

BOARD EDITORIALS

'STRIKING A BALANCE

The results of Tuesday's elections add a new element to the town-gown relationship, but it is important that both groups strive for cooperation.

The University needs Chapel Hill, and Chapel Hill needs UNC. This all seems simple enough. But the relationship between the groups at times has been anything but simple.

At times it appears that neither party is willing to admit that it "needs" its counterpart, not wanting to appear needy and consequently lose leverage in the escalating town-gown power struggle.

After Tuesday's elections, the Chapel Hill Town Council now has two new members who can play this power game.

The rookies, Cam Hill and Sally Greene, had no problems on the campaign trail expressing their anti-University sentiment when it came to the issues of neighborhood preservation and campus development. In addition, re-elected council member Bill Strom has in the past fought the University's plan to change its development plans.

Strom, Hill and Greene received the most votes in last week's election, which some residents and local media acknowledged resulted from the support of area neighborhood groups critical of University development plans.

Clearly, incumbency was not the issue that drove voters out in droves. Many Chapel Hill residents wanted to be heard, and they thought they could be represented duly by any candidate who will stand up to the ever-expanding University.

Re-elected council member Jim Ward, interestingly enough, is the only moderate of the four victorious candidates in terms of UNC's expansion.

During his last term, he voted for changes to the University's Development Plan that Strom opposed. But he also showed a capacity for criticism, as he strongly disapproved of UNC's plans to widen South Columbia Street.

While campaigning, Hill was the most vocal critic of expansion plans. He went so far as to say, "The biggest threats to neighborhoods in town come from the University."

Furthermore, he maintained, "Other university towns have stood up to the schools that inhabit them. It is time Chapel Hill did the same thing."

But what sort of example have other college towns set when dealing with similar circumstances?

When asked to clarify his comments about college communities, Hill noted, "Cambridge has stood up to Harvard. And to a lesser degree, the same goes for New Haven, because Yale has shown some initiative."

Though the situations aren't identical, UNC cer-

tainly can learn from the past instead of repeating it. Two years ago, Cambridge, Mass., asked Harvard University, the largest employer and landowner in the city, to follow its wage ordinance. The city argued that the ordinance would be virtually meaningless unless Harvard did so, but the university ignored the city's request.

The result was a three-week sit-in by workers and students that eventually forced mighty Harvard to its knees.

Harvard's prestigious partner, Yale University, also has acted ignorantly in its town-gown relations. Paul Bass of the New Haven Advocate asserts that Yale has been guilty of "almost three centuries of hostile, plantation-owner conduct against its host city" due to its notion that "New Haven should be thankful to have a ... world-famous employer ... and therefore should let it do whatever it wants."

Only recently has Yale tried to become a good neighbor. Bass says it now realizes that New Haven is "the fodder for the work Yale contributes to the world."

UNC must learn from these examples and assume the role of good citizen and gentle giant. The University should not let its relationship with the town reach the levels of that of Yale and Harvard.

Compromise is the key. Many Chapel Hill residents fear Carolina North because they believe plans for the mixed-use facility have not been made in public. The University can help to ease tension simply by keeping locals informed.

But compromise must be a resident responsibility as well.

Records show that only 20 percent of registered voters in Chapel Hill and Carrboro headed to the polls in last week's elections. Although it is impossible to predict whether the results would have been swayed had more residents voted, it is safe to say the turnout likely is not reflective of all viewpoints within the town.

It is important that the council work to balance the needs and desires of all residents within the town and not just the 20 percent who showed up to vote.

Ignoring the concerns of other residents would result in one segment of the population setting the agenda for the entire town — a major criticism of the University's dealings.

Compromise is the first step. The University and the council ultimately must develop good relations. There is no sense in finding quick compromise while a volatile relationship simmers beneath the surface.

ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"Government and cooperation are in all things the laws of life; anarchy and competition the laws of death."

JOHN RUSKIN, ENGLISH ART CRITIC AND AUTHOR

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By David Horsey, Tribune Media Services



CONSULTING WITH THE GRASSROOTS

UNIVERSITY

Schools, not lawmakers, should decide cap debate

Newton's Third Law of Motion adequately summarizes my concerns with raising the out-of-state enrollment cap.

That rule basically states that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

A modern, context-appropriate revision of the law would read something like this: "If you — as an administrator at the flagship institution in North Carolina's system of public universities — mess with the out-of-state enrollment cap, you just might provoke the legislature to get involved."

And that would be a mistake. State legislators from Sen. Hugh Webster, R-Caswell, to Sen. Fern Shubert, R-Union, already are chomping at the bit to give the University a piece of their minds — and, according to those legislators, a piece of their constituents' minds too.

Those lawmakers allege that North Carolinians are distressed at the increasingly noticeable disconnect between the University and the rest of the state. That disconnect is underscored dramatically in critics' eyes by attempts to bring in more out-of-state students.

The critics all are presenting the same arguments and are doing so both emotionally and convincingly.

The People of the State are "livid," Webster said. Other critics point out that North Carolina's taxpayers provide for the university system and that to deny those same taxpayers access to the University would be a travesty. Imagine the gall, still other naysayers add, after N.C. residents overwhelmingly approved the \$3.1 billion higher education bond just three years ago.

The arguments go on and on,



NATHAN DENNY UNDER THE WELL

and for the most part they certainly have some validity.

It surely would be a horrible thing to abandon the University's mission of serving the people of the state.

The only thing worse would be provoking those legislators to get involved.

There's a reason politicians delegate the responsibility of managing higher education to others. It's not their job.

When legislators are inclined to get involved, it's usually because of knee-jerk reactions to some controversy or another stirred up at one of the universities. It's almost never a good thing.

Take, for instance, this year's summer reading controversy. Or, for that matter, any other summer reading controversy.

Members of the N.C. General Assembly, incensed that the socialists and terrorists posing as UNC-Chapel Hill faculty and administrators are brainwashing delicate 18-year-old kids from Salisbury, repeatedly threaten heightened legislative oversight.

When this happens, University officials are quick to point out the importance of academic freedom, as well as the absolute necessity that the General Assembly avoid the temptation to micromanage UNC-system campuses.

This divide is immensely important. Whether the issue is

"There's a reason politicians delegate ... higher education to others. It's not their job."

academic freedom or overhead receipts, it is imperative that legislators stay out of the business of administering higher education.

It's just not their forte. By pursuing the misguided goal of raising the cap on out-of-state students, system officials are putting that separation at risk.

UNC-CH is most directly in danger of provoking legislators to get involved.

An alternate proposal by UNC-system Board of Governors members Addison Bell and Peter Keber could hold individual campus leaders accountable for pushing to raise the cap.

The proposal would allow campuses to seek permission to lift the cap on out-of-state students, enabling the BOG to make such decisions on an individual basis.

At UNC-CH, one of the only universities likely to take advantage of raising the cap, this would mean that University administrators would be forced to take a stand on their own without the protection of the rest of the system.

The BOG will discuss the issue at its Friday meeting, and members definitely will be cognizant of the pressure coming from legislators, many of whom are eager to put the UNC system in its place. Don't tempt them.

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

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

HOT AND BOTHERED

A combination of warmer temperatures and several heated campus residence halls left many students in a sticky situation last week.

I spent last year in South Campus with no air conditioning and I hated it. So when I signed up to move into Lewis Residence Hall this year with central air conditioning, I thought I would be escaping the heat.

To my surprise and the surprise of students in 10 residence halls located on Mid Campus and North Campus, we found the heat turned on last week while it was 80 degrees outside.

Rick Bradley, information and communications manager for the Department of Housing and Residential Education, told The Daily Tar Heel the department made its decision to turn on the heat after receiving several complaints from students and parents about residence hall rooms being cold.

But housing officials should have consulted residents about the decision earlier and in a more systematic manner than they did.

Lewis resident Joseph Schafermeyer, a junior biology major, said that this isn't the first year housing has turned on heating without contacting residents.

"They do it every year," Schafermeyer said Sunday, suggesting that there should have been a survey of some sort to get a better sense of residents' overall

JEFF KIM EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER

feelings.

Bryan McKelvey, a freshman business major who lives in Lewis, went further by suggesting that residents should be compensated for having to deal with the problem.

Althea Johnson, a freshman music major who also lives in Lewis, said that since residents pay extra for the climate control system that worked against them, they should get their money back.

The housing department sent a brief e-mail to residents apologizing for the lack of communication, partially justifying its decision to turn on the heat by providing forecasts of upcoming cold weather.

But its decision-making has a direct impact on the daily lives of residents.

They made our lives uncomfortable without notifying us. A more sincere form of apology is in order. I'm paying for a climate control system that's supposed to make my life happier.

I should have a say in whether the heat is turned on or not.

READERS' FORUM

Attention aspiring columnists, editorial board members and cartoonists:

Are you interested in occupying your very own soapbox once a week in the form of a weekly column? In influencing the stances of The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board? In drawing editorial cartoons?

If so, your time has come. The DTH editorial page now is hiring all positions for the spring semester. We will be hiring three news analysis columnists and two at-large columnists. Positions as cartoonists and on the DTH Editorial Board also are open.

Applications are available at the front desk of the DTH office in Suite 104 of the Student Union.

Applications are due in the DTH office by 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24. Decisions will be announced on this page Monday, Dec. 1.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Nathan Denny at ndenny@email.unc.edu.

Plans under way to create a task force to oversee enhanced CAPS program

We are writing to address concerns raised in the recent editorial regarding increased student fee funding for the Counseling and Psychological Service Program.

The editorial noted the need for oversight during this transition and the need to maintain open lines of communication between students and the administration of the CAPS program.

We are pleased to note that we are already in the process working with CAPS Director John Egerly to create a CAPS task force that will be charged with these very tasks.

This task force will comprise faculty, under-

graduate, graduate and professional students, and CAPS administrators and will help ensure that the new revenue sources are used to maximum efficacy for students.

Additionally, it is our goal that this committee eventually will be transitioned into a standing advisory committee for the program. Finally, it should be noted that Dr. Egerly and Dean Bresciani, interim vice chancellor for student affairs, are very supportive of this effort and are highly committed to soliciting and considering student input.

The authors of the editorial were correct in suggesting that student government leaders need to follow through during the implementation of the increased student fee for CAPS.

However, in light of the broad range of support on campus and the support structures already being formed, we strongly feel that these efforts will result in a greatly enhanced CAPS program that will represent one of the most positive achievements of our respective administrations.

Dan Herman President Graduate and Profession Student Federation

Matt Tepper Student Body President

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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