

EDITORIALS

JOURNALISM AT RISK

The Seventh Circuit erroneously interpreted a U.S. Supreme Court case to threaten the First Amendment rights of student newspapers.

It is a fact that Chancellor James Moeser or Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Margaret Jabolonski have no authority to halt the printing of any edition of The Daily Tar Heel, even if its content is scathingly critical of the administration.

A panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit recently decided that college administrators have the right in some situations to review and censor the content of school newspapers that receive university funding, stripping the First Amendment rights of many college newspapers.

This ruling not only raises issues for civil liberties on college campuses, it opens the door for administrators to abuse power and stop students from investigating and exposing actions on their campuses, especially with regard to student affairs.

of an accountability check for administrators.

Moreover, college newspapers should never be compared to high school publications, neither in seriousness or scope. This ruling stifles academic freedom by not allowing students to gain real-world experience in journalism, and it sets a bad precedent for the future of university journalism by legitimizing the already present problem of administrative censorship.

Major college newspapers in North Carolina, like N.C. State University's Technician, should keep a close watch on this case. The Daily Tar Heel, which has not received funding from the University since 1993, is the student newspaper that would be exempt if the ruling were extended to North Carolina.

Readers should be happy that the DTH is keeping with its tradition, which was eloquently summarized by Jen Pilla, editor of the centennial issue in 1993: "But the eternal youth of the Tar Heel nevertheless is considered a blessing because it is youth that keeps it like a typical adolescent, defiant in the face of authority, eager for growth and protective of its freedom."

ASLEEP AT THE HELM

Although summer is a time of rest, Student Congress shouldn't have become careless with its business during the two summer sessions.

Not many people would argue that student leaders should take advantage of the summer months and relax. Summer is a difficult time to conduct business because most student groups are on hiatus, but Student Congress has taken relaxation to a dangerous level.

The Student Code requires that Congress meet once each summer session to pass any pending resolutions and appropriate the fees summer students pay, and although representatives have met during each session, it seems to have forgotten that summer doesn't equal a break from accountability.

During its June 25 meeting, Congress gave nearly \$1,500 to fund a trip for a few students with Carolina Week, the student newscast that airs on Student Television, to fly to Chile to study former dictator Augusto Pinochet and the disappearance of thousands during his reign and somehow linking it to astronomy.

The University should indeed encourage the academic pursuits of broadcast journalists, the study of Latin America and any feasible way to link the two with astronomy — although that's honestly very difficult to comprehend. However, it is not Student Congress' place to provide funding for such pursuits. It is not fair for summer students to foot the bill for

a few students' travel-study vacation to Chile when Carolina Week could have easily asked for funding through a Burch Travel Fellowship, the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence or departmental research funding.

Although Congress members will probably argue that they appropriated the money because of a lack of funding requests — this was only one of two, they should have been more responsible with student fee money. But part of the blame is on student groups, who have apparently taken a break from summer activities. If groups were more active and sent in many requests, Congress would have to examine subsequent appropriations with more common sense.

Also, Congress has failed to publicize official minutes for either of its summer meetings. It is the summer, but students, as constituents, have the right to read the details of what their elected representatives are doing, especially since the body's main job is to appropriate students' hard-earned money.

Although there is nothing that can be done about the Carolina Week funding request, Rep. Anisa Mohanty, the summer speaker, should not rest until the minutes are posted from the June 3 and June 25 meetings — that is, if formal minutes were even taken.

MORE THAN MONEY

Guest columnist questions the Carolina Covenant program's merit to the campus given the lack of a grade requirement for its students.

Last fall marked the beginning of the Carolina Covenant, a program designed to help low-income students meet the costs of attending UNC. The program offers grants, scholarships, and work-study to match 100 percent of an eligible student's financial need.

The problem is that not everyone is making the grade. Recently released data from the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid revealed the grade point averages of Covenant scholars to be lower than that of all freshmen. In fall 2004 only 38 percent of Covenant students earned a GPA of 3.00 or higher, while 57 percent of all freshman did so that semester.

At the same time, students who perform exceptionally well — but who wouldn't qualify for the Carolina Covenant — get the short end of the stick. One non-resident high school valedictorian turned down a full ride to his state's flagship to attend our journalism school. He maintained a 3.5 GPA and earned a good entry-level job — along with thousands of dollars in debt.

So while wealthy students can afford an education and lower income students attend for free with no strings attached, the middle class gets squeezed out.

REP. KRIS WAMPLER, UNC STUDENT CONGRESS GUEST COLUMNIST

If one is to accept the desirability of such a program as the Carolina Covenant, there has to be a realistic balance between these two extremes. At least some academic standards must be in place.

This goes beyond the fact that the public picks up part of the costs through grants, and it should expect better. Lower performing students drive down the average GPA and make UNC less competitive. We cannot expect our University to remain one of the nation's best if we fail to require academic achievement as a criterion in the Carolina Covenant.

But the closest UNC comes to this standard is that it requires students be admitted in the first place; that is, they had to have done reasonably well in high school. Once they get here, Covenant scholars are bound by no GPA requirements.

We should applaud those Covenant scholars who set higher standards for themselves than campus officials. And we should call on our University to uphold another covenant with the student body: protect the academic reputation of North Carolina's flagship public university.

EDITORS' NOTE: The above editorials, with the exception of the guest column, are the opinions of solely The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board, which were reached after open debate. The board consists of three board members, the editorial page editor and the DTH editor. The 2005 summer DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials.

READERS' FORUM

DTH editorial demeaned the character of the Confederacy

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to comment on the "More Tax Per Pack" editorial of June 23. In arguing why North Carolina should raise its cigarette tax, the editorial board suggested not doing so would "ensure that the rest of the nation continue to think of N.C. as a redneck-infested, backwoods, Confederate cesspool."

This implies that North Carolina's role in the Confederacy is a blight on our past, and that our state should do everything possible to distance itself from any association with the Confederate States of America, lest it be viewed as a cesspool.

Such a comment is a great insult to our ancestors and demonstrates that the writer does not fully understand this period of our history.

More than 40,000 N.C. soldiers died defending their homes and freedom while North Carolina was part of the Confederacy, and many civilians were left destitute as a result of the war.

North Carolina's motivation in joining the Confederacy was no less honorable than her motivation in breaking from Britain 85 years earlier. The issues that sparked the war were far more complex

than for the South to preserve slavery. It is a sign of tragic ignorance to boil the war down into a Yankee equals good guy, Confederate equals bad guy formula.

Unfortunately many of our schools today do just that when they ignore important facets of America's most devastating period.

I hope that the editorial comment suggesting North Carolina should be ashamed of its Confederate history is not evidence that UNC is one of these schools.

David Robinette Employee Microbiology and Immunology Dept.

Negative words about the C.S.A. make the DTH an actual cesspool

TO THE EDITOR:

In your June 23 editorial "More Tax Per Pack," you stated that North Carolina was "a redneck-infested, backwoods, Confederate cesspool." It showed a lack of class and education.

First of all, who are you to call anyone names? You who have not accomplished anything in your short life certainly have an inflated, unwarranted feeling of self worth.

I am sure you think you are above those

whom you call such names, but I assure you that you are not.

As for the Confederate part, you should be proud of the Confederates of the South and of North Carolina who fought to save constitutional liberty, freedom, states' rights and democracy from the overbearing, over-reaching socialists of the North.

North Carolina is a Southern state, our ancestors were Confederates, and we are proud. If you do not like that then I suggest you move to another place, perhaps Detroit, Philly, New York, Newark, Chicago or L.A. — talk about real cesspools!

The only cesspool that I can see is The Daily Tar Heel, which used to be a fine publication, but has become nothing more than a politically correct rag.

Terry Crayton Concord, N.C.

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 forum to: editdesk@unc.edu.

ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"I feel like I hit four holes in one, and I've only had one in 54 frickin' years."

ROY WILLIAMS, UNC BASKETBALL COACH

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Philip McFee, pip@email.unc.edu



COMMENTARY

Though not a Tar Heel born, I will always love good ol' N.C.

There are few times that I recommend policy changes in the state or even dream of drafting legislation for the N.C. General Assembly. But I'm ready to drive over to Raleigh and beg for Sen. Ellie Kinnaird to sponsor an important bill for me. I want lawmakers to make me a real North Carolinian.



DERWIN DUBOSE FROM THE DIRT ROAD

Although I've lived in Chapel Hill for three years, volunteered in the community, worked in town and voted here in the last election, I'm not considered a real Tar Heel because I'm an out-of-state student.

I'm doomed to be considered a second-rate citizen and an outsider, but I'd like to consider N.C. my home — not for a break on the \$17,000 tuition bill, but because a lot of N.C. students take this University and this great state for granted.

I can't count every time I've heard an in-state student express shame for being from here or comment how it's not really an accomplishment to get into UNC unless you're from another place. They apologize for Silent Sam, tobacco, cross burnings and Mike Krzyzewski, and understandably so.

But even though this state has its problems, all of its residents should keep in mind that things could be much worse — they could have been raised in Alabama, like me.

Sure, this state may have continuously elected Jesse Helms to the U.S. Senate, but Alabamians elected Governor George Wallace, a more public and outspoken bigot, four times. Plus, there are three Wallace Community Colleges in his honor, and he's considered a hero.

Recently, Alabama slammed-dunked in the backward contest by electing nut-job Judge Roy Moore as the state's chief justice. Moore was removed from office because he defied a federal court order to remove a 5,300-pound granite monument to the Ten Commandments he put in the rotunda of the state judicial building.

Christian or not, you'd have to agree that it's a crying shame when your chief justice doesn't

know enough about the law to realize he shouldn't disobey a higher god. However, Moore is the frontrunner for the Republican nomination to the Governor's Mansion, and I bet he'll win it all.

Sure, the N.C. General Assembly has its problems — the fact that there's no budget weeks before the fiscal year starts is proof of that, but Alabama runs on a 1901 constitution designed to disfranchise blacks, poor whites and women.

It is the longest known constitution in the world with 743 amendments including provisions on bingo, catfish, soybeans, dead farm animals, mosquitoes, prostitution and beaver tails. It also places the tax burden on the poorest families, instead of the rich.

North Carolina should be thankful that it has mostly fair laws, pretty good legislators, and a strong Institute of Government on the UNC campus to help it along.

Sure, we may joke that Tar Heel lawmakers hiccupped in establishing N.C. State University, but Alabama lacks a prestigious, unified public system of higher education. There are three separate college systems with at least two campuses each and nine independent universities that fight tooth-and-nail for limited funding and resources.

As a result, there is a large duplication of programs, and there are only a handful of nationally competitive programs in the state of Alabama.

North Carolinians should thank President Emeritus Bill Friday and others for establishing the UNC system, the model for Southern higher education.

Each N.C. resident is guaran-

teed a quality education at a low cost, but I had to pack my bags and drive 15 hours up Interstate 85 and pay an arm and a leg just to get a taste of it.

Even sports in Alabama can't touch North Carolina. Yes, Matt Doherty's departure was messy, and our football team might have a hard time beating Auburn High School's squad.

Yes, "Bama's "Bear" Bryant was a coaching god, and the Iron Bowl is the most watched regular-season football game in the nation.

However, N.C. has the powerhouses of ACC basketball, the genius of Dean Smith, two pro sports teams that include Julius Peppers — and now the duo of Sean May and Raymond Felton with the Charlotte Bobcats — a women's soccer dynasty, Roy Williams and Woody Durham.

These are a few reasons why I thank God for the great state of North Carolina and embrace it more than many resident students do. I realize it's not a perfect state — I wouldn't drive alone through Albemarle if you paid me; however, I appreciate it, and I'm not the only one.

Trudier Harris-Lopez, Sitterson Professor of English and columnist for the Chapel Hill News, and Daniel Wallace, author of the novel "Big Fish," are both native Alabamians who have found their way to this state by way of the Hill. Two acclaimed writers — or three, if you include me — can't be wrong.

Even though I will probably leave the state once I get that sheepskin stamped with James Moeser and Molly Broad's signatures, I will never forget the Old North State and particularly Chapel Hill for showing me there's a world outside of Alabama, opening doors for me, and teaching me Thomas Wolfe's lesson that I can't go home again.

In-staters, embrace the magic that surrounds this place. It's so good you may enjoy life not taking Wolfe's sage advice.

Contact Derwin Dubose at derwin.dubose@gmail.com.

The Daily Tar Heel

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