

Technician OPINION

"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

Tar Heel troubles

The **Daily Tar Heel**, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's student newspaper, has enjoyed 83 years of editorial freedom, as its masthead proudly announces.

83 years, that is, until today. The **Tar Heel**, one of the nation's oldest collegiate newspapers, has also traditionally been one of its best. In the past five years, the **Technician** has risen quickly to national prominence, and has now established itself among the nation's leading collegiate journals. The result of this, in recent years, has been hot competition between the **Tar Heel** and the **Technician** for both regional and national awards, with both papers gathering their share of honors.

But today there is no **Tar Heel**, and the reason why calls for setting aside any pettiness involved in the journalistic rivalry.

The **Tar Heel** is in financial trouble. Or is it? No, the **DTH's** problems are, in reality, political, not financial. And the difficulties being faced by the **Tar Heel** stem from a disease that has swept student governments virtually all across the nation—creative impotence.

To lay the cards on the table, it seems that Carolina's student government, like that of State and countless other universities, just can't come up with anything to do with itself. So in lieu of doing something creative, they have chosen to take the route of doing something destructive.

And in the case of universities such as Carolina, where student government has a degree of financial control over the campus newspaper, said publication has become the target of those destructive tendencies.

At Carolina, Student Body Treasurer Mike O'Neal, a longtime campus politico, took it upon himself, with subsequent backing from the Carolina Campus Governing Council, to exercise control over the **Tar Heel's** \$29,000 student fee appropriation. By refusing to release any more than \$6,000 of the previously allocated \$29,000 O'Neal made it possible for the **Tar Heel** to meet a Carolina Student Government Treasury law that requires an organization to have the cash on hand before entering into business transactions, which, in the case of the **Tar Heel's** day to day operation, means that they must have the cash in the bank to cover expenses before they can print the next day's paper.

The result of all this is that the **Tar Heel** has an artificial financial crisis, which stems from O'Neal and company's blatant ignorance of the concept of accounts receivable.

The **Tar Heel**, like the **Technician**, has encountered tremendous printing costs in the first two weeks of publication due to the increased number of pages in the semester opening papers. But also like the **Technician**, the **Tar Heel** has sold more than enough advertising in those issues to cover the cost of printing them.

However, you can't sell advertising on a cash in advance basis. The ad has to be sold, run in the paper, and sent as a "tear sheet" to the advertiser along with the invoice, which allows 30 days for submission of payment.

So for the **Tar Heel** to meet its statutory obligation to have the cash on hand in advance to cover printing costs for the first two weeks' papers, it would of necessity have to have at least half of its previously allocated \$29,000 in student funds in a lump sum at the beginning of the academic year.

But O'Neal and his friends either can't or more probably won't, see the situation in the light of reality.

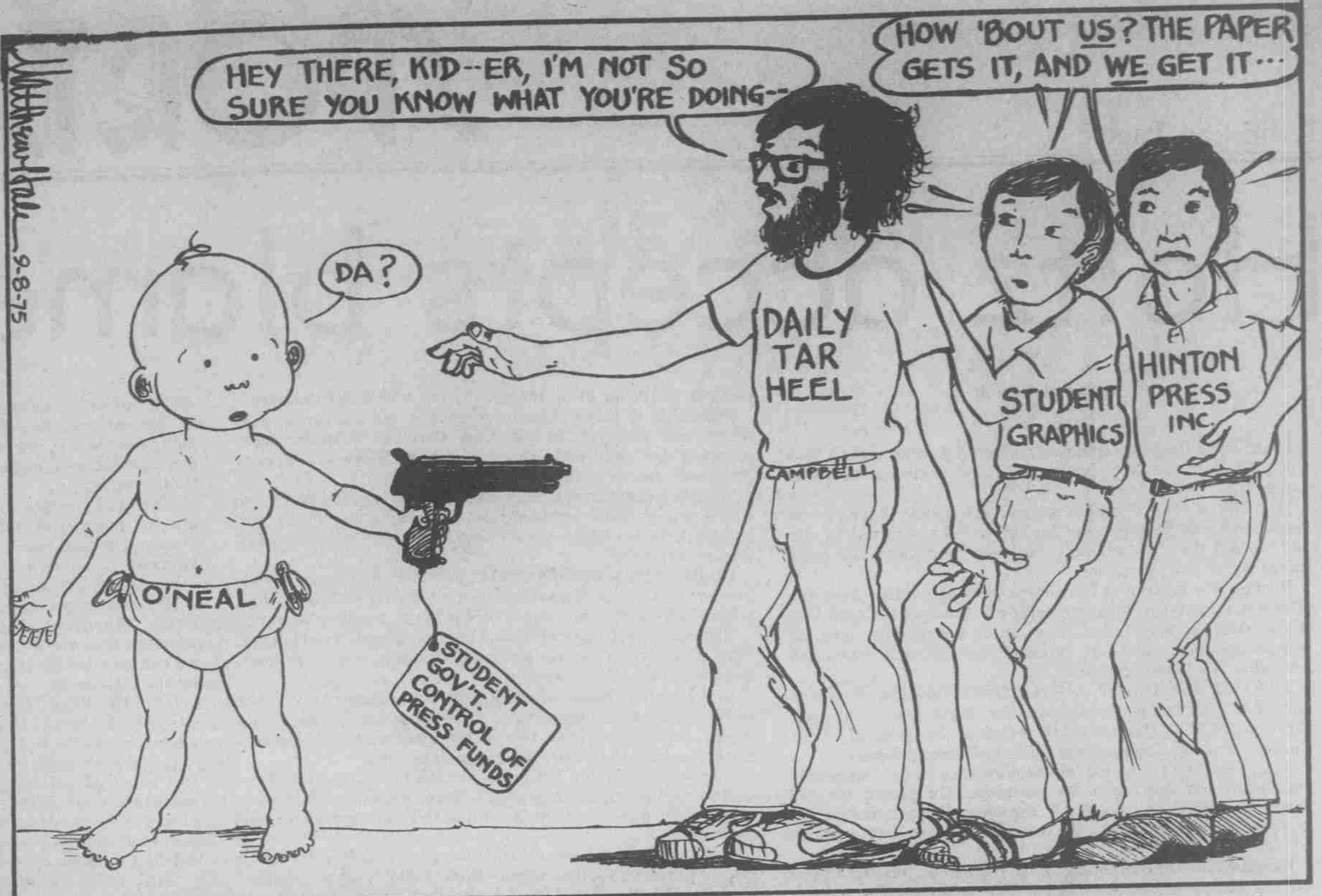
Instead, in what is in all likelihood an attempt to set themselves up as "The Power," the UNC Student Body Treasurer and his student government friends have realized that they have the clout to play "hot shot" and are now exercising that dubious prerogative.

What it comes down to is this: due to technicalities in the Carolina student body statutes, one pompous ass has control over \$29,000 of the **Tar Heel** budget, which totals well over \$200,000, and with control of that small fraction of the total budget, can shut down the entire operation.

And what is incredible is that he did it.

Here at State, publications operate under the jurisdiction of a student board known as the Publications Authority, which is totally removed from student government intervention. Although it has its faults, what has happened to the **Tar Heel** clearly demonstrates that the system we have here is superior to one with any sort of student government control over the newspaper woven into it.

It is our hope that the students of Carolina will demand an end to such control over the freedom of the **Tar Heel**. Its tradition of quality is something Carolina students can rightfully take pride in. The asinine actions of the Carolina student government are, conversely, something of which Carolina students should be ashamed, and more importantly, something they should put a stop to at once.



The opinions expressed in the accompanying editorial are those of the Technician and were not sought by the editors of the Tar Heel.

Editor, The Technician

Blissful Ignorance

Highlights of fall '75 TV

In a few weeks the three television networks will once again prove H. L. Mencken's thesis that nobody has gone broke by underestimating the intelligence of the public.

I have some information on the upcoming new programs which I'll pass on without further comment.

The most innovative program of the season was conceived in response to soaring TV production costs. ABC needed an inexpensive yet popular program. The result is the **ABC Half-an-Ounce Variety Hour**, which will be aired seven nights a week.

The show is simple. Host Ralph Rudell starts by dipping into his **Half-Ounce of Entertainment**, that is, his baggie full of Venezuelan Orange, then rolling a few numbers and getting extremely stoned. That's the first half hour. In the

second half of the show, Ralph will settle down in front of his TV set and watch old reruns like **Andy Griffith** or **McHale's Navy**, as will the viewers. In this way, half of the show has already been done.

Another unusual ABC offering is **The Rite of Spring**, which a press release describes as "a situation comedy based on Stravinsky's well-known orchestral piece of the same name."

NBC will try to cash in on the nostalgia wave with a live program called **Remember Yesterday!** It will consist of hit songs, idiomatic expressions and fads that were popular on the day before air time. CBS is countering with an even more recent nostalgia show called **Ten Minutes Ago**.

The plight of Aleksandr Sozhen-

insult the huddled masses arriving at our shores. A quick glance at the episode titles is all that is needed: "Harry and the Latvian," "Anybody Here Speak Hindustani?" and "Too Many Serbians."

ABC plans to introduce a new concept in variety programming. Its Tuesday schedule will include the **Rudolph Lichtenstein Show**. Rudolph Lichtenstein is an accountant from East Orange, New Jersey; his premiere segment includes performances by several East Orange residents on spoons, washboards, and trapezes, often in key. Much of this folksy entertainment hour is spent picking up missed cues and adjusting camera angles.

Monty Python's **Crop-Dusting Almanac** features the six-man

British comedy troupe in a series of educational demonstrations of airborne pest control techniques.

Many people doubted that the Thirty Years War was a suitable subject for family comedy; **Ferdinand and Gus** proves that they were right.

Several new shows have a Bicentennial theme, among them **The Benedict Arnold Comedy Hour** and **Franklin and Sons**. The

producers of **M*A*S*H** offer a lighthearted view of the loyalists called **T*O*R*Y**, filmed on location in Nova Scotia.

The titles of the remaining new shows should be sufficient: **My Mother The Unindicted Co-conspirator**, **Colson's Christians**, **The Good Soldier Calley**, **Evell Gibbon's Eat Your Radio**, and a perennial favorite, **Dragnet 1984**.

Technician

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