

Robert N. Putnam II

I'm your new DTH plaintiff

I am in the process of becoming one of the plaintiffs in the Daily Tar Heel lawsuit now pending, which is challenging the legality of the use of compulsory student fees to provide part of the financial support for the DTH.

In a way I may be acting against my own interest. I enjoy writing this column—it has been one of my most rewarding experiences here at Carolina. And the editors of the DTH claim that this newspaper is so dependent on funding through student fees that it could not otherwise exist. If this be true (though I doubt very strongly that it is), then I would be contributing to the elimination of an activity which I find most rewarding personally, and which I hope, through the opinions expressed in my column, is a stimulus to discussion among my readers.

The basic principle of the suit, however, transcends such considerations. Simply stated, no one should be forced to support a publication which expresses views to which he may be morally or politically opposed. Can it be logically argued that being forced to support such views against your will is any less of an imposition on your rights as a citizen

than it would be simply to prohibit you from affirmatively expressing opinions which you do hold? The latter prohibition would be as clear a violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution as could be imagined.

Yet the DTH clearly expresses views with which some may disagree. It does so directly in its editorials, which, when unsigned, represent the opinion of the editor and the newspaper itself; and it does so indirectly through its columnists and reporters. (I think I can say with some confidence that there are some students who do not 100 per cent agree with every view which I have expressed in this space.) The point is that those who strongly disagree should have some effective option to being forced to pay for the dissemination of such points of view. Presently the possibilities which exist are: 1) do not go to the University of North Carolina at all, because you do not like its student newspaper, 2) refuse to pay your student fees which support the newspaper, and bear the consequences of being refused credit for your courses and denied your degree because of the non-payment, or 3) by convincing "50 per cent plus one" of the

voting students to elect an editor for the DTH who will always agree with your personal political and moral views.

The option that a student should have is one more effective and vastly more practical than any of the above—he should simply have the right to support or not to support, to subscribe or not to subscribe, in the same manner that he would with any ordinary newspaper to which he might object. If the News and Observer supports political views to which I am unalterably opposed I may refuse to buy it; if the Daily Tar Heel does, I am nonetheless forced to pay it my fees. To say that a majority of the UNC students have voted for the fee is no answer at all. One of the basic concepts of democracy is that a minority's rights cannot be permitted to be voted away by a momentary majority.

It could well have been that a majority of UNC students would have favored contributing five dollars to the Democratic Party last October; yet it would hardly be legal to initiate, through referendum, a new student fee at five dollars per person to be used exclusively for contributions to that organization. So too with a Daily Tar Heel that expresses

political and moral views that may be disagreed with. There are some things that a majority should not be able to force on a minority.

The argument becomes all the stronger when one considers that there is no real necessity to fund the DTH in a way that chills the rights of freedom of expression of those who disagree with it. In the first place, the overwhelming majority of the newspapers in this country exist without any form of special subsidy. Secondly, I know from personal experience that a student newspaper can exist independently of any compulsory financing and do very well—the university I attended as an undergraduate had a very fine independent daily newspaper for all of this century. Yet that school's current enrollment is only about 5,000. UNC has over 20,000 students from whom personnel and subscribers could be drawn. And lastly, the DTH claims it wants to and can become independent, given "a few more years." After seventy-nine years of publication it is difficult to comprehend why a few more years should be necessary. If the DTH truly desired financial independence, one would think it could have acted a little more quickly.

The problem is that the DTH has some \$50,000 a year of "free money" coming in through the student fees each year. It would indeed be a remarkable editor who would lobby for this money to be taken away, when it would have to be replaced from other sources (subscriptions) which would involve a great deal more effort. And then of course the newspaper would have to be a good one, if enough students were to buy it for it to survive. Under such conditions an editor would quite naturally fight to keep the \$50,000, exaggerating the real problems which might face him and manufacturing imagined difficulties, rather than facing the harsh market of students willing to pay only what they thought the paper was worth to them.

I will pay the DTH a compliment: I think the average student considers this newspaper worth paying for. The only argument which the editor can make against independent financing is to claim that the student does not. But if that is true, should the DTH exist at all?

In any event, I think it is impermissible to force any individual in a free society to support a publication which may disseminate views which he opposes, especially when there are alternatives to such compulsion. And just as I want to have the right to withhold my support for Evans Witt's ideology, I just as strongly want you to have the right to refrain from supporting the spread of Robert Putnam's views, should you disagree with them. Compulsory fee funding of the DTH deprives you of that right.

Parking solution one step closer

At last the voters of Chapel Hill have come to appreciate and to support a solution to the massive parking and traffic problems in this community. The voters, including a large number of students, turned out Tuesday to support two bus proposals on the ballot by two-to-one margins.

Now it is time for the town government and the voters of Carrboro to reach a similar understanding of their share in the responsibility for the problems.

The Carrboro aldermen have finally agreed earlier to hold a referendum on the transit plans. But sources in the town indicate many Carrboro politicians want to delay such a vote until the middle of the summer when the town's student population reaches its low point.

Such incredible intellects

WCAR is finally on the move toward having studios in the Union as Physical Plant workmen begin the construction Wednesday next to Student Graphics where the DTH is made up each night.

But the Physical Plant did it again — an oversight that can only be described as stupid.

The doors which will serve as the entrances to the print shop will be single doors, instead of the current situation with double doors. Which is fine, except there are a number of pieces of equipment in the print shop that are much wider than the 35 inches width of those doors. And what if the print shop buys some more equipment that is also wider than the door? Are they going to knock down the concrete block walls now being constructed to move equipment in and out of the shop? Or will they go out the back door to the shop — which is a double door — and then roll the equipment up one of the bowling lanes?

The Physical Plant has struck again.

The Bayit

Some Jews still below poverty line

In 1963 Michael Harrington published a book that made America conscious of the "Other America" — the thirty million Americans who live below the income level recognized by the government as minimally adequate. The Jewish community did not see the relevance of the problem with respect to its own people. The myth that American Jews had conquered poverty was believed by the majority affluent Jewish population, as well as by the non-Jewish community. The myth viewed the Jewish poor as a small number of isolated instances particularly among Orthodox and Chassidic (a particular Orthodox segment) communities. Thus, the unnoticed portion of Jews who were poor joined the ranks of the invisible poor.

Recognizing the invisible poor of the Jews is difficult. Because of the tradition of separation of church and state, the census every ten years does not include questions on religious preference. A 1957 interim report did ask an optional question on religious preference. Though few of the people surveyed objected, the question was not included in the census of 1960. In fact, the full report of the 1957 information was not released until an act by Congress effected the release.

So information about religious groups must be derived from other sources. Some local surveys are performed to

Without bus service to Carrboro, solving the campus problems with cars will be much more difficult and more expensive.

Now is also the time for the Joint Transportation Commission that originally evolved this proposal to take the necessary steps toward changing the plan into an operating system.

The University

Now is also the time for the University to re-affirm the commitments it suggested last fall it would make to the operation of the system. Whether it takes special legislation from the General Assembly, a student referendum or whatever, the necessary steps should be taken to assure that the University community will be sharing the financial burden of the system.

This is not to suggest that the University dive directly back into the utilities business, since it is in the process of withdrawing from other utilities operations. The University simply must commit itself to support the system in a manner consistent with its responsibility to the community.

Parking

Perhaps most importantly for all of us who come to campus each day, now is also the time for a special University committee to finalize the details of a parking system for campus for next year.

There are many questions that need to be answered and problems to be worked out. For example, are the faculty to get preference in North Campus parking areas? If so, what premium price will they pay for such a luxury? Exactly how much will students be paying who want to park on campus?

Any suggestions or complaints about the parking proposals that have already been discussed should be directed in writing to the chairman of this special committee, Dr. Claiborne Jones, whose office is in South Building.

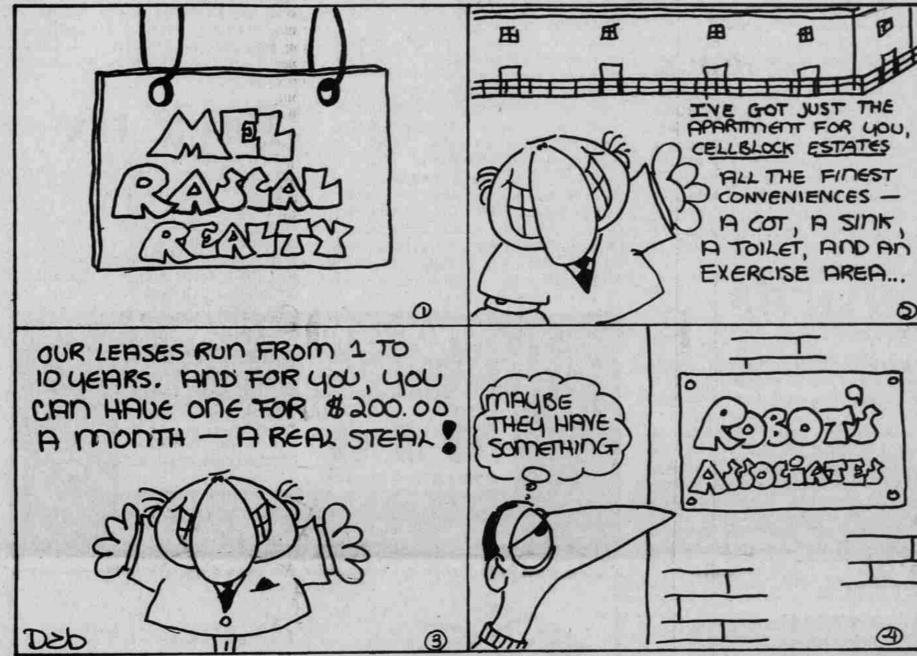
The town of Chapel Hill has indicated its willingness to help solve the problems. Carrboro, the University, faculty, staff and students must now show an equal willingness to push toward the necessary solutions.

obtain demographic information which is useful for planning social services for the community.

The Bureau of the Census estimates that 4.5% of the total Jewish population falls below the poverty level as established by the Office of Economic Opportunity. Their estimate is based on the percentage of the population in America of Russian origin that has an income less than the poverty level. The Bureau conjectures that because most of the persons of Russian origin in the United States are Jewish, that the figures can be used to estimate the percentage of poor Jews. Despite any weakness in the hypothesis upon which the Bureau bases its estimate, this estimate is the most currently accepted calculation. Other studies indicate that there may be as many as 800,000 Jews living in poverty.

Poverty among Jews primarily includes those Jews living as unrelated individuals; most of these individuals are elderly. Only 2% of Jews living in families are poor (1% for male-headed households, and 15% for female-headed households). However, 24% of Jews living with no relatives are poor (15% for males and 30% for females), composing 60% of all the Jewish poor. This 60% stands in contrast to the percentage for the country as a whole, where the figure is 20%.

Overall, the major portion of the poor



Letters to the Editor

Dr. McCutchan said 'knowledgeable'

To the Editor:

The February 21 issue of The Daily Tar Heel contained a letter which was insulting to the UNC Infirmary and to Dr. James McCutchan in particular. Dr. McCutchan is one of a few medical doctors who not only keep abreast in their field but also retain an interest in related fields such as chemistry and biochemistry. That is to say, he is a knowledgeable and capable physician and can probably tell you what the drug he prescribes for you does in your system. His statement that symptoms of meningitis were produced by reading The Daily Tar Heel was undoubtedly true if

not complimentary to the UNC hypocondriac. As usual, Dr. McCutchan is refreshingly direct in his analysis of the situation.

As regards the author of said article, a Mr. B.L. Neal, he himself writes that he underwent numerous tests, implying that the malfunction finally revealed was at least well-hidden. Mr. Neal certainly did not imagine his feeling of malaise, but he could hardly expect Dr. McCutchan to analyze his condition (when he obviously had no symptoms) in, let us say, 10 minutes. After all, his own hospital and all its resources required five days to make the diagnosis.

Any student concerned about having meningitis or any other ailment should soon be examined by the doctor at the Infirmary — McCutchan is his name.

Charles M. Milliren
418 Craige

Grave robbers report findings

To the Editor:

Five of us robbed two graves on campus Tuesday night. But to our astonishment, the graves were empty! We expected them to contain the bodies of the T.C.C. (Typical Carolina Co-ed) and the Carolina Gentleman. Instead we discovered the Gentleman and his lady dwelling in the bodies of UNC students.

Almost like a disease, inwardness and small, closed circles of friends have killed the freshman-like spirit of initiative and outgoing friendliness toward the opposite sex. Once it infects, it is almost incurable because the carrier is unaware of his condition. The carrier becomes increasingly afraid to break old habits and refuses to meet new people. This is a product of one's inhibitions and social taboos that are instilled in your minds.

Everyone complains but no one dares make the first move. After all, students pass one another without saying hello, without smiling, or without even glancing up.

enable the workers an opportunity to vote; this left the Orthodox Jews, who could not vote on the Sabbath, disenfranchised. Also, the base for statistics was often weighted against the Jew. For instance, use of birth rates or juvenile delinquency rates would measure inadequately the poor over 65 years old.

So far little has been said of the life of the Jewish poor. On the whole there is little difference between the Jewish poor and their non-Jewish counterparts. Both live lonely lives and fear to venture out because of their crime-infested environment. Poor housing, medical care and emotional and physical security plague all the poor.

The Jewish poor have their special problems, too. Special needs of the Orthodox and Chassidic communities should be met. Ritual demands must be provided for. For instance, to adhere to the dietary code, these religious Jews need access to a Kosher meat market. Special problems are posed by the attitudes against birth control; a large family places a further burden on the one who supports it. Pride often keeps the deserving poor from securing public assistance, which is noted as these Jews have been left behind by their affluent brothers.

Only through a consciousness of this problem can steps be taken to begin to ameliorate Jewish poverty.

You must exorcise the T.C.C. and the Carolina Gentleman, bury your inhibitions, and join us in a period of rejuvenated spirit. Do you people think you have so many friends or admirers that you couldn't use one more?

Bill Rendleman Garnet Bass
Vicki Wilkof Lloyd Schiller
Alan Senter

On producing more c-stickers

To the Editor:

Concerning the planned increase in room rent for next semester: considering the fact that janitors are no longer permitted to sweep rooms, considering the fact that we can't keep food in our rooms without being overrun by ants, considering the fact that for three days there has been absolutely no hot water in this dormitory, we fail to see any basis whatsoever for this increase. Service has decreased, but rent is going to be increased. If reasons for this increase can be explained we would appreciate it. Considering that it will probably cost us \$45 to park our cars within three miles of the dormitory next fall, maybe someone should print quite a few extra C-stickers for next semester.

Randy Underwood Kenneth Reese
Buddy Brietz Ryan Cribbins
Rick Franklin
Avery

The Daily Tar Heel
Evans Witt, Editor

79 Years
of
Editorial Freedom

The Daily Tar Heel strives to provide meaningful news interpretations and opinions on its editorial page. Unsigned editorials are the opinions of the editor, while letters and columns represent only the views of individual contributors.

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