

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

Cryptic code

If the recent revelation that the Student Congress' membership is unconstitutionally low means anything, it's that even bureaucracies can be human — that is, make an honest mistake. However, it's one mistake that needs prompt mending.

According to the Student Government Code, "The Congress shall be composed of no fewer than one-tenth of 1 percent of the student population, and as non-voting ex officio members, the President and Treasurer of the Student Body."

By that reckoning, the congress should have 22 or 23 voting members, since UNC has 22,781 students. Yet the congress now has just 19. So, one is moved to ask, what becomes of UNC's representative legislature? Does it simply cease to exist, since its constitutional code says it doesn't have enough members? Can the actions of that body be considered valid?

Unfortunately, the code provides no answer. The document merely states that the congress "shall" contain the specified amount of members, but fails to address the consequences if the body falls short of that number.

Suppose, for instance, that an organization adversely affected by the congress' allocation of student fees decides to complain. The group's members could point to the one-tenth of 1 percent provision and claim — with legal justification — that the congress is unconstitutional, and that any measure passed by the body isn't binding.

To be sure, such a situation probably wouldn't happen. Many campus organizations seem content with the funding they receive; those that aren't probably wouldn't risk the ridicule of challenging the composition of the congress on what is obviously a technicality. Yet the smart bettor knows that Murphy's Law always lurks, and that the rule can yield disastrous results, especially in the political field.

As one congress member said of the ambiguous provision — which, incredibly, has been a part of the code for several years — "It's not really a big issue." Indeed it isn't — at least for now. That's why an amendment is needed to clarify the provision as soon as possible.

Revamp food advisory service?

Year after year, the process of selecting students for advisory committees has been a controversial point between UNC administrators and its students. Perhaps the time is ripe for changing that process.

Bryan Hassel, student body president, recently nominated five students to the Food Service Advisory Committee. But Marty Leary, one of Hassel's nominees, was given the thumbs down by the University administration because of Leary's "negative attitude toward ARA." It is not uncommon for nominations to be rejected. The administrators "wanted to start off on the right foot with Marriott." Marriott is UNC's present food service.

That's fine, especially given the rocky times of ARA, the previous food service. And the administrators have the right to decide who is suitable or unsuitable for the committee.

Hassel's contention is not so much over the administration's rejecting Leary, but because the administration rejected him without interviewing him and without reviewing his qualifications.

Hassel has a good point. The administration's dismissal of Leary was not in keeping with the fairness and open-mindedness that should be exercised in such proceedings.

The advisory committee is an

important one because, although it is only advisory, the five students serve as liaisons in airing student complaints concerning the food service as well as aiding in the selection of food prices, menus and even contractors.

But, as Boulton said, the advisory committee selection process can be improved. That's why it's encouraging to see Hassel come up with another proposal. Hassel recommends putting the student body president in charge of the selection process for these reasons: "a guarantee of student autonomy, an increased effectiveness of the student voice, and as set of advisory committees that promise to be active and engaged."

Hassel deserves to be commended for not pursuing the dead issue of trying to get Leary nominated, but rather trying to improve upon the selection process. Hassel's proposal is refreshing and raises some good points about involving students selecting students for a student committee.

The selection process has been a "perennial" point of student-administration confrontation for 15 years, as one administrator said. Hassel is to meet with Fordham Friday morning. The administration can, as it has in the past, open its door to student grievances. Such discussions needn't be sources of heat, but rather sources of light.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Tar Heel Forum

South Africa an aggressor, not ally

Sean Callinicos
 Guest Writer

Recently much has been written to argue that the United States should not pressure South Africa verbally, economically or otherwise. South Africa, it is argued, is a "repugnant apartheid state," but is "anti-communist" and "non-expansionist." Furthermore, our foreign policy should not be based on morality, but on self-interest.

The anti-divestment advocates believe that if we pressure South Africa, we risk the emergence of a communist South Africa. North Carolina's senior senator, Jesse Helms (with religious endorsement from Jerry Falwell) has been particularly eager to praise the virtues of South Africa's "struggle against global communism." Helms and others blame the Russian bear for the conflicts in southern Africa and the violence within South Africa. They would have the United States treat South Africa not as a dangerous aggressor, but as an ally of the West. Allow me to disagree, for five reasons.

1. South Africa actively and significantly destabilizes its black neighbors by backing guerrilla movements within their borders. Weapons, training and financing have been funneled to Mozambique for the guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance, to Angola for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and to dissidents in Zimbabwe and Lesotho.

2. South Africa has also repeatedly launched military forays into Mozambique, with whom South Africa has signed a "peace treaty" and which is desperately trying to improve ties with the West. South Africa has also meddled in Zambia, Lesotho, Botswana and Zimbabwe. The United States and her NATO allies have repeatedly condemned these violations of international law.

3. South Africa has for over a decade occupied up to one-third of Angola in its frustrating counter-insurgency war against guerrillas of the South West African Peoples' Organization. The country's blatant use of terror tactics has effectively depopulated much of southern Angola and led to widespread famine and economic disruption.

4. South Africa illegally occupies Namibia in defiance of the United Nations and the West. The anti-SWAPO guerrilla war has killed more than 20,000 Namibians and South Africans since 1966. Observers inside South Africa, Namibia and the West have often denounced atrocities in the territory, particularly those perpetrated by "koevoet" (crowbar) police units.

5. South Africa has waged an intermittent economic campaign against its neighbors (particularly Zambia and Zimbabwe), leading to poverty, hunger and economic dislocation in the subcontinent. This is precisely the type of campaign that anti-sanction Western leaders oppose. In 1985, South Africa even precipitated a coup in pro-West Lesotho by economically strangling the country.

Is this the "malleable ally" with which we should collaborate out of self-interest? South Africa will only become a dreaded Soviet client if we adopt the policy of Helms and company. If we alienate ourselves from the black majority, we leave moderate black leaders with no choice but to become radical. The bloodshed in southern Africa is taking place because we are essentially remaining passive in the face of South Africa's escalating internal and external aggression; the oppressed are being driven to violence by despair and frustration.

I lived in South Africa for nearly two decades and believe I know the country and its peoples. The Afrikaners have not been "malleable" in the past, nor will they be so in the future. In the 1830s, the Boer ancestors of the Afrikaners fled inland from the Cape Province to escape British political control. They suffered poverty, disease, native attacks and cultural isolation in order to be free to rule themselves. In 1948, they gained control of South Africa through the Nationalist Party and they firmly believe

that the only way they can retain their independence is to maintain their tight grip on the country.

In 1979, the Botha government formulated its "Total Strategy" paper on defense. In sum, it said all aspects of South Africa's economy, military and society should be mobilized in order to meet the "total onslaught" against the country. Apartheid would be modified only through cosmetic changes designed to appease the West. The South African Defense Force would be used to bludgeon the neighboring states into submission should they refuse to cease their anti-apartheid stance. Reagan tried "Constructive Engagement" and the Afrikaners used him while doing nothing to reciprocate. South Africa's blacks became anti-American to a significant degree. This is the price of labeling any non-communist state an ally, a la Pinochet, Marcos, Baby Doc Duvalier, the Shah of Iran, etc., ad nauseam.

The internal abuses of human rights on a gigantic scale are all too well known. Suffice it to say that the South African government daily violates the human rights of millions of its own impoverished, illiterate, defenseless people. The United States as a democratic society does not usually pursue a purely Machiavellian (or opportunistic Soviet) foreign policy. We believe that the American revolution, like the French revolution, espoused universal ideals.

The founders of the United States of America fought a revolution and established a democratic society because, as they said, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Black South Africans also adhere to a hope that one day these "truths" might become more than just American rhetoric.

Sean Callinicos, a UNC graduate from Greensboro, is a first-year law student at Duke University.

A time to care

To the editor:

"One of the attributes of a truly liberally educated person is a concern for other people. Presumably a liberal education would enable a person to empathize with another, to have compassion and respect for the rights of other persons."
 — Stanley Paulson, former dean, Pennsylvania State University; vice president, Association of American Colleges.

We believe strongly in Paulson's assertion. Unfortunately, women who are victims of rape or attempted rape often find little empathy, compassion or respect from our society.

According to a study by Mary P. Koss, a psychologist at Kent State University, one-fourth of today's college women have been victims of rape or attempted rape. The study also found that more than one-third of the women raped did not discuss their experience with anyone. More than 90 percent did not tell the police.

There are more than 10,000 women students at UNC. According to Koss' figures, that equals 2,500 people who are victims of rape or attempted rape and 833 who will not seek help in facing rape. What kind of culture do we live in that we cannot respect these people's rights? What kind of culture are we that victims of rape and attempted rape do not feel free to look to us for help? It is time to empathize and have compassion.

Koss' study also found that many people do not realize what rape is. Stranger rape — forced intercourse by someone



Letters

typically involves anger and the urge to dominate and degrade. It is a show of power through sex. Numerous incidents have proven stranger rape a sad reality on this campus.

Some people begin to misunderstand what rape is when it is not perpetrated by a brutal stranger. In an estimated 85 percent of all rapes, the victim knows the offender — hence the term acquaintance rape. You, your sister or your friend could be raped by a neighbor, fellow student, friend, employer or lover.

We know rape is a problem on campus. We know that people prefer to put the issue aside. As students at UNC, we

want you to know that you do have resources: the Orange County Rape Crisis Center and Student Health Services are there to help women confront rape; Campus Security offers programs dealing with self-defense and personal safety; Rape Escort Service provides a safe way of getting around campus at night.

We encourage you and your friends to use these services.

In order for this university to reach the goal that Paulson proposes, we must confront the problem of rape. Rape Action Project is a group of students, faculty, staff and townspeople who are concerned with preventing rape. If you are interested in working with us, please

contact Kathy Benazaquin, assistant dean of students, in 6 Steele Building.

LUCY MCCLELLAN
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Write on

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader feedback. Please deliver letters or columns to the letters box in front of the Daily Tar Heel's main entrance.

THE WEEK

A collection of notable quotes for the week ending Sept. 19, 1986

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

"The gains of the revolution are little by little being lost."
 Cardinal Jaime Sin, archbishop of Manila and a strong supporter of Corazon Aquino, about the current state of affairs in the Philippines. Aquino began an eight-day visit to the United States Monday to solicit help for her country.

"If it (terrorism) is not fought without mercy that would be an intolerable dereliction of duty by those who are in charge of security."

— Francois Mitterand, president of France, hours before the Wednesday explosion of a bomb in front of a department store on the Left Bank. The bomb explosion was the fifth terrorist attack in 10 days in Paris and killed at least five and injured about 50.

"I would not make a decision of this magnitude unless I did feel it was God's plan for my life."

Pat Robertson, a TV evangelist, who announced Wednesday he would run for president if three million registered voters petitioned him to do so within the next year.

"I am convinced a provocation was organized by the secret services. In other words, it was set up."

Gennadi Zakharov, a Soviet employee of the United Nations accused of espionage, about his Aug. 23 arrest.

STATE/LOCAL

"I have accepted... (their) decision so far as I have to put someone else up for the position, but I don't agree with it. I don't agree with anything about it."

Student Body President Bryan Hassel, about the University's rejection of Marty Leary's appointment to the Food Service Advisory Committee. Leary was very involved in the service task force which was

formed last year to protest ARA, the campus food service at the time.

"(If I don't win I will be) replaced by someone who is not willing to take a strong stand for the principles outlined in the Word of God."

— An excerpt from Rep. William Cobey's campaign letter. Cobey later called his Democratic opponent, David E. Price, and apologized, saying he didn't mean to question his faith.

"The University is much in debt for what he did to bring Radio, Television and Motion Pictures to the campus and to the state."

— William Friday, former UNC president, about Earl Wynn, who died Wednesday morning at the age of 74. Wynn founded UNC's RTVMP.

AND SO FORTH

"Well, if we win, I'd think that would make us 3-0."

— Dick Crum, in an uncharacteristic display of lightheartedness, when asked what winning Saturday's game against Florida State would mean to UNC's football team.

Compiled by Editorial Assistant Nicki Weisenec, a sophomore journalism major from Laurinburg.