

# The Daily Tar Heel

91st year of editorial freedom

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## Bad report card

Educators nationwide have embraced a new hobby lately with the same kind of enthusiasm their students may show a new arcade video game. They've begun writing an assortment of reports on the condition of the nation's public school system, analyses costing millions of dollars yet proving ambiguous and limited in their generalities. Each report loftily outlines reforms, but lacks the realistic means for their applications. As a result, school officials learn of problems they already know exist and are given little help in solving them.

The reports compiled by the National Commission on Excellence in Education, the National Science Foundation and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, are designed to save the failing public high schools, long the black sheep in this country's education system. Studies show that an increased number of high school graduates can't read or write a sentence. A recent study completed by the federal Department of Education showed that less than 3 percent of high school graduates received the recommended curriculum.

The plight of these students, as outlined in the statistics, should be news to no one, yet educators are attacking the problem with the zeal of scientists tracking a new disease — and unfortunately with as much naivete. They've blamed the demise on what's called the high flash of high tech, or the appeal of new computer systems. Because computer technology has been recognized as a needed resource in today's education, they've allocated an alarming amount of state and federal funds to purchase a row of terminals and a processor. PTA meetings have become arenas for principals who blush with pride as they stand next to their Apple IIs while talking to parents whose children still can't read the instruction manual.

As an answer to the problem, the reports only offer half-hearted requests for reforms in curriculum and teacher training. They call for the implementation of courses designed for pursuits of "higher thinking," outlining that teachers can be trained to lead these new pursuits once they're forced to meet more stringent certification requirements, such as yearly competency exams.

The reforms may sound as good on paper, but as usual when dealing with education proposals, they've plenty of ideological bark, but not much of budget bite. For example, the Carnegie Foundation report calls for a 25 percent increase in teacher's pay as justification for the more stringent requirements. It's a proposal that can only be laughed at in states where raises have been placed on legislative shelves. Million-dollar studies on the problems plaguing public schools are not needed, that is, unless they find million-dollar answers.

## Dis-United Nations

When President Reagan first detailed the U.S. response to the Soviet downing of a civilian jet, he seemed to treat the horrifying incident as a mandate for greater U.S. efforts toward arms-control negotiations and world peace. His exclusion of any U.S. retaliation, such as specific sanctions against the Soviet Union, assured many worried Americans and won the United States considerable favor in the world community. Yet the State Department's recent refusal to expedite the difficult arrival of Andrei Gromyko to the forthcoming meeting of the United Nations General Assembly casts doubts upon the sincerity of Reagan's desire for improved relations with the Soviet Union in this volatile period of U.S.-Soviet relations.

Gromyko's Saturday announcement of his cancellation of plans to attend this week's General Assembly meetings followed what Moscow labels the failure of the United States to both ensure Gromyko's safety and provide suitable arrangements for his arrival. In this case, the Kremlin's claims ring somewhat true. The State Department supported decisions by the governors of both New York and New Jersey who, fearing uncontrollable public demonstrations, refused commercial airport landing permission to Gromyko's special civilian jet. The alternative the State Department offered Gromyko was landing at a military airport about two hours by car from Manhattan.

The State Department's decision to support the governors is surprising. When the headquarters of the United Nations was moved to Manhattan in 1947, the agreement was explicit in forbidding any impediments — whether federal, state or local — to the travel of a member nation to a U.N. meeting. Indeed, Gromyko's absence at the forthcoming meetings would be outrageously conspicuous; it would mark the first time in more than 20 years that a Soviet delegate was not present at the General Assembly.

It is entirely understandable that U.S. diplomats are growing ever more frustrated with the failure of the Soviet Union to assume responsibility for the deaths of 269 innocent people. Soviet propaganda on the matter has even dared to claim that Korean Air Lines flights have been employed in U.S. espionage missions for the past 10 years. Yet American tolerance of this defiant and appalling Soviet attitude is precisely what has won the United States world respect in its handling of the airline catastrophe.

That is why it is so regrettable to see U.S. officials lose their patience and begin to counter Soviet dogmatism with diplomatic flippancy. As the State Department proclaims that Gromyko's impending absence at the United Nations reflects Soviet fear of world criticism and the Kremlin denounces the United States for making Gromyko's New York arrival so difficult, all that is certain is that neither superpower presently displays the willingness to compromise, which is essential to any improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations. It is true that the United States did not in any way instigate the recent rift with the Soviet Union. But it is also true that if U.S. diplomats do not continue special efforts toward negotiations, the Soviet Union never will.



## An honorable mention

By ANDREA STUMPF

Sarah McGuire's disagreement ("A bad tradition," *DTH*, Sept. 15) with the well-written description of the UNC honor system ("Honor Court has long-standing tradition," *DTH*, Sept. 12) deserves, and indeed necessitates, additional words on the topic. We wish to address McGuire's misconceptions and, in doing so, substantiate some of the points made initially by the *DTH*. The first criticism made by McGuire is that "the accused is virtually left on his own to prepare a defense." There are three points to be made in response to this statement. First, every defendant takes part in a preliminary conference. This is the first step following notification of a formal charge, and it is at this point that the charge, the character of the evidence, the options for adjudication, pleas, possible penalties and 13 specific rights are explained in detail. There is ample time left for questions to be asked or special requests to be made by the accused.

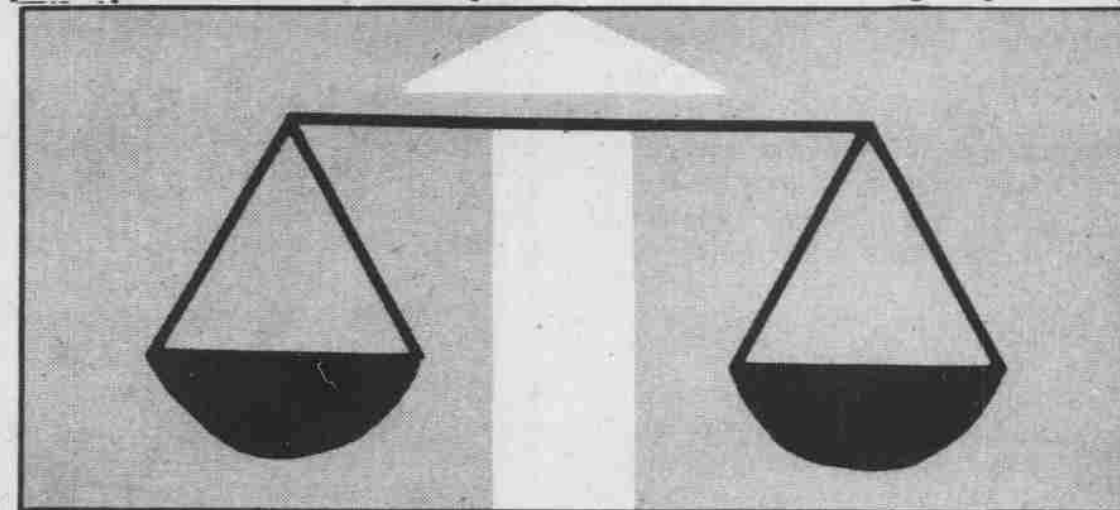
A second point worth making concerns the large amount of time devoted by the members of the attorney general's staff to any particular case. The defense counsel assigned to assist the defendant meets with that defendant several times prior to the actual hearing. In addition, at least one meeting is held with each of the material witnesses, not to mention those who, although interviewed for information, may not actually appear before the court. Preparations for court hearings are a long and thorough process.

A third point must stress the role that the defendant plays in preparing for his or her own hearing. Every defendant is informed that he or she is ultimately responsible for the quality and quantity of

his or her own presentation, and that the defense counsel is available to provide assistance and a more thorough knowledge of the process and its mandated responsibilities. As a substantially student-run system, the autonomy of students is highly valued, and the attorney general's staff would not wish to dictate what no one can know better than the accused student. The court hearing is straightforward. The court collects facts which ensure a deliberation based upon as thorough and complete a picture of the situation as possi-

nesses that may appear.

A third criticism by McGuire concerns rights, which she considers lacking. As mentioned earlier, these rights are explained at the preliminary conference. Accused students certify that these rights have been explained to them and they receive a copy of *The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance*, the document that elaborates upon these rights. Moreover, during the hearing itself, the defendant is asked whether these rights have been violated either before or during the proceedings.



Finally, each defendant has the right to appeal on the basis of these rights having been violated. In regards to McGuire's claim that a "student had more rights in first grade than he does while attending the University," we would like to point out that attendance at a college or university can not annul an individual's rights to freedoms of speech, assembly, expression or procedural and substantive "due process" as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. We must agree with McGuire's statement that some cases do take months before the process is fully completed. This is, to some degree, a reflection of the thoroughness with which cases are handled and a side effect of a substantially student-run system. One alterna-

tive would be to hire a full-time judicial staff and thereby dispense with student involvement altogether. The repercussions of such an action would be most far-reaching. McGuire also complains that "there is no middle ground" between a guilty plea and a not guilty plea. However, the two choices reflect the nature of action — you either do or you don't. Of paramount importance is the fact that each defendant who pleads not guilty is innocent until it is proven to the court that the student is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. The seriousness of each student's pledge to abide by the Honor System upon entering the University is matched by the seriousness with which each case is studied and deliberated.

The most important point to stress is that the Honor System is designed to benefit students, and the welfare of students is always the first priority.

Lastly, we would like to point out that the judicial system provides a means through which to criticize and improve itself on an ongoing basis via the Committee on Student Conduct. Each of us listed below is a member of that committee. In addition, there are other students who were appointed by the student body president to serve on that committee with faculty and staff. The names of the student members can be obtained through the Student Government Office in Suite C of the Carolina Union. We encourage students in general and McGuire in particular to discuss their concerns about the judicial system with these student responsibilities to allow their concerns to be addressed in a productive manner.

Andrea Stumpf is Undergraduate Court vice chairman. David Kessler, Undergraduate Court chairman, and Hunter Hoover, student attorney general, contributed to this article.

## What price justice?

By POLLY PASSONNEAU

In response to second-year law student Matt Maggio's letter to the editor ("Only liberals support Legal Services," *DTH*, Sept. 12), I would like to defend Legal Services. I suppose I should first introduce myself as a "fool" and "liberal demagogue."

Though Maggio makes many disparate points in his letter, the crux of his discussion is clear. He feels the poor in this country are treated too well. They do not need any form of legal protection as icing on the cake of their special treatment in our society. As I respond to his various points, I hope I illuminate some on the nature of Legal Services. I also have a question for him. We, as students, may solicit free legal advice from Student Legal Service. Does he dispute this right? (I think we all know the answer to this...)

The first point in Maggio's attack is against the notion that poor people might need representation in civil matters. The distinction he makes between criminal prosecution and civil disputes is a significant one, yet he relies on this distinction to say the government has no interest in civil suits between private individuals and

therefore should make no effort to help citizens involved in civil suits. I respond to this with another question. Why do we have courts?

The court system was devised as a means to allow individuals the opportunity to settle disputes with the aid of an impartial tribunal. Are poor people less deserving than rich people in that regard? When a poor person has a question about a legal matter that could possibly change his life, such as in matters of divorce, employment disputes or landlord-tenant disagreements, is it unfair to allow a poor person to ask for some assistance in understanding the legal aspects of the problem? If I interpret Maggio correctly, he feels anyone who cannot pay for the right to respond to such matters should not be aided in any way by our government. Let the rich people fight it out.

And Maggio takes issue with some of the people that Legal Services has represented. If there is government-supported legal service, should that service be allowed to deny the right to representation to political organizations? Or should they be allowed to deny representation to people based on sexual preference? Or sex or race, for that matter? That would certainly be untenable in our system as it stands, if we are to follow the mandates of the Constitution.

Implied in another of Maggio's attacks is that people receiving welfare should be taxed if they are to receive any benefits from being members of our society. We be it that welfare people are not taxed. The Lord giveth, but the Lord does not taketh away. Would it make sense to give with one hand, and then reach around with the other to take away? That doesn't make any sense, not to mention the extra paper work with which such procedures would burden the government. Ludicrous.

I cannot in this space properly discuss all the issues Maggio raises, but I felt a need to respond in this general fashion to his attitude, one which says money buys justice and that money should buy justice. This is not the way I interpret the purpose of the law, though I recognize that in fact, excepting organizations like Legal Services, it does operate that way. But I forget. I am just a "fool" and a "liberal demagogue." I must remember the lesson to be learned from carrying Maggio's logic to its conclusion: The poor deserve nothing from our society; it is entirely their fault they are poor.

Polly Passonneau, a third-year law student from Washington, is chairperson of the Equal Justice Foundation at UNC.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### In a polluted pool of blue print

To the editor:

On Sept. 9 I lost my temper in a pool of blue paint. The pool I refer to feeds a stream in the wooded area behind Ehringhaus Residence Hall. This stream runs into Morgan Creek, which goes to the New Hope Reservoir and eventually into our future drinking-water supply.

I found the little stream filled entirely with blue paint, chemicals and other nasty stuff draining down from Kenan Field House. After initial disbelief, I felt anger — and then the urge for some "Nancy Drew" detective work. I questioned several maintenance men at the stadium, and they said that this blue goo was coming from field-painting, washing brushes and drainage — and flowing directly into our stream.

Jane Sharpe, president of the Conservation Council, and I took pictures of the mess for evidence, and Sharp has pre-

sented these photos to the Environmental Management Commission in Raleigh, the agency that regulates such matters.

Meanwhile, another creek, now stagnating near the Bell Tower, deserves attention. This stream receives large doses of chemical wastes daily from sinks and other sources in the chemistry buildings. Yuck — no wonder it smells so bad in that area below. How, one may wonder, does the University get away with polluting so much water, especially during a critical shortage for Chapel Hill?

A sewage treatment plant downstream gives UNC an excuse for the dumping. Water containing a variety of toxic and hazardous wastes is treated as regular sewer runoff and then discharged again. En route the streams pass over a lot of land, near many houses and through the Botanical Gardens, thus finding plenty of opportunities to harm the environment

and present a health hazard. Both federal and state laws prohibit regular sewage treatment of many chemical wastes, requiring instead that they be stored, recycled or otherwise disposed of. By allowing lax disposal practices, the University is not only breaking the law but also causing a messy blue death for natural organisms.

I hope the EMC enforces necessary standards and inspires some student awareness. Meanwhile, here's a thought...

We can't ignore the crucial link Between what we dump and what we drink — From chemical lab to kitchen sink A bit disgusting, Don't you think?

Trace Wren  
Chapel Hill

### A new low

To the editor:

The prominent placement of and importance given to the *DTH* article "Documents link UNC president with FBI" (Sept. 16) was an irresponsible and inexcusable act of "journalism." The blatant and unwarranted sensationalism shows incredible insensitivity. The negative implications of the article far surpass the supplied evidence. The personal integrity and moral fiber of an outstanding person were tarnished by ambiguous and incomplete information. Journalistic ethics have reached a new low. An apology should be forthcoming.

Paul Parker  
Chapel Hill

### Come again?

To the editor:

Uncle Sam wants to neutralize the 25 million of his children who have turned pothead. But old Sam is being soft-hearted. Let's get behind Uncle Sam and soak every U.S. pot plant with paraquat. And then:

Be the DEA, BATF, FBI and CIA to bug the living quarters of "known marijuana growers" and search these places when no one is home. (Why stop here when at the same time we can do it to the prostitutes and computer criminals?)

Send out the secret cops with weapons and wallets, both loaded with taxpayers' money, so they can create a big market for American dope through deceit and entrapment. (The "end" of American justice is justification enough for the "means" thus far described.)

Cut the tops from all marijuana growers. After placing their heads on

stakes, we can display them in downtown New York City to bolster public faith in government. No one will worry about the bombs if we can just get rid of the dreaded reefer plant, which has been explicitly linked with crime, middle-age burnout and the end of the world.

Finally, we can burn the bodies of convicted farmers for fuel in the bottom of the holy U.S. Pentagon. And with such a good start at eliminating minorities, we can easily butcher the blacks and the Jews and especially people with only one ear.

Or would it be possible to prevent U.S. soldiers from getting high in paraquat 'copters over American soil by sending them to some Central American town to kill our own species instead of beating up on God's children — the plants?

Perry Zimmerman  
Carrboro



### Frail fiction

To the editor:

Ryke Longest's column "From Inside the Cockpit" (*DTH*, Sept. 13) provides an interesting perspective of the Korean Air Lines crisis. Yet the impersonation of the Soviet pilot is as narrow as the Tass reports aired to the Soviet people themselves. Longest presents a stereotypical view of Russian mentality: Conquer and kill all Americans.

The Soviets are human beings with real human emotions just like Americans, and I doubt that they had the thought of

destroying innocent lives any more than we do. I am not, by any means, trying to justify the actions of the Soviet government, but I do find this narrow-minded presentation especially disturbing in a country that professes the freedom and justice of democracy. Such propaganda belongs in the Soviet Union, not in the United States.

Greta Nintzel  
Durham

### Letters?

The *Daily Tar Heel* welcomes letters to the editor and contributions of columns for the editorial page.

Such contributions should be typed, triple spaced, on a 60-space line, and are subject to editing. Contributions must

be submitted by noon the day before publication.

Column writers should include their majors and hometown; each letter should include the writer's name, address and telephone number.