

The Daily Tar Heel

76 Years of Editorial Freedom

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The DTH Endorses Dietz For President

Politics has been defined as "the art of the possible."

With this maxim in mind, we have considered the candidates for student body president, gauging them by how much they could possibly do for the students of this University.

We have read the platforms. We have studied the issues. We have spoken with the candidates.

All of them have advanced solutions for solving curing what ails Chapel Hill.

Each has his own remedy for curing whatever is ailing this University, in his opinion. Each has not only opinions, but also reasons and strategies to back them up and to affect them.

But only one of these can be elected president.

That one person should be the candidate who can do more for the student body than can any of the others.

He should not be one who has a completely negative platform, and whose candidacy is based solely on opposition to the Student Government "establishment."

He should not be one whose platform promises student government-Administration confrontations which are so unrealistic that Administration victory is assured almost by definition.

He should not be one, either, who is pledged to sweeping—but unattainable—reforms in every area of University life.

Instead, he should be one whose platform—although it, too, contains some of the chaff and rhetoric of his opponents—is grounded solidly in his past record.

It should be Jed Dietz.

His platform speaks of bettering relations with the state: already he has been the first student government official to attempt communicating with the people of North Carolina over the television air waves. This is indicative of the aggression and imagination Dietz has.

Further, he has also worked aggressively and with imagination in the area of educational reform, and his name has been associated with most of the major developments in that area.

It has been Dietz who has, more than anyone else, bridged the gap between the Residence College System and Chancellor J. Carlyle Sitterson: he, in fact, brought the chancellor into the residence halls this year.

He has been articulate concerning the need for judicial reform, and was one of the leading spokesmen against Student Government's involvement with the present drug policy.

He has lived in the residence halls, and has experienced the problems and frustrations of doing so.

The other candidates have also worked in these fields, and in some have made quite notable contributions. Each of them possess many of the qualities necessary to be a good president.

Jed Dietz, however, seems to possess all those qualities—plus the experience within Student Government to transform those qualities—leadership, insight, empathy with the students in general—into a positive force which will benefit the students of this University the greatest.

Letters To The Editor

Remember Dr. King's Ideal

To The Editor:

My heart is filled with remorse for the brutal slaying of Martin Luther King, and I'm white. My feelings do not come from fear, though I felt terror when I heard of his death. Rather, they stem from my admiration and respect for King the man himself.

He was a man.

He stood for all of those things which are inherent in a man. He was brave. He was loyal. He was dedicated. He was humble. He loved decency and he was decent. And he spoke openly and freely, and did not conspire in darkness.

He was followed because men saw in him those characteristics of manhood which they wished for themselves.

So now I find it tragically ironic that those who loved, praised and honored Dr. King in life, would turn

from him and his way of action—the way which represents all that is constructive and good—to follow the way of the dirty, low-down trash who shot him—a way that represents all that is base, evil and futile in man.

For if now in this moment of crisis we turn away from the ideals of Dr. King for longer than an understandable period of pure rage, if we surrender to the forces of evil, we—all of us

white and black—will play into the filthy hands of the scum who would like nothing better than to exterminate the decent, concerned people of all races of this nation.

And who, for example, are these people so bent upon our destruction? Well, for openers, turn on your TV any weekday at high noon and listen to the news.

I praise Martin Luther King, and I remember him and his ideals daily, because I know I must never allow myself to be destroyed by his, and my, enemies.

William S. Doxey
English Dept.

'Elvira Madigan' IS Perfect

To The Editor:

I am writing in regard to a Daily Tar Heel Movie Review, released on March 31, by Mr. Harvey Elliot, in which he chooses to cauterize the film Elvira Madigan, without justifying his criticism.

He states "Elvira Madigan is composed of several perfect ingredients which add up to a less than perfect whole." On the contrary, the film did add up to a perfect whole. Among the most significant of its virtues: the photography, color, music, use of sound and silences, and the integration of symbols into an ingeniously constructed commentary of love. The film warrants a more careful examination than Mr. Elliot gave it.

He condemns the film, stating that we cannot believe that Elvira and Sixten are starving to death. He found it all too unrealistic, and could not understand, why they were driven to suicide. He missed the point. In short, he missed the movie.

Elvira Madigan is a classical tragedy and Director Widerberg chooses to increase the impact of the tragedy by placing his characters on a pedestal removed from reality. Macbeth and Phaedra are hardly condemned because they are not believable, yet they are not realistic.

Their hunger can be looked upon as the grasp of the outside world which they have forgotten. Their flaw is that they have succumbed to a powerful and overwhelming love, run away together, deserting their old lives, and consequently followed a forbidden path which alienates them from society. Where can they go? What can they do? All they have is love, and as Elvira says "Sixten, the stomach cannot exist on love." The inevitable end and final obstruction to their passion is death, an age old theme.

The pastoral setting is real in the sense that Widerberg is showing us the world as seen through the eyes of the lovers, and somehow this oneness with nature that they achieve appears far more beautiful than the review leads us to believe.

Keeping in mind the mores of nineteenth century bourgeois Europe, and the Swedish disposition towards suicide, there was hardly anything unnatural about their deaths.

What of the use of symbols, which foreshadow their imminent deaths. Elvira leaves her knitting at the inn when they are forced to flee; a symbol of womanly virtues which she is unable to master. One might compare their entire flight from society to walking Elvira's tightrope; a dream which might collapse at any minute. When they are seated at a picnic Sixten knocks over the wine spilling the dark red onto the white linen cloth; a portent of the inevitable end.

The photography portrays their love through the careful use of closeups on Elvira and Sixten, with clouded impressions of the world in the background. They are the world. All they see is each other. Superbly done. As Sixten tells his Army companion, he has chosen to see the world as a blade of grass.

In the end when Sixten is forced to shoot Elvira, after a last supper, Widerberg uses a delicate and understated analogy of the soul to a button.

Frederick William Scoggins
Pittsboro

They called his movement "non-violent;" this in itself was paradoxical. In whatever area Dr. King chose to march he retained a wake of violence—leaving a trail of bloodshed and tragedy. To him his, seemingly, obsession was far more important than the lives of the innocent victims who (by chance) happened to stand in his way. Statistically, Dr. King's marches were responsible for more deaths and injuries than all of the marches of the "violent" Black Power leaders combined.

I have never, nor will I ever become an advocate of mob violence in order to reach an end. And further, I will never endorse anyone who takes the law into their own hands—I find Dr. King no exception.

Today while thousands of our troops are giving up their lives daily in Vietnam for the protection of law and order at home and the democratic process, many Americans find much more compassion for the death of one man, Dr. Martin Luther King—a man who hardly knew what the terms "law and order" and "democratic process" meant. He made his own law and by it "he was king."

And so it may be said, "they who live by violence, die by it." Martin Luther King has proved this.

Boyd Correll
Granville Towers

Bus System's Objectives Unclear

To The Editor:

Lamentably, and perhaps predictably, the student legislature appears to be as myopic as the university administration and its consultants in matters relating to student transportation. While a substantial effort has been made in determining the financial feasibility of a bus system to connect that dormitory outpost, "south campus", with the main campus, inadequate thought has been given to the objectives of the project. Currently it appears that the objective is solely political, to allow one of the bastions of student democracy to claim that its plan has been accepted and enacted, irrespective of whether the plan is a good one or in the long run will enhance the welfare of those forced to endure the rigors of south campus life.

Comments are restricted to the proposal to charge a dime for each bus trip and presumably to judge the success of the plan by whether revenues cover costs, because the alternative proposal has not been sufficiently outlined to

permit discussion.

First, a ten cents charge for each bus trip amounts to an outrageous cost per mile for transportation.

Second, the inhabitants of south campus live there (a) because it has been deemed necessary to provide adequate parking spaces for those both living and working in the main campus and (b) because of a rather incomprehensible and perhaps irrelevant set of concepts as to what physical arrangement of buildings and plantings is required to generate an aesthetically attractive main campus (note that in certain instances, e.g. the new psychology building, this concept is mutable).

It appears that the particular concept of what the campus should be is spasmodically followed and when the shibboleth of parking space for all entrenched in one way or another on the main campus is maintained, it is therefore not entirely clear why they should have the sole burden of supporting the bus system.

Finally, to the extent that the dime charge per ride on the bus system, a

Viet Signature

Grotesque

To The Editor:

We are not impressed with the supposedly humorous touch of adding the name of "Vinh Scree You, Carrboro University" to the statement of Vietnamese students published in your March 2 issue.

This is worse than a bad joke; it is just one more manifestation of the kind of callousness that prompted the now well-known statement by an American officer: "To save Bentre it became necessary to destroy it." It is grotesque to mock the deep personal concern of Vietnamese who are seeing their land destroyed and their countrymen annihilated in the name of democracy and an anti-communist crusade.

We think that an explanation and an apology from the Tar Heel to the signers of the statement and to the student body would be appropriate.

Lawrence D. Kessler,
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THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

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King Made His Own Law

To The Editor:

Upon hearing the news of Martin Luther King's death I was taken by surprise, but by no means was I shocked.

In regard to the Negro movement in the United States Dr. King was,

indeed, a leader, but to those who were unfortunate enough to have been in his path—Dr. King's existence had become in reality a living nightmare. It was so everywhere he went.

They called his movement "non-violent;" this in itself was paradoxical. In whatever area Dr. King chose to march he retained a wake of violence—leaving a trail of bloodshed and tragedy. To him his, seemingly, obsession was far more important than the lives of the innocent victims who (by chance) happened to stand in his way. Statistically, Dr. King's marches were responsible for more deaths and injuries than all of the marches of the "violent" Black Power leaders combined.

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Boyd Correll
Granville Towers

judgment of that system cannot be made on the basis of revenues exceeding costs. At certain periods of the day, the peak hours, a dime charge may underestimate the benefits to a rider; at other hours of the day, the slack hours, south campus residents may prefer to walk or not to make a trip at all.

Also there is the question of whether the student body as a whole does not benefit by making it easier for south campus residents to get to main campus facilities and to participate in main campus student activities.

The real difficulty in analyzing the bus system proposal is that the objectives are unclear. If the objective is to provide south campus residents with access to the main campus which in some sense approximates that which main campus residents enjoy, then no charge should be made. If the objective is just to provide an alternative form of transportation to the main campus, the only decision rule proposed is inadequate.

Stephen S. Skjel
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