

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

SHARON KEBSCHULL, Editor

WILLIAM TAGGART, Managing Editor

MARY JO DUNNINGTON, Editorial Page Editor
JUSTIN MCGUIRE, University Editor
TAMMY BLACKARD, State and National Editor
TOM PARKS, Business Editor
DAVE GLENN, Sports Editor
MELANIE BLACK, Design Editor

JULIA COON, News Editor
JENNY CLONINGER, University Editor
CHARLES BRITAIN, City Editor
CARA BONNETT, Arts and Features Editor
KELLY THOMPSON, Omnibus Editor
KIM AVETTA, Design Editor

DAVID SUROWIECKI, Photography Editor

TAs in trouble

Graduate teachers need more credit

At a large university such as UNC with a limited number of full-time professors, the quality of teaching assistants is of great concern. But the University and the state have ignored their responsibility to provide satisfactory conditions for TAs and are jeopardizing the quality of education for all students.

The frustrations of TAs finally culminated Monday in a press conference and rally sponsored by the new organization Graduate Students United. The students presented the problems they face and their demands, which include a request that the University increase their salaries to at least \$4,000 per course. The organization also requested other financial breaks, such as reducing the out-of-state tuition to equal that of in-state tuition and providing some health insurance plan.

GSU's demands are legitimate and they could probably ask for even more. Many TAs are married and just starting a family, and \$3,200 per course cannot possibly meet the costs of raising a family, especially considering the high cost-of-living in Chapel Hill. Those graduates who are not fortunate enough to live in married student housing must pay the high cost of an apartment. Many of the assistants are forced to seek other jobs just to make a living, while simultaneously dealing with the workload of their own courses and teaching a certain number of undergraduates.

Compared with other universities that

use many TAs in the classroom and for research, UNC assistants are some of the lowest paid in the nation, with only the University of Virginia showing lower salaries. TAs at the University of California at Los Angeles are paid more than twice what UNC TAs are paid.

TAs are also denied the respect full-time professors receive. They are not considered for University teaching awards, reinforcing the idea that the graduate students are not "real" teachers. More awards similar to the teaching award established by student government, for which all assistants and professors are eligible, need to be created.

In addition, many TAs are criticized for not knowing how to teach, and several foreign TAs are criticized for not speaking English well. While these complaints may be well-founded, the University has a responsibility to train and screen all prospective TAs before putting them in a teaching position.

Student government has taken an active part in this situation by holding forums and by establishing a teaching award which includes TAs. Student Body President Brian Lewis has voiced undergraduate support for the TAs demands. But student government could do more by using its General Assembly liaison to lobby state legislators for more money to give TAs a pay raise.

The student body has a responsibility to support its TAs. Without that support, many undergraduates may lose some of their best teachers.

Battling a ban

Bush's stance on rifles is dangerous

A gunman with a history of mental problems — a phrase that sounds hauntingly familiar — used an AK-47 semiautomatic assault rifle Friday to kill seven of his co-workers in Louisville, Ky., and wound 15 others before shooting himself. The killings are so chilling because they could have been avoided — a fact our president refuses to acknowledge.

On Saturday, George Bush expressed his sympathy with the families of the dead and injured but continued to insist that the government should avoid setting stricter guidelines on guns. He said he sees no evidence that banning a specific weapon could guard against the deaths.

But Bush hasn't given an opportunity to compile evidence on a ban. Conjecture would suggest that a ban could only help, but that is lost on Bush, who merely expresses his sympathy, an easy thing for a president to do.

Bush, a life member of the despicable National Rifle Association, has made imports of semiautomatic assault rifle illegal, saying they had no "legitimate sporting use." But he refuses to ban domestic rifles.

This political posturing makes no sense. How could domestic rifles have legitimate sporting uses? And even if one buys into the argument that everyone has the right to a gun for self-protection, less potent guns can fill that hole — shooting someone full of holes is not the point of self-defense.

Stricter laws, ones that allow a waiting period for all weapons to check the background of license applicants and another that bans all semiautomatic weapons, are desperately needed

— a fact even Bush's chief of staff seems to recognize. Judging from his comments after the shootings, John Sununu seems willing to consider more stringent laws.

Bush's membership in the NRA seems to blind him to the stand that would represent the best interests of his constituents. Congress asked the Justice Department last year to create a proposal allowing gun stores to run a computer check on the backgrounds of potential buyers. While that doesn't provide for a thorough check, it's a step in the right direction.

The next logical step would be a ban on domestic rifles. While it will be impossible to keep the rifles out of the country altogether — rifle sales would go underground — a ban could only help. The AK-47 used last year in the massacre of five children in a Stockton, Calif., schoolyard was Chinese-made. Buyers may not be easily able to find those in the United States anymore, but the domestic market has more than filled the void. Until we ban domestic rifles, the ban on imports will prove utterly useless.

It's difficult to understand Bush's stubbornness on this issue. With the recent announcement of his war on drugs, it would seem logical that he would want these weapons out of the hands of drug pushers. It's time now for Congress to "just say no" to the NRA's power and require stricter standards. If John Sununu can provide a rational voice in the White House, maybe there will be hope that Bush will not veto such strong measures. — Sharon Kechsull

Until we ban domestic rifles, the ban on imports will prove utterly useless.

The Daily Tar Heel

Editorial Writers: Tammy Blackard, James Burroughs and Jennifer Wing.

Assistant Editors: Jessica Yates, arts and features; Jessica Lanning, city; Staci Cox, managing; Anne Isenhour and Steve Wilson, news; Lisa Reichle and Richard Smith, Omnibus; Andrew Podolsky, Jay Reed and Jamie Rosenberg, sports; Kari Barlow, state and national; Will Spears and Amy Wajda, university.

Writers: Craig Allen, Crystal Bernstein, Jennifer Blackwell, Wendy Bounds, Sarah Cagle, Brenda Campbell, Terri Canaday, Heather Clapp, James Coblin, Blake Dickinson, Wagner Doto, Mark Folk, Julie Gammill, Kevin Greene, Joey Hill, Susan Holdclaw, Jason Kelly, Lloyd Lagos, Tracy Lawson, David Lloyd, Rhetta Logan, Jeff Luttrell, Alan Martin, Kimberly Maxwell, Helle Nielsen, Glenn O'Neil, Simone Pam, Gus Pappas, Jannette Pippin, Becky Riddick, Vanessa Shelton, Kyle York Spencer, Mike Sutton, Laura Taylor, Emilie Van Poucke, Tim Truzy, Stephanie von Isenburg, Sandy Wall, Sherry Waters, Chuck Williams, Nancy Wykle.

Sports: Neil Amato, Mark Anderson, Jason Bates, John Bland, Christina Frohock, Scott Gold, Doug Hoogervorst, David Kupstas, Bethany Litton, Bobby McCroskey, Natalie Sekicky and Eric Wagner.

Arts and Features: Cheryl Allen, Lisa Antonucci, Noah Bartolucci, Clark Benbow, Shields Brewer, Gretchen Davis, Diana Florence, Wendy Grady, Vicki Hyman, Mara Lee, Tim Little, Matthew McCafferty, Carrie McLaren, Elizabeth Murray, D'Ann Fletcher, Eric Rosen, Hattie Sirisena, Heather Smith, Bevin Weeks and Laura Williams.

Photography: Evan Eike, Steven Exum, Regina Holder, Tracey Langhorne and Kathy McLean.

Copy Editors: James Benton, B Buckberry, Susan Comfort, Rebecca Duckett, Joy Golden, Angela Hill, Susan Holdclaw, Debrah Norman, George Quintero, JoAnn Rodak, Kristin Scheve, Joe Seagle, Kelley Shaw, Clare Weickert, Stefanie Woodfin and Cameron Young.

Editorial Assistant: Mark Chilton.

Design Assistants: Kim Avetta and Melanie Black.

Cartoonists: Jeff Christian, Pete Corson, David Estayo and Mike Sutton.

Business and Advertising: Kevin Schwartz, director; Bob Bates, advertising director; Leslie Humphrey, classified ad manager; Kirsten Burkan, assistant classified ad manager; Janet Gordon, Angela Spivey, classified assistants; Amanda Tilley, advertising manager; Sabrina Goodson, business manager; Allison Ashworth, assistant business manager; Lora Gay, Kristi Greenon, Beth Harding, Lavonne Leinster, Tracy Proctor, Kevin Reperevitz, Alicia Satterwhite, Pam Thompson and Jill Whitley, display advertising representatives; Kim Blass, creative director; Pam Strickland, marketing director; Sherrie Davis, Ingrid Jones, Shannon Kelly and Tammy Newton, sales assistants; Laura Richards, typist.

Distributions: RDS Carriers.

Production: Bill Leslie and Stacy Wynn, managers; Anita Bentley, assistant manager; Brian Campbell, Stephanie Locklear, John Nipp and Greg Miller, assistants.

Printing: The Village Companies.



Watching quality plummet by 1999

The earth could be a scary place in 10 years. The war on drugs will still be raging, the greenhouse effect will be kicking in, Dan Quayle might be running the country and Japan will own the rights to every American couple's firstborn. But surely there are some things to which we can look forward. Mick Jagger and Jerry Garcia will still be touring, even as they approach the age of 60, the Warsaw Pact countries will be liberalized and Tiffany will have completed puberty.

One of the most disturbing trends materializing now is the deterioration of this university. Not a day goes by without the announcement of another UNC program (inevitably an academic program) which had to be cut because of insufficient funding. If these trends continue, Chapel Hill could be a different place in 10 years when we bring our loved ones back to the alma mater for a weekend tour. Here are some of the projections for UNC in 1999:

ATHLETICS: The tradition of fine athletics continues at the University of National Champions, but with some notable changes. The Educational Foundation (a.k.a. the Rams Club) has decided to eliminate support for non-revenue sports. Women's soccer was spared in the purge, but only on the condition that students pay \$20 a ticket. The authorities have decided to concentrate on the money sports — basketball and football. The football team had some winning seasons in the early '90's and is now a nationwide powerhouse. The Mack Brown show is nationally syndicated, and the Heels will play Notre Dame in the

Chris Landgraff

Staff Columnist

"Mercedes Benz Turn of the Millennium Bowl" for the national championship.

UNC basketball is still as great as ever, but it just isn't the same since Dean Smith retired in 1995 to win Jesse Helm's Senate seat in a heated race. Sen. Smith and two-time Masters champion Michael Jordan still attend a few games each year, but the excitement isn't what it used to be.

LIBRARIES: Because more highways and athletic centers needed to be built, Davis Library is closed. Subscriptions began to plummet in the early 1990's (even as an army of construction workers remodeled the already-remodeled press box at Kenan Stadium) and eventually the failing library became the victim of a hostile takeover by the Rams Club. Once a bastion of cutting-edge literature, Davis is now a gym for alumni who want to stay in shape during their football weekend visits. Students can buy a lifetime membership to the state-of-the-art fitness center for only \$10,000 (half off the regular price).

FACULTY: There aren't too many professors still waiting for decent pay and reasonable benefits. Several classes are taught by television monitors hooked up to universities that have wisely decided to pay their professors for their work.

Like the graduate students of 1989, the

UNC professors who have hung around hold an average of 2.6 jobs in order to supplement their income. Rather than holding office hours, students receive assistance by going to visit instructors at their second or third job. For example, students can enjoy the fine dining at Breadmen's and discuss Southern literature with their professor who is waiting on their table (the ethical question of "tipping for grades" has not become a pressing issue yet). Since there are no real libraries on campus, they have plenty of free time to waste.

State legislators still deny the need for a faculty pay raise despite the mass flight of professors from Chapel Hill. The governor, named Jim (they all are), says there's no reason to increase faculty pay. "Come on, y'all, Chapel Hill's a nice place to live. Why should we have to pay someone to live there. Besides, we're still payin' off that third Alumni Center we built a few years ago."

STUDENTS: The student body is still just as cool as ever. The year is still kicked off with that big party where everyone crowds together and drinks wildly and occasionally lets out a rebel yell. This type of gathering continues throughout the year, especially after big football victories. Outside of parties, some students have noticed that tuition has gone up and there is some discussion of protesting the television monitor method of teaching, but most Tar Heels seem content.

The Southern part of heaven is in for some big surprises in the next decade.

Chris Landgraff is a political science major from Atlanta, Ga.

Readers' Forum

Editors' complaints about Phoenix petty

To the editor:

I was very disappointed at the pettiness and immaturity demonstrated by Kyle Hudson of the Catalyst and Anthony Woodlief of the Carolina Critic in their letter of Sept. 12 ("Phoenix not worthy of new computers"). The new desktop publishing system is an expensive, major endeavor that deserves careful scrutiny. These gentlemen were certainly proper in questioning the need for such a system and suggesting alternatives. But there was no call for the sophomoric insults directed towards the Phoenix which accompanied their concerns.

It is a mystery to me why campus publications cannot exist in an atmosphere of cooperation to promote journalism as a whole at this university. Whatever the faults of the Phoenix may be, it has never wasted space in its own publication, or in the DTH, to defame another campus periodical. The arch-conservative Critic and arch-liberal Catalyst set aside their differences to write their joint letter; why on earth can't all newspapers do the same? Even more unforgivable were the inaccurate "facts" included

in their case against the desktop system. They stated throughout the letter that the system was to be available to students only at the convenience of the Phoenix, when in fact all University-recognized publications are guaranteed access. And since the Phoenix has not missed a publication deadline in more than three years, where do they find the basis for their snide comment that the Phoenix is "usually late"? I found this especially ironic since I quit the Catalyst staff due to a several-month delay in printing the first issue.

Campus publications will wither away if they lose the respect of their readers. Respect is especially important for journals of opinion such as the Critic and Catalyst. These two editors have done much to erode respect for student journalists with their childish mudslinging antics.

BAILEY IRWIN
Public Policy
Junior

Morrison officers use trip as a perk

To the editor:

As I write this letter, members of the Morrison Dorm government are vacationing on the Outer

Banks. Many of these people are my friends and I wish I could be with them now...but not by charging Morrison's residents. If you are a Morrison resident you might be concerned about the possibility of rain on the Outer Banks. Without enough sun and surf your representatives will not be able to plan this year's activities, and your money will be wasted.

The dorm government is not involved in a scandal the size of HUD but they are being trained to expect perks for services rendered. I believe that this is taxation without representation or actually by representation. Their vacation, the retreat, destroys the spirit of volunteering. Their counter-argument is that they deserve the all-expense paid trip and they would volunteer even without the vacation. But they will never know for sure whether they would work without this stipend.

Perhaps someday I will call up one of my pals in politics and be told to make a campaign donation if I want an appointment. I will exclaim, "But we're friends!" and he will explain that all of his friends invest in his retirement fund. I've always seen things in terms of "we" and "they". Like a wall separating

myself and those close to me from the hordes who don't give much thought to ethics. Now that wall seems more like a smokescreen which my friends can pass through. After all, "they" are on the take.

DAVID ISRAEL
Physics
Junior

Playboy protests similar to Helms'

To the editor:
Re l'affaire Playboy, the Chapel Hill Newspaper reported last week: "Since (the DTH) receives \$59,000 in student fees from the University for operations, some students said the paper should more closely adhere to what students want." I wonder if these students realize how closely this parallels Jesse Helms' arguments as to why "Piss Christ" and Robert Mapplethorpe's work shouldn't receive federal funding from taxpayer-supported organizations. I'm surprised there is so much support for the Senator's thinking on this campus, or at least that this support should come from the same quarters.

ROBERT F. LAUTERBORN
Advertising professor
Journalism school

OCs deserve respect, equal treatment

To the editor:
In response to Monday's article, "C-TOPS complaints spur investigations," I wanted to explain my position regarding C-TOPS and Carolina Orientation 1989.

As an orientation commissioner, I wanted to get more involved with the actual workings of freshmen, graduate/professional and junior-transfer orientation. As an orientation counselor, I was very interested in the commissioner position. At the introductory meeting in November 1988, Dean Shirley Hunter attempted to tell us about the tremendous work load and the pitiful salary. I and other commissioner applicants naively nodded our heads and thought we understood the job we were about to take. As the news article stated, we 10 commissioners worked unpaid throughout the entire spring semester. We were responsible for three office hours a week plus orientation counselor recruitment. Personally, I spent an excess of eight hours per week (unpaid) on orientation. It was toward the end

of the semester when I began to see problems developing in the orientation program.

My complaints toward Dean Hunter and orientation are not of a personal nature, as some commissioners think. I just wanted to see some changes implemented so future commissioners will be moderately satisfied with their job. It would be selfish for me to think, "Well, we didn't have free housing or a good salary, so why should next year's commissioners?" That would be silly, and frankly, I am surprised that other commissioners haven't come forward with their complaints. It seems that I am the only one who voiced concerns. Each commissioner complained about the aforementioned problems of salary and recognition by the University, but no one seems willing to step forward. One commissioner, Gretchen Diffendal, expressed concern at our meeting with Dean Wiggins that I was somehow distorting the other commissioner's viewpoints. That simply is not true. My concerns rest with University

housing concerning housing rates and with the University itself over recognition of the commissioner position. It is not, as Dean Hunter said, my "paranoia."

I see a downward trend in orientation, particularly in the number of applicants. As I said to Dean Wiggins, I believe there are going to be some problems if changes aren't implemented. I personally challenge the housing department to give the commissioners the low housing rates that, incidentally were given to conference assistants. (Conference housing personnel were only charged \$100 for the entire summer. Those commissioners who opted to stay on campus were charged \$920.) I also challenge the Student Affairs Division to seriously look at orientation and decide to take action. Give the orientation commissioners of the future the recognition and respect they deserve.

JUSTEN HIX
English
Junior