

The Daily Tar Heel

96th year of editorial freedom

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Give this idea a second chance

The Council of Dormitory and Floor Presidents is back.

Even if you happened to be living in a dorm two years ago when this council was formed, you probably don't remember it. That's because not much ever came of it. Less than a third of the approximately 75 residence hall presidents who were supposed to attend the meetings bothered to show up, frustrating the efforts of then-Residence Hall Association President Ray Jones.

But RHA is trying again, and organizers seem to have learned enough from the failure of two years ago to avoid repeating the same mistakes.

The reasons for re-establishing the council are sound. Encouraging representatives from different residence areas to exchange ideas would make RHA more effective in responding to student needs.

The council could also promote interaction between residence areas. Under the current system, residence area governors meet on a regular basis, but dorm governments meet as a group only within their own areas.

A meeting of dorm and floor presidents could improve communication among people involved in a lower level of RHA, helping those people better understand how the organization works, how they fit into it and what they can do to make it better.

Senior Paula Zellmer, the RHA executive assistant who is organizing the council, hopes the group can serve

as a source of information for council members, who can in turn share information with all dorm residents.

Ensuring that the dorm and floor presidents understand their own responsibilities would be a first priority. For instance, Zellmer said, people may not realize that forging names on RHA treasury requisitions to fund a dorm purchase is an honor code violation.

Zellmer also hopes to assign various members of the council to other campus organizations, so information about the activities and opportunities of other student groups can be funneled through the council to residence halls. That information could pertain to campus security, Student Government's tutoring program, Campus Y-sponsored volunteer projects or a host of other campus activities.

If the council functions as planned, a wider range of information will travel more quickly to a greater number of campus residents.

However, none of these wonderful results will be possible if the approximately 75 dorm and floor presidents don't cooperate.

The council's first meeting is set for Oct. 11. As elected representatives, council members have an obligation to support RHA's efforts to improve the system. Dorm residents should hold them to that responsibility.

Otherwise, this year's Council of Dormitory and Floor Presidents will fizzle just as quickly as the council of two years ago. — Jean Lutes

Welfare's overdue overhaul

After two years of legislative discord, Congress has finally put forth a plan for the overhaul of the welfare system. Conservatives and liberals at last have come to an agreement. Though long overdue, low-income families may now have a bill that will "help them to help themselves."

The Family Support Act, sponsored by Sen. Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y., is expected to be signed into law by President Reagan next week. On Friday, the bill passed in the House of Representatives by an overwhelming 347-to-53 margin. Just one day earlier, the Senate had approved the measure 96 to 1.

The bill would significantly restructure the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program for the first time since its creation in 1935. The main provision requires single welfare parents with children over three years of age to participate in the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills program. These parents, if unable to find work on their own, would enroll in state educational and job-training courses.

Additionally, in two-parent welfare families, one parent would have to participate in a job search and, if unsuccessful, would either work

toward a high school diploma or work 16 hours a week in a state work program.

This bill is a substantial indication of a renewed federal commitment to low-income families. From the perspective of the welfare recipient, it would restore the incentive to work by providing the education and training needed to compete in the job market. And though it is an expensive undertaking — the program would cost \$3.3 billion for the first five years — proponents claim that the benefits will far outweigh short-term costs.

But here a problem arises. When can welfare recipients and society as a whole expect to see these benefits? Experts say the bill would not produce results very quickly. Many provisions would not even take effect until 1994 or 1995. Sen. Moynihan is less than convincing when he points out, "But pretty soon, by the year 2000, you have something to show for it."

Still, the program is worth the wait. Welfare recipients must not be given a handout; instead, they must be given the opportunity for a brighter future. This will ultimately have a positive impact on all of society. The Family Support Act is an important step in the right direction. — Louis Bissette

the last word

I doubt I'll ever forget the morning of Sept. 12, 1988. That date, you will recall, marked the birth of Sports Monday, the first all-sports back page in the esteemed history of The Daily Tar Heel.

A wonderful sense of pride welled up (such things always well up, don't they) within me as I sat in class and saw people transfixed by the back page, my back page.

From the first day I started working at the DTH, back in August of 1985, people have pestered me with one persistent question — "Why aren't there more sports stories in the DTH?"

Answering that question would take far too long as it would require an in-depth discussion of the ever-present spacial restrictions placed on the newspaper, particularly with regard to the sports section. For the past century or so, just about the only time you the reader could see a sports story without having to plow through a good six to eight pages of news and features and such was following a UNC football or basketball game.

But this year, all that changed. With a supportive editor (Jean Lutes, who still loves her Steelers even though she's well aware of their putridness) and a gung-ho general manager (Kevin Schwartz, who loves his Boilermakers even though he's well aware of their putridness), the DTH sports

department finally began to feel its oats.

First, we began beefing up our daily sports coverage, sometimes even spilling over to (Ooh!) a second page. Feedback in early September was good, but there was still that nagging problem of Monday's paper. Trying to cram three days worth of exhilarating sports action into the upper portions of two pages wasn't enjoyable, either for me, the editor, or my writers.

Then, it happened. We were sitting around the office just killing time when I uttered those two most magical words, "What if?" And just as used to happen in those awful Hewlett-Packard TV ads, a brainstorm edged ever closer to reality.

"Sure, that's a great idea!" the ever-positive Lutes said in response to my suggestion of an all-sports Monday back page. "I'll get right to work on it."

The fact that the op-ed copy would be taking up two inside pages rather than the customary one back page helped our cause.

That conversation took place on a Friday afternoon. By the same time Sunday I was wrestling with the marvelous dilemma of how to draw up the DTH's back page, my back page. No longer would I be forced to hack to bits the wonderful work of my dutiful, ultra-talented staff. Unshackled, I cried as one, "Eat our dust!" — Mike Berardino

Gorbachev moves for perestroika's sake

Last April, dean of students Anna Trotsky of a Ukrainian university in the USSR told us of the Russian literature read at her school. Pushkin, Dostoevsky, Chekhov — and recently, Tostoy. The range of *glasnost*, meaning "openness," she said, was great.

Trotsky was part of a Soviet delegation which had lunch with a group of UNC students in Lenoir Hall. A friend and I told Trotsky that The New York Times had reported that number-two Soviet party leader and reform critic Yegor Ligachev had decided to take an "extended vacation." Our statement was translated and a buzz spread up the table, interrupting each conversation, until it reached the leader of the delegation, a Ukrainian party chief. He stared down the length of the table at my friend and me, and used his broken English to press us for details.

"Impossible," the Soviet official said. "Comrade Ligachev is a good and loyal party member. It cannot have happened."

We later learned that the Times report of Ligachev's forced departure was greatly exaggerated. Ligachev's position had, in fact, not changed.

As of Friday, however, it has.

Swift action to move forward

Gorbachev had returned from a long vacation during which Ligachev had been reinterpreting the policies of *perestroika*, or "restructuring." And Gorbachev's realignments over the weekend immediately followed Soviet press reports that Gorbachev, while visiting a factory in Siberia, was heckled by workers impatient for the fruits of *perestroika*.

Workers have wanted to see quick results in their standards of living. Gorbachev's goals of cracking down on job delinquency, alcoholism and lack of productivity, while offering work production incentives and creative privatization, will result in improvements for the USSR.

In long-term improvements, however, which often mean tighter belts in the short-term. This has caused grumbling among workers who have great expectations and who have already tightened their belts about as far as they can.

So Gorbachev did two things last week — one in the same positive spirit of his

Stuart Hathaway I Spy

original reforms and the other in the totalitarian style of past Soviet leaders. On the positive side, he admitted that restructuring is not working exactly according to plan, while at the same time he reaffirmed his commitment to *perestroika*.

In the old tradition, Gorbachev called for special meetings of the highest governing bodies at the end of the week. During these meetings, several critics of Gorbachev's reforms were given new responsibilities or removed, while others who supported his reforms were promoted. At the same time, six new commissions were created to begin replacing the almost two dozen Soviet ministries.

The most dramatic changes included the resignation of Andrei Gromyko from the office of President of the Supreme Soviet and his withdrawal from the powerful 12-member Politburo. Gromyko's departure set the stage for the election of Gorbachev to the position of President, effectively securing Gorbachev's control of the government with another office whose powers he plans to expand. Though they retained their Politburo seats, Viktor Chebrikov resigned as head of the KGB to assume responsibility of a new commission dealing with legal matters, while Ligachev was given charge of a new commission on agriculture. Both men had openly questioned the policies of *glasnost* and *perestroika*, and many believe Gorbachev's intent was to lessen their role in ideological matters while still utilizing their strong leadership abilities.

At the same time, strong allies of Gorbachev were elevated. Vadim Medvedev, a party secretary and staunch Gorbachev supporter, became a full member of the Politburo and was put in charge of a new commission on ideology. Anatoly Lukyanov was elected First Vice President by the Supreme Soviet on Saturday and, with two other strong Gorbachev allies, named non-voting members of the Politburo — establishing a strong base of support for the Gorbachev program.

A familiar tradition

Soviet leaders have long sought to carry out programs while presenting a united political front. Democratic centralism, as such a policy is called, was first demanded by V.I. Lenin even before the 1917 revolutions. Seeing the German socialist movement splintered by open debate, Lenin decided that his young party would be free from such public divisiveness. He insisted on party discipline, which meant issues would be raised, discussed and resolved privately, in committee. Taking a remarkably similar position, Gorbachev now feels that public debate — inside and outside the government — only slows the progress of *perestroika*. In an acceptance speech on Saturday, Gorbachev warned critics on both the left and the right. "We can no longer get by with just stormy discussions and meetings and analyses of the mistakes of the past," he said. "We need practical movement ahead."

The tactics Gorbachev used to solidify his position are all too familiar to a world that has dealt with Stalin, Khrushchev and Brezhnev. The totalitarian muscle displayed by the general secretary proves that Gorbachev had the power to rearrange the upper echelon of Soviet government. But his means of doing so, through forced resignations and removals, harken back to the purging of opposition by former leaders.

Some viewed Gorbachev's moves as a reaction to serious challenges to his authority. His abrupt restructuring of the highest councils of the USSR and his realignment of top officials may be seen as an effort to remain in control. If this is the case, it was a desperate move.

It is more likely, however, that a frustrated Gorbachev got fed up with the bureaucratic resistance by some of the older, more conservative officials, the impatience of the working class and the lethargy of Soviet economic realities. In a short time, he took a number of logical steps to consolidate and enhance his power. We can speculate why until we turn blue, but the significant thing is Gorbachev won his gamble — and big.

Stuart Hathaway is a junior political science and history major from Charlotte.

Readers' Forum

Talk about good service!

To the editor:
 Yesterday I left my wallet lying on the food line at the Lenoir Hall. I missed it when I started to pay but thought I had just left it in my office. When I couldn't find it there, I returned to the cashier, Esther Jeffries, who was holding it for me. Garrett Watson, one of the food service personnel, had found it and turned it in to her. We are fortunate to have persons like Watson and Jeffries working on our campus!

JUDITH WOOD
 Assistant Professor
 School of Information
 and Library Science

Newsflash from the farm

To the editor:
 As a dairy farmer and one who knows about cattle, I would like to inform Regina Sutphin ("Tearing butterfly

wings and other cruelties," Sept. 27) that calves cannot swat flies away, no matter how much room you give them.

CERO GRANDE
 Junior
 Political science

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 typed and double-spaced, for ease of editing.

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

Cans, cards, crime, court and the cow motif

Week in Quotes

"We've seen a deterioration of values. I think we've condoned what we should've condemned." — Presidential candidate George Bush on the drug problem facing the United States.

"I think last year the (student) congress did a lot of things that had an effect on grad students, and with no graduate student representatives, they're pretty much left out in the dark." — Wilborn Roberson, elections board chairman, on the open congressional seats in graduate districts.

"There are less people in here, and you can go back as many times as you want. It's good food, and you get a lot of choices." — Freshman Kevin Grotzky on the new, improved food services available at Lenoir Hall offered by our friends at the Marriott Corporation.

"We took the furniture with the intention to take it back the next day. What gets me is that they're saying the pledge trainer might be in trouble. He didn't have anything to do with it." — Frank Lewis, a fraternity pledge, on the Chi Omega's porch furniture that mysteriously appeared in the foyer of the Beta Theta Pi house.

"They are afraid that someone is going to get an eye poked out which is obviously a concern of ours also." — Nate Watson, president of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, on the decision to suspend the card section during football games for a season. The Sig Eps have traditionally organized the card section.

"The main focus of the program is to educate students on campus about their environment, and the amount of aluminum collected is secondary." — Sonya Mumford, Student Environmental Action Coalition recycling coordinator, on the goals of the aluminum can recycling program.

"This is an abuse of our civil rights. We weren't infringing on the rights of others. We were holding an educational and symbolic protest and the next thing we know, we're in the Honor Court." — Joey Templeton, a bewildered defendant in the Honor Court trial of the CIA protesters.

"We're a high quality product for the average person. That's why we use the cow motif... we don't use snob appeal." — Kathy Kennedy, manager of the new Ben & Jerry's ice cream store to open on Franklin Street, on how Ben & Jerry's will compete with the other ice cream stores available downtown.

"There are no stars on our team. Each person has to do their job, and that's what is going to make us win." — Jennifer Anderson, co-captain of the UNC field hockey team, on the psychology of winning games.

"We can't keep letting Dean Boulton push this project aside." — Black Student

Movement President Kenneth Perry on the University's lethargy concerning the Black Cultural Center.

"I'm trying to do a job, get things done, make things happen. I'm for what Kenny wants. We want for the same things to happen." — Donald Boulton, vice chancellor and dean of student affairs, on the University's zeal to accommodate the Black Cultural Center.

"It's regrettable that there has to be an actual crime for people to want to educate themselves on crime prevention. That's the good thing about crime." — Sgt. Ned Comar of University police on the campus reaction to the armed robbery in front of Carmichael Residence Hall.

"When you have people who are singing and shouting at TV cameras, it's disruptive." — Sharon Wiatt, University Career Planning and Placement Services associate director, on the behavior of the CIA protesters.

"The point is that we seem to have a gentleman here who is not willing to be responsible or accountable for his own campaign. We still expect an apology to the voters of the 4th District for these blatant untruths." — Mike Davis, David Price's campaign manager, on the alleged untruths uttered by Price's opponent, Tom Fetzer.

Compiled by associate editor Laura Pearlman.

