

## The Daily Tar Heel

In its sixty-ninth year of editorial freedom, unhampered by restrictions from either the administration or the student body.

THE DAILY TAR HEEL is the official student publication of the Publications Board of the University of North Carolina.

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## Mathers' Campaign: He Entered To Win, Not To Split The Vote

Mike Mathers' announcement Wednesday that he has withdrawn from the race for editor of the DTH resulted in a storm of reaction. Many of the students who wrote Mathers' name on the ballot protested that it was unfair to refuse him admission as a special student.

Others reacted with an air of resignation to the caprices of the administration. Still others concluded that the whole campaign was a fraud, that Mathers had no real intention of assuming the office if he won it.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Mathers entered the race with every intention of campaigning hard, winning, and putting out a good newspaper. Had he entered with the intention of splitting the vote and paving the way for a Clotfelter-Wrye victory—as some have charged—he would have gone into the run-off and withdrew at the last moment, leaving only the names of Clotfelter and Wrye on the ballot, insuring them a win.

This he did not do. The moment Mathers was informed by officials in the administration that he would

not be admitted as a special student, he withdrew from the race. The news that he would not be admitted came as a complete surprise not only to the campus, but to Mathers as well. He was not informed that he would not be admitted until Wednesday morning.

This is confirmed by officials in the School of Journalism.

The entire incident is nothing more than a muddle of misconceptions and errors. The outcome is regrettable, but was not conceived out of any intent other than to give the campus a choice. The choice was for Mathers, but a series of unforeseen events prevented him from participating in a run-off.

This is through no fault of Mathers, nor through any intent on his part to confuse or mislead the voters. His sincerity in running for the office is unquestionable. He fought hard to win, and quite probably would have had he not been faced with the prospect of serving for only 35 days, a situation that would be neither fair to him nor to the campus.

## Poll Tax Opposition

A simplified version of Senator Holland's proposed amendment to the Constitution abolishing the poll tax sailed through the Senate Wednesday and appears to have a good chance for approval by the House and ratification by three fourths of the states. The Senate was wise in yielding to the wishes of Majority Leader Mansfield and others to reduce controversy over the amendment to a minimum. After the Senate had concluded its talkfest and begun to debate the proposed amendment on its merits, the opposition virtually collapsed.

As the proposed amendment was previously phrased, it forbade the states to deny or abridge the right of any citizen to vote "in any pri-

mary or other election for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress" by reason of failure to pay a poll tax. Some critics feared that this reference to "electors" might leave a loophole that would enable the states to continue levying poll taxes by eliminating "electors" from their ballots and substituting the names of the candidates for President and Vice President. That possibility was eliminated by making the amendment applicable to direct election of the President as well as to the choice of electors.

A more important change was the complete elimination of Section 2 of the resolution. Section 2 had been assailed by various groups because it provided that the proposed amendment would have no effect upon state laws denying the right to vote to paupers and persons supported at public expense or by charitable institutions. This proviso had been deemed necessary because the original amendment would have abolished any property qualification for voting as well as the poll tax, and 12 states have limited the right of paupers to vote in order to discourage vote buying.

In our opinion, it would have been better to have eliminated all property qualifications for voting—period. But the issue before Congress was simplified by directing the amendment solely against the poll tax. In this form it seems unexceptionable, and since the effort to substitute for it a simple anti-poll-tax statute was again defeated in the Senate, the Holland resolution should have support from every foe of the poll tax.

"—But Please DON'T Fling Me In Dat Brier Patch!"



## Satan Balks

## K-9 Corps Goes To Pot

OLATHE, Kan. (UPI) — The entire Canine Corps of the Johnson County sheriff's office has been fired — all because of a dog named Satan.

Sheriff Ralph Burger said things went reasonably well at the outset, about two years ago, although all the dogs displayed a few problem personality traits, among them a unanimous aversion to drunks.

"The drunk," Burger said, "always wanted to pet the dogs, who were trained to be vicious on command and sometimes didn't wait for the command. Sometimes an officer who was driving had a hard time keeping a friendly prisoner and an unfriendly dog apart."

Satan had a brand of devilry all his own. Burger said three men were discovered inside a drug store late at night. Ordered into the dark-

ened premises to flush them out, Satan firmly braced his feet in refusal. One officer pulled and another pushed until the reluctant, 125-pounder was maneuvered inside.

Satan was not seen again until after officers had rounded up and handcuffed the three burglars. Then Satan was found sitting outside, licking his chops — coated with chocolate from candy he had stolen from a display counter.

"This," said the sheriff, "was embarrassing." Satan, however, was not fired then.

Dismissal came after he took sides in a family argument in his master's household. Each dog rode, during working hours, with the officer to whom he was assigned, and lived, when off duty, at the officer's house.

Satan had a special fondness for one of his master's children and an unexplained dislike for the man's wife, the sheriff said. One day when the mother bent over her offspring to administer a scolding, Satan roared to the child's defense.

"The dog grabbed the startled housewife by the lower stern section and hung on," the sheriff said.

That did it. Satan was sold back to his trainers at Springfield, Mo., and the era of canine police work in this Kansas City suburban area came to an end.

"From now on, we'll try to get along with men," Burger said.

## 'Twould Be Nice If . . .

... The administration would delegate to someone the job of checking the fire extinguishers, now that they've gotten the evacuation procedures set up.

... One could taste the Lenoir Hall lemon meringue pie.

... Put a Birchler and the Communist Lecture Bureau representative on a panel discussion.

... if the DTH could start printing IBC in addition to Pogo and Peanuts.

... we could get eating utensils that were clean in Lenoir Hall.

... someone would give the dogs that seem to roam uninhibited around Lenoir a bath—they do smell terribly!

... someone would recommend that ALL doors into and out of a building be kept open at ALL times. On the dining hall and GM, for example, they are not—what if there were a fire and everyone tried to get out one-half of a door?

... someone would again compare the intimate prices on texts and the Book X prices—I took five books over to the Intimate and was offered \$3.50 for all five, the man telling me that three of them were to be replaced next term. I then went to the Book X, where they should know if a book is going to be replaced or not, and received \$5.25 for only three of them! (They, too, said that ONE was going to be replaced, but not the other two.) Anybody smell profiteering???

Well, boys, let's see an answer to this!

Peter B. Maupin

## Urban Power To Increase

By RAYMOND LAHR

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Supreme Court's haymaker blow at the state legislatures promises to inflate the political power of big cities at a time when the cities already are causing despair in the Republican party.

Since the dawn after election day in 1960, the GOP has blamed its loss of the White House on the big city turnout for President Kennedy. It has given much attention to ways of curing its sick party organizations in the cities.

The country districts may be overrepresented in the legislatures and Congress but the big cities have political muscle of their own. It is shown every four years in the nomination and election of candidates for president.

All states cast their entire blocs of electoral votes on a winner-take-all basis. As was shown in 1960, Democratic majorities in big cities can outweigh Republican outstate majorities in such states as New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Illinois to elect a Democratic president.

Now comes the Supreme Court decision which in effect promises to increase the urban power in the state legislatures.

However, the news need not be all black for the Republicans. If the cities are underrepresented in the legislature, the suburbs are more so, and the GOP regards the suburbs as its territory despite Democratic gains in these areas in the 1960 presidential election.

In Monday's Supreme Court decision, the majority held that the federal courts could intervene in a Tennessee legislative apportionment dispute after the legislature had refused to redistrict since 1901. The refusal to redistrict in that state gave rural dwellers a bigger voice in the legislature than those in the growing cities.

### Situation Exists Elsewhere

Political scientists have assembled manuals of statistics to show

that the same condition exists in many states because the farms are losing population to burgeoning metropolitan areas.

In a 1946 decision, Justice Felix Frankfurter called the redistricting dispute a "political thicket" which the federal courts should never enter.

If, as expected, the new decision invites similar suits against alleged inequities in other states, the courts must find their way out of the thicket. They may need years to escape.

If a state were functioning with an unfair apportionment plan and court action were threatened, the simplest solution would be adoption of a fair plan by the legislature.

The Minnesota legislature redistricted in 1959 under a threat of federal court action. The New Jersey legislature did the same last year with pressure coming from the state Supreme Court.

### Could Halt Election

In the Tennessee case, it was suggested that a federal court could enjoin state election officials from holding elections until the legislature redistricted.

But what would happen if a legislature refused to bow to a federal court?

One proposal, which could bring nightmares to politicians, would have all members of a legislature of a state's congressional delegation elected from the state at large instead of by districts.

Another would have the federal courts draw the lines for new legislative or congressional districts. In their opinions Monday, Justice Tom Clark said this could be done; the dissenting Frankfurter said it would be impossible.

Unless legislatures yield quietly, some federal judges may find themselves presiding over political brawls and feeling, perhaps, like preachers caught up in a street fight.

## First Free Bus System?

ITHACA, N. Y. (UPI) — This central New York city awaits the green light from federal authorities to put into operation America's first free municipal bus system.

Under the proposed system, tickets and fares would be dispensed with. Arthur Stallman, head of the City Council's Ithaca Transit Committee said, "you could just get on the bus and ride."

Ithaca applied for a \$120,000 federal grant last fall to finance the program. The request has since been lowered to \$104,000.

Funds would come from the Urban Transit Division of the Housing and Home Finance Agency under a \$50 million program Congress set up last year to help rehabilitate transportation systems.

The Ithaca plan would be a pilot project to determine proper methods and procedures for bus operations in cities of comparable size.

Putting the free bus operation into effect hinges on federal approval of a workable plan submitted by the city and the signing of a formal contract guaranteeing two-thirds federal participation in all costs.

How does Ithaca's population view the experiment?

A housewife, Mrs. Robert Ready, said: "I think it will get more people to use the buses. People have gotten out of the habit of riding them." But she added many housewives probably would continue using their cars and students would be the main beneficiaries of the program.

Students and faculty at Cornell University and Ithaca College make up about one-third of the city's 30,000 population.

A downtown merchant, Fred Abraham, proprietor of a record store, praised the plan as "the kind of concerted effort which is needed to stimulate Ithaca's business."

There are some dissident voices, like Cornell junior William Iming:

"People are still going to drive

their cars if they have them," Iming said. He believes the automobile remains the "ultimate convenience."

Another disenchanted observer has been Ithaca's new mayor, John F. Ryan, a Democrat, who strongly opposed the free bus plan during his election campaign.

Faced with a Republican City Council which voted unanimously for free buses, Ryan adopted an official watch and wait attitude.

The plan also has received heavy outside criticism, particularly from Sen. Frank Lausche, D-Ohio, in December, who wrote Federal Urban Transportation Administrator Jackson Kohl:

"Where will this program end? If Ithaca is entitled to free transportation, what about other communities of the country?"

Housing Administrator Robert C. Weaver said the Ithaca program would be merely an experiment.

He said it would be designed to answer such questions as how much does the fare actually influence riding, whether the community receives any significant benefit from free service, who rides the buses and how often, what are its effects on demands, street traffic and police downtown stores, and on parking costs.

"The Housing and Home Finance Agency," he said, "is certainly not planning any permanent subsidies of commuter fares."

## About Letters

The Daily Tar Heel invites readers to use it for expressions of opinion on current topics regardless of viewpoint. Letters must be signed, contain a verifiable address, and be free of libelous material.

Brevity and legibility increase the chance of publication. Lengthy letters may be edited or omitted. Absolutely no note will be returned.

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