

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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Value student vote Don't give rec center second chance

In February, students voted in favor of building a student recreation center. Since then, various campus leaders and members of the SRC's board of directors have spent many laborious hours drawing up plans, discussing different sites and planning the search for an architect. But if District 7 Rep. Jeffrey Beall has his way, the SRC may never materialize.

Beall wants to introduce a bill at the next Student Congress meeting calling for a new referendum on the SRC. Beall can give many reasons for introducing his bill, which - if passed by Student Congress - would put the SRC up for another vote this fall. Unfortunately, none of these reasons holds enough logic to justify his action.

Beall contends that students who voted in the spring did not foresee the recent tuition increase, which will inevitably put more pressure on students' wallets. He believes that students should have the opportunity to "reconsider" the SRC issue, which also calls for a slight increase in student fees, in light of the higher cost of attending UNC.

But students have already shown that they want a recreation center. They did not vote for the SRC on the condition that if tuition rates went up, plans for the center would be reconsidered. Beall says a second referendum on the SRC would give students a chance to express their feelings; however, he is in effect

board opinion

questioning the value of the decision they already made.

The wording of the bill is misleading at best. In its present form, the bill calls for students to vote on "lowering student fees by eliminating the SRC and corresponding SRC fee." Yet a vote in favor of this will not reduce student fees, as the \$13 per semester that would go toward the SRC will not be added to students' bills for at least two more years, by which time the center should be nearly completed.

In addition, if Beall and others in congress really want to lower fees, they should do as Carolina Athletic Association President Lisa Frye suggests and take a look at all the various things for which student fees are used. Why Beall has singled out the SRC fee to contest is unclear, unless he is merely dissatisfied with the outcome of the first vote. In a democracy, however, the minority must live with the majority decision, and "best two out of three" is not an option.

Although Beall and any Student Congress members who vote in favor of the bill may believe they are doing students a favor by giving them another chance to vote, they should realize that this is not a reasonable way to conduct campus politics. Extenuating circumstances, such as an increase in UNC's low tuition, should not be used to call into question again an issue decided six months ago.

Put Pete in hall Remember Rose for his playing days

Charlie Hustle is out of baseball, but that should not tarnish his impressive career and contributions to America's pastime.

When baseball commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti suspended Pete Rose for life from baseball on Aug. 24, it was a guilty verdict many people expected. The evidence collected from Ron Peters and other Rose associates was overwhelming and damaging. It cited Rose's involvement in betting on baseball, including his own team, and association with known drug dealers.

There is no question that Rose violated the ethical code of baseball. The rule not to bet on your own sport and, more importantly, on your own team seems too elemental to ignore. Rose blatantly ignored this rule, and to make matters worse, he continues to deny all allegations straight-faced.

The question must now be raised if Rose should still be eligible for the baseball Hall of Fame. Perhaps the question cannot be answered fully until Giamatti decides a year from now if Rose can reenter baseball, but there are several arguments in Rose's favor that can be presented now.

The evidence is damning, but none of it can be applied to Rose's career as a player. His transgressions occurred after he retired as player/manager of the Cincinnati Reds and became only manager. As a player, he gave 100 percent. Rose was known for his unquenchable desire to win, a desire that was as dangerous as it was exciting. This is a player who demolished Ray Fosse in an All

His accomplishments as a player should outweigh Rose's later transgressions.

Star Game, a game that was an exhibition! This is a player who made the headfirst slide popular.

Rose was the epitome of the all-out, clutch player. His nickname, Charlie Hustle, says it all. Remember the catch he made in the 1980 World Series, where he caught the foul pop off Bob Boone's glove? The list of Rose's accomplishments is lengthy, and it should outweigh his transgressions which occurred after he left baseball as a player. Since when has moral purity been a qualification for the

Hall of Fame, anyway? Babe Ruth is in the hall, and he was a notorious alcoholic and womanizer. Cap Anson is in the hall, and he was almost single-handedly responsible for the ban against black ball players in the major leagues. Charles Comiskey is in the hall, and his miserly wages were as responsible for the Black Sox Scandal as any other reason.

The Hall of Fame is not a place for saints, but a place for stars, and Pete Rose was certainly that in his day. Some of the best players in the history of baseball were also some of the game's biggest black eyes. The mark of Pete Rose should not be remembered as a black mark he left as a manager, but as the marks he left in the record books and the hearts of fans as a player. Rose should not necessarily be forgiven. He violated the rules, and Giamatti's ruling was correct. But we should remember Rose's contributions as a player. Let Pete in the hall. He's too big to ignore. -- William Taggart

The Daily Tar Heel

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Readers' Forum

Student leaders defend students' interests

Brien Lewis

Guest Writer

First, I would like to welcome all the new members of the Carolina family and welcome back those of you who know the magic of Chapel Hill to what is going to be a very exciting year.

The summer, as you can tell from reading the first issues of the paper, has been anything but quiet. The issue that Student Congress Speaker Gene Davis and I focused much of our attention on was the tuition increase. Some local newspapers, including The Daily Tar Heel, have published editorials opposing our stance on tuition, claiming that we have been whining unnecessarily. My reply is this: I have yet to have one of my constituents, the students, come up to me and say that they oppose our actions and statements on their behalf. I feel my responsibility is to defend the interests of the students, and if that means "whining" because the student body is being used as a cash cow to fund highways and pork-barrel projects then I will "whine" loud and long.

The tuition increase is only one issue that students and student government will face in the coming year, and so I will not dwell on tuition in this column. We face a series of challenges and opportunities and Student Government is looking forward to a number of initiatives that will be introduced throughout the year. I will continue with my efforts to make Student Government more accessible by holding weekly office hours in the Pit, residence halls and apartment complexes and by interacting with students and student groups at every possible opportunity. Student government will also continue its efforts to implement an academic minor, review the perspective

system, improve food and transit services and represent student interests at state, local and national levels. New projects will include some student consumer services, efforts to bring a Native American to the faculty and legislation that would suggest a major restructuring of student government to provide better accountability and stronger communication.

In every endeavor, student government is pursuing one goal: to provide each and every member of the student body with the fullest college experience possible. If you find a barrier — be it social, financial or academic — to achieving your goals, let student government know. Better yet, get involved yourself. The opportunities are here for you to make your mark at Carolina and to leave it a better place than when you came.

Brien Lewis, a senior political science major from Toronto, Canada, is student body president.

Helms amendment protects taxpayers

To the editor:
Believe it or not, I actually am writing this letter in order to commend The Daily Tar Heel and its staff for their good sense, common decency, and high journalistic standards. (Stranger things have happened, I suppose!)

The occasion for this praise? The DTH came remarkably close to agreeing with Sen. Jesse Helms! Perhaps some background information would be in order.

On July 26, Sen. Helms introduced an amendment to the Interior Appropriations Bill to prohibit the use of tax dollars to support art that is pornographic, homo-erotic or exploit children, or denigrates the objects or beliefs of the adherents of a particular religion or non-religion.

The National Endowment for the Arts immediately replied with cries of censorship. Ironically, they simultaneously embarked on a frantic campaign to withhold from the public the facts and the photos which have made the Helms Amendment a necessity.

By screaming, "This amendment would have kept Shakespeare or Michelangelo from receiving government grants" (which, by the way, I believe they operated without), the arts community would have you believe that the disputed "art," (I use this term loosely), is in some way worthy of comparison with the great masters. Perhaps you have been led to believe that this "art" contains nothing more objectionable than the nudes one would see in ancient Greek statues.

Let me set the record straight by describing the federally subsidized works of "art" of Andres Serrano and Robert Mapplethorpe. Serrano received \$15,000 from the NEA for a photograph depicting a crucifix submerged

MAPPETHORPE

Chicago Tribune



in a bottle of the artist's urine with the title "Piss Christ."

A collection of photographs by the late Robert Mapplethorpe was assembled with the help of a \$30,000 grant from the NEA. The collection includes photos of: provocative child nudity; one man urinating in another man's mouth; a bull-whip inserted in Mapplethorpe's rectum; a close-up of a man sticking his "pinkie" finger up his penis; and many other genitalia and sado-masochistic shots.

(I apologize to the reader for the graphic descriptions. It's appalling when you can hardly bring yourself to describe "art" that your tax money purchased, isn't it?)

"But how did The Daily Tar Heel get involved?" you might ask. By refusing to print these photos which your tax money purchased, and thereby endorsing the basic principles behind the Helms Amendment! The DTH staffers must have realized that these photos go far beyond the limits of what can be printed in general circulation newspaper (or even productions of "adult" bookstores, for that matter). Why then, should the American taxpayer be expected

to spend his hard-earned money to purchase and promote "art"?

The language of the Helms Amendment also prohibits government funding of material which "denigrates, debases, or reviles a person, group or class of citizens on the basis of race, creed, sex, handicap, age or national origin." Doesn't this sound remarkably like the underlying theme of our campus' Human Right Week?

The Helms Amendment to the Interior Appropriations Bill is not an attempt at censorship, but an effort to protect the individual rights of all classes and races of our American society. Artists may produce, draw, photograph and display whatever they desire. However, any purchaser has the right to determine what he will or will not pay for.

Our government and the American taxpayers are no different. As Pat Buchanan said in reference to this issue, "God bless Jesse Helms!"

SHARON SENTELLE

Junior

Journalism/Political Science
(Editor's note: Sentelle is the chairwoman of the UNC Letters policy)

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.

Most letters run from one to two pages, but longer letters may be run as guest columns. The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.

•Letters should include the author's year, major, phone number and hometown. The DTH will make every effort to contact writers to verify their letters, so please be sure that both a daytime and evening phone number are listed.

Questions about letters should be directed to the editor at 962-0245.

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

It's time to take off the 'top ten' T-shirts

Ruth Dowling

Guest Writer

They are already starting to give me that look: utter pity. It comes right after they ask what I did with my summer "vacation" and I admit hesitantly that I was in summer school and working in Chapel Hill.

"Oh, gosh, I'm sorry, that's really too bad," they say sympathetically, but they couldn't feel too bad as they feel free to expound upon their travels and exotic internships in New York, L.A. and Paris. And maybe the Hill does pale in comparison with the big cities, but I would do it all over again — in fact, I hate to see the summer end. I fear those mob parties at frat court, don't want to have to wait in line at Molly's, and I've grown accustomed to riding my bike through an empty, noon-time Pit.

But I am quietly accepting that all these summer perks will end. However, there is one summer bonus that I simply refuse to relinquish — the absence of the terrible "Late Night in Chapel Hill" T-shirt. I'm sure you've seen it — maybe you even have one. On the back it reads "Chapel Hill's Top Ten Lies" and the first one listed is "On my honor I have neither given nor received aid on this exam." For those of you who are new around this town, that last sentence is our honor pledge — it guides the spirit of our academic endeavors.

Nothing in this world can get to me like that shirt. And for some strange twist of cosmic fate, it was the most popular T-shirt around last spring. There I was suffering through the Drama 15 final exam with 300 tightly packed students surrounding me, and in the row right in front of me were three of those very same T-shirts. "What encouragement," I thought. Word on the street has it that some clever fraternity pledge class was selling the shirt in the Pit to raise money. And of course, Johnny T-Shirt, ever true to the interests of our community, placed one strategically in its window. There was simply no escape.

What is amazing to me is that these T-shirts are popular despite the fact that they are truly hideous and not even remotely

clever. The front design "Late night ..." looks like one of those '70s, sparkled emblems pasted across the chest. And then the back is a list of less than funny, supposed Chapel Hill lies. However, none of the "lies" seems unique to Chapel Hill — the same shirt could be State's top 10 lies or even Duke's. In fact, it probably is. Yet it still gains widespread appeal. With a little work, the shirt could be changed to be individual to Carolina. Why not change number one to "Duke might beat us this year," or "All the money that went into fixing up the Student Stores seems well-spent."

Furthermore, why buy a T-shirt that 25 percent of the campus already has? If you want to wear a popular T-shirt, what you should do is go to the Campus Y and buy one from an organization like SEAC and let your money go to a good cause. The T-shirts are way cooler, and they are supportive of the spirit of this University.

A shirt that deliberately mocks our honor system is hardly productive — its embarrassing. Making fun of Carolina's social life, the athletics or the Greeks — well, that's all fine and fun in my book, but when we start messing with the academic integrity of this University, we're just hurting ourselves.

It is crazy to spend four years at Carolina going to class and studying only to receive a diploma that is scarred by an abused honor system. Believe it or not, employers and graduate school admissions folks recognize the efforts made at Carolina to maintain our honor system. There is nothing more vital to an academic community like ours than a high standard of academic integrity. There is no room for lying, cheating or stealing. There is no room for "giving or receiving

unauthorized aid." Wearing that T-shirt does nothing except cut at the very essence of our academic community. Yes, there is cheating at Carolina. There always will be cheating at Carolina. However, there is no reason to pay money for a T-shirt that calls our honor pledge a lie.

Throughout the summer some friends and I have boasted about our student-run honor system to groups of incoming freshmen at Carolina TOPS. We've explained that Carolina is very different from high school. We've claimed that at Carolina there won't be a need for professors to roam the aisles of exams, looking over shoulders, and that at times professors will simply leave students alone in a room to take an exam, relying solely on the students' signature on the pledge as their word of honor.

One day, a professor sat in the audience and listened to our presentation. When we had finished, he stood up and made some comments from the faculty's perspective. He told the incoming freshmen that they would be treated as adults at Carolina and that it was simply assumed that while they were at Carolina they would act with academic integrity, he said the honor system is, in fact, a gift of respect from the University to students. The University recognizes that in our community professors don't need to be watch-dogs. What sort of message are we sending our professors by wearing that T-shirt?

The beginning of the school year seems an apt time for us to take off those awful shirts and stop taking for granted the importance of student support of our honor system. We need to recognize the statement "On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this examination" as one full of responsibility, trust and maturity. Welcome back to Chapel Hill.

Ruth Dowling, a junior English and history major from Providence, R.I., is the chairwoman of the Honor Court.