

BOARD EDITORIALS

THE WRONG SOURCE

Although there is a need to boost the salaries of University workers, campus leaders should not look to tuition money to fill the void.

A recent proposal to use money from a tuition hike to fund salary increases for University workers is a perfect example of good intentions mired by faulty reasoning.

The increase recently approved by the University's Tuition Task Force, which calls for a \$300 hike every year for three years, would provide almost \$1.4 million for employee salary increases.

The tuition plan approved by the task force last year also included some money to increase staff salaries.

The proposed salary raises, while modest, could boost morale among workers, many of whom have seen no raises in recent years.

But some campus leaders and members of the UNC-system Board of Governors are rightfully skeptical of the plan to use student tuition dollars to help pay the wages of University workers, the majority of whom are employees of the state.

It is not students' responsibility to fund workers' salaries when there is another, larger entity in charge of taking care of this expense.

The state would be shirking its responsibility if it

allowed the University to fund pay increases on the backs of students.

The purpose of tuition is to pay for class hours, not workers' pay.

With the state's budget shortfall impacting other parts of the University, it is important that tuition money not stray from the classroom.

And given that any increase in staff salaries likely would not be significant, the move to devote tuition money to this cause would be largely symbolic.

Campus leaders should continue to pressure lawmakers to help improve working conditions for University employees, including pay.

But the issue of workers' salaries largely needs to be addressed by the state legislature.

North Carolina workers feel the crunch of poor economic times just like any other group, especially with a stagnant wage rate.

It is important to find new ways to help improve the status of these workers — especially those working at the University — but students' pocketbooks aren't the solution.

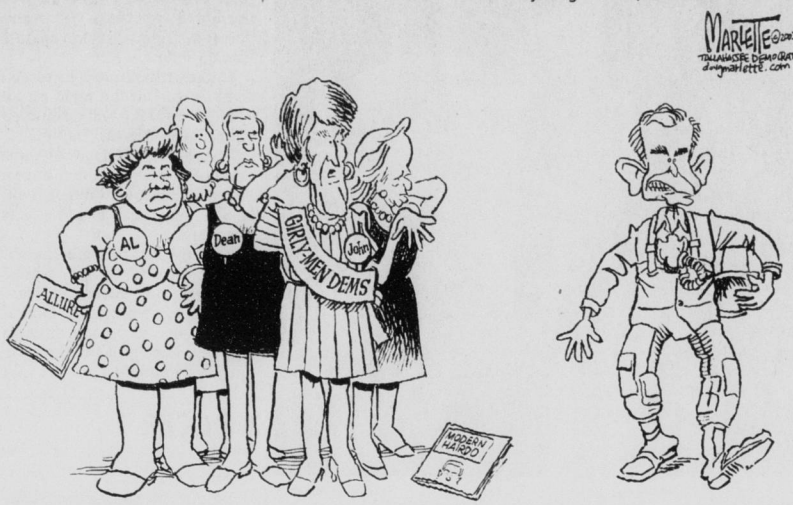
ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"The aim of education is the knowledge not of facts but of values."

WILLIAM RALPH INGE, ENGLISH AUTHOR

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Doug Marlette, Tribune Media Services



FINDING SOLUTIONS

Recent lapses in the University's computer network should prompt officials to carefully examine the system for any potential weaknesses.

The University is, whether we like it or not, becoming more and more dependent on computer technology.

Any mass technology failure sends the campus into a major tailspin, as we witnessed when the University e-mail system was down for the better part of two days last month.

As any student or professor can testify, the outage truly paralyzed the campus.

Workers from Academic Technology & Networks should be commended for working quickly and diligently to rectify the problem and bring the network back on track.

Yet that isn't the extent of technology problems as of late.

Just last week, for example, the system that logs UNC students, faculty and staff onto computers in campus computer labs was down, forcing lab workers to turn away hordes of students eager to print papers and check their e-mail.

UNC is, of course, not alone in experiencing problems with technology.

In the last year, incidents of hacking and the

spread of viruses have been all too common across the nation, with institutions as large as Microsoft encountering large-scale problems.

Yet we must ensure that the services available at the University are as effective as possible in tackling any future instance of technology failure that threatens the campus network.

With all students equipped with and reliant on their required laptop computers, keeping everything working properly must be a top priority among campus leaders.

It is important that University officials periodically review the efficiency of the campus's computer network and find workable solutions for any discovered lapses.

In addition, ATN leaders should ensure that they are in constant communication with members of the University community about any problems that creep up on the computer systems and how these issues are resolved.

Computers are here to stay, and the University must remain committed to keeping them in working order.

UNIVERSITY

Students must take active role in local political affairs

Chapel Hill Town Council candidate Rudy Juliano has produced the best, most honest statement to date about the importance of student involvement in town government.



NATHAN DENNY
UNDER THE WELL

At a forum sponsored by UNC's student government Tuesday night, candidates were asked what efforts they would make to engage Chapel Hill's student population.

After a round of nondescript responses about the importance of students, Juliano's answer was refreshing: absolutely none.

"I think it's (students') responsibility to become active and engage yourself in the political process," he replied, adding that he will not go out of his way to do anything specifically for students.

While his response was unpopular — judging by the sneers and snickers it drew from the predominantly student crowd — it was honest and entirely accurate.

The candidates' persistently pandered to students at the student forum and insisted that students are an infinitely important resource and constituency. But we aren't very important until we prove ourselves to be an involved, knowledgeable group of likely voters.

And the burden of engagement should not be placed on elected officials.

It is our job, as students and as Chapel Hill residents, to go to them.

And not the other way around. Not all the candidates were as forthcoming as Juliano, and some made transparent attempts to appease the students in attendance.

Candidate Sally Greene, for instance, said the Chapel Hill Web site should be made simpler

to navigate so students could more easily sign up for town boards.

Regardless of the fact that UNC students are probably one of the most Internet-savvy populations in the state, the Chapel Hill Web site is pretty simple.

Upon visiting the town's site, an interested student can clearly see the big, boldface link titled "Boards and Commissions."

And after following that link, it's hard to miss the "Current Vacancies" button front and center, not to mention the printable board application.

A more significant obstruction to student involvement is the three-year term required of board members.

Candidates Jim Ward and Bill Strom, both incumbents on the Town Council, have suggested reducing those terms to one year, which would make town boards much more accessible to students.

And if we students turn out at the polls, making ourselves a serious constituency, council members will see the importance of allowing us access to local government.

But as demonstrated, the problem is not the Web site.

It's the students who don't take the time to click on the provided links, fill in and submit the applications — or to vote, for that matter.

Until we, as students, decide it

"Students must become involved, and more importantly, we must vote."

is in our best interest to become engaged and involved in local government, we have no basis upon which to expect concessions from council candidates.

Even with offers ranging from Strom's proposal of guaranteed student spots on town boards to UNC senior Mike McSwain's cliched promise to hold office hours in the Pit, there is only one way to ensure that our perspective is wholly represented in local government.

We have to prove that we care. Students must become involved, and more importantly, we must vote.

Student Body President Matt Tepper and his administration did their part to establish the student body as a significant voting bloc, registering almost 2,500 new Chapel Hill voters in their recent registration drive.

With local elections tomorrow, the ball is in our court. In the wake of town-gown conflicts such as the chiller plant debacle, and with further tension likely coming soon with the planning of Carolina North, this election will have very real implications for the future of the University.

We must do our part to assert our voice and ensure that students have a place at the table.

Contact Nathan Denny
at ndenny@email.unc.edu.

EDUCATING PUPILS

With standardized testing playing a greater role in K-12 schools, it is important not to allow certain subjects to fall through the cracks.

Students in the state's public schools have dramatically improved in math and reading during the past seven years, but at what cost?

Since 1996, when the State Board of Education introduced the ABCs of Public Education program, which stresses math and reading, the number of North Carolina students passing tests in those subjects has increased by 23 percentage points.

During that same time period, however, the number passing tests in civics, U.S. history and biology has increased by only 4 to 7 percentage points.

The ABCs Accountability Model is a state program that measures academic growth in elementary, middle and high schools and rewards schools that make "adequate yearly progress."

Many teachers are concerned that social studies and science classes will fall by the wayside as schools, afraid that they won't pass the state's standardized tests, emphasize math and reading above all else.

The improved test scores in math and reading are a testament to the success of the ABCs program, but they place enormous demands on teachers who are

forced to meet the tests' standards in addition to teaching their usual curriculum.

These demands are likely to become even more strenuous under the federal No Child Left Behind law enacted last year, which — among other things — holds schools accountable for achievement in reading and math.

Despite these added pressures, teachers must strive to cover all subjects thoroughly.

They need to remember that their roles are to educate the state's youth, and that means more than teaching students how to pass standardized tests.

A broad education is necessary for college-bound students. A heavy emphasis on subjects such as reading and math at the expense of other subjects will leave them unprepared for the rigorous liberal arts and science curriculums they'll encounter in college.

While the additional demands placed on teachers by state and federal education programs do not make their jobs any easier, they must provide a well-rounded education for the sake of the children.

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 2003-04 DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials.

READERS' FORUM

Campus discussion on sexuality issues necessary to stop spread of violence

TO THE EDITOR:

The four-month window between the start of a woman's freshman year of college and Thanksgiving is statistically the time period during which she is most susceptible to sexual assault. And why should this be a surprise? She is socially experimental for the sake of making friends, goes to parties, meets new guys and gets into potentially unsafe situations as she adjusts to college life.

There is nothing wrong with this desire to make new friends, seek out new experiences and enjoy the new freedoms of college. All human beings desire a certain markedly high level of attention from other people. The problem lies with the social expectations and attitudes toward experimentation with these attentions. Especially important to women is the issue of attitudes toward female sexuality, which strongly affect the sexual conduct of both sexes and the possibility of sexual assault.

Female sexuality has been shut into the passive realm of waiting. Waiting to see what she'll get, what she has coming to her. Waiting with the "right" clothes and a sweet attitude. Waiting for the attention, with the appearance of not waiting. And therefore she gets scooped up in the vibrant assertive energy of some (any, the first?) person, usually male, and often assumes her passive role in whatever relationship they form, however lasting or brief its duration.

Most victims of sexual assault know their offender; the "strange man in the bushes" idea died out with a statistical reality check years ago. But too often the lines between what is consensual and what isn't get blurred, either between stories or feelings or even the throws of a smashing hangover. Sometimes people realize that they

hadn't been effective enough in voicing "no," and many feel intimidated by the idea of sharing what happened to them with anyone. They think that no one will believe them, that they will be eternally branded with a proverbial scarlet letter for coming forward. Some even start to assume what happened was "their own fault." They resort to carrying around a lot of emotional baggage; they develop anxious and unhealthy relationship styles and become angry and depressed.

The only way to alleviate the problem is to force it into the open, to develop a safe environment for discussion of such issues and to avoid forcing people into stereotypical roles of male/female behavior. The campus has many facilities designed to address issues of sexuality. Among them are Advocates for Sexual Assault Prevention, the Center for Healthy Student Behaviors, the Office of the Dean of Students, and the White Ribbon Campaign.

On Wednesday, please join these organizations in the fight against sexual violence by attending "The Night of the Divas," an all-female performance talent show held to benefit the Orange County Rape Crisis Center. Tickets are \$5 in the Pit or at the door.

Emily Snider
Beth Sundburg
Advocates for Sexual Assault Prevention

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 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 them to editdesk@unc.edu.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Printing: Triangle Web.
Distribution: Triangle Circulation Services.

The editorials are approved by the majority of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor, editorial page editor, assistant editorial page editor and eight editorial writers. The Daily Tar Heel is published by the DTH Publishing Corp., a non-profit North Carolina corporation, Monday-Friday, according to the University calendar. Callers with questions about billing or display advertising should call 962-1163 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Classified ads can be reached at 962-0252. Editorial questions should be directed to 962-0245.

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ISSN #10709436



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