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The Daily Tar Heel

92nd year of editorial freedom

Funding — part of a broader picture

By PATRICIA WALLACE

"Student Government at UNC can look back on a rich heritage and can document the extensive involvement of some of this state's and this nation's finest talents. As I reflect upon the past, I at the same time must cast an anxious eye to the future. And I wish I could be as confident of the future of Student Government as I am proud of its past. Students are not optimistic about change through the system; they realize that Student Government does not have much power; they are tired of student 'politicos' only out for their own gain; and they have a rather curious philosophy of nothing being better than something."

True and appropriate words in relation to recent actions and criticisms of Student Government and the Campus Governing Council. The above statement is especially ironic considering it was made over a decade ago. On Oct. 18, 1971, then Student Body President Thomas M. Bello issued this statement in response to the University administration removing Student Government's power of allocating Student Activities Fees to campus organizations. While students' concerns have shifted over the years, certain interests have remained constant, as evidenced in Bello's statement.

The process of allocating funds to campus organizations has long been the subject of criticism — and with good reason. The method of distribution is far from perfect. The current subject of budgetary debate centers around the question of constitutionally funding certain organizations. There are two aspects of funding to consider: funding for operating expenses; or funding for programming purposes. Constitutionally funding an organization for operating expenses ensures that such an organization can meet its fixed costs — that it can fulfill its day-to-day financial requirements. Constitutional funding an organization for programming expenses, on the other hand, is not intended to guarantee its existence. Establishing perpetual funding for the projects and events of student organizations begins to turn something into nothing. Constitutional funding indicates a reverse in the direction of Student Government as a vital influence of student life.

Last spring 35 student organizations vied for the funding of their programs. Organizational treasurers and members had to convince the CGC of the merits of their past and projected programs and the viability of their finance/funding requests.

Ideally the strongest and best programs are funded. Despite difficulties inherent in trying to distribute equitably a small amount of money among many organizations, the system provides students an opportunity to accept responsibility and provide the campus community with direction. Students elect the Council; the Council can, and does, emphasize funding of diverse



educational and cultural programs. In addition to setting the tone for student life through organizational funding, the present system allows a great deal of flexibility. Dying organizations can lose funding; new organizations can receive funding. The present system challenges student leaders of organizations to present the worthiness of their goals. The present system educates students and helps to inculcate a sense of fiscal responsibility and an ability to project future programs and expenditures.

Office, which it works closely with for recruitment, as well. When the programming and the leaders of the BSM (or any other organization) demonstrate effectiveness, quality and overall benefit to the University community, it will receive what the CGC (operating under a tight budget) sees fit and most cost-efficient.

In the spring of 1947, University President Frank Porter Graham said, "Student Government has... advanced most in those generations which students accepted the most responsibility." The present wording of the Student Constitution calls for students to allocate fees upon responsible scrutiny of programming proposals. A preferable and more equitable referendum than the one on the February ballot would ask students if they favor constitutional funding of any organization's programming.

Can we, as UNC students — as individuals and members of organizations — take the 37-year-old words of President Graham and challenge ourselves to care and accept the responsibility for our concerns? Can we take the 13-year-old words of Student Body President Bello and make Student Government and UNC better for the time we spend here and that of future students?

Constitutional funding of organizations' programming can indeed begin to turn something into nothing. A better way to ensure responsible funding is to take part in Student Government (if not actively then at least by keeping abreast of current issues) — to shape it into the growing organization of the students, by the students and for the students.

Patricia Wallace, a junior English major from Virginia Beach, Va., is a CGC representative from district 16

We're making a list . . .

So this is Christmas, a time of such glee, We cast down our poison pens, take on humility. Unfair we've been, unfair we still may be, You've taken all our barbs, uttered so sarcastically. We'll forget all that, you come and see, It's time for gifts, for you and me.

For Doug Berger and SEEDS, always in such a stew, We give a year's supply of National Review.

To Mr. Holley, head of the motley CGC crew, We give a desk organizer and a paint brush or two.

For Coach Dick Crum, the apple of our eye, We give a new shirt, it'll go with your tie.

To you, Wayne Kuncel, the housing czar, We send a finished dorm and hope it stretches far.

Men of Everett and Manly, soon to be outside, Here's a bus pass and an apartment guide.

To the women's soccer champs, your victory pierced the calm, A sack of grenades; they're great with napalm.

Lump, our mikeman, you led cheers with zeal, A multiyear contract, we'd like to seal.

To bland Tar Heel fans who use hands for a seat, We give you some spirit; won't that be neat?

Paul, the Parker, so sick you are of brick, We send a bunch of pine seedlings and hope they grow thick.

BSM's Banks will jump with joy to see, A new photo, no hint of militancy. For Student Stores, advice fit for a son, Get a lawyer; with Pascal you'll have fun.

There's Rex (not his real name), pot would make him sing,

We'd like to oblige you, but we're too right wing. What about Keith Lyall? Gays he can't stand.

A date with Robert Pharr; won't that be grand? Jed and Pat seek no gold, nor silver, nor priceless Ming.

They've got everything; we won't give a thing. For the former president's daughter, who we much abused,

A subscription to the DTH, we're sure it'll be used.

For Dave, the Letterman, your ratings would soar, Take an earlier hour, through class we'd not snore.

For the Rams Club, you merchants of greed, we got some treats, But we changed our minds 'cause you stole the best seats.

For Jesse Helms, our senior senator, whose win stuns us still, You'll love this tourist's guide to the zoo on the Hill.

Don't forget Bob Windsor, who sees a queer under ever bed, Let's send an ounce of tolerance; that's enough said.

For Jesse Jackson, whose date we missed, A couple dozen electoral votes; no, we insist.

Bill Friday, the beloved, a political career's ahead, Try a new hairdo; you'll knock 'em dead.

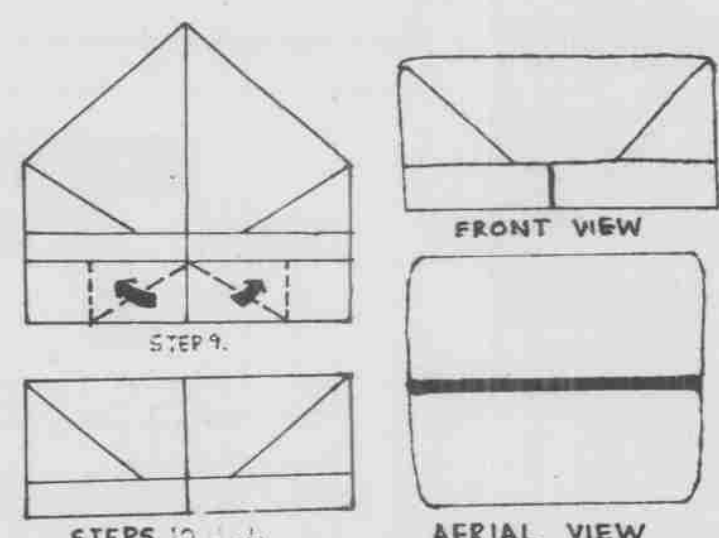
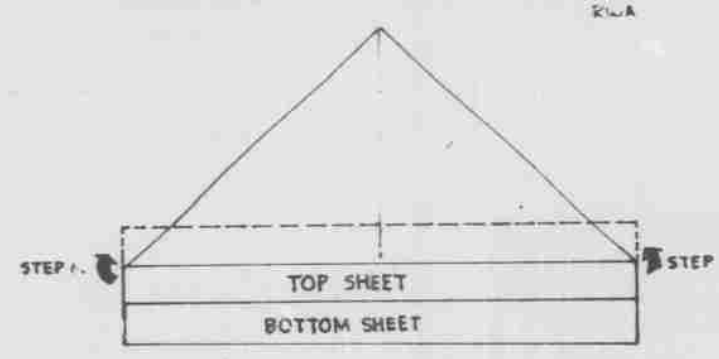
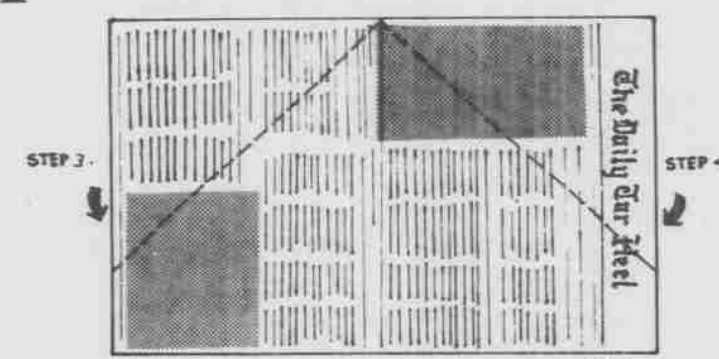
If we overlooked ourselves, you'd say we're remiss, So we'll take some liberals, more computers and a satellite dish.

That's our list, though there's some we've missed, We're out of space, so don't you be pissed.

You're great readers, really, we'll buy you a beer, And wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

How to make a pressman's hat

We may laugh along, but it really hurts our feelings when someone refers to the DTH as fishwrap. Or when they say something about using it for the bottom of their bird cage. Or to keep their heads from getting wet in the rain. So we're fighting back in an effort, on this last day of publication before Christmas Break, to leave with you an impression of the DTH as the ultimate in versatility and usefulness. By paying careful attention to the following instructions (adapted from those of the Journalism School's esteemed Phil Meyer), you can use this very page to create your own, official pressman's hat (for use "while running a press or in any other situation where your hair needs protection from ink, grease, oil or lint," say Meyer's instructions).



Call it our holiday gift to the University: Ingredients: this page (or any four-page section of a standard-size newspaper), one bottle Jamaican rum, one quart egg nog, several dashes nutmeg.

- 1. Mix 1 oz. rum with 5 oz. egg nog, top with 1 dash nutmeg. Sample to establish proper holiday perspective. 2. Place newspaper section on table with the fold at the top (see diagram). 3. Fold the top left corner down to the centerline. 4. Now do the top right corner. 5. This is tricky, so fortify and drink another glass of egg nog. Fold the edge of the top sheet up to the base of the triangle. Crease. 6. Fold up this edge again to form a hat band. Turn the hat over. 7. Now you have to size-it. For an average head fold the right edge to the center line. For a small head, overlap it a bit. For a big head, stop short of the center. In the same manner, fold the left side toward the right edge. 8. Have another cup of 'nog. 9. Fold lower right and left corners to

- the bottom of the hat band. 10. Fold the entire lower flap above the hat band. 11. Fold the top of the flap down and tuck it into the hat band. 12. Fold the peak down to the bottom of the hat band and tuck it under the band. 13. If you haven't already, mix and dispense with remaining liquid ingredients. 14. Pick up the hat. Open it wide and flatten out the top. Fold the peaks down to the bottom of the hat, crease the top edge and tuck the ends into the band. 15. Attempt to don hat. But stay off the streets.

For the record

Our Tuesday editorial "Blinded by the light" incorrectly implied that UNC law professor Barry Nakell objects to the Morehead Planetarium's current display of a star to advertise its "Star of Bethle-

nem" show. Nakell tells us that the Supreme Court decision referred to in the editorial changes the law and, thus, his opinion on the matter. We regret the error.

READER MAIL

Student activism and political trivia

To the editor: In a recent article about student activism, I read about the decline of student activism on this and other campuses. I could not agree more, because I feel that student activism has seriously declined. There are some instances where people have spoken out for what they believe in, but this is nothing compared to 10 or 15 years ago, when if something was wrong, people stood up and voiced their opinions. I just feel that students should stand up once again and fight for what they feel is right. It seems now that students don't really care about their society or their future. If something happens around them that they feel is wrong, they will complain among themselves, but they will rarely ever do anything constructive to reverse the wrong. Most students will just "grin and bear it," putting up with anything that's thrown at them and not really caring about the fact that

they have a right to speak out against what they feel is wrong. I observed one example of this last week. I am a resident of Lewis dorm, which was informed that next year it will be co-ed. I expected the members of this all-male dorm to really do something about it. They complained, made plans to gather alumni mailing lists and developed other ideas to fight the wrong imposed on us, but none of the ideas were ever carried through. Now, instead of hearing, "We're gonna fight this," the general idea is "there's nothing we can do, so just accept it." It's probably true that there is nothing we can do about our dorm, but if we voiced our opinions, if we stood and fought for what we felt was right, then maybe the next time the director of housing wants to take someone's home away from them, he will think twice, or at least gather feedback from the people affected.

I believe it is time for students to become active again and stand up for what they believe in. For instance, the residents of Manly, Everett and Lewis should show the director of housing how much they are displeased at losing their homes. We live in a country where we have rights that enable us to change what we feel is wrong, and we should take advantage of these rights. If we don't fight for what we believe in, then no one else will, and someday, maybe, we will no longer have the right to fight the wrongs imposed on us.

Steven Price Lewis

In addition to the cartoon, Trefethen trivializes his own argument by concluding that "few of the issues noised about by campus politicos on soap boxes have the real human impact of this ignored anniversary." To say that the death of 100 people a day from starvation and malnutrition in Ethiopia does not have real human impact is as ludicrous as saying that no similarities exist between Afghanistan and the "oppressive, militaristic, imperialist" actions by our own government in Nicaragua. Our position is clear: we are concerned with many important issues. Where do you stand, Vance?

To the editor: In response to the cartoon accompanying Vance Trefethen's article ("Infamous date should not go unnoticed," Dec. 5), we feel it trivializes the efforts put into our "soap box" antics.

Curt Barnes Cindy Dunlevy Chuck Robbins Bill Fox Organizers, "It's Time to Eat" for Ethiopia

UNC and IBM just don't compute

By MICHAEL KENNEDY

In October, Pascal and Associates, a Chapel Hill cooperative that sells and provides services for computer equipment, announced that it was seeking information on the pricing and selling of computer equipment by UNC Student Stores. The cooperative claimed that the Stores was operating illegally, violating its university charter by restraining trade. Is this just the complaint of a business losing out in fair market competition, or does their complaint merit our concern? In It deserves our interest for many reasons, especially because of the Stores' student scholarship fund. Pascal and Associates is a workers' owned cooperative. That means all membership stock in the business may only be held by those who work for the group at least twenty hours per week, as well as other similar conditions. The organization of this business exemplifies the kind of work organization Democratic Socialists advocate, and thus Pascal deserves the support of the left. But Pascal also deserves the support of those who elected Reagan, for the entrepreneurial initiative of Pascal workers is second to none. However, an automatic defense of free enterprise is not the main concern here. Our primary concern should be the satisfaction of human needs.

Student Stores sales of computers are unambiguously good for the individuals and University sections buying them. Computers are excellent learning tools and even more helpful in many kinds of research. If these computers are going to be bought anyway, the Stores is helping by providing valuable educational materials and is even saving the University community money by offering the computers at bargain basement prices. So, other than the loss of business suffered by Pascal and Associates, what is there to complain about? We must here ask about corporate control. All of the major corporations see the University as a perfect place to expand their own present and future market control. If large institutions use IBM equipment, individual users want to have the same equipment at home, so their work can be done at either work or home. By arranging for the Student Stores to sell IBM equipment at low prices, IBM has achieved more than what hundreds of Charlie Chaplin computer commercials could accomplish: it has won over a huge share of the market. IBM controls about 40 percent of the national market in personal computers. Their domination has a lot to do with making deals. If IBM can arrange for a university to sell IBM equipment to its students and faculty, IBM has done very well. Since they arranged for the Student Stores to sell their equipment, IBM has cornered nearly 90 percent of the local market. In September of this year, the Student Stores sold around 500 IBM Personal Computers. That is a lot of computers, and an even better deal for IBM.

All students are not benefiting. Profits from Student Stores sales are supposed to go to student scholarships. Thus, the extreme markup on Hershey Bars can probably be justified. Those who can afford to buy candy bars should help those who depend on scholarships to get a higher education. In fact, the Daniels sales floor contributed \$438,881.03 to the scholarship fund for the year ending in June 1984. But, in the same time period, selling computers contributed nothing. In fact, it lost the fund \$8,705.06. What's more, nearly half of the year's profits went to finance capital expansion (most of which financed the computer investment) rather than finance students. Student scholarships should not suffer from computer sales.

If IBM sells its hardware to the Student Stores at prices made available to any large institution or chain of retail outlets, then why are the prices at the Student Stores so low? The Student Stores' own markup is minimal — to the University it sells computers for only 4.7 percent markup and to faculty, staff, and students a 21.7 percent markup. Compare this to the markup on textbooks (37 percent), goods from the Daniels sales floor (84 percent), or food (135 percent). The Student Stores is indeed providing a valuable service; a service to the University people who buy computers and especially to the University departments buying them.

A greater concern is whether the University should be in the business of helping IBM establish further corporate control. By supplying IBM machines at prices just above cost, the Stores is helping the corporation beat out all of its corporate competitors, and making IBM a competitor with corporations that provide computers at lower retail cost. All this is free to IBM.

Regardless of the benefits for IBM, if the University and some of its students also benefit, why bite the hand that feeds you? Unfortunately,

While IBM appears to be the biggest winner in all of this, the cooperative could be the loser. Unless Pascal's legal challenge is successful, the cooperative stands to lose more and more of its potential market to the Stores, especially since the Stores is trying to expand into more lines of computers. It would be a tragedy if such a principled business could not survive this corporate-university collision. It is even more tragic to know that student scholarship money was used to fund the triumph of IBM.

Michael Kennedy is a graduate student in sociology and an activist in the Democratic Socialists of America.