

# Opinion

## No fairness in full payment

For many apartment dwellers, rent for July was due last week. For most students living on-campus next fall, though, rent has already been paid for an entire semester — up to \$800 worth.

That lump sum students pay is typical of universities around the state, but that doesn't make it right. Once students pay the bill, that money is the University's to put into an interest-bearing savings account, from which funds are taken for operating expenses.

While UNC certainly needs those funds, asking for all the money up front is unreasonable and puts a burden on all but the richest parents. Not many people keep that much money in an account just waiting to be spent.

It would, of course, probably be a bit much to ask that the University charge rent monthly. The bureaucracy here is such that a system like that would be far too complex to be managed efficiently, and efficiency is never a bureaucracy's strong suit.

But certainly a compromise is in order, such as asking for half the amount in summer and half midway through the semester, or even when students return in

August. A large enough deposit in summer would be enough to keep students from backing out on their contracts, give the University enough funds for operating expenses partway through the semester, and take the burden off parents.

The account earns around 7 percent interest, totalling \$143,600 in interest for 1987-88. While charging only half the amount at a time would lose some of that revenue, the real question is one of fairness, not a few lost dollars. Because dorms are built to last for years and the investments are long-term ones, the amount of interest lost would be minimal on a year-to-year basis, which is when parents and students notice it.

So for UNC to expect to keep that whole sum from the summer on is ridiculous, unfair to parents, and bad business by a state institution. This is an issue the Board of Trustees should consider and push for changes in, because while students may not have complained about it much, parents are forced to grumble every summer about the sudden and unreasonably large depletion in their accounts.

## Incidents show similarities

The Sunday shooting of an Iranian civilian plane reflected the existence of much more than "trigger-happy Americans" or the right of Americans to defend themselves. In fact, the shooting balances out much that has happened in the past and leaves lingering messages for the world to heed.

Naturally, the act was instantly compared to the shooting of a Korean Air Lines plane by the Soviet Union in 1983. That was condemned by the United States and came to be a point of considerable friction between the two countries — it seemed to prove President Reagan's assertions that the Soviet Union was the evil empire.

But it is surprising how similar these two incidents are. It serves as a perfect example of how alike the two countries really are and how fallible they both are.

There is a further comparison that can be made, though. Few people have forgotten that it was Iran who held our entire embassy in Tehran hostage for 444 days in 1979 and 1980. These were innocent citizens who were kidnapped in the line of duty and put through a living hell for more than a year.

Now the Navy has put 290 totally innocent Iranians (and some other nationalities) to death. The reasons for the cir-

cumstances surrounding and the excuses proffered in each of the situations are basically meaningless.

These incidents are not necessarily crucial incidents. In 1979, America saw the hostages as a slap in the face, but not as a serious threat to national security. And it is doubtful that Iranian officials care whether it was 290 civilians or 2,900. It is just another incident, something to get upset about, something with which to condemn the United States.

But while Iran is now screaming that it will retaliate in every way possible, it should realize something that has been clearly illustrated by this situation. Retaliation is easy, but it rarely stops the incident there. Retaliation simply prolongs incidents to give the countries more opportunities to act foolishly. If Iranians retaliate, American forces can just continue to knock Iranian planes out of the sky like a sharpshooter shooting at helium balloons.

The answer is not for everyone to condemn America and for America to do nothing but defend herself. The answer is in looking at the big picture and hoping the situation brings everyone to their senses and starts working toward peace — in the Persian Gulf and everywhere.

## Don't leave home without it

**Bobby Ferris**  
Staff Columnist

In case you didn't know or don't remember, Monday was the Fourth of July, arguably the most important historical date our country celebrates. It commemorates the breaking away of the child from the nest of its forebears, Great Britain.

A small, yet determined group of people believed strongly enough in its special ideas about how to live and govern itself to risk the wrath of its symbolic parent, England. These brave souls overcame both this parental retaliation for their child-like ingratitude and the natural terror (and mistakes) which accompany independence and self-rule.

So I found it ironic that I had chosen to fly home over the weekend to spend Independence Day, of all things, with my parents. I love my family just as this country's founding fathers loved England. However, we all see things in our own unique way and want to live according to that vision.

I know I'm not alone in my struggle for independence, but returning home on such an auspicious and relatively significant holiday (when I might have symbolically left home) has made some interesting connections for me. Some people go into business immediately after college, while others attend graduate school. But despite a child's age, maturity or intellectual growth, parents still find subtle ways to impose their desires over the child's.

I don't mean to sound ungrateful for all my parents do for me, and they really are justified in deciding how their money is to be spent. It's just that I can empathize with those in England who would have liked to emigrate on the Mayflower, to assert their political independence, but logistically couldn't.

These days, there are different kinds of independence (or depend-

ence, depending on your perspective). One may rely on another for financial support. This type of reliance, while the most direct form, often presents the most complications. Then there is spiritual dependence, apart from that spiritual bond maintained when one is financially supported by another. Neither type is healthy nor productive for someone striving toward adulthood and maturity.

I can't really understand why parents want their children to be home even when the parents themselves are very busy. But I have a feeling that will become more clear when I do the same with my kids some day (before I'm through with my medical training and am collecting Social Security, I hope).

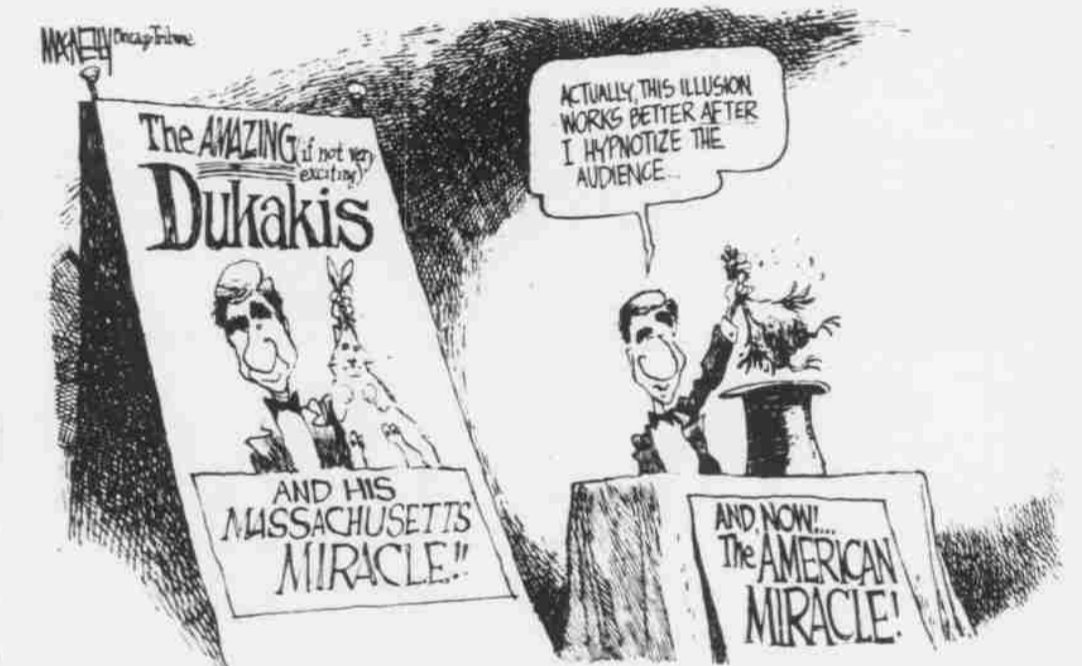
A friend and I explain this desire of our parents' in our hazy minds as

a feeling of security in knowing that their children are safe (bored, but safe) at home. This may be derived from perceptive fears they had as we were growing up that as long as we weren't in sight, we were up to no good.

So it might come as a surprise that, in spite of all this which occurred to me over the weekend at home, I still had a good time. I even overcame the psychological implications of being at the ocean with my family, even though Freud might argue this effected a reversion back to my mother's womb.

And my parents weren't overly restrictive; in fact, I'm finding much of the struggle for independence is really only in my mind, anyway. But, after all, independence can only be as one personally perceives it, as Freud, my parents and the Mayflower travelers would probably agree.

*Bobby Ferris is a junior chemistry major from Winter Park, Fla.*



## Deaths, defense and dysentery

### Week in Quotes

"We will not leave the crimes of America unanswered. We will resist the plots of the Great Satan and avenge the blood of our martyrs from criminal mercenaries." — A commentary from IRNA, the official Iranian press agency, on the killing of 290 civilian jetliner passengers in a Persian Gulf firefight Sunday. The agency has not said what the retaliation will be.

"This is a terrible human tragedy. Our sympathy and condolences go out to the passengers, crew and their families... we deeply regret any loss of life." — President Reagan after the announcement of the Persian Gulf deaths Sunday.

"The Justice Department's lackadaisical, careless, hands-off management goes far to explain why the government is losing the war against defense fraud. If any major private law firm handled its affairs the way Justice handles the defense fraud program, it would be out of business within a year." — Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., in a joint statement after a report they requested from the General Accounting office on the management style of the Defense Procurement Fraud Unit was released Saturday.

"Who knows what's going to happen in the next batch of polls? That's why I'm not sitting here crowing. If you live by the polls, you die by the polls." — Lee Atwater, campaign manager for George Bush, on the latest Gallup poll showing Michael Dukakis leading the likely GOP presidential nominee 46 percent to 41 percent, down from a lead of 52 percent to 38 percent two weeks earlier.

"We have adopted a number of thoroughly considered and responsible decisions. But if we drag out their fulfillment — and this is one of our chronic ailments, which we have not yet overcome and which has manifested itself also in the first years of perestroika — much can simply come to nothing." — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in closing remarks as the Communist Party conference ended Friday.

"It is to show our attachment to the Rome of forever that we perform this ceremony. We will be thanked one day by the bishops of Rome for having maintained the traditions of

the church." — Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre after he consecrated four bishops last week, forcing the first major schism in the Roman Catholic Church in more than a century. The Vatican issued a statement minutes after the consecration rite declaring that Lefebvre and the four others had been excommunicated.

"Massachusetts is famous for two things — lobsters and liberals. Dukakis is not a lobster." — Samuel Wilson, GOP nominee for attorney general, at a rally for Wake County Republicans last week.

"We are not animals in the zoo. We know they don't want us here. We don't want them here neither." — Running Goose, a member of the Rainbow Family, a group of self-described hippies that chose Zavalla, Texas, this year as the place to celebrate their Independence Day commune with nature. Running Goose spends the year traveling the country by bus with his wife and infant daughter. The Rainbow Family spent last year's meeting in North Carolina, where they trampled the land, and half of the 15,000 reportedly contracted dysentery.