

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

Election injection

The last petitions to file for announced candidacies in student elections were submitted by 5 p.m. Thursday. Of four campuswide races, two — Daily Tar Heel editor and Residence Hall Association president — have only one aspirant on the ballot.

Why? Perhaps that will be answered during the campaign. Anyway, this is just one of several characteristics present in this year's campus elections that already make them unusual. Consider the following observations:

- Neither of those two offices have been won by uncontested candidates in more than a decade.

- With just a week and half left in the campaigns, the tremendous flurry of posters flashing hopeful grins at students in their classes has yet to materialize in full.

- No Chi Psi fraternity member is running for student body president. Of the last 21 student body presidents, 13 have been Chi Psis.

To this point, the campaign can only

Gauging knowledge

If organizations like the National Governors' Association continue to gain support from university administrators, a test similar to high school's SAT may await students in their senior year of college.

The association is pressuring state (and private) universities to produce proof they actually teach students something. So, public institutions in at least half a dozen states have begun testing their students as freshmen, and four years later as seniors, to see how much they have learned. At some universities, professional organizations are giving students exams to see what they know in their majors.

The National Governors' Association issued a report last summer stating colleges have no "systematic way to demonstrate whether student learning is taking place." U.S. Education Secretary William Bennett has supported this report.

The bottom line is economics. Tuition at many colleges is rising twice as fast as the inflation rate, and legislators and families are worried that Junior isn't getting the education Mom and Dad are paying for.

For more than six years, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission has monitored test performance, graduate employment statistics and plans for educational improvement in all state-supported institutions. Colleges earning big points in the com-

mission's system receive up to 5 percent more in state appropriations. The approach some schools are using is called "value-added" testing, and it's designed to measure how much students have learned, not their natural ability.

This testing is questionable, since employers consider natural ability and knowledge in recruiting employees. Besides, there is an on-going debate about the validity of standardized tests — even the SAT — in measuring student abilities.

But a means of gauging what students learn in four years (or more) of college could be useful, especially as a guide for appropriating more money to schools with high scores. The problem is what happens to those seniors who fail these comprehensive exams: Do they not graduate? That seems a little extreme. Just as students perform badly on the SAT, a student could have a bad day and flub the "comp." Talk about economics — go home and tell Dad, after he has paid for four years of college, that you're not going to graduate because you failed your senior comp. He'd love that.

A "systematic way" of determining how much students learn is a good barometer, and making the comp exams mandatory is enough incentive for seniors to take them seriously. But the exams should be a gauge and not a stressful graduation prerequisite.

Tar Heel Forum

Women can be victims of abortion

Hughes/Lette
 Guest Writers

Abortion on demand, legalized Jan. 22, 1973 by the Supreme Court, remains a controversial issue in the 1980s. Several groups purporting theories of pro-life or pro-choice attempt to persuade the public to take a particular stand on abortion. Often debate centers upon the viability of the fetus and whether or not it deserves a right to life. However, less frequently does one hear about the effects; abortion may have on others involved.

Abortion, contrary to what most ardent feminists believe, is neither a way for a woman to gain control of her reproductive health, nor a step toward equality with men. Rather, it is a symptom of the self-hatred that accompanies rejection of sex identity. To reject the function of the womb, regardless of whether one desires to bear children, is to reject a vital part of a woman's personhood.

Abortion sells women out to male values, and "accepting the necessity of abortion" is accepting that pregnant women and mothers are unable to function as persons in society" (Daphne Dejong, Feminism and Abortion). Succumbing to the belief that a pregnant woman has no chance to compete in a male-dominated world, many women sacrifice their children in pursuit of a career.

Several major physiological problems often accompany abortion. Many people do not realize that occasionally women who have an abortion are damaged to the extent that they can never have children. Those

who get pregnant have a much higher risk of miscarriages and low birth weights. Infection is also a problem. Abortion is the sixth most common cause of maternal death. Is it a safe process?

Few women are warned about the psychological and emotional problems which often follow an abortion. Some women agree to have an abortion as a result of threats from their husbands and boyfriends or because of a fear of rejection by the male.

Ironically, in many cases, the relationship that the woman is trying to save is permanently severed. A possible reason for this is that psychologists have found that feelings of guilt play a major role in both the man and woman's life after an abortion experience. Instead of promoting intimacy, sex often becomes a painful reminder of the guilt and trauma caused by the abortion. It has also been found that women experience types of distress which include repression, anxiety, numbness, grief, anger, psychosexual disorders and a decline in self-esteem.

Abortion also affects society as a whole. Many justify abortion by arguing that aborted children are unwanted. Every child is a wanted child! There is an extreme

shortage of children for adoptive parents. Some prospective parents wait anywhere from three years to a lifetime for a child. Children of parents who have had an abortion may also suffer from the realization that their parents discarded a child they did not want. This can affect the child's self-esteem and his relationship with his parents.

The Supreme Court, due to their legalization of abortion in 1973, gained the respect of many as an institution truly concerned with the rights of women. But in 1983, this same institution struck down an ordinance built mainly on the principle that doctors must inform their patients of the facts of pregnancy, fetal development and the procedures and risks of an abortion. This means that abortion clinics are not legally obligated to inform the patient of the physical state of the fetus or of the physiological and emotional problems which often accompany abortion.

Anyone considering abortion as an alternative to pregnancy should be well-informed before making a final decision. Abortion is not a simple operation. Although the procedure may be completed in less than seven minutes, the effects of an abortion can last a lifetime.

Kelley Hughes is a sophomore criminal justice major from High Point. Mary Lette is a sophomore education major from Wilmington.

Unfair policy

To the editor:
 This year's ticket distribution policy has become totally chaotic. The Carolina Athletic Association stated at the beginning of the year that the student ticket policy would be completely random.

On Jan. 19, distribution for the UVa game went haywire. I arrived at the Smith Center at 10 a.m., hoping to at least have a chance at good upper-level or lower-level tickets. I had everything ready when I noticed that all remaining tickets were nosebleed tickets in the upper area. I asked if the system were random and the CAA worker said it was.

How could it be? If the system is totally random, every student has the same chance to receive a good seat until the last ticket is given out.

I called the ticket office that same day. They confirmed that the first and best 5,000 tickets were distributed by 7:30 a.m. This gave me no chance to receive a seat where players actually look life-sized.

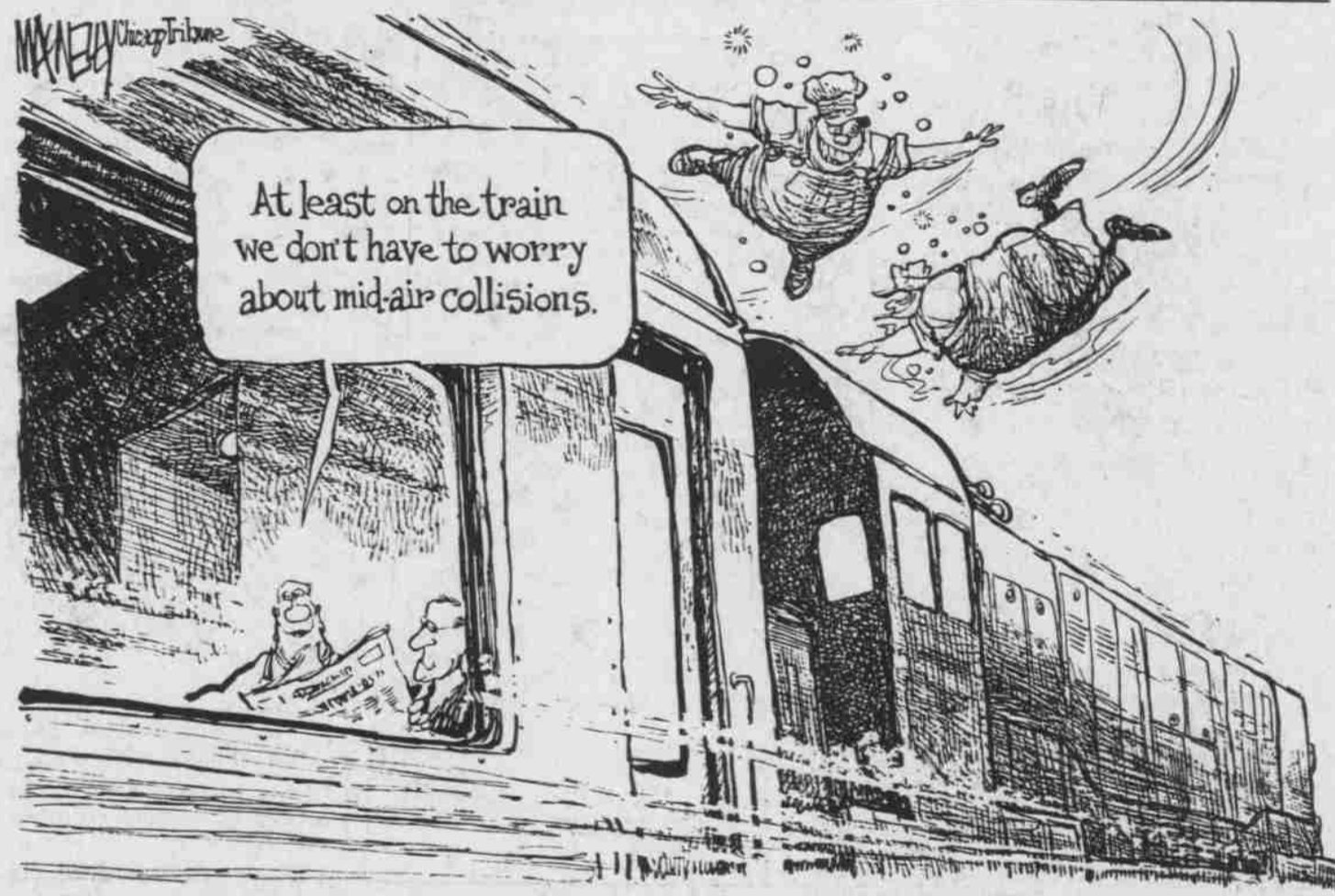
We need consistency in the ticket policy and integrity behind it. If I wanted great tickets, I guess I could work for the CAA. But I hope that the people who work for this organization will fully represent the student body.

Maybe a different ticket distribution policy would work better. How about the old weekend distribution policy? I think the first 2,000 tickets given should be good seats. If people are willing to come early for tickets, I think those people are the fans we want behind our team.

WESLEY WILSON
 Senior
 Industrial Relations

Lee chose wrong cause

To the editor:
 In response to the letter by Jule Banzet and Todd Capitano regarding Robert E. Lee ("Celebrate another great," Jan. 19), why should we consider Lee "as much, if not more, an American hero than (Martin Luther) King?"



The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comment. For style and clarity, we ask that you observe the following guidelines for letters to the editor and columns:

- All letters/columns must be signed by the author(s). Limit of two signatures per letter or column.
- Students who submit letters/columns should also include their name, year in school,

major and phone number. Professors and other University employees should include their title and department.

- All letters/columns must be typed. (For easier editing, we ask that they be double-spaced on a 60-space line.)

- The Daily Tar Heel reserves the right to edit letters and columns for style, grammar and accuracy.

Lee may have distinguished himself through his sense of honor and duty, his courage, integrity and nobility of manner, but remember what he ultimately served — a social system whose prosperity rested on degrading human beings, trampling them, denying them their most basic rights.

In contrast, King tried to eradicate the injustices that continued in the aftermath of this slavery. He worked toward improving the lives and fighting for the legal and social rights of a people whose ancestors were enslaved by a society. It was a society which Lee, despite his personal opposition to slavery, fought to defend.

JACQUES NEPTUNE
 Senior
 Business Administration

Is it over?

To the editor:
 And so the celebration of the accomplishments of Martin Luther King Jr. is over. The activities sponsored by the Campus Y, Carolina Union, the Anti-Apartheid Support Group, Rainbow Coalition of

which had among its goals the perpetuation of slavery, human degradation. King worked for the opposite, human dignity and spiritual betterment of humanity.

Both men were men of conscience. Both men had a choice. King chose to work on the side of a cause whose goals were good and just. Lee chose to work on the side of a cause whose goals regarding slavery were evil and unjust. Why then should Lee be accorded the same status as King, either as a moral being or as an American hero? He should not.

Conscience and the Black Student Movement have been over and done.

Students came, students went. The nation mourned and wept the loss of a great man. They also rejoiced over his actions and words of inspiration.

And so where do we go from here? Is it aimlessly back to class or work with our eyes and minds blocked with images of money and success? Is it too much to ask that the feelings of peace and brotherhood be with us every day so that no human will ever have to suffer humiliation and feelings of worthlessness?

Can you honestly look another human being in the eyes and without regard to the color of skin say, "I love you for what you are and for what you bring out in me?" If not, then this past week's activities were a total waste and we're right where we started.

LINDA SHEALEY
 Junior
 Psychology

in which the West German government refused to answer whether accused Lebanese terrorist Mohammad Ali Hamadei would be extradited to the United States for trial.

STATE/LOCAL

"I know that if Dr. King were alive today, he would be the leader of the anti-apartheid movement. But we cannot honor Dr. King unless we follow his dream."

Cassandra Butts, member of the UNC Anti-Apartheid Support Group, speaking to about 130 people gathered in front of the Franklin Street Post Office during Monday's rally to honor the birthday of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

"My blood runneth black and gold." Former UNC football coach Bill Dooley, as he returns to the ACC as Wake Forest new head football coach. Dooley left the Tar Heels in 1977.

"Thirty-eight million dollars and look at the sound system they have, jeez. Hey, when does Dean's movie come on? Have I missed it?"

N.C. State head basketball coach Jim Valvano, referring to microphone problems following UNC's drubbing Sunday of the Moo U. roundballers.

"The University is almost certainly to be attacked on grounds such as the following: the University's response (to the Center) trivializes and belittles the planning committee's proposal, again assigning blacks a second class status."

William Jones, a Florida State University black culture expert, in his report on the plans for a UNC Black Cultural Center.

AND SO FORTH

"Whi duz Toronto and all ov Canada need another nuzepaper?"

The Times ov Toronto, the city's newest newspaper, in its characteristic "reformed English" style. The four-page publication is produced by the Simplified Spelling Society ov Canada. Like the Chicago Tribune in the 1860s and in 1934, the paper is trying to simplify the English language.

Compiled by Editorial Writer Kathy Peters, a junior education major from Columbia, S.C.

The Daily Tar Heel

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THE WEEK

A collection of notable quotes for the week ending Jan. 23, 1987

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

"I think I underestimated the strength of the seniority issue."

Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), after losing to Jesse A. Helms (R-N.C.), as Republican senators voted Wednesday to make Helms the ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"The world is witnessing something very vital in the fight against international terrorism: an exercise of will — political will — by two nations, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany."

U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, speaking about this week's hostage situation