

# The Daily Tar Heel

96th year of editorial freedom

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## Losing that lost, lonely feeling

Being one of the Econ 10 students lost in the hundreds of seats in Carroll 106 doesn't encourage student-faculty interaction. Trying to have a serious class discussion in such a huge classroom is next to impossible.

Of course, the Honors program offers small sections of introductory courses to selected students, but that doesn't solve the problem for the rest of the student body. And few would be elitist enough to say that only honors students deserve individual attention from faculty.

The Residence Hall Association and the Department of University Housing have a plan that could help solve the problem. They want to start a Faculty Fellows program, in which a faculty member would sponsor a residence hall for a year.

Students could recruit the faculty member, who would participate in one of two ways — either through a structured series of discussions or through informal meetings. In both cases, the student-faculty meetings probably would be weekly or bi-weekly. Topics of discussion could be anything relating to the lives of students and their professors, aca-

## Expel all smoking from schools

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School Board of Education has just thrown a left jab to Public Health Enemy No. 1, Smoking. Old No. 1 is on the ropes on campuses throughout the school system.

The board's first blow against smoking was struck in spring 1987, when students were banned from smoking on school grounds.

Then, the board voted 4-3 Monday to ban smoking in teachers' lounges in the schools because of the danger second-hand smoke may pose to students.

Some faculty members who smoke are up in arms about the decision, but the board was just doing its job in protecting the students they were elected to serve.

A junior high school secretary told the Chapel Hill Herald she did not understand the logic of banning smoking in teachers' lounges since students do not have access to the lounges. "The smoke in our lounge doesn't affect anybody," she said.

Sorry, but the smoke does affect several "somebodies."

It affects the students and their views on smoking. They are told to respect school faculty, and that school is a place to learn. Consider what they are learning from the teacher who makes a mad dash to the lounge each morning to avoid a nicotine fit.

## A Constitutional birthday wish

The Constitution will turn 200 years old tomorrow, but not all of us see much reason to celebrate.

The other day in my History 144 class, the professor, a distinguished gentleman of great age, remarked that he felt that the Constitution was the greatest document around. He's ... right.

Unfortunately, the interpretation of the Constitution is left to the same ignorant, fickle masses that its writers wanted to protect themselves from.

The spirit of the document was the spirit of the enlightenment, the great philosophical movement that preached of the perfectibility and the ultimate good that is within all of us.

Yet, in spite of this belief in man's inherent good, our founding fathers were also fearful of the potential for the abuse of democracy. After all, the great majority of Americans, then as now, were ill-informed to make political decisions, thus leading to the establishment of the electoral college for choosing our two highest officials.

Yet, as the years passed, the responsibility of choosing our nation's leaders

democratic or otherwise.

This program, which organizers will kick off with an orientation banquet Sept. 25, could benefit both sets of participants. What better way to chase away those daunting feelings of anonymity than to have a faculty member show up in your dorm, just to chat?

However, this program could just as easily fall flat on its face. Imagine a faculty member showing up for an informal discussion in a dorm lounge and finding only a group of students absorbed in the latest episode of "Moonlighting." Such an experience could send Faculty Fellows down the tubes very quickly.

Many complain that UNC, as it has grown into a prominent research university, has forgotten the importance of student-faculty interaction. The concern is a legitimate one, and the Faculty Fellows program is a legitimate way to address that concern.

But the program will only work if both students and faculty approach it with open minds and a commitment to participate. Otherwise, Faculty Fellows will become just another example of student apathy at UNC.

— Jean Lutes

And it affects other faculty members — those with asthma, those who are allergic to cigarette smoke and even those who wear contact lenses.

Don't misunderstand — some smokers are courteous. There are people who always squash their cigarettes before boarding a Chapel Hill Transit bus, and there are people who offer to go outside to smoke when visiting a non-smoker's home. Some of the teachers who smoke even said they had already quit smoking on school grounds; they wait until after hours.

But in general, smoking is a nasty, dirty habit which is offensive to many and a proven health hazard to all. Very few, if any, smokers would encourage a non-smoker, especially a young person, to pick up smoking as a new hobby. Non-smokers and smokers alike would benefit if more local government boards had the courage to ban smoking on school campuses, at all school-sponsored events and in public service buildings.

The board has the opportunity to throw a right hook at old Public Enemy No. 1 next week, when the no-smoking rule must pass on a second reading. Approving the proposal may be the first step to a knockout. This is no time to throw in the towel. — Sandy Dimsdale

fell to the people.

All too often, this country has made the wrong choice. All too often, the minorities, who already suffer the most, are left to suffer more because of the insensitivity and ignorance of others.

American government in the 1980s doesn't fulfill our founding father's dreams. Although there is less prejudice and there are more people with money, the way the country is run and the way it chooses its executives leaves much to be desired.

The American bureaucracy often seems incapable of solving the most mundane of problems until it reaches a crisis. And we as a nation now must face problems far more serious than the contras or the Indiana National Guard, problems such as the environment, nuclear war and global overpopulation.

One can only hope that on the eve of our nation's true bicentennial, this country is capable of selecting leaders who can wrestle with these problems of the future.

Happy Birthday, Constitution. — Dave Hall

## Battling Grendel, polio and English

Despairing of the challenge of college, I quit in 1978 after my freshman year. Afterward, as a dropout languishing in hideaway jobs, I watched friends graduate and then flourish in careers made possible by their education. Envy of their success, I pulled myself from a snare of fear and procrastination and decided to return to school.

To earn a degree and then enter law school became my goal, but the academic skills I would need to succeed had withered from disuse. My lack of confidence threatened the plan.

Scariest of all was the thought of writing essays and term papers, staple student tasks. Beginning my second college career gingerly, I enrolled in a junior college, where a sophomore English course offered what I hoped would be an easy first test of my writing ability.

An assigned paper on the heroic ideal in "Beowulf" dispelled that expectation of ease. At first, the epic poem's strange, old language befuddled me, but after concentrating on the hero's challenge and struggle, I became engaged.

In studying Beowulf's fight with the monster Grendel, I realized it was parallel to my struggle. Pursuing scholastic success

### Chris Hood Staff Writer

after a decade-long layoff required courage and faith if I was to overcome my powerful fear of failure.

My teacher helped by making the assignment relevant. In class discussions, she related the heroic ideal exposed in the poem to modern events, and asked if our society had persons who fit Beowulf's role.

The search for a hero of Beowulf's stature prompted a search for a modern scourge equal to Grendel. The monster's mysterious, unpredictable terror reduced my choices to those pestilences as grim, tragic and hopeless as the one that murdered ancient Danish warriors and scattered their limbs throughout Hrothgar's banquet hall.

Relevance turned to poignancy as I considered two people, Jonas Salk and my mother. Despised and feared like Grendel, polio was an intractable, capricious foe until Dr. Salk's vaccine. He saved our society from polio's power to paralyze and wither limbs — but not, alas, in time for

Mom. Her damaged leg became a challenge, not a burden. She worked hard in college and danced at the parties. Later, she became a music teacher. Shame invaded my recollection of Mom's story as I sensed the paltriness of my sullen, self-centered concerns about school and an English assignment.

A week later, my teacher returned the paper with remarks befitting the inspiration that spurred me to complete it: "A great paper, one of two or three best I've ever received. Congratulations!"

Thus, my fear of failure vanished under the spell of Mom's example. Exhilaration replaced worry and self-doubt. Beowulf's victory, with its promise of freedom for the Danes, had brought my liberation as well. Not that a sophomore English paper, even an excellent one, can rival Beowulf's deeds or Dr. Salk's vaccine or a polio victim's determination to create a whole life for herself. But the achievement of that first paper parallels those stories because it enabled me to raise my expectations for college and life.

Chris Hood is a junior interdisciplinary studies major from Southern Pines.

## Readers' Forum

### More to sports than revenue

To the editor:

It is a widely recognized fact that at UNC, "Tar Heel sports fever" is one of the most unifying elements of the school. As an out-of-state student, one of the reasons I chose to come to Carolina was because of the inspirational "winning spirit" that pervades the campus.

Unfortunately, I was disenchanted to discover that hardly a moment's notice is ever given to the team that represents my favorite sport: cross country. Personally, I feel it is an outright crime to belittle the accomplishments of these runners by barely mentioning them on the sports page. Also, in the Sept. 12 issue of the paper, the two measly paragraphs about cross country neglected to mention the women's team.

I know that I speak for many others as well when I say that cross country is not the only sport that is being neglected at UNC. In the name of *all* sports enthusiasts, I am asking the DTH to please extend its coverage to include schedules, results, scores, times and names that pertain to something other than big-revenue sports.

ROBIN BERRY  
Freshman  
Radiological Science

### Support the mikeman

To the editor:

Complain, complain, complain! That's all I have heard and read about the new mikeman. Except for one questionable cheer, concerning sodomy, the cheers at Saturday's game were well within proper perspective. The "boom-chic-a-boom" cheer, which featured the Asian-speaking comment, is a well-known harmless cheer that could feature many speech interpretations. Remember, he also featured a Southern-style interpretation.

I am sure the mikeman knows his error and is being reprimanded. Let's stop this senseless criticism and focus on the good points. This year's mikeman is full of energy and spirit. He has a unique ability to "pump up" a crowd and to continue that enthusiasm throughout the game. Try keeping a crowd enthused and excited when your team is losing 28-0.

When all is said and done this year, I am sure this year's mikeman will go down in Carolina history as one of our finest. So let's stop criticizing and start supporting.

CHARLES TOOMEY  
Sophomore  
Business

### Competence, not partisanship

To the editor:

Does Charles Held actually believe that the First and Second World Wars, the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan were the results of weak Democratic administrations? (DTH, Sept. 14, "Dukak-eyed ideas hazardous to U.S.")

Does Mr. Held actually believe that Herbert Hoover, Alf Landon or Wendell Willkie could have intimidated maniacal Hitler? That the ever-debonair Thomas E. Dewey would have frightened Kim Il-sung, Mao and Stalin? That "Tricky Dick" Nixon might have handled Fidel and the USSR as tactfully and forcefully as JFK? (Remember: Castro came to power during the Eisenhower-Nixon administration, and it was Nixon who negotiated the "peace" with North Vietnam). That Jerry "Whip Inflation Now" Ford could have prevented the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan? If Held can answer in the affirmative to any of the above, I have to ask: "Where was Charles?" when he should have been in his history class.

America rose to world greatness during Democratic administrations. But I, a Democrat, refuse to assert that America rose to greatness because of Democratic administrations. Does Held now see the point that I am trying to make? Presidents cannot make prosperity and peace happen; the world is not that simple. Presidents, however, have to be competent and qualified enough to deal with the problems and dilemmas that arise during their terms in office. And, as far as competence and qualifications go, Mike Dukakis and Lloyd Bentsen beat their rivals, George Herbert Walker Bush and J. Danforth Quayle, by a mile.

KAM LEE  
Evening College

### Apologize to Clemson

To the editor:

I found your article on Clemson University in last Thursday's Omnibus ("Ugly paws and big peaches await game-bound trippers on the way to Clemson," Sept. 8) extremely distasteful and insulting. It showed a complete lack of any sense of tact on your part. How the author, Will Lingo, ever got to be city editor and why he was allowed to print such garbage in our beloved Daily Tar Heel is a real mystery! Is

"RADON TROUBLES?? MIGHT AS WELL SMOKE!!"



this how you attack every opponent of the Tar Heels? If so, perhaps the Tar Heels need to start looking for a new spokesman in order to protect their own collective sense of self-respect.

First, I am a Tar Heel, but I have a son who is a sophomore at Clemson, as well as numerous friends and acquaintances who have attended this fine university. I have been employed by veterinarians who are Clemson graduates, and by the firm of architects (also Clemson graduates) who designed the Riverbanks Zoological Park in Columbia, S.C. Riverbanks is one of the top 10 zoos in this country.

I am also a native of South Carolina, having lived only the last three years in North Carolina. I find your obvious lack of sensitivity, not to mention your ignorance, in calling my home state "ugly," a personal insult! South Carolina boasts beautiful mountains, rolling green farmlands (the main eye-pleasing scenery for the observant traveler to Clemson) as well as the exciting, nationally-recognized Grand Strand beaches.

As far as the orange and tiger paws go, I was under the impression that team spirit was to be admired, not ridiculed. Should UNC be ridiculed due to the sea of baby blue that fills the UNC coliseum and the footprints with black goo on the heels? Every team has a color and a logo, so why pick on Clemson? Oh yeah — it

must be because Clemson is at the top of the national football ratings and we have dropped off the bottom somewhere. Could this be sour grapes? Get with it, Lingo! Mud slingin' ain't cool. And you owe all South Carolinians, especially Clemson Tigers, an apology.

ALECIA COLE  
Junior  
Journalism

### Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticisms. When writing letters to the editor, please follow these guidelines:

■ All letters must be signed by the author(s), with a limit of two signatures per letter.

■ Students should include name, year in school, major, phone number and home town. Other members of the University community should include similar information.

■ All letters must be typed and double-spaced, for ease of editing.

■ Place letters in the box marked "Letters to the Editor" outside the DTH office in the Student Union.

■ The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.

## Dean's Dome needs some soul

To the editor:

I have been a student at UNC ever since the Dean E. Smith Center opened its doors to the public, and since that time I have been waiting patiently for the Smith Center to feature a rhythm and blues act in concert. Well, I am a senior now and I'm still waiting.

I cannot understand why it is so hard for officials at the Smith Center to schedule black groups to perform in the arena. I have heard several excuses but none of them are even slightly reasonable to me. I was told that if there was an R&B concert not enough people would show up to fill the arena. However, UNC is surrounded by predominantly black colleges, such as North Carolina Central University, North Carolina A&T and Winston-Salem State

University; these people would flock to UNC to see a concert. I was told that not many black groups are touring in this area and yet the Greensboro Coliseum is constantly featuring black talent and Greensboro is not far from Chapel Hill. I was also told that a black group would bring a raucous crowd to Chapel Hill and cause the town problems. However, in the past, the Smith Center has featured white groups such as Pink Floyd who bring a raucous crowd.

Before everyone starts writing in reminding me of the performances of Lionel Richie, Tina Turner and Whitney Houston, let me remind you that they don't sing rhythm and blues, they sing pop and rock. Rhythm and blues artists such as Luther Vandross, Cameo, Run DMC and others

have a more than ample following that would easily fill the Smith Center.

I think this proves that the powers that be at this University have once again made it clear that they are not interested in its black population. In a town where social outlets for blacks are almost non-existent, the least the University could do is try to schedule a few concerts that are of interest to blacks.

Yet, amid this complaint and others about the black experience at UNC, University officials continue to scratch their heads and wonder why getting blacks to enroll at UNC is so difficult.

SPENCER HARDY  
Senior  
History