

BOARD EDITORIALS

DRAWING THE LINE

Student Body President Matt Calabria's move against Option C is a necessary step against an unreasonable tuition hike for nonresidents.

After multiple years of tuition increases, a firm "no" is the best response for the UNC system to make to campus-initiated requests for tuition money. Students shouldn't pay while the state abandons its duties to fund the state's universities.

It's especially odious that those who already are paying the full cost of their education are being targeted for the largest increases.

That's why Student Body President Matt Calabria should be commended for arguing against the tuition recommendation being touted by Chancellor James Moeser. One of three proposals of the campus Tuition Task Force, Option C amounts to an increase of \$250 for in-state students and \$1,200 for nonresidents.

Although it's hard to agree that students should be tapped at all this year, Calabria's statements advocating equity in tuition increases are grounded in solid, respectable concerns about the fair treatment of members of the University community.

Last year, out-of-state students had their tuition raised by \$1,500 — a huge increase for a campus that has marketed itself as a "best buy" on a national scale.

Even if the University is losing faith in the General Assembly to uphold its financial responsibility to the UNC system, administrators shouldn't look to nonresidents to shoulder the burden disproportionately.

Last year, a study conducted by the National Association of College and University Business Officers showed that the cost of educating an undergraduate student at UNC-Chapel Hill amounts to \$15,626. That was \$294 less than what out-of-state students were paying at the time.

It's patently unfair to treat out-of-state students as cash cows. Calabria has been in support of a less drastic hike for nonresidents, and his recent remarks demonstrate that he is concerned about going too far, too quickly.

The tuition price elasticity study that is guiding the UNC-CH Board of Trustees' discussions noted uncertainty about what effect tuition hikes would have on diversity and on graduate students.

Administrators should take the fair and prudent route if they are going to propose an increase. Option C should be taken off of the table.

AN IMPORTANT READ

Timothy Tyson's "Blood Done Sign My Name" is a fine summer reading selection that takes a no-holds-barred approach to American history.

Toward the end of his book "Blood Done Sign My Name," Timothy Tyson evokes the words of William Faulkner: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

This sentiment pervades Tyson's account of his days growing up in the North Carolina town of Oxford, which is within an hour's drive of Chapel Hill. In reading his book, incoming students will become aware of an important piece of history they never might have encountered before.

"Blood Done Sign My Name" explores the civil rights movement. Specifically, Tyson goes beyond the oft-cited nonviolent protests and speeches and describes bloodshed and threats of race war, which he claims were integral in any progress being made.

The author details tensions and problems that never could have been solved with strokes of the federal government's pen. He explains that the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education and the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 did little to change things, especially in the Southern towns where a certain racial order long had been established.

Paying attention to Tyson's narrative should prove to be a revelatory experience for many new students. "Blood Done Sign My Name" tackles subjects many history books don't cover, and that's why it might make some readers uncomfortable.

Tyson is only one man telling a story from his perspective, and there are sure to be other people who lived in the South during the mid-20th century and saw things differently. Like past selections, it will be up to students to interpret the material as they see fit. But the book is sure to make them think.

Regardless of how students felt about reading past summer reading choices, especially "Approaching the Qur'an" and "Nickel and Dimed," it will be hard to argue that the selection committee didn't pick a clear winner this time around.

Tyson is a splendid storyteller, as his enthralling narrative intertwines his small-town experiences with national-scale events. And his story is important, as it pertains to a struggle that continues to this day. In being compelled to take a stronger look at history, students will prepare themselves for the tough questions that their college courses might ask of them.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Officials need to give the UNC system's new pilot music downloading program a better chance for success by working out noticeable flaws.

Although UNC's music downloading pilot program is a boon for students, kinks in the system have some students singing the downloading blues. Further setbacks with the program must be fixed as quickly as possible to guarantee its success.

Given the choice between Cdigix, Napster, Rhapsody and the Ruckus Network, users are finding it difficult to implement and use the program of their choice.

One of the problems with the program has to do with the installation process. For example, when students attempt to download Napster on the UNC-system Web site, they are taken away from the screen that provides them with the installation key and are not allowed to return.

This becomes problematic, because users need these keys to set up the program. Students should be able to get the right passwords and promotional codes with ease.

Each program offers a unique downloading experience — but Napster's ease of use and overall selection make it the top choice for students who are looking to

download music legally to their computers.

The other programs, such as the Ruckus Network, aren't as user-friendly as Napster.

For example, Ruckus claims that it offers its users "Hollywood blockbusters, cult classics and independent films." But the first claim seems somewhat doubtful.

The selection of films is limited to a very small assortment of B- and C-rated films — many of which are at least 10 years old.

The quality of the picture is poor, and it's inconvenient for students to have to download a movie each time they want to watch it.

Some students attempting to use Rhapsody have complained of a long delay in receiving a confirmation e-mail allowing them to begin to use the service.

Ever since its conception, the pilot program offered by the UNC system's Office of the President has been an exciting idea.

But now that it's up and running, administrators should make a concerted effort to use this test vehicle to hammer out kinks in the chain.

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 six board members, the editorial page associate editor, the editorial page editor and the DTH editor. The 2004-05 DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials.

READERS' FORUM

Students' tuition questions will be welcomed tonight

TO THE EDITOR:

Speak out about tuition. Come to the Student Tuition Forum at 7 p.m. today in 116 Murphey Hall.

As Carolina students, we always want to spend our money wisely. To protect the accessibility of our University, we demand that each dollar it spends is used to its fullest potential. Carolina students should weigh in when the trustees want to raise tuition.

Next week, the Board of Trustees will decide how much your education will cost. Chancellor Moeser will present a proposal that would raise out-of-state tuition by \$1,200 and in-state tuition by \$250. The BOT will also consider several student fee increases, one for as much as \$150.

Come find out where all that money goes and just what's at stake in this year's tuition process. After the presentation, members of the Tuition Task Force, the provost and Jerry Lucido from the admissions office will answer your questions about tuition.

Your comments will help inform my presentation to the BOT. It is your right as a student to voice your concerns about tuition, and this is the best way to have those concerns carried all the way to the trustees.

Join me today at 7 p.m. in Murphey 116. Together, we will form a strategy that protects our University and students' best interests. Also, please feel free to attend the UNC Board

of Trustees meeting. The two-day meeting will begin Wednesday in the Chancellor's Ballroom East at the Carolina Inn from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and will continue on Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon.

Matt Calabria
Student body president

Tyson's book will open the eyes of incoming students

TO THE EDITOR:

As a resident of Oxford, a current UNC student who participated in the summer reading of 2002 with "Approaching the Qur'an," and a student who met Timothy Tyson during his book-reading and -signing at the Bull's Head Bookshop this past fall, I'd like to say that the selection committee has made a spectacular decision in choosing "Blood Done Sign My Name" as the book for incoming freshmen to read.

I purchased the book last summer because the title made me curious, and after reading the book jacket, I learned it was a true story about my hometown.

Having been raised in Granville County, knowing Oxford since I could comprehend the concept of place and living there since the 10th grade, I was always aware of the tense racial relations in the area — but I was completely unaware of its callous history until I read Tyson's book.

This book is an eye-opener,

informing people of the South's scarred history by recounting an event so close to home, a good 40 miles north of Chapel Hill, where it can often be seen that many residents of Oxford simply opt to tolerate each other. Not that race relations are as bad as they were in the '70s, but things are still what one could call "tense" at times — and until everyone is willing to make progress toward change, it will remain that way.

Students will benefit from reading this book, not only because it forces you to realize that race relations are ever-present issues that need to be addressed continuously, but also because it will provoke conversation that encompasses all issues of diversity so we can continue to make progression toward a beyond-tolerant, more accepting society than the one we have today.

Chasity Wilson
Junior
English

Society will hold forum for student candidates Tuesday

TO THE EDITOR:

The Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies have been long associated with the tradition of student self-governance on campus. The societies, the origin of student government, served for years as the mouthpiece for the entire student body. DiPhi now serves as UNC's debate and literary society and is the oldest student organization on campus.

In continuation of our long commitment to the ideals and practice of student self-governance, DiPhi is pleased to sponsor a forum between candidates seeking the office of student body president. All members of the student body may attend and will be given the opportunity to ask questions of this year's candidates.

The forum will be held Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Philanthropic Society chambers on the fourth floor of New East. Regrettably, the chambers might not be handicapped-accessible. The forum will be an exciting chance for students to hear from those vying to be their next leader, and DiPhi looks forward to seeing many of you there.

Adam Herring
Sophomore
International studies

On Feb. 8, students should renew the green energy fee

TO THE EDITOR:

You might not have heard about the Green Energy Initiative, but it has been working to improve our environment and to save you money for two years. Two years ago, a special \$4 fee was added to student fees to support renewable energy sources. Since then, the Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee has investigated cheaper, more efficient energy sources.

During Matt Calabria's campaign, he promised to support projects that "reduce waste, conserve energy, and

save Carolina money." The RESPC's first major project has done just that. It has combined student fee money and large amounts of outside grant monies to install a solar array on Morrison Residence Hall.

When Morrison reopens in fall 2006, solar power will handle 60 percent of the water heating. These changes not only reduce our dependence on fossil fuel, but they also drive down housing costs and save students money.

The green energy fee is renewed by referendum every two years. When you vote in the upcoming student elections, you will also have the option of renewing green energy on campus.

Vote yes on green energy. Even if we can't all agree on environmental policy, we all support reducing housing costs. Saving money and saving the earth is worth \$4.

Alexa Kleysteuber
Student body vice 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 vulgarities. Publication is not guaranteed. Bring letters to the DTH office at Suite 2409, Carolina Union, mail them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 or e-mail them to editdesk@unc.edu.

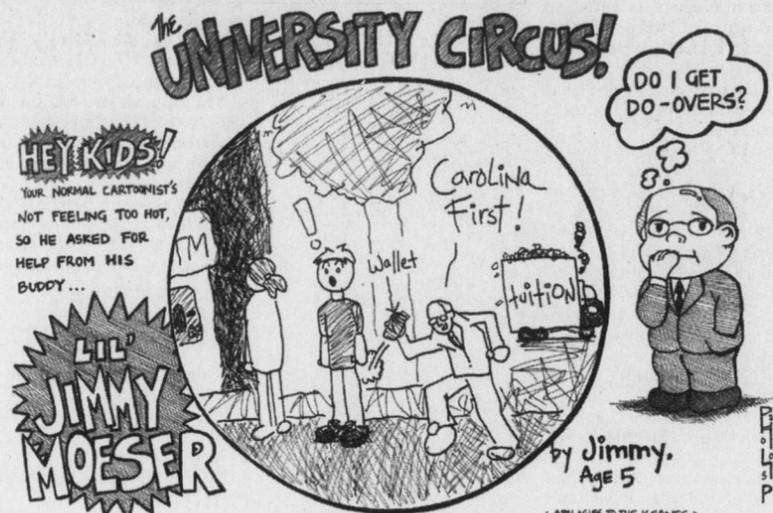
ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"A person's treatment of money is the most decisive test of his character, how they make it and how they spend it."

JAMES MOFFATT, THEOLOGIAN

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Philip McFee, pip@email.unc.edu



COMMENTARY

The best form of government is the one that barely registers

Government doesn't work. It doesn't deliver the mail on time, it doesn't educate American children well and it doesn't deliver on any other promise it makes to its citizens.

Politicians like to play a big game of "pretend," where they pretend that the War on Poverty really does reduce poverty, that the War on Drugs really does reduce drug use and crime and that gun control laws really do keep guns out of the hands of bad guys while still allowing the good guys a way to protect themselves.

They pretend that every single new law they propose is going to solve some problem. All of this despite the fact that every other law they've ever passed didn't work, most likely made the problem even worse and led them back to the point where they now think a new law is needed.

So what is the purpose of my column? I am going to be writing on state and national issues. Now, I know that every semester they have someone write about these same issues, but my column is going to be different. My column is going to analyze these issues from a Libertarian perspective, instead of the same, tired, worn-out and clichéd rhetoric that you get from conservatives and liberals.

Part of the column each week will be analyzing and debunking the lies that are being pushed upon us by the Democrats and Republicans in regard to their big-government proposals. But I want this column to be much more than an attack machine against their programs.

I want to show you that not only are the ideas of the Republicans and Democrats bad, but also what the Libertarian solution to society's problems would be and why they are so much better. I want you to



PHILIP HENSLEY
LIBERTARIAN STEEZEE

see that there is a better way of doing things.

We don't need the government involved in every aspect of our lives, ruining everything from health care to education to our retirements. We don't need an income tax or a rule-the-world foreign policy.

But before we get to that, you need to know what libertarianism is. Libertarians recognize the most important political truth concerning government — that government doesn't work. No matter how bad you think a problem is, or how much you think government needs to step in and solve a problem, government still doesn't work.

Libertarians aren't anarchists who think that we shouldn't have any government at all. Rather, they want government reduced to the absolute minimum possible. They recognize that government is inefficient, so they want to keep as many problems as possible away from this inefficient institution. That way, the coercive force of government can't be used to impose the political will of one group onto another.

Some people like to say Libertarians are conservative on fiscal matters and liberal on social matters. But the reality is that conservatives are as fiscally irresponsible as liberals, and that liberals are as contemptuous of individual rights as conservatives, despite what they say when campaign-

ing for office. Libertarians believe in individual liberty, personal responsibility and limited government on all issues at all times.

Libertarians believe that you should be free to live your life as you want it — provided that by doing so, you aren't interfering with the right of others to do the same — not the way George Bush, John Kerry or John McCain think you should. You're not a pawn for them to use in an effort to create a social utopia.

If you work, Libertarians believe you should be the one to save, spend or give away every single dollar that you earn as you see fit — because after all, you're the one who went to work and earned it.

I don't expect to create a tidal wave of Libertarian activism on campus with this piece. No one is moved from 0 to 60 mph with a single column or a couple of witty sound bites. But I do hope that everyone who reads this is moved at least a bit closer to libertarianism from where they are now.

I want those who love big government to love it a little less, those who are middle-of-the-road to become a little more liberty-minded and those who are already liberty-minded to start doing something about it.

Because space is limited, it's tough to lay out an entire argument on an issue without leaving some stuff out. Therefore, I will be posting a longer version of my articles each week on my blog, which is also a place where you can go and respond to my columns and start discussions. Next week we'll start analyzing the issues, Libertarian-style.

Contact Philip Hensley, a senior history major, at <http://philiphensleyjr.blogspot.com>.

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