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# The Daily Tar Heel

85th year of editorial freedom

More at issue than numbers

## Drop problem misconstrued

New figures are out on the experimental four-week drop period, and the system is already getting rave reviews from Donald Jicha, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Jicha seems elated that the short period "works magnificently," but his assessment seems to take neither the newly released figures nor the problems of the average student into serious account.

Jicha is scheduled to make a recommendation to the faculty's Educational Policy Committee, which is studying the drop period, so his opinion may be crucial.

Last week, Jicha expressed what he considered three major advantages of the new system. First, "It works magnificently. Students are making their decisions early in the semester." Second, "The shortened drop period has consolidated the drops and adds in the first four weeks of classes. This opens up a lot of opportunities for students who want in a particular class to find space." And finally, "One of the most important things behind creating a policy like this is that students are much more serious about what they sign up for instead of waiting until the last gasp to drop a course."

The facts of Jicha's first statement are hard to dispute. It is not surprising that students make more hasty decisions in a four-week period, but it is certainly questionable whether this is good or not. While the professor is given the entire semester to evaluate the student, the student is given four weeks to judge professor and course, as well as his overall course load, time

### Weekly Drop Figures

Week	Fall 1975	Fall 1976
Official Drop-Add Period	8,296*	8,582
Remainder of First Full Week of Classes		513
Fifth Week	309	91
Tenth Week	336	75
Eleventh Week	350	83
Twelfth Week	603	69
Thirteenth Week	165	71
Remaining Weeks	141	4
Totals	12,655	11,490

\*This figure includes drops during both the official drop-add period and the first full week of classes.

pressures, job and financial situation and the desirability of spending his time on a given course. Academic problems — assumed by many administrators to be the reason for all drops — are only some of the factors students have to weigh. If a student wants to drop Poli Sci 41 in the middle of the semester and study Chem 41 more, then he should have that right. This is an option the student, as an adult, should be allowed to exercise without appealing to a committee of any sort.

Jicha's second point is that the new system opens up more courses students can add in the early weeks. According to the figures cited, 800 more spots opened within the first week of classes, but a substantial number and probably the majority opened after drop-add when the vast majority have settled their schedules.

These extra openings seem a modest reward for giving up eight weeks of freedom of choice. More people will certainly benefit from the freedom of a long drop period than the few hundred who might benefit from the short.

Finally, Jicha says the new system makes people more serious in choosing their classes. This concept is similar to the theory advanced in past years that students do a lot of what bureaucrats term "frivolous dropping." Yet the fluctuations in the total number of drops during the old and new, long and short periods is only about 10 per cent. This means that students drop about the same number of courses under both systems — they just make less-informed choices during the shorter drop period.

Jicha's three suppositions, which are certainly not peculiar to him, reflect the basic feeling among some observers that a long drop period is somehow permissive and conducive to grade inflation. Behind these perceptions are the assumptions that 1) grade inflation must be attacked and that 2) drop restrictions are the way to attack grade inflation. The first premise is debatable, but the second seems untenable. We feel it is obvious that drop restrictions are at best an indirect and ineffective control on grade inflation and at worst direct repression of academic freedom and the decision-making rights of students to shape their own education.

Because the quality of the academic environment and the respect with which students are treated within that environment are more important to an "institution of higher learning" than grades, because there are more effective ways to attack grade inflation which do not insult the student and limit his control over his own pursuits; and because the freedom of the student should not be sacrificed for arbitrary numerical considerations, we believe there should be at least a 12-week drop period.

### The Daily Tar Heel

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## letters to the editor

### 'If you'll make the climb, we'll make the time'

To the editor:

The last paragraph of a recent editorial ("Campus t-shirt craze grows," Sept. 6) said, "Morrison and Hinton James are leading the way with their own shirts that feature dorm-selling slogans." It is true that Morrison and James led the way, but that was in 1975. It seems you are a little behind the times on just how widespread the "craze" really is. Dorms all over campus quickly followed suit with "messages that catch the imagination," Ehringhaus, Winston, Everett, Aycock, Ruffin, SKWAM (Spencer, Kenan, Whitehead, Alderman and McIver) and Cobb are only a few of the other dorms that have their own t-shirts.

Cobb t-shirts have been in existence for a year now. Two halls even sport their own. Fourth floor west began it all with "It's What's Upstairs that Counts." Fourth floor east followed with "If You'll Make the Climb, We'll Make the Time." Then the dorm followed with "Cobbsmopolitan Girl," "Cobb — It's the Real Thing," "Cobb — Cream of the Crop" and "Cobb — There's a Lot of Good Things Under Our Roof." We even offer Cobb gym shorts.

Yes, it's true that Morrison and James led the way, but we in Cobb feel you neglected too many other dorms. Maybe you should reacquaint yourself with dorm life. Come on over to Cobb. There's a lot of good things under our roof — lots of Cobbsmopolitan girls who are the cream of the crop. And we're the Real Thing. Check out the whole dorm — all the way to the fourth floor. If you'll make the climb, we'll make the time, because it's what's upstairs that counts.

Jan Y. Bolick  
President, Cobb Dorm  
108 Cobb

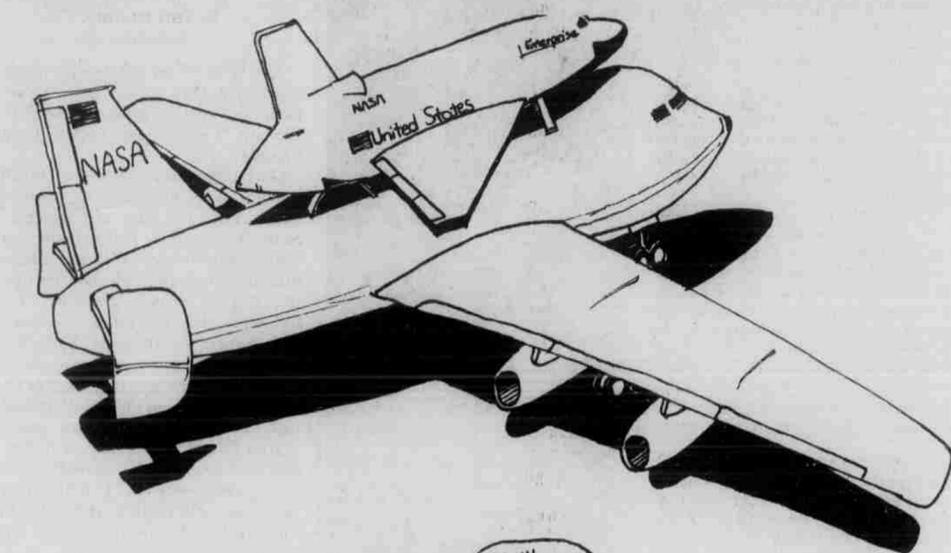
#### Inform yourself

To the editor:

The local politicians are starting their annual season either urging students to register and vote or urging that students have no right to register and vote. If you are unsure about whether you should vote here, consider a few points often mentioned on the subject:

1) Students are short-term residents here. True, but over 30 per cent of the people in this country are short-term residents wherever they are. Should we disqualify over one-third of the electorate because it has moved recently?

2) Students don't pay property taxes here. This statement, which is repeated often by conservatives, is curious on two counts. First, does anyone seriously think that landlords pay taxes out of their profits? If the apartment in which you live is valued at \$10,000, you're paying over \$100 in



UM OH!  
HERE COMES  
ANITA BRYANT!

Gee  
Daily Tar Heel

municipal property taxes as part of your rent. Secondly, the ownership of property has not been a requirement for voting in this state since the 1860s.

3) If you vote here you have to pay taxes here.

In my opinion, you should pay taxes here if you vote here, but most students have very little taxable property. You would pay a little more than \$5 in municipal tax on every \$500 worth of property. The voter rolls are not checked against the tax rolls, although automobile registrations are.

4) You don't know anything about local issues.

Maybe you don't, but you certainly have an opportunity to inform yourself. You already have more education than more than half the adults in this country.

5) You have no interest in local issues.

Really? Here we come to the purpose of this letter. If you are a Carrboro resident, and you want to keep the buses rolling, you'd better learn a little about the local political situation. The present Carrboro Board of Aldermen voted 4 to 2 to contract with Chapel Hill for bus service after three referenda on supporting buses failed. After a resignation and an appointment, there are now five aldermen who support continued bus service. Three of those aldermen are standing for election this November. They

will stand or fall on their support of a bus system that is of direct benefit to students. Inform yourself, register and vote.

Nancy White  
Carrboro

#### No salaries, no junkets

To the editor:

Despite the stated intention, Bruce Tindal's latest letter ("Salary shenanigans," Sept. 9) does not clear up anything. In fact, no CGC member has any serious desire for a salary. Bruce's inside information came from me, in a social situation, and I still find his serious reaction to the remark bordering on the incredible. I'm glad I didn't say anything about hiring Liz Ray or scheduling junkets to Acapulco.

Even if we wanted to give ourselves salaries, Bruce should know (as a former CGC representative) that we don't need a fee increase to do so; we could vote one in anytime we pleased. However, to insure that will not happen, I will introduce a by-laws amendment that will not allow the CGC that is presently sitting, or any future CGC, to either create a salary for its members or collect on an increase that might be voted. In other words, no CGC could vote itself any more money than it might already be getting. Hopefully, all future comment on a fee

increase will be held to just the facts regarding the subject.

Chip Cox  
Chairman, CGC Rules and Judiciary Committee

#### Admission charge a shame

To the editor:

In the mail recently, I received a soccer schedule along with the announcement of an admission charge of \$2 for non-students, which means the faculty must pay to see a match. What a shame. Many faculty would go to a match for a few minutes when an afternoon class was finished, especially if the faculty member knew he or she had a player in class. Two dollars is too much. Many of us shall miss the pleasant experience of spending a bit of time at Fetzer.

C. Brookhouse  
English Department

#### False impression on recycling

To the editor:

Your article on Student Government's recycling program ("Glass, aluminum to be recycled," Sept. 7) gave the impression that various delays prevented the project from starting earlier.

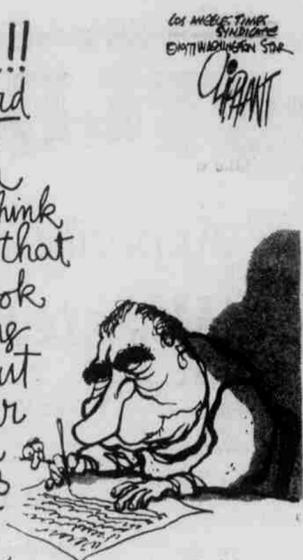
This is a false impression. A project of this magnitude takes time to implement. The necessary materials (barrels, storage site, trucks, etc.), the necessary permission (from the town and the University) and the necessary organization (the residence hall governments) cannot be obtained overnight. The town consistently has followed through on its promises without delay. Dean Maurice Lee, chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, has also been very helpful. Neither he nor the committee can be blamed for slowing down the project. The "delay" can be attributed to procedure.

Also, we are unsure as to how much money the recycling effort will generate. Our \$60 per semester per hundred people estimate was based on the assumption that each individual could save six aluminum cans and three pounds of glass each week. It will also depend on how much money we will receive for the glass. We hope to get this project implemented by next semester. If at that time the glass crusher is under construction, we will proceed with the aluminum recycling.

If anyone has any suggestions or would like to help, please come to Suite C in the Union.

Barbara High  
Chairperson, Environmental Awareness Program  
Bill Moss  
Student Body President

Dear Gordon Liddy  
Congratulations on your release!!  
Now, Gordon, knowing what a hot head you are & don't want you hanging around here thinking I owe you something just because you may think I got off Scott-free. I must say that I'm disappointed you copped out and took that Pawkers Oath instead of hanging tough as I would have done. But as I said to David (Frost) the other day if it hadn't been for Martha Mitchell (God rest her) none of this would have happened in the first place. - - you



## New N.C. open meetings bill soon up for consideration

A bill to revise North Carolina's open meetings law will be studied soon by a legislative commission and returned to the floor of the General Assembly in May 1978. Rep. Patricia Hunt, D-Orange, told a group of journalists last week.

"North Carolina badly needs open meetings," Hunt said, adding that the present law is not strong enough. "Things need to be straightened out for the press, the public and the government."

regulatory, executive and administrative or quasi-judicial governmental agencies, with only a few exceptions, to be open to the public.

The bill would also establish both civil and criminal penalties for violations of the law. No such provisions are included in the current open meetings law passed in 1971.

Hunt said, though, that the bill could not pass with the penalties included. "They have to come out, no question about it."

prevent the agency involved from holding closed meetings in the future.

In the bill, agencies would be permitted to hold executive sessions to discuss property transactions, litigations or judicial action, matters concerning privileged relationships such as those between a doctor and patient or lawyer and client, employee considerations, student discipline, riots or other public disorders.

The bill exempts the courts, all law enforcement agencies, state agencies, commissions or boards making judicial rulings and licensing boards.

All of these provisions, however, are subject to change by the study commission.

The revised bill also might have serious implications for the UNC system.

When the 1971 bill was passed, Hunt said, "the General Assembly did not intend for it to affect the University except for the (UNC) Board of Governors."

The UNC School of Law is appealing a decision by the N.C. Court of Appeals that the current open meetings law applies to the school's faculty meetings. The N.C. Supreme Court is due to rule on the matter later this month.

"I have a very good feeling that the Supreme Court will uphold the Court of Appeals," Hunt said.

For the bill to be passed, Hunt

## "IN QUOTES"

By TONY GUNN

"In quotes" is a Daily Tar Heel feature column devoted to the opinions of interesting, important or newsworthy figures.

Speaking to students and a newly organized professional chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, Hunt said she took the proposed bill out of a House committee after being debated.

"The committee picked and picked at it," she said. "We were losing things we already had in the (present) law."

The bill was introduced in the legislature in March by Hunt and House Speaker Carl Stewart. It would require official meetings of legislative,

A lack of penalties, however, might be one loophole in the present law. Hunt pointed out that the Orange County Board of Education has appointed three of its five members, all in secret sessions.

"This is clearly a violation of the present law," Hunt said. "That may or may not have been done in the people's interest. But that's not the question. People need access to the meeting."

Under the present law, the only action available to the public trying to open a meeting is to seek a court injunction to



Rep. Patricia Hunt

predicted that it could call for open meetings only at the trustees' level and above.

"The General Assembly never intended faculty meetings to be open, but it never thought they'd be closed, too," she said.

Tony Gunn, a senior journalism major from Reidsville, N.C., is assistant news editor for the Daily Tar Heel.