

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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Officials ignore majority One female trustee hardly adequate

Last week the UNC Board of Trustees held a dinner to honor outgoing trustee Barbara Perry. While Perry undoubtedly deserved the honor — she had served the board and the University with dedication and enthusiasm since 1985 — her moment of recognition was bittersweet. Two months ago Gov. James Martin failed to recognize her importance to the University by failing to reappoint her to the BOT.

board opinion

Perry has been praised widely by colleagues as well as others who worked with her in her capacity as a trustee and as the chairwoman of the BOT's Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Robert Eubanks, trustee and former BOT chairman, said in an interview Tuesday that he felt Perry had helped to bridge the communication gap between the BOT and the University's administration and students. Student Body Vice President Joe Andronaco said Perry was noted for being well-prepared for meetings, concerned about students and genuine in her interest in education.

In July, however, with two trustee positions to fill, Martin decided to appoint Arch Allen, the Wake County Republican Party chairman, and to reappoint John Pope. While his spokesmen have made it clear that his decision not to reappoint Perry was not meant to reflect poorly on her work as a trustee, he had previously told Perry she would be reappointed. But Martin apparently made too many appointment promises, and the board lost one of its best members.

In losing Perry, the BOT also lost one of only two female trustees. Considering that

women make up just less than 60 percent of UNC's student body, having one woman on a 13-person board hardly seems equitable or logical. In this light, failing to reappoint Perry — a woman who had already more than proved her ability and commitment — is even more inexcusable.

A more general problem suggested by the situation is the political nature of trustee selection. Trustees at any of the UNC system's universities, as well as members of the Board of Governors, should be chosen on the basis of their record of support for education, not their record of support for a particular politician. While the people chosen to serve on the various boards usually are qualified and concerned individuals, too often decisions are colored by campaign contributions and positions within political parties. The selection process needs to be reconsidered, for as Eubanks pointed out, "We want the best people we can recruit, not the people who lobby hardest for the positions."

And it is important for the university system to have the best people as trustees and governors. While these people are not generally involved in the day-to-day activities of the University, they are involved in many functions which do affect students. As Andronaco said, "They do a lot more than is seen, particularly in the way of smoothing things out and getting concessions for students."

As a trustee, Perry was outspoken in her support for students, and she could offer some variety to the mostly-male board. Let's hope the next time Martin has the opportunity to appoint a trustee, students won't lose such a dedicated friend.

Student support scanty Town council needs UNC candidate

Why would somebody run for public office? A person could become a candidate for political gain, to express an opinion on a burning issue that concerns a great number of constituents or maybe just to step forward to serve others. But this responsibility of representation has been ignored by students in the Chapel Hill Town Council race this year, a problem due to student apathy, a large time commitment and the lack of a major student issue in the race.

While a Chapel Hill Town Council meeting may not sound too exhilarating to many students, they need a representative on the council. The town of Chapel Hill is very dependent on the University, as the student body is on the town. Students who have just returned to the daily schedule of classes and other activities may not be motivated enough to find time to campaign for a public office. But if a student issue comes before the council later this year, students will not be adequately represented.

Many of the students who would consider running are turned off by the two-year commitment to the council and the relinquishing of a couple of weeks in the summer. Perhaps Chapel Hill can make a deal with the student representative to cut down on the time required.

Two years ago, two students ran for one of the council positions, when a major issue was the possibility of a stricter noise ordinance that could affect students. Students do not have a major campaign issue this year, but this should not discourage somebody from running. The smaller issues can still make a difference at the University.

Fortunately, there is some student voice in the Town Council. Student government has appointed a liaison to the council to speak up for students on city decisions, along with newly-created liaison to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen. While these are prudent steps toward good communication between the University and these towns, the liaisons do not have a vote on the council.

Several of the members seeking re-election to the council are employees of the University who can represent important concerns of students, but even they do not replace the need for an elected student official. Chapel Hill natives who are not affiliated with the University may judge the missing representative as a lack of

concern on the part of the students.

Candidate Alan Rimer has suggested that students have a forum before the election for all council candidates. Even without a student candidate, a forum is a good way for students to show that they are concerned and be actively involved in the election process. Finding out more about candidates' platforms will help students decide which candidates are most sincere about supporting student concerns.

And students can still run as write-in candidates. It takes more work, and the candidate could not be somebody with limited time to offer; rather, the position demands a student with a clear working knowledge of student concerns and town affairs. The position is not impossible to fill, but the initiative is hard to find. — Jennifer Wing

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The Daily Tar Heel

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Drug Czar Bennett finally develops an anti-drug campaign to reach teenagers.



After five years, a UNC Authority is born

Ian Williams
Wednesday's Child

*Monday's child is full of grace
Tuesday's child is fair of face
Wednesday's child is full of woe
Thursday's child has far to go
Friday's child is loving and giving
Saturday's child works hard for a living
But the child that is born on the Sabbath Day
Is bonny and blithe, and good and gay.*

Wow! I wish I had the power of nursery rhymes - to neatly sum up in a few rhyming couplets all the problems of the world and all the crippling personal flaws of all my friends! A few short words like "thirty days hath September" and I can Dr. Suess my way out of any tight spot this cruel world has to deliver! Yet I'm afraid I have no universal solutions nor cute poems to transmit on this here First Column of the Year, for to do so I must assume the title of Authority. The Authority is a god-awful character, a sad and lonely old fart who appears on public television documentaries and is actually a euphemism for someone who has spent far too long doing something strange and stupid.

Now that I think of it, as a fifth-year senior here at Carolina, that sounds a little like me! God forbid I should rant on about sedimentary formations and gestation periods, and I realize I was reading "Home For a Bunny" while some of you were but an itch in your daddy's pants, but I promise I won't mention any of my free-wheelin' bed-wettin' days of the late 60's lest I make any of you folks out there think I'm some old fart who couldn't muster a diploma in time.

Besides, I'm quite confident that all you freshmen are sick to death of Authorities bludgeoning you over the head with charming Carolina facts - I'm sure you're getting all kinds of crap from sophomores especially, who had to suffer the violent storms of cluelessness last year, and now they feel like they own the world because they know what a "cross-listed prerequisite" is. Juniors should now be entering their self-inflicted "year of growth" existentialist depression phase and are therefore harmless, but the seniors are back for their second childhood, and with them return the legal abuse of grain alcohol and plenty of Authorities on The Way Things

Are at Carolina. I'd bet if you freshmen heard one more time about the bar scene in which you're not allowed to participate, the evil of two-pronged electrical extension cords in the dorm or Silent Sam's latent Freudian problem with virgins you'd barf Carolina blue and cram your orientation counselor in the dorm Dumpster.

I don't know why our older folks pretend we know what we're doing anyway - basically we all live in a beautiful little town in the middle of nowhere attending a big-ass school tenuously held together by good friends, uncaring advisers and basketball games. If you think that anyone truly knows what's going on around here, relish the fact that even the Authorities trip on the bricks.

After years of being late to every class I've signed up for at this fair institution, last Friday I decided to be early for my Abnormal Psychology 80 class. I wandered into the classroom right on time, and after getting myself on the roll, sat back in my chair all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, my eyes gleaming with deference to the master professor and my brain a willing sponge for knowledge and all things lofty in spirit.

About 45 minutes and three excruciating pages of notes later, I suddenly had a horrible feeling, like I'd left the water running on a brain vacation. I looked up at the blackboard, and with horror I saw the words above the TA's office hours: "Social Science 30 - Social Relations in the Workplace." I was in the wrong class. I was in the wrong building. I was in the wrong major.

Now you'd think someone of my 25-watt bulb brain power would realize something was wrong when I was taking notes about office management techniques rather than sociopaths wielding Cuisinarts, but that just goes to show what happens when you know everything.

The most important thing about being here is that you remain happy, and since you've got

basically 10,000 of the other gender your age with the same thing on their minds, it's usually not that hard. Girls may lament the guy/girl ratio, and admittedly two girls to every guy does not seem biologically conducive to fostering the race, but if you guys think that means you can prance around here with your fly down and a smile on your face, you've got another thing coming. And for Carolina girls searching for a sensitive, warm, caring and faithful guy, I suggest you bring plenty of reading materials and a pup tent.

Whatever happens, you must remember that anyone here who judges you on your physical attributes isn't worth your precious time on this planet. Now I realize that sounds like sappy afterschool special marshmallow creme advice, but you'll soon see what I'm talking about. There's a special "visual license" granted here in Chapel Hill that allows you to look at the opposite gender in public about 7.5 seconds longer than anywhere else in the northern hemisphere. This license, or "suspended gawk reflex" as those of us in the business are apt to call it, points to UNC's greatest unspoken curriculum - a social meat market of biblical proportion. If you feel self-conscious about the way you look, if you are painfully aware of each step you take across the crowded Pit, if your hands tremble at the door-knob of a full classroom for which you are late - remember that you have as much right to be here in the sun as the beautiful lass and her friends sipping iced tea in Lenoir. Armed with that information, you can set forth and neutralize the Greek giant before it eats you alive.

After a few short years, you shall become the Authority on all such matters college has to offer! And then you can give rotten holier-than-thou advice to freshmen and write all sorts of wonderful nursery rhymes. Wouldn't you like to be the guy who made up the "Monday's child" poem or the "all for the want of a horseshoe nail" story? Wouldn't you be excited to be the proud innovator behind the leper and the prostitute joke or the Helen Keller/waffle iron ditty? Stick around for a few years, and it shall all come to you... the college student only lasts four or five years, but the Authority lives forever!

Ian Williams is (yet again) a senior music and psychology major from Los Angeles, Calif.

Readers' Forum

Regulations on art best for taxpayers

To the editor:
Eureka! I have actually found an article of merit and significance in the Daily Tar Heel. Alas, fellow Tar Heels, it was a letter-to-the-editor; therefore, your student fees are not yet palatable. The Daily Tar Heel is still as much of a legitimate beacon of truth and fairness as Bonnie Prince Charles was a legitimate English monarch.

The masterpiece I am referring to concerns Sen. Jesse Helms' recent attempts to exclude homo-erotic, exploitive "art" that degrades children, race and ethnic groups, religions and non-religions, etc. The maestro of this composition (Helms Amendment protects taxpayers," Sept. 1) is Sharon Sentelle, chairwoman of the UNC College Republicans.

Miss Sentelle was correct in pointing out that the amendment does not forbid an "artist" (many apologies to the legitimate art community) from producing whatever deranged work he wishes. The amendment only says the government will neither pay for nor promote works that are offensive to society.

I can hear the liberals wailing absurd arguments now, "This act establishes artistic orthodoxy." In reality (a concept strange to the liberal mind), this act accomplishes the reverse, it keeps a government-manipulated orthodoxy from invading the studios of the art world and the wallets of the taxpayers.

If there is truly a market for this sadistic trash erroneously

Art provokes good exchange of ideas

To the editor:
I would like to point out to Sharon Sentelle that her freedom to write and have published her "graphic descriptions" in the Daily Tar Heel ("Helms Amendment protects taxpayers," Sept. 1) (supported, albeit indirectly, by our tax dollars) of Andres Serrano and Robert Mapplethorpe's art (including the use of such words as "piss," "rectum" and "penis"), in an attempt to shock DTH readers into supporting yet another of Jesse Helms' feeble and dangerous "efforts to protect (Americans') individual rights" is, once again, the very freedom that would be eroded by this particular amendment.

If Ms. Sentelle and Sen. Helms wish to lobby for a referendum to let voters decide whether or not we wish our tax money to be spent on art at all, I would probably support them, but attaching censorial strings to government grants to the arts only gives that same

government more string with which to choke our cherished freedom of expression.

"Art" isn't just pretty pictures and mellow music — sometimes art's very intent is to provoke controversy — which, yes, Ms. Sentelle, includes even the works of Shakespeare and Michelangelo, whose "homoerotic" sonnet and "child pornography" cherubs were (and still are) both sponsored and banned by various governments.

And, in that Serrano and Mapplethorpe have accomplished through their art this greater exchange of ideas, I, for one, am quite proud (if only ideologically) that a portion of my tax contribution supported their work.

CHARLTON ALLEN
Freshman
Political Science

"Top ten" T-shirt won't hurt Code

To the editor:
The Sept. 1 column by Ruth Dowling ("It's time to take off the 'top ten' T-shirts") occasionally made a lot of sense. Ms. Dowling, you are correct when you stress the importance of the academic integrity of this university. The Honor Code is the foundation on which this academic integrity is grounded. The concept that the Honor Code is a gift from the University emphasizes the academic trust that exists between students and faculty. Students have a responsibility to maintain its integrity. The truth of this point is obvious, and you bring it out admirably in your column. However, you missed the point

of the T-shirt itself, which has nothing to do with the Honor Code or any of the other nine lies. The idea for the T-shirt is a take-off from "Late Night with David Letterman." This fact immediately prepares the consumer for a T-shirt that will be humorous. One reason the shirt has been so popular is its ability to incorporate the humor Letterman employs. His "top ten" segment often attacks the most sacred institutions of the American society. That is what makes it so funny. You contend the T-shirt is unoriginal, yet it is the adaptation to college life which gives it such appeal.

None of the ten lies were meant to be taken seriously. If each "lie" were taken at face value, don't limit your attacks to lie number one. "If you get me through this, I'll never drink again" implies alcoholism. "It's just a cold sore" seems to condone sexual promiscuity and a lack of concern toward sexually transmitted diseases. However, I have not heard from Student Health Services or any alcohol awareness agencies, probably because they understood the shirt for what it was: funny.

Finally, as chairwoman of the Honor Court, you are aware of the traditions of UNC's honor system. If you are concerned that a T-shirt such as "Late Night" could damage the principles of the Honor Code, then you obviously have little faith in the system you represent. A T-shirt created to satirize our campus life cannot diminish its integrity. I do not question your sense of right and wrong. I do question your sense of humor.

MICHAEL BERARD
Senior
Economics