

The Daily Tar Heel

95th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

Forum shows party priorities

During the afternoon session of Friday's presidential forum on education, a rare burst of applause broke out when journalist Judy Woodruff asked what the absence of four of the six Republican candidates meant about the GOP's commitment to education.

Only two Republican candidates — former Delaware Gov. Pierre du Pont and Rep. Jack Kemp of New York, chose to participate in the forum. Noticeably absent were the GOP's front-runners, Vice President George Bush and Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas.

Unlike their Republican rivals, all seven Democratic candidates showed up to debate on a subject that should be one of the major issues of the '88 presidential campaign. All expressed similar views on the role of the federal government to support public education and the use of the presidency to promote greater status for teachers and educational issues. Although the Democrats' views were similar, the presence of seven of them and only two Republicans at the forum points out the different place that education occupies on the priority lists of the two parties.

Since President Reagan took office,

board opinion

the administration has pushed for drastic budget cuts in many education programs. During the past eight years, the federal share of public school funding has dropped to a 22-year low. It would have dropped even further if the Democratic majority in Congress had not opposed many of Reagan's cuts.

With the budget-cutting legacy of a president who has concentrated his education efforts on getting organized prayer into public schools, the next president will face monumental challenges in the field of education. For instance, programs for educating disadvantaged children must receive greater emphasis than they have during the Reagan years. The next president will also have to restore the structure of loans and grants so that qualified students have greater access to higher education.

A healthy system of public education is vital to the future interests of the United States. With a presidential legacy that includes eight years of budget cuts, public education is one of the most important issues of the '88 campaign. After the respective Democratic and Republican turnout at Friday's forum, it appears that the GOP needs to reorganize its list of priorities.

The oppressed lose a voice

In 1976, Jamaican gunmen broke into the home of reggae star Bob Marley and wounded him in the arm and chest, three days before he was to appear at a political rally.

On Friday, Jamaican gunmen broke into the home of reggae star Peter Tosh and killed him, angered by their fruitless robbery attempt.

Marley and Tosh made up two-thirds of the Wailers, the band they formed in 1964 in the slums of Kingston, Jamaica. They sang about poverty, discrimination and the violence that results.

Sadly, they became victims of the conditions they protested. As their religion of rastafarianism dictates, both were pacifists and staunch believers in the ultimate triumph of good over evil. And their scope was not limited to the streets of Jamaica. In 1980, the Wailers celebrated Zimbabwe's independence at the invitation of the prime minister.

Their popularity peaked in the early 1970s, as their music reflected the

debilitated state of the Jamaican economy. Often calling himself the leader of the Wailers, Tosh left in 1974 to pursue a solo career.

Born in 1944, he was abandoned by his parents and shuffled among relatives. His music was his way of escaping the meanness and desolation of ghetto life while pleading for something better. Yet three of his countrymen begrudged his mild success, their vision narrowed either by greed or necessity.

Shunned for their religion and propensity for smoking the sacramental "ganja," Tosh and Marley were often misunderstood. But their faith was unshakable, their vision broad. Through their inspiration, reggae will continue to channel the emotions of the people who gave it form.

With Tosh's death, the slum dwellers of Jamaica and elsewhere have lost a small but unwavering voice in the fight against oppression. — Jill Gerber

The Daily Tar Heel

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Readers' Forum

UNC marching band not in top formation

To the editor:
 In response to Michael Tye's letter of Sept. 10 ("Just a little bit of respect for marching band"), I must emphatically tell the student body and the entire University community, "Don't give the band a hand." Tye has failed to realize that the Marching Tar Heels are not the pride of the ACC or UNC. Their disgraceful display of a lack of pride, discipline, or musicianship is an embarrassment to anyone who calls himself a Tar Heel.

Through my own marching experience, in high school and with the Garfield Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps, I have seen the many possible levels of marching performance. From this experience, let me remind the band of one simple fact: Respect must be earned. It doesn't take

money or student support to march as if you're proud of what you're doing. But what the students see at football games is band members marching poorly and brass players pointing their bells into the ground. Who are you playing to, the grass or the students? No matter how many hours you may claim to practice, the results that we see show us there is not very much work involved.

As for Tye's attack on "Carolina Fever," it is a spirit group, and it does its job very well, whereas the band is first and foremost a musical group that doesn't do its job well. There is no comparison.

I know of a select few members who are fine musicians, but this species is truly

a rare breed in the marching band. The directors, John Yesulaitas and Allan Reep, are the ones to be held ultimately responsible for the band's actions. Before all of you band members start writing your responses, take a good look at yourselves at your next rehearsal. Do you always march and play with the pride becoming of a Tar Heel? If the band as a whole does not put forth this effort, it will never show. Band, before you start blaming the student body for a lack of money and support, look around at the next marching practice and see if there is a reason why we should support you.

DAVID BARMAN
 Junior
 Music

Other solutions to lost soles

To the editor:
 In response to Ron Swift's enlightening letter ("Saving soles on local bikes," Sept. 11), I would just like to add a comment or two of my own. The first regards that terrible beast so talked about recently, the court party. These parties are held at the fraternity houses for the enjoyment of all students, not just the frat boys. Also, they are obviously well-attended functions, as the court seems to be filled to capacity after each home football game and during other such quaint gatherings. As for the issue of locating and finding the houses "guilty of spreading these glass land mines," it seems that the fraternity members are the ones inside, throwing their bottles in the trash cans, while their guests from about campus shatter their waste on the surrounding walkways, streets and bike paths. Therefore, should we perhaps find the dorm or apartment complex most represented at a party and fine them?

Secondly, while many of the lucky guests are sleeping in on Saturday or Sunday mornings, the frat boys are out in the court cleaning up the mess from the previous day. In fact, the Little Fraternity Court members always have their court cleaned before church services Sunday morning. Now, I will admit that not all of the glass gets picked up, but pulling minute shards out of the ground and the bike paths is, I believe, a little much to ask even of a hard-working fraternity brother.

Lastly, I find myself dumb-founded at the figure that Swift quoted as his four-year expenditure on soles, \$48.67. By my calculations, even at today's outrageous rates (\$6.66 per sole), that would mean Swift has lost slightly over seven soles. I find this reasonably hard to swallow. If the crux of education is learning from one's mistakes, how is it that Swift has not learned from his in four years. Perhaps, Mr. Swift and the rest of the angered bikers, the solution does not lie in ending a long-standing and much-enjoyed tradition, or in punishing those who support it openly just by their mere presence at these functions; rather, perhaps the answer lies in the acceptance of facts, and in finding a new bike route on the day after a court party.

KENT WALKER
 Sophomore
 Accounting

Gloves needed as safeguard

To the editor:
 Thank you for publishing the article describing the precautions taken to reduce the potential for AIDS transmission by local dentists and physicians in private practice ("Doctors take precautions to reduce AIDS danger," Aug. 31). However, the article suggests that health care deliverers wear gloves only



because of AIDS; this is not true.

Suppose we could prevent AIDS tomorrow with a vaccine or drug. We would not have changed the need for dental personnel to wear gloves to protect themselves and their patients from the spread of viral agents. Many persons carrying hepatitis B, herpes, tuberculosis and other diseases cannot be recognized without tests. Routine testing for all such conditions would not be 100 percent accurate and would unnecessarily delay treatment and increase the costs of health care.

The U.S. Public Health Service now recommends that all medical and dental personnel who contact blood and/or body fluids (e.g., start I.V.'s, scale teeth, etc.) wear gloves for all patients. Further, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) now is looking at enforcement of infection control procedures to protect personnel.

Last year the American Dental Association, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control, published new minimum guidelines for infection control for dental practice. These standards include wearing disposable gloves by dentists, hygienists and assistants during treatment and subsequent cleaning and disinfecting procedures.

At the UNC School of Dentistry, effective infection control procedures have been taught for some time, and examining gloves are required during provision of clinical services. In addition, gloves also are used for infection control in field clinical research.

JAMES J. CRAWFORD
 Professor
 School of Dentistry

JUDITH A. DISNEY
 Assistant Professor
 School of Dentistry

Bush is best candidate

To the editor:
 The best and most qualified candidate was unfortunately unable to attend Friday's debate in Chapel Hill. Vice

President George Bush is a man of honor, principle and commitment to government service who will likely lead the GOP against the Democrats in 1988.

Bush began his career as a distinguished fighter pilot in the U.S. military. After serving in combat duty, he went on to build a successful business in the oil fields of Texas. Since that time he has held numerous government positions, serving as U.S. congressman, diplomat to China, director of the CIA and, since 1981, as vice president to Ronald Reagan.

That Bush is capable to serve as chief executive is obvious. Also obvious is the fact that he is the logical choice to carry the legacy of Reagan into the 1990s.

The 1988 election will offer the American people yet another clear choice between a liberal Democratic Party that is woefully out of touch with the average citizen and a conservative Republican vice that is committed to efficient government, real economic prosperity, a strong national defense and a realistic foreign policy dealing with the Soviet Union from a position of strength and resolve to defend democratic principles around the world.

In the months ahead Bush will have the opportunity to tell us exactly how he will approach the challenges facing him. He will tackle the tough issues, including his own plan to use the Oval Office as a national bully pulpit in the effort to restore educational excellence to the nation's schools.

I encourage all to listen to this man who is uniquely able to serve in the highest office in the land. You'll be surprised to see just how far he stands above the other candidates of either party.

BOB MORGAN
 Junior
 Political Science

ECU deserves respect

To the editor:
 As a student at Carolina, I am very proud to be a part of the UNC system. As a resident of Greenville, I am very proud to have grown up in a town with a fine university, East

Carolina. With this in mind, Mike Mackay's editorial ("Riot should freeze rivalry," Sept. 10) upset me.

I certainly don't condone the actions which occurred at the end of the ECU-N.C. State football game. There is no place for such behavior between two excellent state universities. But I was offended by Mackay's reference to ECU and its win over N.C. State as trivial. If the riot sheds light on the UNC system, then so do Mackay's comments. ECU is a part of this system and it is time for the rest of the UNC system, the students and the Board of Governors to recognize ECU as such. How can we expect people to take the system seriously, if there is no support for all the schools?

The purpose of the UNC system is to provide a quality education for all who choose the opportunity to get one. No matter which school one attends within the system, we should be proud of all the schools that take part in it. The constant degrading of ECU is getting tiresome. If those in the system can't take ECU seriously, how can the rest of the state or country? Maybe N.C. State and UNC just can't face the fact that there's another major state university which is just as good as they are.

ROBIN HARDY
 Junior
 English

Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments, ideas and criticisms. We ask only that you follow a few simple guidelines in exchange for access to this unique public forum:

■ All letters and columns must be signed by the author, with a limit of two signatures per letter or column.

■ When submitting letters or columns, students should include the following: name, year in school, major, phone number and the date submitted.

KELLY CLARK
 Senior
 Journalism

Campus alcohol policy misrepresented

Editor's note: The writer is president of the Residence Hall Association.

To the editor:
 In Wednesday's DTH, an article on the residence hall alcohol policy ("Dormitory alcohol policy is effective, officials say," Sept. 9) stated that hall dues collected from residents can no longer be used to buy alcohol. If "dorm dues" is a reference to the social funds collected with room rent, this statement is incorrect.

The Campus Alcohol Policy makes this point quite clear:
 "Canned or bottled beer and unfortified wine containing less than 14

percent of alcohol by volume may be possessed and consumed by persons of sufficient age in the following locations and under the following conditions:

■ "With the written approval of the director of University Housing or his delegate, at planned social events within the residence halls at which such canned or bottled alcoholic beverages are provided under guidelines adopted by the Residence Hall Association and approved in writing by the director of University Housing. Student fees, including residence hall social fees, collected by the University may be used to purchase such beverages, only if the use of student fees for that purpose is approved in writing by the director of

University Housing, in addition to any other approvals required for the use of student fees."

The article mentioned the joint student-administration committee formed to create the alcohol policy. The ability to use the social fees for purchases of alcoholic beverages is one of the rights the student members of that committee worked for. I encourage area and residence hall governments to exercise this right, provided they have planned well.

A right not exercised can often become a right not recognized.