

BOARD EDITORIALS

SCHEDULE CONFLICT

A workshop intended to educate University trustees on the ins and outs of tuition should have been more accessible to the student body.

We would have loved to opine eloquently about the nature and worth of the UNC Board of Trustees tuition workshop that took place Wednesday afternoon.

Unfortunately, we had class. The workshop, which took place from 12:30 to 5 p.m. the first day of classes, couldn't have been timed more poorly. BOT members joked early in the session that UNC Student Body President Matt Tepper set a bad example for the student body by skipping class to attend.

Fortunately, Tepper was able to cut class, but many students can't make that kind of commitment on their first day back.

Granted, the tuition workshop took place for the education and benefit of trustees. The topic of the meeting, however, was one of infinite importance and finite understanding to students: tuition.

Students should have been better informed, and a reasonable effort should have been made to accommodate their attendance.

UNC News Services posted an advisory on New Year's Eve notifying media contacts about the event,

which took place only a week later Jan. 7 — the University's first day of classes.

To put it shortly, the publicity wasn't sufficient and the timing could have been better.

Given the importance of the issue and its relevance to the student body, a much greater effort should have been made to reach out to students. After all, it is their wallets that will be absorbing the brunt of any tuition increase discussed during the workshop.

The majority of time at Wednesday's workshop was spent on presentations by deans of professional schools making cases for targeted tuition increases and by UNC administrators explaining the subtleties of undergraduate cost and enrollment models.

While the function of the tuition workshop might have been to allow BOT members a better understanding of tuition issues, Student Body Vice President Rebekah Burford reminded BOT members that the consultative decision-making process is one of the elements that makes UNC special.

Administrators would do well to honor that tradition and make a greater effort to reach out to students in their scheduling and publicity efforts.

A CLEAR STATEMENT

Duke University's choice for its new president is a significant sign that the institution is paying attention to the needs of its undergraduates.

A prominent hire at Duke University sends an important message through the world of higher education.

Last month, Duke tapped Richard Brodhead as the university's ninth president. Brodhead will replace outgoing President Nannerl Keohane when she steps down July 1.

The hiring of Brodhead makes a crucial statement about the value of undergraduate education at Duke.

Brodhead brings with him a history of undergraduate excellence. After beginning his career at Yale University as an English professor, he eventually became the chairman of the English department and the dean of Yale College.

With the exception of his final two years at Yale, Brodhead continued to teach undergraduates despite his promotions, maintaining an exemplary relationship with them. He was well known among Yale students for genuinely caring for their welfare.

The importance of a professor or administrator committed to building relationships with students cannot be underestimated. Brodhead's commitment to undergraduates is reminiscent of former UNC lead-

ers such as Frank Porter Graham, who emphasized teaching and mentoring the undergraduates here.

It's easy for students on a vast research campus to slip through the cracks for a year.

Many modern research institutions have made undergraduate teaching less of a priority. Teaching frequently is put on the back burner, while research and publishing become professors' primary focus. The undergraduate experience is lost in the mix.

Coming from one of the largest and most prominent research institutions in the country, Brodhead's hiring sends a clear message: Educating undergraduates matters.

The announcement of Brodhead's appointment probably won't register for many students wearing Carolina blue. But he has the potential to transform the nature of learning for undergraduate students at that institution, while reminding other research universities that teaching must remain a high priority.

There is no guarantee that Duke will succeed in improving the quality of undergraduate education, but the move it made stands out among most major universities.

THREE'S COMPANY

A new three-judge panel will effectively deal with redistricting suits, ensuring a more inclusive and efficient map-drawing process.

A recent N.C. Superior Court ruling is a strong step toward taking the redistricting issue out of fiercely partisan hands.

The court upheld key parts of a law that would require all lawsuits questioning the constitutionality of redistricting plans to be heard by a three-judge panel. The panel, appointed by the chief justice of the N.C. Supreme Court, would include one judge from eastern North Carolina, one from western North Carolina and one from Wake County.

The three-judge panel is certainly a step in the right direction.

It prevents either party from shopping for friendly judges and reducing courts to partisan battlegrounds.

The panel also prevents one judge or region from having undue influence over the lawmaking body for the entire state. A group of prominent N.C. Republicans challenging the most recent district maps hoped to file suit in a county of their choosing.

The ability to select a county helped Republicans defeat the N.C. General Assembly's 2002 districts, leading to the use of maps drawn entirely by one

Johnston County judge.

Still, the panel only can bandage and not cure a bitterly flawed process.

Redistricting would be more efficient and less partisan if an independent commission carried it out. While the inherently political process might never be free of party politics, such a panel would help simply by removing legislators from the high-stakes struggle.

The annual redistricting fight consumes a tremendous amount of the legislature's time and resources.

Taking redistricting out of legislative hands would allow the body to focus on the business of the state, and a commission could prevent the constant and inane lawsuits.

It's in both parties' interest to change the process. Legal wrangling delayed the 2002 primaries, hurting Democratic chances at winning the U.S. Senate race. A similar delay this year likely will hurt the chances of whomever emerges from the Republican gubernatorial primary to challenge Governor Mike Easley.

Last week's ruling is a step toward fairness and efficiency. Hope for greater reform must be maintained.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above editorials are the opinions of solely The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board, and were reached after open debate. The board consists of seven board members, the editorial page associate 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.

QUOTABLES

"PEDESTRIAN DETOUR
← TO THE PITT."

SIDEWALK SIGN,
DIRECTING STUDENTS PAST CONSTRUCTION
SEPARATING POLK PLACE FROM THE PIT.

"I'm worried about if I'm going to jump out of the damn plane on the way home. ... You saw us play defense. I'm sure as crap not going to worry about what the crap is going to happen in two years."

ROY WILLIAMS,
UNC MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH, ON THE
FUTURE OF THE UNC-KENTUCKY SERIES.

"It was nice to have that selection, but it's not so nice that I need to get sued. ... My friends are either going to buy the CD or say, 'Screw it,' and download it anyway."

REBECCA WINGO,
UNC JUNIOR, ON WHY SHE HAS DECIDED TO
CURB HER ILLEGAL FILE-SHARING HABITS

READERS' FORUM

Prosecuting war protesters
violates First Amendment

TO THE EDITOR:

The University should drop any charges against those who interrupted a UNC-Virginia basketball game last year.

The person to prosecute is the one who lied and sent our young men and women to invade and occupy Iraq, not those who went to extremes to warn Americans about the lies.

Besides, unless similar prosecution takes place whenever a game is interrupted by players, by coaches or by fans, the case against the protesters is a violation of free speech.

Claiborne M. Clark
Class of 1973
Durham

Professors, students should
allow for political debate

TO THE EDITOR:

After reading Brentley Tanner's recent column ("Liberal students, professors bully conservative minority," Jan. 8), I am concerned.

This is not because I disagreed with him, but because he describes a campus rife with intolerance — specifically, of conservative viewpoints.

It has been my privilege to teach writing, editing, ethics and history courses here.

Glen Feighery
Doctoral candidate
Journalism and Mass
Communication

Possible \$6,000 tuition hike
would deter nonresidents

TO THE EDITOR:

I have been following the stories about the possible increase in non-resident tuition since last fall. Much of the concern was that the North Carolina taxpayers would be paying for a portion of the education of nonresidents.

ON THE DAY'S NEWS

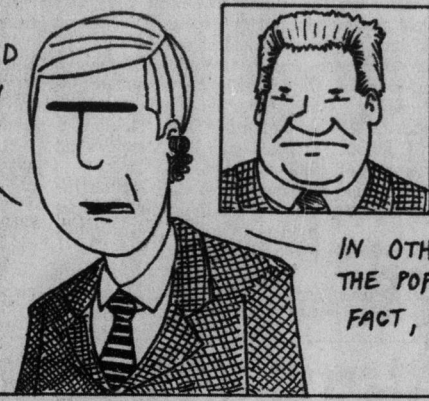
"We are called a democracy, for the administration is in the hands of the many and not of the few."

THUCYDIDES, GREEK HISTORIAN

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Chris Mattsson, mattsson@email.unc.edu

PETE ROSE HAS
FINALLY ADMITTED
TO BETTING ON
BASEBALL...



COMMENTARY

Research development in Chapel Hill no guarantee

To my dismay, any mention of Carolina North I read in the papers seems to accept its inevitability.

Yet Carolina North is still technically a proposal. And personally, I hope the odds for this proposal's eventual fruition are roughly equal to those of John Edwards landing in the White House or Keanu Reeves acting believably in a role other than Ted Theodore Logan.

This is not to say that I'm against our chancellor's goal to make the Tar Heel campus the nation's finest public university (Grab those ranking experts by the 'nads Meez!) — far from it.

I can't buy into the "make it better by being bigger" shtick. I can't comprehend how a new research park (Isn't there one a few miles down N.C. 54 already?) replete with retail and private enterprise partnerships will serve N.C. folks if it is built here.

Unfortunately, it's very easy for me to visualize the Horace Williams tract's development as hastening the local area's continual transformation from a diverse, charming little haven to an elitist doo-dooville devoid of all soul.

The notion that Chapel Hill-Carboro and UNC-Chapel Hill are each other's biggest draws has been tossed around so much that it is a cliché — but it is a valid one.

Men and women flock here from all over primarily to learn a li'l somethin', but their downtime is spent absorbing what the towns have to offer.

Of course we all love music. So where exactly did Archers of Loaf, Polvo, Superchunk, Ben Folds, Two Dollar Pistols and Crooked Fingers begin on their respective roads to being bad mo-fos?

Chapel Hill, baby. The same town that spawned Daniel



NICK EBERLEIN
THE VILLAGE MEGALOMANIAC

Wallace, the brainchild of this year's best cinematic fable.

Sadly, the atmosphere that fostered this town's unique culture has been polluted in the last few years by increasingly bland suburbanization, and any colossal development smack in the middle of southern Orange County is likely to destroy the area's distinctiveness and personality.

The new campus will create an unbearable housing crunch in an already too-expensive town where land is developed to near-capacity.

Since UNC-CH has proven adept at building everything except housing for its growing student population, almost every other affordable neighborhood near Chapel Hill and Carboro's downtown areas will be overrun by developers building student-centered homes or mansions for the honchos at Carolina North's private enterprise partners.

This isn't exactly a scenario that welcomes starving artists or less-than-wealthy families. Neither does it welcome, for that matter, most workers on the local payroll (a.k.a., those who make our parks lovely and community safe), who earn paise wages because the town can't raise taxes on large chunks of land inside its limits.

Y'know, I remember another prosperous city where very few of its hard-working municipal employees ever stepped foot while off the clock: Johannesburg.

I'm not insinuating that this development will be a form of neo-apartheid, but it will serve to polarize the town. The increased influx of monied interests (buoyed by taxpayer money) will throw a two-ton monkey of local inaffordability onto the backs of the workers we can't get by without.

Plus, it's not as if this area needs the jobs. Chapel Hill, Carboro and even Orange County have some of the highest standards of living and lowest rates of unemployment in the state.

True, some of us struggle. So leave the land and opportunity left as an empowerment tool for those outside the six-figure club.

If you look at the people living in Cumberland and Robeson counties, they're much worse off due to manufacturing layoffs and the increasing absence of men and women shipped thousands of miles away to die for Halliburton.

Why can't Fayetteville State University or UNC-Pembroke benefit from the state's willingness to splurge on education? Hell, Robeson's got the same population as Orange County and more than twice the space, not to mention five times the unemployment.

Put money and jobs where they're needed the most, which isn't here. Pouring all the resources into the Piedmont is hardly beneficial to North Carolina as a whole.

After all, UNC-CH is just one campus in a system of 16 schools. In addition to trampling a town I'm still proud to call my home, wouldn't Carolina North just make UNC-CH a singular diamond in one rough stone? Is that proper?

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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.

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Sophomore
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