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The Daily Tar Heel

85th year of editorial freedom

Compromise best solution to med school, HEW fight

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) and some U.S. medical schools should compromise in their dispute of federal aid vs. academic integrity. And both should berate Congress for causing the division.

Fifteen medical schools Tuesday lost more than \$12 million in federal monies because they refuse to admit American transfers from foreign medical schools.

Duke University is one of the schools that has decided to snub HEW. Officials at Duke medical school said the university would lose about \$680,000 annually for three years under the terms of the present law.

They fear allowing HEW to set goals will open the door to future academic decision-making by HEW. But the med schools don't object to accepting transfers; they refuse to accept HEW's demand to allow a certain number of transfers.

Because of high academic standards, small allotments of space and fierce competition in U.S. medical schools, more than 6,000 Americans have started their medical education overseas hoping to transfer after a year or two.

Congress passed the Health Professions Educational Assistance Act last year. It states that if overseas transfer students meet certain requirements and are approved by HEW, medical schools cannot turn them away on academic grounds.

Under the present law, any transfer student from a foreign medical college is eligible for admission into a U.S. medical school if he is a U.S. citizen with two years of foreign medical education and if he passes the first part of the National Medical Board Examination. Approximately 900 students from foreign schools have met those requirements.

The act requires any medical school receiving federal aid based on its enrollment to reserve "an equitable number" of spaces for U.S. citizens transferring from foreign medical schools.

Of 124 medical schools, 109 agreed to participate in the program or offered satisfactory assurances concerning transfers. Fifteen schools refused to accept any students and lost their federal aid. Thirty schools will not be required to admit any transfers because they already have enough former foreign students enrolled to meet requirements. The other 79 schools will divide the chosen 564 transfers. Five hundred sixty-four divided by 79 is 7.1 students per school. UNC's medical school has said it would accept 10 or less foreign transfers per year. That doesn't seem like too much of a sacrifice for \$12 million in funds. Instead, 15 medical schools chose to suffer a revenue loss which will have a ripple effect eventually affecting a part of the U.S. health care system. Schools may try to raise funds to compensate for the loss, but these efforts are born in indignation toward HEW and will not last.

Although we disagree with HEW's attempts at blackmailing U.S. med schools, we also criticize the schools' decision to totally refuse HEW demands. Those crying HEW interference cry too loud. HEW is attempting to implement a law and accommodate 564 transfer students. HEW is trying to fulfill a promise made by Congress and maintain a separation between government and academic choice. Because HEW's only leverage is money, they must use it to prod med schools to accept some students.

Congress committed a colossal blunder with this act. As a result, HEW receives criticism and med school funds get cut off. It is an unfortunate rift between the two. Congress should now amend its mistake by, first, maintaining the commitment to the 564 transfers; second, by limiting the program to a maximum of two years; third, by allowing medical schools to decide class placement for transfers.

With these compromises some promises could be assured. HEW could guarantee one or two years of opportunities for foreign transfers, withdraw from this unnecessary intrusion into academic decision-making and give medical schools some choice in placing American transfers.

Middle East lineup for pre-Geneva peace conference in Cairo firms up

Developments in the unfolding saga of the Middle East peace negotiations have been numerous this week — in sharp contrast to the stalemate that existed before Egypt's President Anwar Sadat made his historic visit to Israel Nov. 19.

It appears that Egypt, Israel, the United States and the United Nations will be the only parties represented at the pre-Geneva conference in Cairo. The Soviet Union, Syria, Jordan and the Palestinian Liberation Organization have all refused Sadat's invitation to meet with Israel.

U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, noting that most Middle East countries looked unfavorably upon the Cairo meeting, proposed Tuesday a neutral meeting ground: the United Nations. While Egypt has accepted Waldheim's invitation, Israel has refused and the United States has not received the invitation warmly.

The Middle East countries that were angered by Sadat's peace overtures to the Israelis have organized a conference of their own in retaliation. The hard-line Arab countries arrived in Libya Thursday to denounce Sadat and his peace initiative.

Eric Sevareid, the erudite commentator who appeared nightly with Walter Cronkite on the CBS Evening News for the past 14 years, retired Wednesday from broadcast journalism.

THE WEEK

By LISA M. NIEMAN

After spending 38 years in the business, Sevareid finished his last regular newscast by articulating the self-imposed rules under which he has worked.

He said he tried "not to underestimate the intelligence of the audience and not to overestimate its information." Also, "to elucidate, when one can, more than to advocate," and "to retain the courage of one's doubts as well as one's convictions."

Reflecting on his career as a commentator and the reputation he has acquired, Sevareid said, "There is in the American people a tough, undiminished instinct for what is fair. Rightly or wrongly, I have the feeling they I have passed the test. 'I shall wear this like a medal.'"

Since Sevareid turned 65 on Saturday, his last day of regular work was Wednesday because of the mandatory retirement policy at CBS.

Sevareid began his career in broadcast journalism in 1939 when he joined CBS News and Edward R. Murrow, the distinguished journalist he labeled "the man who invented me."

Ending his final commentary with a slight twist of his usual sign-off, he said, "This was Eric Sevareid in Washington. Thank you and good bye."

A new automobile insurance plan, based on driving records and not on factors such as age or sex, went into effect Thursday in North Carolina.

Insurance Commissioner John Ingram, who fought for many of the changes, commented on the plan, saying, "In the true spirit of free enterprise and individualism, those who are causing the damage and violating the laws are going to



The pied piper of perfect paradigms

By JOEL CHERNOFF

"Why haven't you written your column for so long?" asked Chuck Diggins. Chuck Diggins, a senior, is a political science major from Fayetteville, Ark.

"I can't," I said. "I can't analyze any more. The world is too fragmented and chaotic. I don't see patterns any more — just random objects. And if I can't analyze, I can't synthesize. The whole result is very dissatisfying. Like making a collage from the contents of a garbage can; it's bound to stink."

"So the world stinks? I didn't think you'd sink to a sympathy plea, Joel."

"But I haven't. I've simply remained silent."

"And left everybody hanging. Do you realize that the political science department waits on your every word?"

"Really?"

"Sure. If you become a prophet, they could all go home and relax."

"They would all be out of a job."

"But they'd be happy, Joel. Human existence is predicated upon achieving the good life. Nobody knows how to yet — that's the problem. If you find out how, everyone could take it easy."

"I didn't realize that so much was riding on me."

"Not to mention that nobody reads the editorial page of the Daily Tar Heel since you've stopped writing."

"Nobody did before."

"Joel, you've got to get your head together. Let me offer you a suggestion from the mines of knowledge of political science to guide you out of chaos: create a paradigm."

"Is that like a mantra?"

"Almost as good. A paradigm sets up a model in which to order the world. It declares certain assumptions and then allows you to clean up the mess from there."

"Everything falls into place?" I asked.

"A good paradigm is like a well-ordered cupboard: everything in its proper place."

"But when the cupboard is bare?"

"Obviously, a barren paradigm is of little use."

"Are paradigms really that powerful?"

"If they are well constructed, they will be as sturdy as a house of bricks. If not, they only may be like a house of straw."

"Has anybody ever created a perfect paradigm?" I asked.

"Alas, no. They lack the beauty of a jigsaw puzzle: there are always extra pieces."

"So what good would a paradigm do me if it only created a partial representation of the universe? I want the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

"Joel, there's no answer that I can give to that. But if you accept the limitations of paradigms, you may be able to clear up your vision enough to write again. Finals are coming on and people need to be entertained."

"Entertained! I thought you said the poli sci department waits on my every word."

"Where are your class loyalties, Joel?"

"What class are you referring to?"

"The class of '78, I presume."

"Assuming graduation on time. A precarious paradigm, considering my current status in certain courses."

"Look at it this way," Chuck said. "If you can create a perfect paradigm, you'll have all classes, past and present, at your feet. You'd be the pied piper of paradigms, all who listened willing to follow the tune of your flute."

"I don't play the flute."

"I have to tell you about metaphors? Don't be so difficult."

"All right," I conceded. "But easy on the alliteration."

"Joel, you could lead us all like rats."

"Into the river where you would drown."

"But you'd save the world."

"From whom? From ourselves?"

"Joel, please don't be so picaresque. Paradigmatic thinking requires a broad scope. Now tell me, don't you want to be a prophet?"

"Of course. It's all I write about."

"Precious little that that is," Chuck quipped. "What do you think prophecy is? It's creating a paradigm for your followers. You can't be a prophet without a paradigm. No matter what your message is — Jesus loves you, socialism, prevention of wars — people won't listen unless you present a well-ordered and balanced conception of the world." And that is the essence of a paradigm.

"But what if my paradigm has a great fall and cracks?"

"Then all the king's horses and all the king's men will make scrambled eggs out of you."

"Chuck, I think that I have to give this a lot of thought. It's not something that I want to jump into too quickly."

"It's a matter of jumping over, not into. You have to be nimble and quick."

"Still, it's something of which I had best be wary."

"Again, do you want to be a prophet? You're quite contrary."

"Chuck, please go cultivate your own garden."

"Just trying to help. I don't think that you can see the flowers for all the weeds."

"No. The problem is that I can't pretend that the weeds don't exist."

"Exactly my point. We are lacking a perfect paradigm which takes account of all plants."

The beauty of the paradigm struck me at this moment and raked over my term paper-strewn mind. I staggered away from this earth-shattering confrontation determined to discover the illusion of truth.

Joel Chernoff, a senior, is a history major from Great Neck, N.Y.

Letters Column 'void of information'

To the editor:
On Nov. 30, there appeared in the Daily Tar Heel a column entitled "Wilmington 10 fiasco mocks human rights." The column contained serious charges, all unsubstantiated, against the North Carolina judicial system.

For example, the columnist wrote, "North Carolina... has earned the... distinction of being one of the most oppressive and racist states in the nation in light of the Wilmington 10 case." Remarkably, the columnist failed to document her arguments by citing specific instances of supposed racism in the Wilmington 10 case.

Perhaps North Carolina should be ashamed as a result of the Wilmington 10 case; perhaps it should not be. The column that appeared in the Daily Tar Heel, however, like so many other emotional columns written in support of the convicted persons, is void of information upon which to base a decision in the matter.

Bryan Wirwicz
2418 Granville South

Aftermath

To the editor:
I would like to thank the DTH for covering the aftermath of an issue as well as you covered the meaty part of the issue. Not only were the numerous fights and squabbles of WXYC and the Student Educational Broadcasting board given front-page coverage, but so was the grand finale ("Move to fire Madison defeated in SEB vote," Nov. 30). Too often, newspapers give front-page coverage to sensational events but the events' resolutions are buried inside the paper. We at WXYC applaud the DTH's thoroughness.

However, I would like also to finalize a few major issues that were left hanging in the Wednesday article. As manager of WXYC until Jan. 16 (when SEB will meet to appoint a permanent manager), I have the full support of the station's staff as well as the unanimous support of the board — including an affirmative vote from David Madison. While there have been many problems in the past few weeks, these problems will not rise again. While the DTH quoted an unidentified staff member as saying, "we'll try again and again" to get Madison off the board, this is no longer the case. From here on out, the staff of WXYC will work with every member of SEB, which has in turn indicated its assurance of staff representation to the board. Another WXYC staff member, Doug Johnston, and I will join two SEB members in the following weeks to initiate improvements in the board's bylaws, thus avoiding future problems like those of the last few weeks.

I hope that the fact that WXYC was on the air during the Thanksgiving break and that we will be on 24-hours a day from now through exams is proof enough that our problems of the past few weeks — especially those involving David Madison — are finished, and we look forward to returning to our proper place in the DTH — off the front page and back into the entertainment section.

Robert N. Crosswhite
WXYC Interim Station Manager

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes contributions and letters to the editor. Letters must be signed, typed on a 60-space line, double-spaced and must be accompanied by a return address. Letters chosen for publication are subject to editing.

be paying their fair share."

Under the old plan, male drivers under 25 and their families were paying twice as much as young women and persons over 25.

The new insurance plan also includes a provision to set rates according to the use of the car, the driver's experience and driving record and, to a lesser extent, where the driver lives.

Male drivers under 25 can begin paying the lower rates on Thursday by cancelling their old policies and taking out new ones. Other drivers will not have to pay the revised rates and surcharges until their policies are renewed during the next 12 months.

...

While about 50,000 dockworkers in ports from Maine to Texas finally are going back to work after a two-month strike, members of the United Mine Workers (UMW) union may begin a strike Dec. 6 if contract negotiations are unsuccessful.

The dockworkers, members of the International Longshoremen's Association, voted Tuesday to accept a new three-year contract which includes job-security guarantees and increased wages and fringe benefits.

The strike, which began Oct. 1 when the old contracts expired, was aimed at stopping containerized and automated shipping.

The threat of a coal miners strike was created when contract negotiations stalled in Washington between the UMW and the bituminous coal industry. However, the Huntington Herald-Dispatch reported Sunday that three of the coal companies had dropped out of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association and would begin independent contract negotiations — a move that Arnold Miller, president of the UMW, said may influence the stalled talks.

...

J. P. Stevens and Co., one of the nation's largest textile manufacturers, may be in labor-related legal trouble again.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) Wednesday threatened to seek a national injunction against the company, ordering it to stop interfering with the legal rights of its 45,000 employees. The NLRB obtained a nationwide injunction in 1948.

Officials said unless the company settles complaints in six of its plants, the request would be filed in U.S. District Court in New York City.

The board's decision to seek the injunction was based on evidence that the company has harassed, coerced and intimidated its employees and violated their rights under the National Labor Relations Act, officials said.

J. P. Stevens, an avowed anti-union employer, denies any illegal activity. The company currently is under contempt of court citations for similar violations found in some of its plants in the South.

...

This story is about the age-old problem of false alarms. Not fake fire alarms, burglar alarms or civil disaster alarms. It's about FALSE ALARMS — otherwise known as false pregnancies.

This week in Japan, Ian Ian disappointed her country when it was announced that she was not pregnant despite the fact that many had seen national television



coverage of her wedding night.

Incidentally, Ian Ian is one of two pandas given to the Japanese by the Chinese government.

When Ian Ian mated with the other panda, Kan Kan, for the first time last June, the Japanese thought they would have another little panda because Ian Ian had showed the only overt symptom a panda has when she is pregnant — her nipples swelled a little during the fall.

However, when Ian Ian's November due-date came and went and there was still no little panda, Ian Ian only patted her tummy, smiled her inimitable smile and showed the Japanese that they should mind their own business.

Lisa M. Nieman, a junior speech major from Winston-Salem, N.C., is a copy editor for the Daily Tar Heel.