

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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Vote with your heart

Student Congress Speaker Tim Moore has suggested that the student body be allowed to voice its opinion by referendum on whether to allocate student fees for the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association.

Well, why not vote? It is students' money at issue, and students should have a say in who gets it. Of course, that's what Student Congress is for, but Moore must feel that on such a sensitive issue, a more grass roots approach is needed.

So if there is a referendum, make sure to vote, but — as with all things — think first. The campus majority will be allowed to have a say in how a minority group will exist and get its message across. A dangerous precedent could be in the making.

The underlying purpose of going to college is to get an education. Nowhere is it written that all of that education must come from a classroom. One of the most important lessons is that people have different views and values and that they are not automatically wrong because their views clash with yours.

The CGLA, Black Student Movement, Carolina Indian Circle and the still young Carolina Hispanic Association have in common the purpose of educating others about their cultures, lifestyles and beliefs and to eradicate the misconceptions others have. The CGLA does not exist to promote illegal sexual practices. The BSM does not exist to promote rap music. The Carolina Indian Circle is not there to teach the fine art of scalping.

These organizations do exist to break down the ridiculous stereotypes others hold. They are there to teach. And because of their educational purpose, it would not be

accurate to label these organizations special interest groups. They are there for the good of the entire student body.

While some people may not like it or want to believe it, a significant number of homosexuals live and study on this campus. And guess what, people, they're not just isolated to Chapel Hill. In your lifetime, you will encounter lesbians and gays in all walks of life — at work, parties, your children's school, sports teams and civic clubs. Everywhere. And take note, many major companies such as IBM have policies that protect homosexuals from discrimination. Depending on where you work, you may have no choice but to work next to a homosexual or lesbian.

The CGLA is trying to tell us this. Listen up.

The organization is small, and striving against prejudice is a monumental task. With the stigma attached to homosexuality in our society, raising funds on their own would be very difficult for CGLA members.

The results of this potential referendum, no matter what the outcome, should be taken with a grain of salt. Students have a strong record of weak turnout for any kind of vote. This referendum is non-binding. The students themselves do not really decide anything.

As a student body that is striving to understand, tolerate and appreciate individual differences, it is our responsibility to endorse funding the CGLA. We must continue the American tradition of majority rule with minority rights. Otherwise, your neck may be on the chopping block next.

Students foul out

The inevitable has happened. Carolina students no longer find men's varsity basketball an enthralling, spiritual experience. Seriously — the proof verifies it.

According to figures from the athletic department, students last year picked up all of their allotted tickets for only two home games. Even the eagerly anticipated Duke and N.C. State games failed to draw the maximum number of students.

Obviously, basketball is becoming passe at this campus. And quite honestly, students seem pretty darn selfish for not snatching up their tickets.

Sounds pretty absurd, doesn't it? Carolina basketball will never die and students know that. But the alumni and general public don't know that. When faced with statistics such as 1,776 unclaimed tickets for the Maryland game and a shocking 541 for the Duke game, it certainly appears that students simply don't care anymore about our men in blue and white.

The alumni and general public consider just being in the Dean Dome an honor. When they hear students complain about lousy upper level seats, these folks see this as selfish. They fail to understand that students camp in cold and often rainy weather just to get a stab at lower level seats. They don't see how boring it is to sit in the stratosphere, where it's sometimes impossible to identify the players on the court and to determine who fouls whom.

But these gripes have been around since the grand opening of the Student Activity

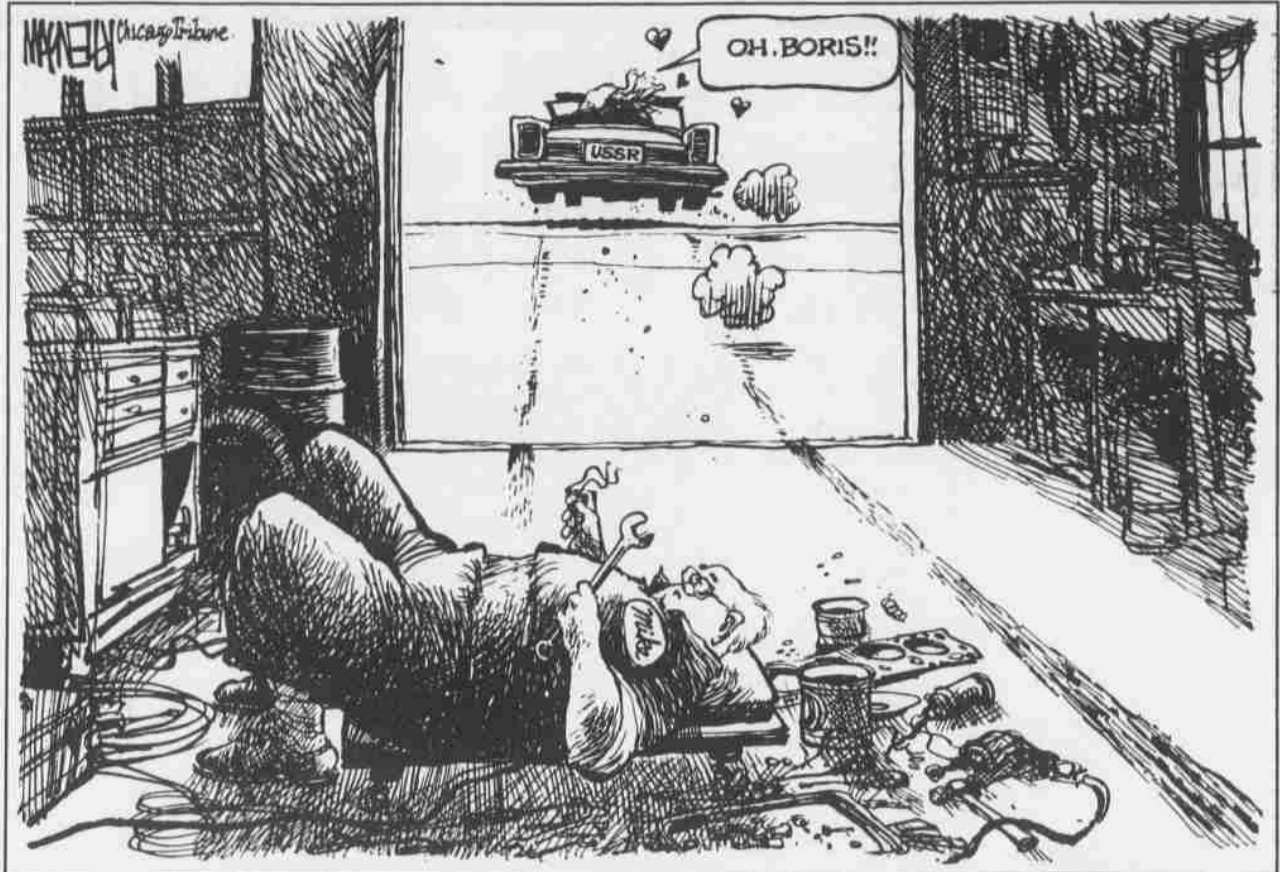
Center, and the situation still has not changed. That leaves students with two options if they want any decent chance at getting seats in the Dean Dome.

Students could make an effort to receive more lower level seats; they could protest, write letters to alumni, boycott a game. If these low pickup rates continue, the Dean Dome may decrease the number of student tickets. Why shouldn't alumni and members of the public get a larger share if students don't want the tickets anyhow?

On the other hand, students could try to pick up all the available tickets allotted to them. After graduation, getting tickets to basketball games will be costly and much more difficult, so maybe students should appreciate what they have now.

Many students believe that after the first day of student ticket distribution, it's useless to try to get tickets. But in fact, the leftover student tickets remain available for three days, so students unable to camp out can at least get something. Perhaps if the athletic department or the Carolina Athletic Association publicized this fact, more students would pick up tickets.

Getting the tickets is a chore, the seats are lousy and, in general, it can be a pain in the butt. Students evidently feel this way based on the dismal pickup statistics. Sitting in a bar with a wide-screen television and beer to boot sounds infinitely more attractive than the dead, upper-level Dean Dome seats. But if present trends continue, students could be fouled out of the Dome.



READERS' FORUM

Studying is not the road to employment

To the editor:
 As a 1991 UNC graduate, I would like to give a heartfelt word of advice to the current student body, especially the new freshmen: Don't study.
 I busted my hump for four years, convinced that good grades meant a good future. I marched across Kenan Stadium last May, brandishing a 3.5 as my blood-drenched medal. And guess what? Nobody cares.
 This summer I have been rejected for everything from high-profile professional work to a minimum-wage job at a record store. Whatever "background" or "credentials" it is that employers' "present needs can effectively utilize," good grades at UNC ain't it.
 Of course the recession has made job searches impossible right now, but that alone doesn't account for the market's indifference toward good grades. If you want proof, apply for a staff position at UNC, as I did — the application asks nothing about college performance or GPA. Even the University itself doesn't care how well I did, now that I'd like a job with it. And my application didn't warrant so much as a form letter.
 If you need to maintain a minimum GPA for a scholarship or admission to business or graduate school, then by all means, study hard. Or do it if you're really here for the sake of learning, as I professed to be, at the time.
 But if I had it all to do over again, I think I'd blow off my classes and slide by with Cs. Instead, I'd concentrate on getting work experience, collecting resume ornaments, "networking" for future job connections and all that stuff I ignored so I could study. I wouldn't be a Phi Beta Kappa today, but I might not be unemployed, either.

EDWARD MARSHALL
 Freshman
 Industrial Relations and Italian

Let town council know feelings on helmet law

To the editor:
 BICYCLISTS!! The town council of Chapel Hill is proposing an ordinance that would mandate that all bicyclists wear helmets. All council members are for this ordinance, which proposes a \$15 fine and ticket for violation.
 If you are opposed to this ordinance, you may let the council know. They have put a public hearing on this subject on the agenda for the Sept. 10 meeting that starts at 7:30 p.m. at the town hall on Columbia Street and Airport Road. This ordinance will most likely pass unless there is voiced opposition.

JIM BOYLE
 Graduate
 Biomedical Engineering

Ordinance would save lives, prevent injuries

To the editor:
 I am writing in regard to the proposed bike helmet ordinance that will be heard by the Chapel Hill Town Council in a public hearing next week and District Attorney (Carl) Fox's pledge to ignore it if it should become law. I think it is ridiculous for a so-called law enforcement agent to flatly refuse to enforce any law that does not strike him as particularly pressing, especially one designed with the safety of Chapel Hill residents in mind.
 Equally appalling is the view of The Daily Tar Heel's editorial staff that the town council shouldn't "waste it's time passing the ordinance" so that police officers, also on bikes these days and required to wear helmets, won't "waste their time chasing down helmetless bikers."

DONALD C. TRULL
 B.A., English
 Class of 1991

Majority of students didn't vote on CGLA

To the editor:
 With regard to the article that you ran in The Daily Tar Heel ("Students may have voice in CGLA future," Aug. 30), you close the article with the statement, "Students voted on the same issue in 1988, and the majority of students voted against CGLA funding."
 As I recall, only about 5,000 students voted in that election. Of those that voted, a majority voted against CGLA funding. That is NOT the same thing as the majority of students on campus.

Please keep your figures correct. If there are some 22,000 students on campus, the vote against CGLA funding in 1988 represents approximately 10 percent or 2,500. Thank you.

MARIO GAGNON
 Graduate
 Musicology

Editorials frivolous, lacking substance

To the editor:
 Does the editorial staff at The Daily Tar Heel have nothing more important to do than criticize the generosity of one man? Really, we know that the DTH is desperate for a controversial topic, but maybe it should stick to such problems as the all-important UNC ONE CARD, or the life-threatening loss of the milkshake machine in Lenoir. The DTH is just reaching too far, and it's just too obvious.
 For example, in "Donating Money to Nephro?" (Sept. 3), if the doctor/patient relationship between Blythe and Spangler is

"completely speculative and unimportant," then why bother mentioning it? Bringing up such a point in an argument shows the immaturity and inexperience of the editorial staff.

It's no big secret that there are budget problems at this school; the DTH did a fine job of making that clear to freshmen this July in a special edition, but its relevance to Spangler's donation is inconsequential.
 Donating the money to such a "narrow segment" of UNC gives the gift a real chance of making a real impact. We understand that the editorial staff has daily deadlines to meet, but try to be somewhat more thoughtful about what to write, and students at UNC rejoice in the fact that Spangler was prudent enough not to donate his money to UNC's own Daily Tar Heel.

the ordinance is passed, I hope DA Fox will come to his senses and enforce it as it was intended, as a safety regulation, not a criminal act.

No one wants the police having to write myriad tickets and put out APBs, as stated in your editorial. It would be much like this state's mandatory seatbelt law, according to which officers of the highway patrol are not hunting for drivers without seatbelts. When a driver is stopped for another moving violation, the officer may write a seatbelt ticket only as a secondary offense. The helmet law would be enforced in that manner, with any cyclist who is endangering pedestrians, motorists or other cyclists being written up for violation of the helmet code.

I hope to have clarified for some of you daredevils out there (and in the editorial staff room) that helmets for cyclists are a benefit, not a detriment, and that DA FOX is being ridiculous if he thinks the police would be taking away from other investigations to write helmet citations for every nondescript cycle on the road.

STEVEN LUXENBERG
 Freshman
 Philosophy

DTH doing good job covering minorities

To the editor:
 Mr. Teel, if you ever find that dictionary, look up the word "ignorance" ("DTH stories, letters harp on racial issues," Sept. 4). Perhaps it is your lack of years, but don't you know that what is printed in the Readers' Forum are contributions from the readers? Statements made in letters to the editor come from the pens of readers. Therefore, if someone writes a letter, and Ms. Wing prints it, she is doing her job. She is allowing the reader to express himself without distorting his words. And if the description of someone as being black appears in The Daily Tar Heel, and Mr. Teel is offended by it, he'll have to deal with it. After all, I am black and damn proud of it.

Mr. Teel, there are probably many things you don't know. For instance, this is the first time in five years that so much coverage has been given to minority issues. There have been times when newsworthy minority issues went ignored by the DTH. This year some things have changed. I am sure some people, like yourself, are unsettled by the amount of coverage given minority issues this year. Some would say enough already, leave it alone, ignore it, you folks are creating more tension by addressing these issues [right, Mr. Charles Murphy? ("UNC black leaders promote separation," Aug. 30)]. That idea is bullshit.

If you are going to stick your head in the sand and hope these problems (racial insensitivity, bigotry) will go away, then I recommend you avoid the real world. The way to deal with a problem is to confront it, learn what must be done to solve it, and put these solutions into practice. Could this be done with a media blackout (sorry Xan, there's that word again)? I think not.
 To the DTH and Ms. Wing, you folks are making a strong effort to cover a variety of issues. Keep up the good work.

STERLING R. THOMAS
 Senior
 AFAM/English

School of Medicine also suffers from budget cuts

To the editor:
 This letter responds to Scott Romine's letter "Money from donations should be redirected" (Aug. 30). Scott has not only called upon

the misappropriation of the chancellor's donation to the University system, but he himself misappropriately claimed that the "Medical School" is the "only part of the University that has not been severely hurt" by the budget cuts.

As a member of the staff and student body, I am aware of the problems that have resulted from the budget cuts. In response to his question, "where do I apply to medical school?" Where is easy, you go to room 130 MacNider. Once there you are told the steps you must take to apply. But, first, you usually ask for information about the school, and you are told we cannot give you information because we have been unable to reprint brochures since November. But I can add your name and address to the several hundred other requests that we have received in case, by some miracle, we can reproduce these brochures in some timely fashion to be of any use to the students.

Secondly, you have to find out about the MCAT, AMCAS and various other items that are needed to "apply to med school." So you contact the office and request additional time that is taken away from our other requirements. If you are familiar with the UNC School of Medicine Admissions Office, you know we have two staff people doing the job of five.

We must: a) cipher through approximately 2,300 applicants for interviews; b) set up interview times and invite about 500 of these applicants for interviews; c) put their applications together, while checking for letters of recommendation and transcripts (all of which must be acknowledged); d) coordinate committee members to review the applications, then meet as a group to discuss each application in detail; e) etc. . . .

We must also respond to questions such as: "have my letters come in?," "when will they review my application?," and "why haven't I received a supplemental application yet?" Applications must be pulled out of the stack to answer these questions. It takes that much more time to get applications back to where they were. Plus, it takes time from other applications, since we must abandon the stack of applications on which we are currently working, and it takes more time to get back to where we were. This makes the admissions process take longer and office procedures pile up. I invite all of you to come by the office to see just how piled up work can become.

Is Scott so narrow-sighted that he can only see problems that directly effect him? I am not endorsing the appropriation of the chancellor's donation, and I am aware that the UNC School of Medicine Admissions Office is not the only area to be effected by this budget. For example, I personally called the Graduate School to ask for a copy of the GRE application packet and was told that since I am in this area, and they have them in their office, they would not take the time to send me one, not even through campus mail which is free. I feel that Scott should investigate better who he is attacking when he is moved to write a letter to the editor. The UNC School of Medicine Admissions Office did not receive the funds, we indeed are separate from the Center for Excellence in Nephrology.

What makes Scott think he is better apt than the rest of us to designate who should receive funds? Scott, are you aware that no positions on this campus received their cost of living raise this year? This happened as we sat by and watched the cost of living actually increase in our sales tax, rent, child care, etc. One word of advice, think before you speak (or write).

DEBRA ROHEN
 Secretary
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The Daily Tar Heel

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