

BOARD EDITORIALS

EATING THE MONEY

Carolina Dining Services and the University should take responsibility for their mistakes and not look to student fees to cover the shortfall.

In middle school math, we all learned to watch out for those pesky extra digits. Leaving off a digit or adding an extra one would throw your answers completely off track.

Unfortunately, the meter readers for Carolina Dining Services didn't pay attention to that important lesson.

In part by leaving off a digit while calculating utility payments, Carolina Dining Services now faces a shortfall of \$550,000.

Harris Teeter's decision not to open a store in the new Ramshead Dining Facility also contributed to the debt.

CDS also cites a decline in vending machine sales, a phenomenon they attribute to a "global change in buying patterns."

The University should not ask students to pick up the slack caused by a worldwide decline in demand for Three Musketeers bars.

While students appreciate the new homemade barbecue potato chips and shrimp with toasted pine nut wraps available this year in Lenoir Dining Hall, the plan to increase student fees by \$24 to offset this shortfall represents another troubling instance of turning to students' wallets as emergency sources of funding.

Student fees increase every year, and students have come to realize this fact.

While growth with inflation is both reasonable and expected, students have no responsibility to carry the burden for employees' simple mathematical errors.

Student fees have a defined and specific purpose.

They are meant, for the most part, to fund activities and organizations that serve members of the student body and the University community as a whole.

Using the fees to bail Carolina Dining Services out of a sloppy budget only stands to add to an already

troubling precedent of hijacking student fees out of convenience.

Simply put, the University needs to eat the loss and cover CDS' shortfall using sources outside of students' pockets.

The CDS fee request comes on top of requests by several other campus departments to boost student fees in order to recover money lost as a result of state budget cuts in the last few years.

Unlike student fee increases, tuition hikes often illicit organized student responses.

But the steady, consistent increase in student fees is a silent killer that unfortunately eludes the notice of many students.

Students may not lobby the N.C. General Assembly over a \$24 increase, but it plays a significant role in the growing financial load UNC students must bare in the wake of a budget crisis.

If the money raised directly benefits the student community, administrators can expect a warm reception to marginal student fee increases.

Dumping the money into a blackhole that merely covers for existing foul-ups erodes student body trust and sets up a difficult road for future, potentially necessary increases.

It is realistic for CDS to incur significant costs in providing a diverse and high quality dining operation.

UNC students appreciate the genuine care that CDS takes to deliver a superior campus dining option and show their support by consistently buying their products.

But students should bear absolutely no financial responsibility for mind bogglingly basic accounting errors, such as leaving off a digit, or a mystical change in global vending machine demand.

However, if CDS ever threatened to get rid of the shrimp with roasted pine nut wraps, then perhaps we could work something out.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Although leaders have done a fine job making student government more accessible to the UNC community, more work is needed.

UNC has a proud tradition of self-governance, and this year, student government officials are making sure people know it.

Honor and Integrity Week kicked off Monday as a highlight of the campus' yearlong HonorCarolina Initiative, designed to inform students of the new changes in the Honor Code.

The week was organized by HonorCarolina co-chairwoman Judith Wegner, Student Attorney General Jonathan Slain and outreach coordinator Marc Hennes. Slain said the events were planned jointly by students, faculty and administrators.

The Committee on Student Conduct worked throughout the last year to amend the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance, the document that outlines UNC's student judicial process. The revisions made by COSC were approved by the Faculty Council in January and by Student Congress and Chancellor James Moeser in March.

Slain and his colleagues deserve a pat on the back for their efforts to make students aware of what is essentially a student-led project.

The student body's ability to govern itself has allowed many to have a positive impact on campus life. It is important for student leaders to ensure the system's continuation by keeping the campus aware of what opportunities are available.

This week's events are a good example of students proactively reaching out to each other to promote the goals of their respective groups.

But the judicial branch isn't the only part of student government making its voice heard. On the whole, all student government branches have done an effective job of letting students know exactly what's going on.

Student Body President Matt Tepper and his administration have been reaching out actively to the student body to promote their activities.

One major activity for the executive board this

semester is encouraging members of the University community to register to vote in time for November's local elections.

Leaders have spent significant time reaching out to other campus organizations to get them involved in the voter registration effort, which is helping to inform students about the drive as much as possible.

In addition, plans are underway to hold a candidates' forum shortly before the election to ensure students are informed about candidates' platforms.

The voter registration drive is one of many efforts undertaken by campus leaders to motivate students to get politically involved.

But while strong efforts have been made to encourage student activity, there still have been some weak spots.

Though all the branches of student government have worked hard since the spring to plan a wide array of activities involving different aspects of the campus community, those efforts are meaningless if they are not properly publicized.

And those lines of communication should not be open only when there is positive news to report.

Student Congress has been criticized for allocating student fee money to help pay for conservative author Ann Coulter's upcoming visit to the campus.

Many of the concerns centered on the large amount of money given to a single student group and what was perceived to be a lack of explanation from Congress about the decision.

Congress has the potential to be more than a glorified piggy bank, doling out student fee money. Its job is to serve students' interests and it fails to do so if students don't know what their representatives think.

Student leaders' decisions have an important impact in University affairs — so be open and make sure everyone knows about it.

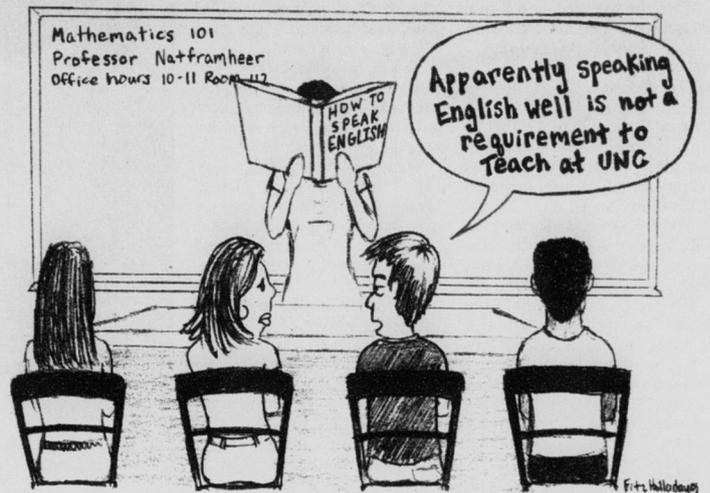
ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"The price of greatness is responsibility."

WINSTON CHURCHILL, FORMER BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Fitz Holladay wfhollad@email.unc.edu



LOCAL AFFAIRS

More than money at stake in school merger decision

The sign announced that my boat on wheels had entered Orange County.

But as I was returning from Virginia on Sunday afternoon, the rural scenes outside the window on N.C. 86 seemed odd. Sure, I'd had prior ventures through northern Orange, but the landscape still struck me as funny, if for no other reason than its stark contrast to the towns further south.

My scenic drive was a firsthand reminder of a wildly different portion of Orange County.

The rural north tends to be more conservative and less affluent than the progressive south, which is distinguished by a substantial tax base and an uberliberal reputation.

Now, this perpetual tension is re-emerging as the Orange County Board of Commissioners discusses merging the mediocre Orange County Schools with the better-performing and cash-gushing Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

The issue popped up again during the commissioners' January planning retreat and since then has been a hot topic. County staff presented an analysis of a potential merger last week, and while the proposal is in the earliest of stages, it will be considered seriously in the months to come.

While the effects and implementation of any merger are still fuzzy, this much is clear: The Orange County Board of Commissioners is on a crusade to address inequities between the county's two school systems.

Commissioner Moses Carey proposed the merger as a way to equalize funding between the two districts. That's a noble goal, but the town schools have more money because the towns' residents pay a special district tax.



MICHAEL DAVIS
OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE

"Ideological and cultural rifts will dictate what happens with this issue."

Any merger would be accompanied by a gradual plan to balance educational funding through a countywide tax.

But all this talk of a funding imbalance is moot if other general inequities among students are not addressed. Last week, one commissioner made the apt point that officials should determine for which exact equity they are striving before the process continues.

Forget per-pupil dollars for a minute. One can't dismiss course offerings, extracurricular activities, quality of teachers and other factors that determine school system standing. Money does not solve all problems, and ideology clearly stands in the way of many.

Take, for example, a woman I overheard after last week's report presentation. Adamantly against the merger, she insisted to a reporter that CHCCS serves as college prep, and that not all county students want to go to college.

Fair enough, but all schools should offer more opportunities for higher education. The vocational aims of some students are fine. Programs should continue in those areas, but her argument was backwards ranting.

On the other end, CHCCS likely will fight the merger because of sheer elitism. They have one of the highest-performing districts in the state, and they won't be crazy about diluting an educational powerhouse.

With such contention, any merger should be left up to public referendum. Unfortunately, residents will be unable to vote on any such proposal, as N.C. General Statute states that a county commissioner-instated merger cannot be determined by referendum.

Instead, one only can hope the commissioners will listen to all residents' concerns. Discussions will continue next month, when two public hearings are slated.

Expect heated emotions from parents, teachers and school administrators. Educational issues elicit some of the most impassioned pleas from those concerned with the three R's and every other aspect of learning.

While officials should explore other options, such as equalizing funds without joining the systems, this merger proposal seems like a substantive attempt at balancing the town and county schools.

Regardless of the distant decision, all students should have the same chances to learn and grow.

It's clear that doesn't happen in Orange County, where north and south are like night and day.

Unfortunately, that'll continue, to the detriment of the county's students. Ideological and cultural rifts will dictate what happens with this issue, and in the end, two worlds will remain.

Contact Michael Davis
at davismt@email.unc.edu.

READERS' FORUM

Coulter opposition focused on money, not speech

TO THE EDITOR:

As a member of the student body that has been paying a great deal of attention to the Ann Coulter dilemma, I have yet to have a single question answered.

The supporters of Coulter's appearance proclaim her academic value.

Other than allowing the Carolina community to show its appreciation of freedom of speech, I fail to recognize its worth.

Nathan Denny's Sept. 15 column, along with Tom Jensen and Justin Guillory's Sept. 17 letter, have given multiple examples of her blasphemous speech.

Where are the examples of the thought-provoking and academically valuable words?

Being radical and outrageous doesn't make your thoughts a positive contribution to the University's atmosphere.

Despite my personal objections to Coulter, that isn't the crux of my concern, nor was it the focus of Guillory and Jensen's letter.

My apprehensions, which are evidently shared by them as was apparent in their letter, involve the amount of money spent on a single event.

I fail to see how such concerns equate them and me with the Committee for a Better Carolina.

While the Committee for a

Better Carolina has fought to prevent liberal views from being presented at our university, Guillory and Jensen's complaint was the amount of money being spent on bringing in this right-wing extremist, not the fact that Coulter is speaking in the first place.

Anyone that closely read their letter would recognize such.

Meg Scott
Sophomore
History and
Peace, War and Defense

Moeser might not accept a salary bonus if offered

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in response to recent coverage in The Daily Tar Heel regarding bonuses for chancellors in the UNC system.

UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor James Moeser last week advised faculty leaders that he had no foreknowledge of the proposed bonuses but that he "[did] not see how [he] could possibly accept a bonus in a year in which faculty and staff are receiving no increases."

I understand that he has also expressed this sentiment to UNC-system President Molly Broad.

Although he is not inclined to toot his own horn, I asked him if I could share this information publicly, and he agreed.

I know that my faculty, staff and

student colleagues (and The Daily Tar Heel) will be proud that he has taken this position.

Prof. Judith Wegner
UNC-CH School of Law
Chairwoman
UNC-CH Faculty Council

Discussion aims to explore roles of females in athletics

TO THE EDITOR:

Since the passage of the 1972 Education Amendment, Title IX, the status of women on American school campuses has improved considerably.

The language of the statute — "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance" — has been the subject of much debate.

Many people who hear the words "Title IX" think about sports — and for good reason. When Title IX passed in 1972, female athletic programs generally consisted of cheerleading, with almost no athletic scholarships for women, so the passage of the amendment had serious ramifications for women's sports.

In 1997, the Women's Educational Equity Act Resource Center reported that 15 percent of

all athletes were women in 1972, but the number increased to 37 percent in 1995.

On the other hand, the Center reported that the percentage of women's teams coached by women dropped from 90 percent in 1972 to 48 percent in 1997.

Title IX also affects many other areas of women's — and men's — well-being on campuses across the country, and has far to go to reach its goal of gender equity in education.

In 1994, 27 percent of women earned a bachelor's degree compared to 18 percent in 1971, and 44 percent of all doctoral degrees awarded to U.S. citizens were awarded to women compared to 25 percent in 1972, as reported by the Women's Educational Equity Act Resource Center.

However, according to a report by the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education, 81 percent of students report being subject to sexual harassment in 2002.

Only 21 percent of full professors were women at the time of the report.

Just 20 percent of computer science and engineering degrees were awarded to women.

Even sports only earned a C- for the first 30 years of Title IX implementation; men's sports received 65 cents of every dollar spent on Division I and II sports programs.

Interested in hearing more?

The Carolina Women's Center is sponsoring a Title IX talk and discussion with Athena Yiamouyiannis, the Executive Director for the National Association for Girls & Women in Sport, to be held Tuesday, Sept. 30, from noon to 1 p.m. in Toy Lounge. Sylvia Hatchell, coach of our women's basketball team, also will be on hand to provide comments. All are welcome.

Diane Kjerovik
Director
Carolina Women's Center

CORRECTION

An Editor's Note in the Readers' Forum on Monday incorrectly identified UNC junior Matt Compton as a member of Student Congress. Compton is not a part of the organization.

The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

TO SUBMIT A LETTER: The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments. 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 vulgarities. 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 them to editdesk@unc.edu.

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