

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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Cleaning off the tarnish Spangler shies away from strong stand

One of the privileges of being a new freshman at Carolina is feeling legitimately able to make fun of State. But the events at N.C. State University of the last six months, and the UNC system's response, leave freshmen with little to laugh about.

The UNC Board of Governors' meeting last Friday offered little hope in the near future of substantial changes in the system's attitude toward athletes and abuses of the universities. President C.D. Spangler reported the results of the Poole Commission's investigation at State into allegations of grade-changing, ticket selling by basketball players, drug use and questionable academic manipulations to keep players eligible.

Spangler recommended, among other things, a mandatory drug-testing policy, an end to freshman eligibility by the ACC, removing basketball coach Jim Valvano as athletics director and making sure that no student-athlete is admitted unless he is "deemed to have the potential to complete the requirements for a degree." The BOG, which acts as Spangler's boss, accepted the recommendations but took no further action.

None of the recommendations, with the exception of removing Valvano as AD, was accompanied by any sort of timetable, and most of Spangler's proposals require action either from individual schools' boards of trustees, the ACC or the NCAA.

And so the system is barely better off than it was before last Friday. State remains tarnished because Valvano stays, for now, as its basketball coach, one who has little regard for academic integrity, and the system's other 15 schools have little incentive to check into and tighten their programs in the near future.

board opinion

The BOG's reluctance to fire Valvano as basketball coach may be understandable, in light of the fact that his contract stipulates a \$500,000 payoff if he is fired. That stipulation will be waived, however, if the NCAA imposes sanctions against the school, something that seems inevitable.

But Spangler's avoidance of specific recommendations is disturbing. As president, he could have improved the system's reputation greatly by proposing much harsher rules, even if the BOG chose to water them down. By taking a weak stand, Spangler only proves how important athletics and booster clubs are to the system, and how academics, while they may get some lip service, must fight for his attention.

Spangler's lack of support for the faculty, however, was the most upsetting part of his speech. The faculty deserve strong words from the top of the system against pressure to change grades, to let student-athletes slide, to let them take only the easiest courses. Spangler's call for faculty to keep careful attendance records does little more than ask them to babysit athletes. While faculty should be encouraged to take attendance, that only touches a symptom, not the cause, of athletes' failure to graduate.

The BOG meeting was the perfect chance for Spangler to be a bit idealistic in his requests for changes in the system, to call for specific, slightly radical, badly needed improvements. If Spangler and the BOG would take a strong stand against the abuses, with two powerful ACC schools to back them up, the rest of the conference would certainly take notice and probably follow our lead. The time for quick action passed long ago, but the chance to take a stand that all incoming students can be proud of remains within reach for a short while longer.

Racism roars back Violence recalls pre-civil rights era

It was a simple journey. Four young black males were merely visiting a neighboring New York City community in response to a used car want ad in the newspaper. What they did not realize was that the Bensonhurst neighborhood is a self-proclaimed racist community, professing hatred against anybody non-white. The youths were accosted by a group of aggressive white teenagers holding baseball bats and two guns, and the confrontation erupted into the shooting death of one of the black boys and the injuring of another.

What sounds like another horrible, racially motivated killing of the 1960s happened just last Wednesday. The white suspects claimed they were waiting for either a black or Hispanic man whom a white girl of their neighborhood was dating, a situation they did not approve of. Their unsuspecting victim was a 16-year-old boy named Yusef Hawkins, a youth who was expected to achieve much in college.

When Hawkins and his friends walked by the girl's home, the white gang assumed they were the acquaintances of the girl and prepared to take care of the matter. Since then, city officials have offered only a half-hearted response to what the white men did.

Immediately after the shooting, several groups of both black and white mourners held marches protesting the unjust death. They were met by large groups of white residents threatening the protesters with racial slurs. Four white men were taken into

custody, and the girl, from whom all of this supposedly stemmed, has stepped forward to fully cooperate with the police. Yet even these hasty steps are not enough.

New York City Mayor Ed Koch has appointed a special prosecutor to investigate the incident, but this may be an attempt for political gain just before Koch engages in his re-election campaign. Koch should have sent in special investigating teams much earlier when other forms of racial violence occurred in the neighborhood in past years. In 1983, three black men were beaten by a group of white residents, and in 1987, two other black men were chased and beaten in the Bensonhurst neighborhood.

Not only is this incident shocking because of the violence and the injustice of the killing, but also because it has occurred in the supposedly open-minded society of the 1980s, more than 20 years after the racial tensions of the 60s. The 60s' protests did advance the status of blacks in the United States by allowing the black community to get a foot in the door of accepted equality, but incidents like the Bensonhurst one indicate that the black community is losing that hold.

Many white communities cannot accept racial equality, as proven by the threats at the protest marches, and too few white communities that do accept it are making the racial stand they should be. This country must realize and resolve the racial injustice that still exists before another Yusef Hawkins is brutally murdered. — Jennifer Wing

the last word

If you've read this whole paper, you know we're asking for new writers-- lots of 'em. But just in case you missed it: If you're interested in being a new writer, photographer or copy editor, come to a meeting at 4:15 Tuesday in Union 208. Unlike drop/ad, the DTH requires no prerequisites — if you can write a good sentence or take a decent picture, we'll teach you the rest.

If you join the staff — we have about 150 writers, photographers and editors — you'll be working for an award-winning paper. Last year, the DTH won an honor rating of All-American from the Associated Collegiate

Press for its fall issues, and a few weeks ago, we again received an All-American rating for the spring's papers. The DTH was awarded marks of distinction for coverage and content, writing and editing, opinion content, photography, art and graphics. The award noted that the DTH's coverage offers an "in-depth, broad range of stories," and that the writing and editing are "consistently outstanding."

So come join us. It's a great way to learn journalism, meet neat people, maybe even get sneak previews of cartoons. It's almost too much to comprehend. — Sharon Keschull



Readers' Forum

Keep supporting Chinese students

To the editor:
Although time has separated us from the bloody massacre in Tiananmen Square, the memory of those students must not fade, as the Communist Beijing government wishes.

The students in Tiananmen Square were peacefully seeking the right to participate, the right to speak openly their ideas, the right to seek redress of grievances, the right to be as you and I are in this country — the right to be free.

The battle is far from over in China. Each day the power-hungry government hauls more of the country's democrats to their gulags in an effort to repress the movement for freedom. We must stand together with the people of China to prevent the suppression and killing of people who long to be free. We must stand together to defeat this government of a failed ideology. We must stand in solidarity so that these selfless patriots shall not have died in vain.

A declaration drafted by the Alliance of Chinese Patriots was signed on June 7, 1989, by thousands of Chinese in this country. The Alliance is devoted to the pursuit of individual

liberty, economic prosperity, political and cultural pluralism, the rule of law and democratic government — things we so often take for granted.

We need your support. Help us keep up the fight. Help us keep the dreams of democracy alive in China. Be proud of being American and let the world know just what it means to be the "home of the free."

PING LI
Chief Executive Officer
Alliance of Chinese Patriots
Washington, D.C.

Year-long parking permits unfair

To the editor:
The UNC Department of Parking and Transportation Services is guilty of deceiving students and of maladministering the issuance of this year's parking permits.

First, in the parking assignment/bill letters mailed to students over the summer, the department stated, "No personal checks accepted" and indicated that only cashier's checks or money orders would be accepted for payment. The truth is, however, that the department accepts all forms of payment for parking permits, including personal checks, credit cards,

and even cash. The department lied to and hid the truth from the students in order to make the parking permit fee collection easier on itself. Many students, unaware of the other payment options, spent up to \$3 — in addition to the cost of a permit — just to buy a money order.

Second, all parking permits were sold on a 12-month basis, a change from previous years, when all student permits were sold on a nine-month basis. Now, all students needing permits for only the nine-month academic year will be forced to wait in long, slow lines next May in order to apply for a refund corresponding to the balance of time remaining on their permits.

This new policy seems especially ridiculous when one considers that all resident South Campus permit holders — those in lots K, L and M — will eventually have to apply for refunds because no South Campus dorm remains open in the summer. In the meantime, the Department of Parking and Transportation Services will be earning interest on the students' money.

The department must answer for this subterfuge and ineptitude. First, it should apologize to students for having

lied to them. Second, it should declare all K, L and M permits valid only until May 15 and mail refund checks equal to the three-month reduction in validity to holders of those permits. Until then, the Department of Parking and Transportation Services really doesn't deserve the word "services" in its name at all.

JEFFREY BEALL
Graduate
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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 dated and signed by the author(s), with a limit of two signatures per letter.
- *All letters must be typed and double-spaced, for ease of editing.
- *Letters should include the author's year, major, phone number and hometown.
- *The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.
- *Place letters in the box marked "Letters to the Editor" outside the DTH office in the Student Union annex.

Small sorority deserves another chance

On May 15, I held back the tears as I stepped out onto the porch of the Tri-Sigma house and locked the door behind me. I was the last to move out and probably the last in the sorority to realize that all hope of regaining our charter was gone. For the next four years, there would be one less sorority on UNC's campus.

What hurts the most is the large number of people who say this is "the best thing."

The terms of our probation were many, but the root of all evil was that we were too small and were not financially secure. It was the same message that had been passed down for many years. We set out to increase membership and hoped to bring in more money. Money stayed tight, but membership grew. Unfortunately, what kept us happy — the friendship — wasn't enough to keep our national organization happy.

The groups we most expected to help us keep our charter are the ones who turned their backs and looked the other way. Unfortunately, two of those groups were UNC's own Panhellenic Council and Sigma Sigma Sigma's national organization.

During the time we were on probation, and even after we were notified that our charter would be revoked at the end of the school year, no one from the Panhellenic Council took the time to call and offer to do they could to help. All we wanted was to know others wanted us to stay as much as we did. Instead, they chose to support our national organization's decision and stay out

Jannette Pippin Staff Writer

of the fire. The biggest concern of the Panhellenic Council seemed to be when and how we were going to announce our departure from campus.

Then again, the Panhellenic Council has never been the one to come to our rescue. Our guess is that that was because we were small and never had the campus image other sororities have — not that it should matter. UNC isn't geared toward the small sorority, and Formal Rush is probably the biggest example of why.

On average, about 900 to 1,000 women go through rush. With only 20 members, meeting and trying to convince a yard full of women to pledge when there are 150 women doing the same thing next door is a challenge, to say the least. After a year's absence, we chose to take part in Formal Rush to prove we could do as well as the other sororities, but we still could not erase the stigma that small is bad. Proud of our pledge class but hoping for more, rush left us physically and emotionally drained. The word from the national organization wasn't congratulations, but rather not good enough.

To prove ourselves, we met all the demands of probation except for doubling

our membership. With a semester left, new officers and fresh ideas for informal rush, we expected that to change. However, our hopes and plans for the future were cut short when our charter was pulled for four years. Ironically, the announcement came one day before we were to begin informal rush. As we see it, we weren't given much of a chance. To this day, we wonder if things would have been different had our national organization waited only another week to see how rush turned out.

The pain of being told we are not good enough by our national organization, the Panhellenic Council and various others still hurts. If there is a lesson to be learned from all this, we found out that being a part of a sorority means more to us than wearing greek letters. Due in part to our small size, we feel we share a sisterhood stronger than any other sorority on campus. Our regret now that we are gone is that others cannot be a part of that.

We weren't perfect, but the blame for what happened cannot be placed on us alone. When financial security and size begin to govern sororities rather than friendship and sisterhood, the greek system has taken a turn for the worst. Tri-Sigma has the opportunity to return to UNC in four years, but unless things change, I can't say that it's for the best.

Jannette Pippin is a senior journalism major from Jacksonville.

Life

lab joke. Mine is the lab itself.

Have you ever actually heard someone saying along with the tape, "Me gusta jugar al futbol"? No, what you hear is a whole lot of fast forwarding to the written section. And I'd like to meet the designing genius who put the tape player right in the middle of the damn cubbyhole so you have to put your workbook on your lap or else hire some

circus freaks to balance your stuff.

And what's the deal with the smell of the headsets? God, I hope they de-lice those things.

*And finally, have you noticed how they seem to be forever taking sidewalk bricks out and replacing them? It seems to be some sort of ultimate battle of the wills between Physical Plant employees. Do they replace

these bricks or just put them back? If they put them back, why do they take them out in the first place? Are they refreshing the sand? And why replace them? They're bricks, for god's sake. We're not walking around campus in cleats.

Justin McGuire is a senior journalism and political science major from Hendersonville.

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