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The Daily Tar Heel
85th year of editorial freedom

Servomation style Meal plan runaround rotten

Something, besides the food, is rotten at Servomation. The campus food monopoly is giving students the run-around in changing their meal plans. A Servomation spokesperson told the *Tar Heel* no changes in meal plans would be made until Sept. 1. The spokesperson said only those who had yet to pay for their meal plan or who had not presented a waiver from the Student Aid Office could change plans. But Amy Whitley, a freshman from Wendell, said a Servomation official told her she could change to a more expensive plan, but not to a less expensive one. Whitley and another student complained to the Student Consumer Action Union about the apparently irregular policy.

Amy Whitley's case underscores the student's need for the option of changing meal plans. As an entering freshman, she was unfamiliar with the campus and college life. She was also unfamiliar with Servomation's food and service. And she and her peers were exhorted by mail to sign up for the meal plan. She and many other freshmen made the meal plan decision on insufficient evidence.

Even for upperclassmen, it is hard to decide in advance just how many meals to sign up for. Before the semester, the student does not know how his schedule will end up — or even where his classes will be. The fluidity of college life demands a less rigid system of meal plan operation. Students should be allowed and encouraged to hold off on a meal plan commitment until one or two weeks into the semester. They should also be allowed to change plans during the semester until such a policy is in effect.

But Servomation is a monopoly. Because it has no competition, it feels no pressure to allow its consumers flexibility in changing meal plans. However, if the company persists in its money-grubbing policies, then students have the power to complain and make sure Servomation loses its contract.

A SCAU survey last fall showed students were less than pleased with the monopoly's food and service. Now they should be even less pleased with its administration of the meal plan.

'Daily News' to Doonesbury: Drop Dead

The New York *Daily News* can't take a joke. When the paper decided this week not to run a "Doonesbury" comic strip satirizing the paper's coverage of the Son of Sam murder case, the *Daily News* showed that it lacks not only good taste but a sense of humor as well.

The *Daily News*, which has the world's largest circulation, was adept at sensationalizing the "Sam" case to sell even more newspapers. It gave almost non-stop, front- and feature-page attention to every grisly detail as the manhunt dragged on.

When *Daily News* columnist Jimmy Breslin received letters from the suspect after some murders, the paper could not resist indulging itself. So in a splashy, centerfold spread in the tabloid, the paper displayed every juicy tidbit of "Sam" memorabilia in Breslin's file along with the reams of bathos he had written on "Sam."

The *Daily News*' reckless handling of the "Sam" affair contributed in part to the American Bar Association's recent warning that prejudicial pre-trial publicity could seriously threaten suspect David Berkowitz's right to a fair trial.

The strips the *Daily News* would not print showed a telephone caller to the Promotion Department trying to arrange coverage for a murder. A spokesman for the paper only said that "it would not be in the best interest of the *News*" to run the strips for the week. And to add to the absurdity of all this, the New York *Post*, which exceeded the *Daily News* in exploitation of the murders, decided to run the strips *Daily News* readers missed.

Though the New York *Daily News* gave thousands of inches of news coverage to Son of Sam, it will not give Garry Trudeau ridiculously small space in comparison. The *Daily News* might not be able to laugh at itself, but after this, most people will do it for them.



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Paying homage

A nation of cults, idolaters and hero-worshippers

By LYNN WILLIFORD

The cover of the latest *National Enquirer* features a close-up shot of Elvis Presley in his casket labeled "the last picture." Whether or not the picture is in good taste, there is no doubt that the photograph will be cut out and saved by thousands in the Elvis cult, many of whom looked to him as an idol for as long as 20 years.

Paying homage to heroes is a central part of our American education. In grammar school, pictures and Lincoln and Washington hang to each side of the blackboard; we are taught Thomas Carlyle's philosophy that the history of the world is the history of its great men. There is little wonder that Americans are the world's greatest hero-worshippers.

Sidney Hook, in his book *The Hero in History*, gives three reasons for hero-worship: "the need for psychological security, the tendency to seek compensation for personal and material limitations and as a flight from personal responsibility."

He cites the Freudian view that most of us are constantly searching for

symbolic mothers and fathers who in our childhood supplied security and emotional stability. The more turbulent and troubled the era in history, the more likely people are to build a public figure into someone they can look up to and personally admire.

The hero's personality, talent and accomplishments are vicarious joys for us. Lack of self-esteem causes some people to adopt the hero's attributes as their own, covering deficits they see in

has for the opposite sex that boys her own age fail to achieve.

In many ways, hero-worship frees us from the responsibility of having to learn to act on our own in a way that will make life satisfactory for us. In the 1960s, we made idols of the Beatles and others who advocated liberated attitudes toward sex, drugs and politics. In uncertain times, people do not think and act on their own — they adore and imitate. As Hook suggests, hero-

the hero's appeal to the common man. Americans love the underdog who succeeds after many valiant attempts; they are suspicious of the ones personal sorrow does not strike.

The last request we make of our heroes is that they die young. James Dean was only moderately popular before his sudden death at age 21. When two more of his films were released, millions came to identify with him as the symbol of the misunderstood and frustrated youth.

Twenty years later, Dean is still worshipped for his romantic legend. The legend will remain appealing because we never had the disillusionment of seeing him grow up to be an average middle-aged man who married, had children and moved to suburbia.

All in all, what we expect from our heroes (and what we would secretly like to do ourselves) is contained in the old saying, "Live fast, die young and make a beautiful corpse."

Lynn Williford, a senior journalism major from Roxboro, N.C., is a staff writer for the *Daily Tar Heel*.

"The hero's personality, talent and accomplishments are vicarious joys"

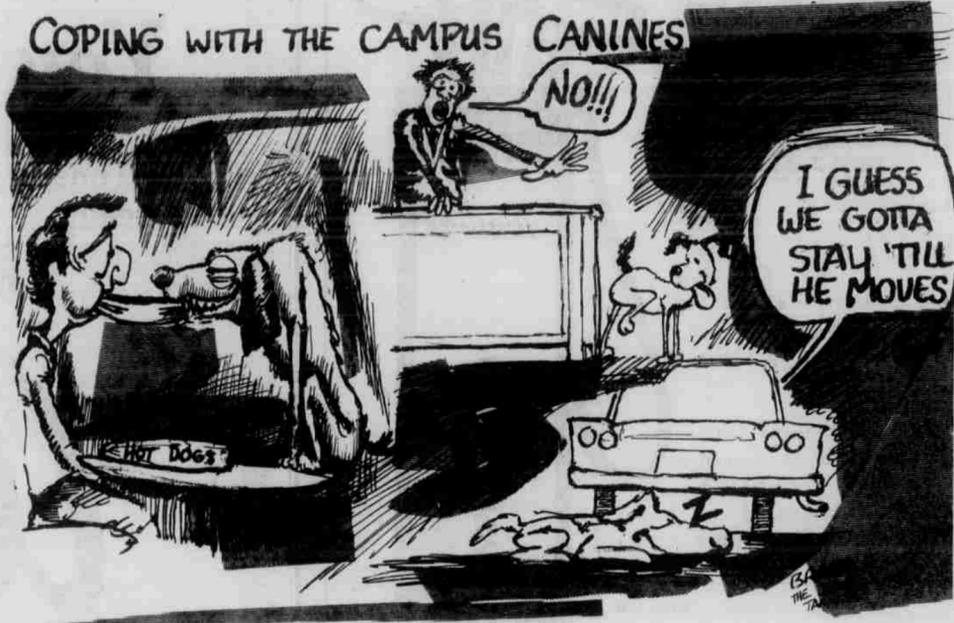
themselves or others close to them. For example, young boys are currently imitating television's Fonzie, who unlike them, seems to stay "cool" in every threatening situation.

Hook's idea also seems to apply to the case of the teenage girl, who unable to find happiness with the boys of her own age, makes an idol out of a handsome movie star. In her imagination, the hero lives up to all the high expectations she

worship often has the consequences of making pacifists out of people.

Most of our heroes in history have shared some basic characteristics, according to Hook. They are, or try to appear to be, persons of good will. Politicians try to attain hero status with baby-kissing and handshaking. They like to appear as close to the common man as possible.

Tragedy and failure are essential to



letters to the editor UNC should support mass transit

To the editor:
Your lead editorial Thursday ("Hide-and-seek parking hits the streets of Chapel Hill") complains that the town's recent ban on street parking near the campus "discriminates against an entire class," i.e. students. The writer needs to be reminded

that it "discriminates" (if that is an appropriate word) against University employees as well, many of whom prefer to drive to work and park their cars on a nearby street rather than buy a parking permit or a bus pass from the University. Doubtless these persons are feeling discriminated against too.

As for the ban "denying students vital parking spots," I remind you that Chapel Hill has a bus system which, despite recent cutbacks, still provides reasonably good service throughout the town until after 5:00 p.m. And for students living outside Chapel Hill-Carboro, plenty of spaces are available in the park-and-ride lots.

I applaud the town's policy of encouraging public transportation, a policy of which the parking ban is an important part. I only wish the University administration had the vision, courage, intelligence or whatever it takes to pursue a similar policy instead of building ever more parking lots and encouraging parking decks.

Philip Rees
114 Ackland Art Center

No more word games

To the editor:
As a 1975 graduate of the College of William and Mary, I am displeased to see that misinformation about the nation's second oldest college is taken for truth by your editors.

Ms. Powell is totally justified in pointing out your inaccurate referral to Old East as "the oldest building in use on any university campus in the United States" ("Old East claim disputed," Letters, Aug. 30). This is incorrect as it stands because the College of William and Mary is a university (despite what your editors say). Hence, the Wren Building is the oldest building on a university campus in the United States.

What you should have said was the simple truth: Old East is the oldest state university building in the United States. The Wren Building cannot claim that status because William and Mary didn't become a state university until the 20th century.

Now can we stop playing word games?

S. Elaine Justice
350 Craige

No compromise on ethics

To the editor:
On behalf of most of us in Carolina's Greek system, I apologize to students and the campus police for the Henry Jay Steinburg incident of Aug. 31 ("Frat play gets brother arrested for larceny," Sept. 1). Rather than any kind of typical "frat play," Steinburg singularly made his decision to pilfer the air conditioner from South Building. Trying to pass the blame to

members of his fraternity only illustrates a certain pitiful immaturity.

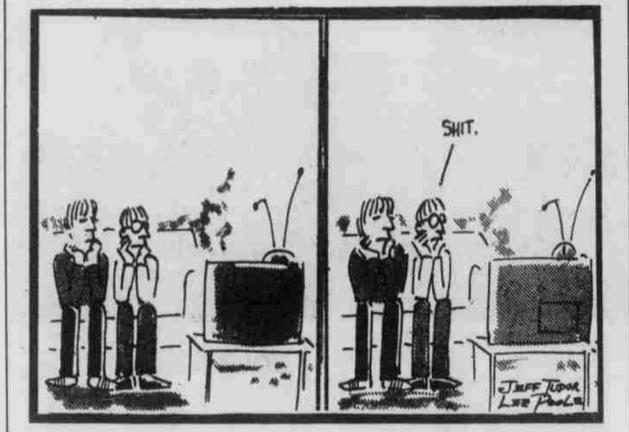
In three years of living in a fraternity, I've seen our system suffer from the misunderstanding and blind assumptions of others. People, our system does not compromise a young man's code of behavior. Get to know us before you tell us what we're like.

David Mac Eason
114 S. Columbia
Beta Theta Pi

Whatever happened to "Highrise Lowlife?"

To the editor:
Whatever happened to "Highrise Lowlife?" That strip has the potential to be another Doonesbury and I was looking forward to seeing it this year.

Robert Hamer
Graduate student
Editor's Note: Lee Poole and Jeff Tudor have moved on to greener pastures. Word has it that Dyp and Tripp are faring well.



A mutual responsibility

To the editor:
It is with a sense of outrage that I write this letter. I often find myself walking past the fraternity houses on Columbia St. between Cameron Ave. and Franklin St. and become incensed at what I see.

All too often I find a sight that sickens me. The lawns and sidewalks are heavily littered with bottles, both broken and intact, paper and plastic cups, an unbelievable number of beer cans and an assortment of trash.

There is a mutual responsibility that exists. The town of Chapel Hill offers its goods and services and amenities; its citizens are there to enjoy and partake of these in an atmosphere of respect for the rights of others.

I strongly object to these fraternities making pig styes and garbage dumps out of the town. It is senseless, needless, and an affront to others.

What also puzzles me, with all the talk of the younger generation on energy and depletion of our resources, is that they do not collect the aluminum cans and empty bottles instead of "glorifying" in the bash they had the night before.

We people of Chapel Hill have added to our taxes with a bond issue that includes a good deal for bikeways basically for student use. Perhaps we are entitled to an exchange of respect.

Irving P. Nach
4 Gooseneck Road

N.C. deserves right to reelect its governors

By NANCY HARTIS

North Carolina voters will decide this November whether or not their governor should have the right to succeed himself.

And as the time draws near for North Carolina voters to decide the issue of gubernatorial succession, some of Gov. Jim Hunt's key political allies are rallying to the cause, as it were, and roundin' up some of that good ol' grassroots support so needed for the amendment's passage.

In the meantime, Gov. Hunt will travel through the state promoting the Clean Water and Highway bonds that will also be on the ballot, saying nary a word about succession, though it's no big secret that the governor would like nothing more than a chance to run for reelection when his present term expires.

The reason for this conspicuous show of unconcern is that Gov. Hunt doesn't want to appear "self-serving" or "politically motivated" by supporting a cause that would so obviously benefit himself.

A report in the *Charlotte Observer* a couple of weeks ago burst this illusory bubble; Secretary of Administration Joe Grimsley was reported to have circulated a memorandum instructing several officials in his department to search out support in their home counties for the succession amendment.

Amid all the political pooh-poohing that has resulted, everyone seems to have forgotten the original issue. Whether politically inspired or not, gubernatorial succession would be a good thing for North Carolinians. In reality, the amendment would not give the governor the right to succeed himself. Rather, by passing the amendment, N.C. voters give themselves the option of reelecting a governor who has served that state well during his first term.

North Carolina has been historically paranoid about its executive officials. When the state constitution was written, no provision was made for gubernatorial succession because the governor had been a royal appointee and tyrant. The people chose to give more power to the legislature and to restrict the governor by denying him veto and succession rights.

Apparently, he thinking at that time was that a representative legislative body would serve the people in spite of the governor.

Our governors are no longer royal appointees, and while they might not always turn out to be as wonderful as we had hoped, we owe ourselves the opportunity to hang on to ones who do a good job.

Some observers say that the three components of this November's referendum will stick together in voters' minds and that either all will pass or all will fail.

Certainly it would be a mistake for anyone to consider such disparate issues as clean water funds, highway funds and gubernatorial succession as "one big package" just because they happen to share the same ballot.

Each item on the referendum is an important issue in its own right and should be considered on a basis of individual merit. Political innuendos, in particular, shouldn't be allowed to cloud these issues; they are important and the voters have the responsibility to treat them as such.

Nancy Hartis, a senior journalism major from Kinston, N.C., is a staff writer for the *Daily Tar Heel*.