly Baddour, continues to take heat for manner of Doherty's dismissal, it's likely that officials will try to hold more and more closed meetings as a way to prevent other embarrassing incidents from leaking out and further damaging the school's image.

University officials must not take the easy way out by limiting public scrutiny. Such tactics would only do more damage in the long run by wrecking UNC's reputation of honesty and fairness.

It would be far better for them to handle future meetings concerning Doherty's dismissal in the public spotlight.

Such openness would curtail the rumor mills and hoopla surrounding the dismissal and help repair some of the damage done.

It's the quickest way to give the University a hand up out of the muck.

EDITORS' NOTE: The above editorials are the opinions of solely The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board, which were reached after open debate. The board consists of eight board members, the assistant editorial page editor, the editorial page editor and the DTH editor. The 2002-03 DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials.

READERS' FORUM

Often-overlooked Hiller left lasting mark on University

TO THE EDITOR:

As the Daum administration assumes its place among the archives of student government, I would like to acknowledge an officer who is rarely recognized for his invaluable commitment to our campus.

Aaron Hiller, former student body vice president, served Carolina's students with unwavering commitment for four years. A pinnacle of integrity and humility to his peers, Hiller invested countless hours in UNC's improvement without expecting recognition or recompense. Hiller was a source of support and strength for his fellow officers, and they will forever value his contributions to student government.

Walter Lippmann said, "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on." Even after graduation, Hiller's pledge to pursue excellence will endure in those fortunate enough to witness his work. On behalf of UNC, I thank Hiller for his service as a friend, inspiration and leader to all students. He will be missed in presence but preserved in memory.

Lily West
Executive Assistant
to former Student Body
President Jen Daum

Doherty treatment betrays what University represents

TO THE EDITOR:

It's kind of frightening to think about the opportunity Carolina had when we hired Coach Doherty. And now look at the absolute mess that a lack of communication, lack of foresight and severe shortage of humanity this has created not just for Carolina basketball, but for the future of UNC. Did someone leave their spine at the door?

Just what kind of message does this send to our society? I thought coaches were supposed to be in charge. What happened to the love of the game? The honor in doing your best? The integrity of sportsmanship?

Ever since I was a little girl, I have been pulling for the Tar Heels. In fact, I'm pretty sure it was before I was born. Almost my entire family has attended Carolina at some point in their lives (whether for undergraduate or graduate, sometimes even both), including my grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, sisters, cousins, etc.

This town and this University are in my blood, and I am really sad, embarrassed, frustrated and just generally let down that something like this could happen at Carolina.

I can tell you this: By firing Coach Doherty, we've really let ourselves, and the community that we serve, down. What in the world will

happen next?

We have an opportunity right now to either continue in this downward spiral of depravity and corruption, or we can learn from our mistakes and move on to be the kind of place and the kind of leaders we want to be.

Every second of every minute we make choices, no matter how large or how small.

These little decisions we make gradually lead us to the bigger ones, and it's amazingly clear that the people who are making the decisions around here aren't cognizant of the consequences and the messages they send.

I've always heard that people who are the most successful in life stick to their values, learn from their mistakes and get right back up when they get knocked down.

I pray that the University I love will continue to be a place of honor, a University where I can one day send my children and grandchildren in the full faith that it will be an institution of integrity, morality and principle.

Coach Doherty, you did a great job. We were lucky to have you as long as we did, and wherever you go next, in whatever you do, I know you will do it well.

You will be missed by all, and we will never forget you!

Katherine Geil
Graduate Student
College of Arts and Sciences

Want better results at UNC? Go straight to the top!

TO THE EDITOR:

It was shocking to read of UNC's recent decline in U.S. News & World's graduate school rankings. However, there is a suitable solution.

Following the logic of Chancellor Moeser and Athletics Director Dick Baddour, the UNC-system Board of Governors should begin gauging the student perception of Coach Meez's performance. Certainly few would defend his record. If Matt Doherty can be forced into resignation because of a less-than-superb record, shouldn't our school's highest officer be held to the same standards?

So the resolution is obvious. Now all we have to do is stage the press conference. Perhaps Roy Williams could bring Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway with him.

Michael Fischer
Sophomore
Political Science
Philip Guillemette
Senior
Political Science

Editor's Note:

Applications for the fall 2003 editorial staff are now available at the front desk of the The Daily Tar Heel in Suite 104 of the Student Union. Back-page columnist, Editorial Board and cartoonist positions are available.

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The Daily Tar Heel

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