

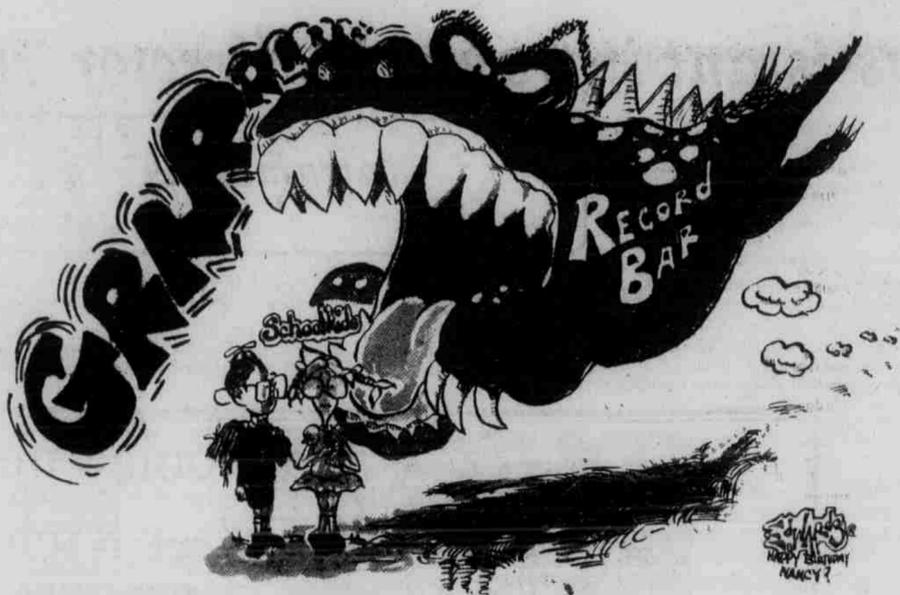
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The Daily Tar Heel
85th year of editorial freedom



A little here, a little there

By BRUCE TINDALL

So Student Government (SG) "needs" a fee increase? That sounds strangely familiar. Just the other day, Southern Bell said it "needs" a phone rate increase, and Carolina Power and Light said it "needs" an electric rate increase.

There's a TV commercial, made by the consumer protection folks, in which a talking dog explains to a little girl the difference between "needing" something and just "wanting" it. The commercial was designed for children, but perhaps the officials of SG and our public utilities might learn something from watching it, too.

SG decided that it wanted a fee increase a year and a half ago. But, in a referendum, the student body said "no." Neither SG nor the student body needed a fee increase then, and neither needs it now.

If the Campus Governing Council (CGC) would encourage organizations to do more fund-raising on their own — if CGC would stop knuckling under to groups which demand "\$10,000 or else," as happened last year — if CGC would take a closer look at who benefits from the groups it gives money to — in short, if CGC would be a little more responsible in its spending of our money, no fee increase would be "needed."

More money should be given to organizations which serve the student body at large: WXYC; the Association for Women Students (AWS); the North Carolina Student Legislature (NCSL); the Fine Arts Festival; and certain programs of the Black Student Movement (BSM).

These funds can be had, without a fee increase, by cutting down on what SG spends on itself (have you ever seen their plush Suite C offices, their fancy electric typewriters, their fat phone budget?), and by cutting back on small, special-interest groups that could subsist on membership dues and other fund-raising activities (for instance, some of the small sports clubs or graduate departmental societies).

What reasons does SG cite for "needing" a fee increase? One CGC member told me that WXYC would go off the air unless fees were raised. Seems to me, though, that when WXYC was first started, its promoters swore up and down that establishing the station would not require an increase in fees.

The *Daily Tar Heel* favors a fee increase for all sorts of reasons, but leaves out the most compelling one: for every \$2 increase in fees, the *DTH* automatically receives about \$6,500 more income.

Finally, it's argued that the fee increase would produce a lot of income for worthwhile organizations, while costing the individual student only a little. But these "little" increases mount up: a little more for telephone, a little more for electricity, a little more for tuition; a little more for expansion of the Student Union building (yes, we students are paying for that, too) — and a little more for the CGC.

These "little" increases add up, until the average student has just a little cash left, and less patience. It's enough to drive you to drink — except for the fact that your favorite tavern has upped the price of Old Frothingshlosh, just a little bit.

Students who oppose the fee increase are invited to an organizational meeting of SAFE (Students Against Fees Excesses) at 8 p.m., Monday, Sept. 19, in the South Gallery Meeting Room of the Carolina Union.

Bruce Tindall is a first year law student from Chapel Hill, N.C.

Coping with a white elephant

The B. Everett Jordan Dam is a forlorn sight. Sitting off U.S. 64 in Chatham County, the 14,300-acre lake looks like most other dams in all respects except one — it has no water. And Sunday the North Carolina Conservation Board made sure that the lake will remain empty for a while longer.

If the controversy over the dam continues much longer, it will be hard to find people in this area who can remember when it all began. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began construction of the dam in the early 1970s and completed it in 1975.

But environmentalists charged that the Corps had failed to file an environmental impact statement, required by the federal National Environmental Policy Act, on the dam's construction. The statement, once filed, was not considered adequate by conservationists.

In late July, however, U.S. District Court Judge Eugene Gordon ruled that the Corps had properly considered the lake's environmental impact and that the lake could be created. But the conservation council's decision Sunday almost assures that no further work on the project will take place until the issue is resolved by the courts. The towns of Chapel Hill and Durham are also planning appeals.

The council's decision to appeal the ruling is a good one. According to the Corps' own environmental impact statement, there are dangerously high levels of mercury in the streams that would feed the lake. Moreover, the anticipated shallow and sluggish flow of water through the lake would create a polluted reservoir.

In short, the dam would likely create a cesspool full of treated sewage effluent from New Hope Creek and Haw River and make the lake unsuitable for recreation and water supply. There is also the matter of money. Durham has argued that if the lake is created, that city would have to upgrade its sewage system because federal guidelines require stricter waste treatment for discharges into lakes than discharges into streams and rivers.

The Corps of Engineers is naturally disappointed that its pet project could be delayed once more. But the Corps has been a glutton for punishment in this matter and will likely stay in the fight. One has to wonder how many appeals and delays it will take before the Corps realizes it is stuck with a white elephant.

Congratulations to Madison

Congratulations to the folks in Madison, Wis. County Judge Archie Simonson, whose remarks linking sexual permissiveness with rape created a furor in his liberal university community, was defeated in a recall last Wednesday.

Simonson was forced into the recall election by a 35,000-signature petition drive protesting comments he made from the bench linking rape and women's clothing. Coupled with the remarks was his handling of a youth charged with raping a girl at the high school both attended. Simonson ruled that the boy was reacting normally to the situation and cited the girl's suggestive clothing — she was wearing jeans and a blouse over a turtleneck — in granting the youth a suspended sentence.

Immediately, local feminist groups voiced their outrage and started the recall petition. Thirty-five thousand signatures later, Simonson lost the recall election to lawyer Moria Krueger, who polled more than 15,000 votes to 11,735 for the incumbent.

No matter what a woman is wearing or how she is acting, forcing a woman to commit sexual acts against her will is rape and should be punished as such. It can only be good that a judge such as Archie Simonson, who is charged with meting out justice, was removed from the bench. It's amazing that 11,000 persons voted to keep the narrow-minded man in service, but at least 15,507 Madison voters realized that there is no place on the bench for a man of the low caliber of Archie Simonson.

The long dispute between advocacy and bourgeois objective journalism

By DOUG CLARK

Recently I wrote a feature article for the *Daily Tar Heel* ("Vertlib reflects on Russian human rights," Aug. 30) based on a lengthy interview with a Soviet dissident whom we are fortunate to have among us in Chapel Hill. It was ironic, though unfortunate, that large portions of this article dealing with violations of freedom of the press in the Soviet Union were censored. That, of course, is my characterization, and it refers not to anyone's intentions or motivations, but to the objective result of the process.

I want to emphasize that not only opinions, but verifiable facts, were omitted from the published version, even though the *DTH* claimed on different occasions that the omitted sections consisted of "propaganda," "editorializing," "inserting myself into the interview," etc., and that such "subjective" material had best be reserved for the editorial page. The *DTH* wanted a "personality piece," and apparently not an article dealing with the vital issues of the Soviet dissident movement and of the U.S. policy on human rights.

A long and frank discussion in the *DTH* offices did not resolve our differences, though it did help to clear the air. I was assured that the *Tar Heel* is open to the free expression of diverse opinions, and I have accepted this assurance at face value in the hope that what happened in this particular instance will never be repeated. The question of "editorial judgment vs. censorship" is really part of a larger controversy within the field of journalism itself between "advocacy journalists" and those who pretend to "objectivity." It is ultimately an issue which only informed readers themselves can resolve, in general, and in each particular instance. Hence it may be worthwhile to enumerate some of the suppressed parts of my article, namely:

That not all Soviet writers, even all dissident Soviet writers, are restricted with regard to what they may write and publish. That the West is little familiar with the

diversity of dissident currents in the Soviet Union, since Marxist dissidents are virtually excluded from media coverage in the West, while the more conservative ones are given the most attention.

That both Soviet and U.S. officialdom have misrepresented the nature of the dissident movement and, ironically enough, have often coincided in claiming that the dissidents wish to restore capitalism in the Soviet Union.

That, for many dissidents, the achievement of the right to free expression and other democratic rights is the prerequisite for the construction of a democratic socialist society.

Moreover, my characterization of the KGB as "the Soviet version of the FBI or CIA" was changed by the *DTH* to "the Soviet secret police," and a piece of dialogue and accompanying explanation was cut out in which I briefly explained the position of the oppressed national minorities in relation to the dissident movement in the Soviet Union.

But perhaps the most controversial point made in the article was contained in the following paragraph written by me which was completely cut out:

"The point that should not be forgotten is that the Soviet dissidents, no matter what their political stripe, represent an objectively progressive current which is counterposed to the repressive Stalinist bureaucracy. Their struggle, and the struggle of all the Soviet people for a democratic socialist society, can be best advanced in the West through the support of student and civil-rights organizations, labor unions and individuals who are consistent supporters of human rights in the whole world, not by the machinations of hypocritical politicians such as Carter who use the human rights issue for narrow political gain while ignoring such domestic outrages as the racist frame-up of the Wilmington 10."

Why controversial? Because I imply that violations of human rights in the Soviet Union and the United States are comparable, and because I attempt to expose Carter on an issue which is, in a sense,

his last claim to credibility with the sectors of the population — blacks, liberals, workers and women's rights advocates — who elected him.

In fact, Carter has used the rhetoric of human rights, particularly as applied to the Soviet Union, to draw attention away from U.S. collaboration with repressive regimes in Chile, in South Korea, in Iran and around the world, and to maintain some support from the groups that elected him. Perhaps more importantly, the President has tried to cling to pretensions of supporting human rights in other countries in order to cloud over such blatant violations of human rights on his own doorstep as the racist frame-ups and judicial proceedings against the Dawson 5 in Georgia, Gary Tyler in Louisiana, and the Wilmington 10 here in North Carolina.

As for the human rights of the estimated

"You could stand up and say anything you wanted to, but nobody would listen"

300,000 women who will be denied Medicaid abortions and forced to resort to dangerous and illegal means to end pregnancy, our President can only state that "life is often unfair."

It does not require great intelligence to realize that a selective and inconsistent approach to human rights according to narrow political criteria cannot be effective in defending those rights. Since most people are genuinely concerned with the human rights issue, I merely wished to point out in the section expurgated from my article how such rights might best be defended.

Now, let's step back from this a little. Everyone familiar with journalism knows that there is an inherent conflict between the editor and the writer. Instead of "all the news that's fit to print," the editor's motto often becomes "all the news that fits — we print!" The writer writes, and the editor cuts, sometimes mercilessly. This conflict of interest is probably inevitable, though it can probably be reduced through the experience

of working together over a longer period of time. Bourgeois journalism proclaims the myth that it is, or attempts to be, "objective," except on the editorial page. This is still the prevailing standard today, though many practicing journalists wink at such an absurdity. Most ordinary folks who read the daily newspaper are aware that the selection of facts, their ordering and emphasis, the reliability of sources, and the conscious or unconscious bias of the writer all make mince-meat of this assertion.

In addition, the writer's sifting of facts and impressions is followed by the editor's own red-penciling. In the mass-circulation media, or any medium which depends heavily on commercial advertising, for that matter, the "truth" that emerges from this process is often a mere shadow of its former

self, especially since the biases of the advertisers and owners can also enter subtly into the final product. Finally, there is a former self, especially since the biases of the advertisers and owners can also enter subtly into the final product. Finally, there is sometimes the self-censorship of the writer, who may omit controversial facts, no matter how verifiable, out of fear that the editor will not publish them. So much for the "objectivity" of bourgeois journalism.

One can ask, then, on appeal to what authority or standard can the excision of facts, or of words which change facts, or of parts of dialogue relevant to the story, or of entire explanatory sections which shed light on the dialogue quoted, be justified? Ultimately, it devolves upon the reader to decide whether or not this sort of journalism has violated even its own standards.

As for my opinions which were deleted, they were, by definition, subjective. But hopefully, opinions, too, should have some basis in the rational consideration of diverse

To the editor:

This concerns the letter from John Johnson ("Bottoms Up," Sept. 8) about Police Chief Herman Stone's act of arresting students in front of Kirkpatrick's.

The arrest may have annoyed a lot of students, but I am sure a lot of Chapel Hill residents feel that it was about time the police did something about these wild students.

Being a resident of Chapel Hill all of my life, I have seen how the students act when they are smashed. First, I say hurrah to the policemen who made the arrests. I feel that the police have been too tolerant of student activities. Students have to work hard everywhere, not only at Carolina. It seems to me that part of their education should be self-discipline.

Second, it's fine to get out and have a little fun on occasion. But what was the occasion last week or the week before that? This happens every weekend.

Third, I am sure that Chapel Hill can survive without the students' contribution to beer sales.

Fourth, I have been on Rosemary Street on Friday and Saturday nights. It is just unbelievable. The students walk out in front of cars and pull out of parking lots in front of passersby. So if there is a danger, it is to those of us who are driving by.

We realize that this concerns only a small amount of the students, but it reflects upon the whole student body.

Linda Farrow
Chapel Hill

To the editor:

Quite simply, John Johnson's letter made me furious. I prefer to think that he wrote such a letter out of sheer ignorance and that he will leave Carolina a far more educated and tolerant person. Perhaps, if both the students and residents of Chapel Hill were more aware of the problems faced by the police department, they would be tolerant — if not appreciative.

I am married to a Chapel Hill policeman and, therefore, I am extremely aware of the long hours they often work. They are hours worked, not for their own benefit, but for the benefit of Chapel Hill. Mr. Johnson referred to the NCAA finals. Has he so readily

forgotten that the streets were closed to traffic, that individuals roamed freely while drinking beer and that blue paint was openly smeared along Franklin Street?

I am sure that Mr. Johnson was able to watch the games without interruption. The entire police department was on duty for the final game and therefore sacrificed that luxury. My husband was working the shift from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. He then had to go back to work at 7:30 p.m. and remain on duty until 2 a.m. As if this were not enough, he had to be back at work at 6:30 a.m. that same morning.

Herman Stone was working the same schedule. The Chapel Hill police provided us with an opportunity to enjoy ourselves more freely. Does Mr. Johnson realize that a policeman was hit by a car and hospitalized during all of this — and more important, does he care?

My husband would have loved to see the game. If more people have Mr. Johnson's attitude, next year he might be able to do just that. To use one of your own clichés, "Don't bite the hand that helps feed you." Mr. Johnson.

Cynthia Rogers
Chapel Hill

Off-the-wall

To the editor:

Student Body President Bill Moss' comments ("Off-campus residents plan conservation effort," Sept. 13) about the UNC Greeks was not only unfounded and ridiculous but also was an unethical and inappropriate comment to be made by a student body president. Some may even call it "off-the-wall."

I quote: "A lot of them (Greeks) don't know where the student union is — this shows the mentality of some of the Greeks."

Moss' statement was unfounded in that it was a gross generalization and unsupported by any facts, polls, or research, and ridiculous in that he assumes the mentality of "a lot of them" can be illustrated by their knowledge of the Union's location. Did he forget that the president of the Union is a Greek?

No doubt, this statement reflects an indiscretion and lack of judgment on Moss' part. However, after conferring with him I can understand that even though he was

quoted correctly, he may have been partly quoted out of context and that his point was not well understood. Nevertheless, public abuse of such a large and important segment of this student body is irresponsible.

But now that the myth has been exposed, I would like to present the truth. The Greeks do care about the University, the town and the water shortage, and for years have been asserting a positive influence in the University community.

Members of fraternities and sororities are some of the most active students in the University. For example, the editors of the *DTH* and "Carolina Course Review," the presidents of the student body, campus-Y, CAA and the heads of the symposium and honor court are Greek. And there are numerous other organizations, including honorary societies, that are headed by Greeks and whose memberships draw heavily from members of the Greek system.

Fraternities and sororities are not perfect, but it cannot be denied that the members of the Greek system have been making countless contributions to the betterment of this school and this town. This is the truth and it should not be overlooked.

Tom Terrell
321 W. Cameron Ave.

Vote yes for soccer

To the editor:

In reply to Mr. Brookhouse's letter ("Admission charge a shame," Sept. 12), I pose the question "How much do faculty pay for tickets to revenue sports?" Six to eight dollars. Soccer is the world's No. 1 sport. Soccer is the world's No. 1 spectator sport. Soccer is America's fastest growing sport. How can any sport grow without revenue? How can soccer grow at Carolina, when left in the shadows? Certainly, fans can get up a few dollars to watch a good soccer match.

Mr. Brookhouse, if you wear your Rainbow Soccer shirt, they will let you in for a buck. Ten dollars is a steal for a season ticket. We need your support.

Please buy a ticket to watch Tar Heel soccer. Vote yes for soccer going big time at Carolina.

Peter Griffin
Co-captain, UNC Soccer Team

sources of information, weighted according to criteria both of empirically verifiable reality and of the writer's own ethical position. Mine were based on several weeks of research and direct consultation with two leading authorities on the dissident movement, George Saunders (ed. of *Samizdat*, c. 1974, Pathfinder Press, one of the best collections of Soviet dissident writings), and Marilyn Vogt, who regularly translates proscribed Russian writings and writes articles on the democratic movement in the Soviet Union. Ethically, I have clearly favored the position of the dissidents. The editorial criteria of the *DTH* — except in the superficial sense — remain unknown to me, but it would seem to me that they may lie closer to "propaganda" and "editorializing" than my own.

Evgeny Verlib does not agree with much of the above analysis — he once told me he likes Carter — and he certainly does not share my ideas on socialism. It was apparent to me, however, where he got his idea of what socialism is. As we were leaving my apartment at the conclusion of the interview, I gave him a copy of *The Militant*, a socialist newsweekly published in New York. He leafed through it and looked up at me. "The limited socialist trends in the United States are very different from the obscurantist and perverted forms of socialist development in the Soviet Union, no?"

"Well," I replied, "socialism is the same the world over. But I would agree with you that the political system in the Soviet Union is a perverted development. In fact, it is not socialism at all, since it lacks democratic political forms." (This exchange, by the way, was also censored out of the article.)

In some of the above-discussion of journalism, I have tried to outline a general process, not a draconian conspiracy or mechanistic formula by which everything becomes twisted or distorted. The truth can often be obtained from the *New York Times*, *Pravda*, or even the *Daily Tar Heel* as long as the reader is aware of inherent biases and compares what is read with what is experienced and makes sense. This is

probably easier to do, in fact, if the newspaper is open about its bias, which many are not. And this applies as well to the individual writer, who communicates most directly and honestly with the reader by being open about any bias.

It is apparent from the examples I have given that freedom of expression in this country for those who favor progressive changes has been circumscribed and eroded in subtle ways, and sometimes in ways not so subtle. I had a friendly discussion last year with a Young Republican on this subject. After reflecting on it, he related to me that his grandmother had come to this country from Nazi Germany. Over there, she said, if you said anything against the government you would be shot. But here, she complained, you could stand up and say anything you wanted to, but nobody would listen!

Well, things are changing now, and people are more open to new ideas. They are being hurt by racism, inflation, cutbacks in education budgets, low wages, anti-abortion laws, etc., and they are seeking rational explanations and solutions. Fortunately, there are some sources of information available which can help independent-minded people to judge for themselves what is the real truth about such problems, in contrast to the often half-baked and distorted "truth" served up by the establishment news media. If you are interested, I can recommend such a source.

And there is also an organization on campus — the Young Socialist Alliance (Box 121, Carrboro) — which students can join if they want to study these issues and do something about them. So if you believe in fighting racism, sexism, and discrimination against gays in the country and on this campus; if you believe in supporting democratic rights both in the West and the East; if you are interested in struggles for self-determination and liberation in South Africa, Palestine, Ireland, the United States and around the world — give me a call. Because that is what socialism is all about.