

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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Moore than bargained

Student Congress Speaker Tim Moore has a few lessons to learn about UNC.

This is not Campbell University, a Baptist-affiliated school with conservative leanings where Moore spent his first college years. At UNC, students value diversity and foster acceptance. And although Chapel Hill may be a little more urban than Buies Creek, where Campbell is located, UNC students can smell a skunk a mile away. And something sure does smell about the resolution Moore sponsored to end funding for the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association.

Moore must think pulling the wool over the eyes of UNC students is a simple task. He would have everyone believe that the timing of his resolution was purely coincidental. The full congress was too busy to review the resolution in the spring session, Moore insists, and so he waited to introduce it until the summer. Never mind that he just happened to have five appointments to the summer congress. He wasn't thinking of all that. Yeah, right.

Isn't it a trifle odd that four of the resolution's six sponsors were summer appointees? No, Moore would probably answer, he just appointed every student who asked to be on congress. There was no way he could know they would back his efforts to homogenize the University, he would probably say. With that much

malarkey flowing from Suite C, students should be getting pretty good with a shovel by now.

The resolution passed 8-5 with one abstention. And although it will only serve as a recommendation to the full congress to end funding for the CGLA, it has a little more bite than if it had just remained one of Moore's pet peeves. Moore knew full well what he was doing when he waited to introduce the bill in the summer. Attempts to make students believe otherwise are an insult to their intelligence.

Moore has tried to brand the CGLA as a special interest group with little support from the University community. But the fact is that groups such as the CGLA benefit all students in their efforts to break down stereotypes and provide education on other cultures and alternative lifestyles.

Regardless, students can only hope that the full congress will straighten out the mess of resolutions that are sure to come with Moore's blessing this summer. And one would hope that the full congress also would rescind the power of the speaker to appoint summer congress members. It would be better to have no summer congress than to have one that answers to every whim of a single power-hungry politician.

This edit is republished from the May 30 edition DTH.

Force-fed decision

By the end of the month, the University will make a decision on something dear to the heart of every college student — what kind of food will be served in campus dining halls for the next five years. After receiving bids from three companies for a five-year food service contract and sending proposals to the state contracts office in Raleigh for clearance, the University will announce which company will provide meals for 22,000 students. This decision will be made without ever allowing students to air their views on the proposals, to examine the evaluations or even to know what companies have placed bids.

State bidding laws draw a veil of confidentiality over the details of the evaluation process, specifics about the bids and even the names of the bidders. Discussion of details supposedly could invalidate the entire process. Meanwhile, members of the Food Service Advisory Committee are discussing the proposals and will recommend the company that will best serve the student interests. How can discussion by the public be any worse than a recommendation by a group that is supposed to represent the interests of the public?

The deadline for bids was April 25, more than a month and a half ago. All information used in selecting the next contract was received by that time, and any bids received after the deadline were not accepted. Legally, none of the bidders should be able to use information about other proposed contracts to their own advantage. Legally, they are unable to change their bids. To claim that releasing details about the information these companies have provided — information one would assume already makes their proposals look as attractive as possible — is ludicrous.

To say that public comment on the bids and proposed contracts may adversely affect the selection process is an even more absurd statement. Public comment certainly may hurt the chances of one or more of the bidders, but that should only strengthen the selection process. If there is some reason students would be unhappy with a certain proposal, that should be taken into account

during the decision-making process.

Not to allow the public — the students who will be forced to live with the University's decision for the next five years — the opportunity to even be informed about who has placed bids for the contract is an open invitation to abuse of the system by big business. Who is better qualified to provide feedback on a proposal than those who will live with it?

Students who live in the residence halls will be required to give this company their business. A mandatory meal card deposit of \$100 for each semester they live in the residence halls gives them the right to have some say in what food they will be forced to buy and from whom they will buy it.

Marriott has said publicly that the corporation has placed a bid with the University for the meal service contract. When one company makes it known that it is being considered in the bidding process, does that mean it has an advantage? Or does it have a disadvantage? If the state and the University are concerned with fair and equal treatment for all bidders during the selection process, it now becomes necessary to release the names of all the companies that have placed bids.

What purpose does the hush-hush atmosphere of the present bidding system serve? The window of time between the bid deadline and the announcement of the new contract is entirely hidden from public view. Students should not have to worry that under-the-table — would that be the dinner table? — negotiations are going on after the bids have been received or that special interests are being considered. They should not have to worry that dirty dishes are being hidden from them in the selection of their meal service. The present bidding system is set up to protect the interests of the businesses involved in the bidding and not the public that will be forced to live with the contract. If state law prohibits this basic information from being released, it is time to take a look at what, and who, our priorities really are.

This editorial is reprinted from the June 13 edition of the DTH.

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The Daily Tar Heel's editorials are approved by the majority of the editorial board. During the fall and spring semesters, the board is comprised of the editor, editorial page editor and four editorial writers. During the summer sessions, the board consists of two editorial writers.

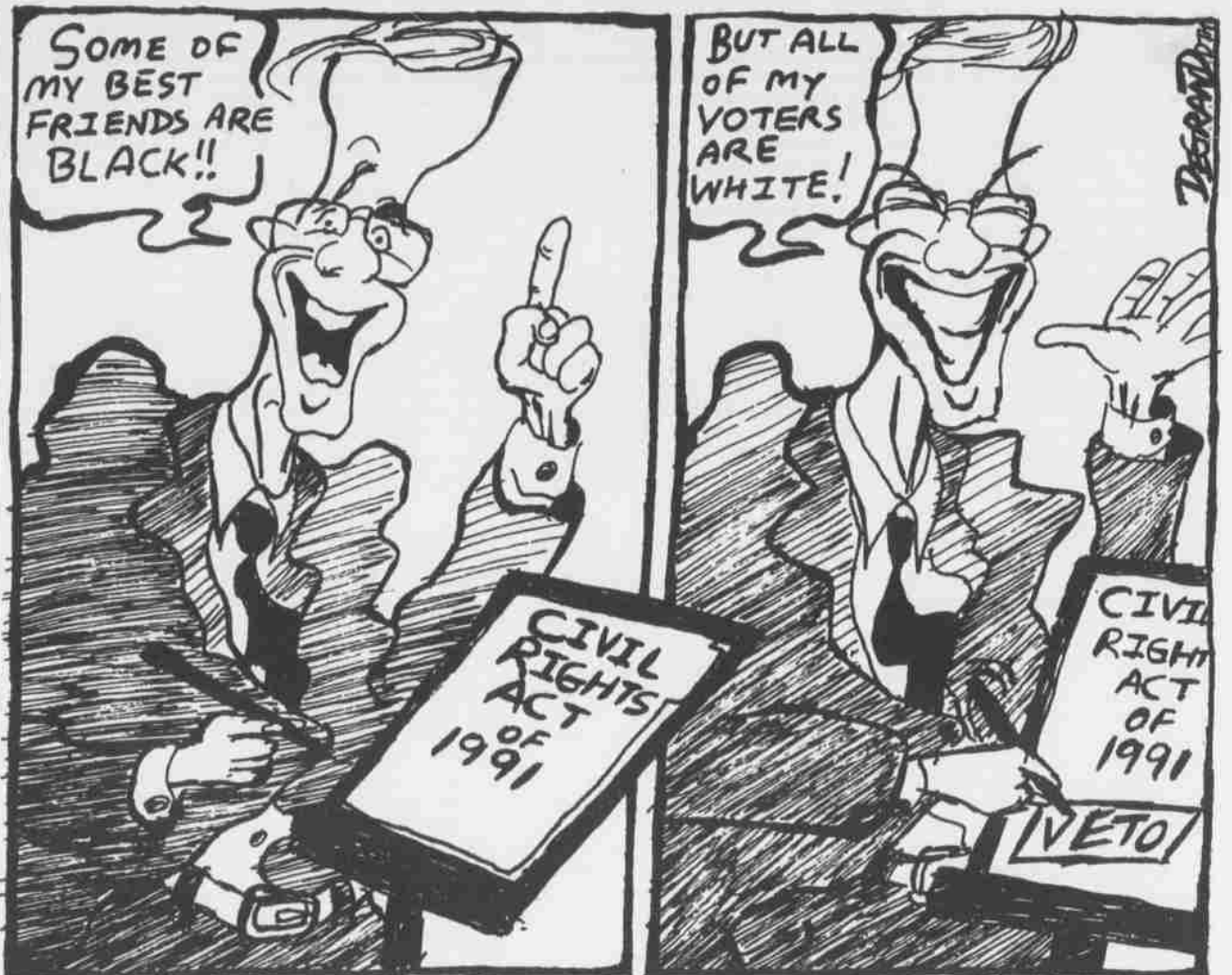
The Daily Tar Heel

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Facing death at the end of a gun in Chapel Hill

Editor's note: Police arrested Joel Cabrera, 21, of H-2 Royal Park Apartments and charged him with assault, assault with a deadly weapon and carrying a concealed weapon, according to police reports. Cabrera was charged after an altercation with employees of The Club and a police officer on Franklin Street early Saturday morning, reports stated. The suspect was released after posting a \$5,000 secured bond. The following is a first-hand description of the reported altercation by a Daily Tar Heel writer employed at The Club.

The hammer of the .45-caliber pistol clicked audibly. Don't ask me how I heard it over the bustling Franklin Street crowds early Saturday morning, but the sound echoed in my ears as if it were a freight train.

I was going to get it — right there in front of the NCNB Plaza while hundreds of people looked on. All 20 years of my life, my two years at UNC and my short stint as a bouncer at The Club were going to end with the flexing of a finger. And all I could say was, "Don't do it, man, don't do it."

Profound last words, huh? By the grace of God, that finger never flexed. The hammer was pulled back. There was a bullet in the chamber. But that finger never flexed.

Instead, the gunman rammied the cocked gun back in his pocket and bolted down the street.

We don't usually have too many problems at The Club, which is pretty amazing considering the mix of people who go there. I've worked there since February, and, with a few exceptions, I've never had to deal with any major problems.

Cullen D. Ferguson Staff Columnist

It's a good thing. I may be 6 feet 6 inches tall, but anyone who knows me realizes that I'm just an overgrown teddy bear. I'm not a fighter, and I never have been. I got a job at The Club because I love to meet people from all walks of life. And until Friday, I was really beginning to like being where the action was. I was beginning to feel good about people in Chapel Hill.

Now, I'm scared. The man who was a heartbeat away from ending my life didn't look sinister. I think he'd been up to The Club once or twice before, and he'd never caused any problems. He could have been my neighbor or my friend. Nothing about him screamed, "Beware of evil gunman!" But I knew he was dangerous. Before I ever saw the gun, the man punched one of my fellow employees in the nose because he didn't want to pay a lousy \$3 cover charge.

Anyone who bashes in someone's face over a \$3 cover charge is dangerous in my book.

That's why we called the police. That's why this overgrown teddy bear decided to chase the man down Franklin Street. I felt rather heroic as my oversized shoes flew off my feet. I felt as if nothing could stop me. My bare feet slapped the sidewalk as I dodged surprised and angry people.

I wasn't expecting a loaded gun to fall out of the man's pocket and onto the street. I wasn't expecting him to pick it up and point it at my

surprised face. I wasn't expecting him to very calmly pull the hammer back.

But he did. If I had any brains, I wouldn't have followed the man after he put the gun in his pocket and ran away. But I did. He ran into the Hardback Cafe. Pulling a surprised foot patrol officer behind me, I followed him. Being the stupid fool that I am, I failed to tell the officer that the man had a gun.

Luckily, she was quicker than I. When the man pulled the gun on her, she simply snatched it out of his hand. I stared dumbly as she cuffed him, and several police officers hustled in to take the gunman away.

What I've learned from my near-death experience is that to some people, a person's life isn't even worth \$3. To some people — right here in Chapel Hill — it's OK to carry loaded guns on a busy downtown street.

And we don't know who they are, what they look like or whether they'll get annoyed just enough to use their guns.

It almost happened early Saturday morning to me. It did happen in front of Cat's Cradle a few weeks ago when several shotgun blasts were fired from a moving car. Will it happen to you the next time you go out to have a good time in Chapel Hill?

Think about it. And the next time you think you're safe in Chapel Hill, think again.

Cullen D. Ferguson, a bouncer at The Club, is a junior journalism major from Charlotte. To top off his Saturday morning adventure, Cullen searched the Franklin Street sidewalk and found that his shoes had been stolen.

READERS' FORUM

Traditional values key to alumni donations

To the editor:
From numerous news sources we are reading that many of our institutions of higher learning are seeking to press upon the students as Truth their own beliefs or the school's prevailing ideology, instead of teaching students how to search for Truth. We further read that such institutions are actually closed or hostile to conservative, traditional values or biblical thinking.

Wherever universities/colleges/schools are fostering such a damaging atmosphere, the alumni can be the catalysts for change. The alumni may wish to write school presidents and boards of directors, with copies to the alumni's congressmen, suggesting that until the school welcomes conservative, traditional values or biblical thinking, the alumni will be unable to give further donations and will ask their congressmen to consider any such bias in proposed school grants.

MR. and MRS. PAUL HOGUE

Let individuals pay for enhanced technology

To the editor:
I am writing to express my complete shock that the administration of this University would even consider the so-called "technology enhancement" student fee. It is going to be difficult enough for students to cope with paying more for tuition without the added burden of this unfair fee.

A compilation of all the summer letters

The following two pages of letters were published in the DTH throughout the summer. They represent various sides of the issues raised about campus and national issues during the summer. More letters than appear here ran over the summer, but the following letters best represent the diverse opinions students expressed.

I urge you to think about just who would be the beneficiaries of this program. As reported in The Daily Tar Heel, the fee would go primarily to the benefit of on-campus students, who represent fewer than one-third of the total student body. Why should the 16,000 off-campus students pay for cable television in the dorms, and why should we pay for dorm residents to be able to connect to the University mainframe? (And won't fewer of them be able to own computers after spending \$200 on this fee?) Please do not try to point out that a portion of the fee will go toward improving the campus computer labs and keeping them open 24 hours a day. Twenty-four-hour labs are not very useful to off-campus students when the buses stop running at 1 a.m., and I am sure that the labs have a much higher usage rate by dorm residents.

If you would like on-campus residents to enjoy the luxury of cable television, let them pay for it (wasn't it just last year when they decided they didn't want to pay for it?) If you would like all the students — not just dorm residents — to have access to the University mainframe, set up a bulletin board service and give students the choice of spending the \$80 to \$100 for a modem instead of forcing us to spend \$200 for what amounts to nothing for most people.

Please think about the scale of this fee. I have a computer which I share with the two other students in my apartment. Together, under this proposal, we would spend \$600 for "technology enhancement" that would be of no benefit to us. With that money, we could buy a modem and 36 months of telephone service, or more practically, pay our rent for almost two months.

I truly hope that the administration will see what a foolish proposal this is. Unfortunately, the University has such a dismal record on listening to student concerns that I am already looking for something to cut out of my budget to pay for this fee.

One piece of advice: I know it's nice dreaming about new technology; I like to do it myself. I also like to dream about having someone else pay for it. I don't try to

make that dream come true. I hope you won't either.

MATTHEW J. CERVI
Economics
Senior

Education faculty noble for adding to workload

To the editor

I would like to applaud the decision of the faculty in the education department to teach more classes rather than suffer cuts in the number of classes offered. Since the cutbacks have begun, everyone has been asked to cut back and do more for less — everyone that is, except the professors. The students have had to make do with fewer classes. The administration and staff have had to do with the same work with fewer personnel, and the teaching assistants have in some cases lost funding for their studies entirely.

The faculty has continued to teach the same paltry number of classes without regard for anyone's welfare but their own. Their reported concern for the reputation of this university has not manifested itself in their willingness to take on even a minimal amount of extra work. I think it is high time for everyone, including the professors, to contribute to the alleviation of this budget crunch.

JENNY HILL
Class of 1991
Raleigh

Acting student body treasurer resigns

To the editor:

In light of the current Student Supreme Court case pending on the office of Student Body Treasurer, it has been quite evident that members of Student Congress deem it necessary to continue to plague student government with a host of barriers impeding vital services that we provide for the student body populous.

At the end of the 1990-91 school year, my understanding of the position of assistant to the student body treasurer (Josh Siegel) was to administer the Treasury Laws in accordance with the Student Gov-

ernment Code and to help Josh with administrative work while he is in New York this summer. I am also holding a full-time job in Raleigh this summer but agreed to assume this added responsibility because of my continued commitment to student government and UNC. Further, my knowledge of the treasury laws, the Student Activities Fund Office (SAFO), accounts receivable and payable, and the budgetary process in allocating summer school funds to student organizations was invaluable in administering this position. In so deciding to work with the executive branch, I resigned from my current position as Student Congress representative effective May 15.

However, it appears from Daily Tar Heel articles that congress is determined to create senseless obstacles and further encumbrances, thus restraining others from performing their jobs effectively.

Therefore, pursuant to a telephone conversation with Student Body Treasurer Josh Siegel, and in the best interest of UNC's student body, I have chosen to resign as assistant to the student body treasurer in an attempt to prevent further inconveniences to student organizations and the SAFO office.

I have enjoyed serving in this capacity and trust that you and Josh can fully appreciate the nature of this resignation and will move forward in an appropriate manner.

KRISTINA SUNG
Senior
Raleigh

Letters policy

- If you want your letter published, please sign and date it. No more than two signatures, please.
- All letters should be no longer than 400 words.
- All letters must be typed and double spaced.
- Please include such vital statistics as your year in school, major, phone number and hometown.
- Include a title that is relevant to your letter's subject.
- The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity.