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The Daily Tar Heel

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Taxation without representation at UNC

Perhaps UNC-Charlotte students should declare their independence from the University system. Or maybe students across the 16-campus system should mask themselves as modern-day revolutionaries and demand reform in the student governance process, calling for an end to taxation without fair representation.

Demonstrating the need for change, the UNC-system royal governing board — the Board of Governors — agreed earlier this month to a regressive tax of UNC-C students for construction of a \$26 million "student activity center" they never asked for. What ever happened to democracy?

In accordance with this country's highest values of free-will, system officials and campus trustees should move now to end this monarchical travesty. It's time to recognize that every student should have the opportunity to vote on any increase in their fees.

The UNC-C fee increase will triple one part of the student activity fees to build a new 190,000-square-foot facility, which will house a 9,500-seat arena for men's basketball. UNC-C students, who now pay \$40 annually for on-campus activities, will see that fee increase to as much as \$130 over the next decade.

UNC-C Chancellor James Woodward claims that students have been deeply involved in the decision-making process. Three student body presidents have taken part in the discussions, he says.

Wake up, James, prince of Charlotte. You and your Court in the Queen city — the UNC-C Board of Trustees — have lost touch with the students of this system by asking the BOG to consider the issue after no consultation from the entire student body.

Student body presidents do not represent the desires of all students. In fact, the best representative of the student body is the student body itself.

The BOG and trustees at every campus should vote for fee reform soon, before more abuses occur.

It is important to note that the student fee issue should not be confused with raising tuition, a necessary evil in many cases. In the case of tuition, financial aid can compensate for the hardship. But when fees are increased, the additional money comes straight from the pockets of students and parents.

The UNC-CH Board of Trustees is planning to discuss the fee issue this week, and other trustees across the system should do the same. Just as the 18th century American colonists demanded fair representation from the royal government in Britain, so should students at UNC-system schools demand a voice in student fee decisions.

But this time, considering the astuteness and fairness of the university system's leaders, such reform is a reasonable goal. The 20th century revolutionaries will not fail, but should emerge victorious in their efforts to improve the UNC experience.

Employees: Take the battle to Raleigh

Enough, already. Enough name-calling. Enough complaining to people who can't help. Enough demands that can't be met.

It's time for some action — some positive action. And it's time for the UNC housekeepers and their attorneys to stop blaming UNC Chancellor Paul Hardin for problems he can't solve and presenting him with demands he can't answer.

There are people who can make a difference. But they work in Raleigh, not Chapel Hill. The time has come for the housekeepers to aim higher — at the ivory tower of the General Assembly.

Last week, seven UNC housekeepers and their attorney Alan McSurely met with Hardin for the second time. As in their first meeting, the group, representing more than 100 housekeepers who last fall filed a grievance against the University demanding better pay, benefits and working conditions, left frustrated and disappointed. They still believe that Hardin doesn't understand what life is like for women who work all day, often leaving home at three in the morning, for about \$12,000 a year.

But the chancellor recently has shown signs of sympathy toward the University's lowest-paid employees. The three employee education programs he announced May 14 are proof positive that the chancellor is making an effort.

Now that Hardin — and much of the University community — has begun paying attention, the house-

keepers and their lawyers must stop making demands that the chancellor is incapable of meeting. Now is the time for the housekeepers and their supporters to challenge those truly guilty of inaction and apathy — the N.C. General Assembly.

On May 26, the state legislature will convene, providing the perfect stage for poorly paid employees to express their outrage to the small group of people who really can make a difference.

The housekeepers and other frustrated employees should not expect Hardin to do all the lobbying for them. Hardin cannot provide funds for the housekeepers to travel to Raleigh — not only is the money not available, it isn't the chancellor's responsibility to give it to them.

There is no question that the housekeepers and other low pay-grade University employees deserve higher pay and better working conditions. But attacking Hardin is not the way. The answer lies in making the General Assembly focus attention on the concerns of workers throughout the UNC-system, not simply the 100 or so University housekeepers who have vocalized their plight.

The activists in Chapel Hill must recognize that there is an entire movement out there waiting to happen, and that its focus should be Raleigh. But until the politicians in Raleigh are forced to pay attention to the movement, the suffering will continue for thousands of UNC-system employees.

Pack Shack would waste bond money

The word is out that the N.C. General Assembly is considering authorizing a statewide referendum on a proposed \$300 million bond issue for construction in the UNC system. Naturally, everybody wants a piece. The 16-member University of North Carolina system, the community college network and public schools all have long lists of pet projects their supporters would like to fund with the bond revenue.

At least one idea, N.C. State University's proposed \$60 million basketball arena, is a turkey whose time has not hatched.

Wolfpack boosters across the state, perhaps jealous of UNC-Chapel Hill's shrine to the Rams Club, are salivating over a plan to build a 22,000-seat hoops hall — yes, that's just enough bigger than the Dean Dome to be worth pointing out over cocktails. NCSU proposes to split the cost three ways between the state's bond revenue, Wake County hotel and restaurant tax proceeds and private contributors.

But scores of educationally oriented buildings across North Carolina are more important than the proposed Centennial Center, including a planned \$33 million graduate engineering school at N.C. State. State House Speaker Dan Blue has said the research center will help keep North Carolina competitive in the global economy, surely a more important goal than improving State's sports image.

N.C. State doesn't need another basketball arena — Reynolds Coliseum rarely sells out for basketball games — but is free to waste its own money. The same doesn't go for state money.

Proponents say the arena would pump more than \$50 million into the local economy annually, largely by hosting a variety of sports events, concerts, ice shows and circuses. But that's money lost elsewhere, such as Raleigh's Dorton Arena and Walnut Creek Amphitheatre and UNC-CH's Smith Center. Entertainment revenue already spreads thin; the last thing the Triangle needs is another entertainment venue.

Smedes York, a former Raleigh mayor and NCSU basketball player, contends the arena need not compete with N.C. State's proposed graduate engineering school. "It's not an either-or situation by any means," he told the News & Observer of Raleigh.

York is wrong. It may not be either-or for N.C. State, but \$300 million won't fund much of the state's billion-dollar wish list of new educational facilities. It's going to be either-or for something with every project funded — and that's only if the General Assembly authorizes the bond referendum.

NCSU Athletic Director Todd Turner has said the Pack Shack would be the centerpiece of the university's booster contribution drives for the next 50 years. That's nice, but it's not the state's job (read: N.C. taxpayers' job) to help N.C. State butter up its boosters and squeeze them for money.

The General Assembly, whose members reportedly have reached no consensus on the bond issue, convenes Tuesday. Let's hope the Wolfpack boosters have a big hill to climb. Public funding of a new basketball arena anywhere in North Carolina is an idea that ought to be swatted into the bleachers.



'Hurlhead' deserves only the best after arrest

Shock washed in nauseating blue waves over the University of New Jersey at Durham the other day when news reports revealed the drunk-driving arrest of Coach K's point-one guard, his lead rat, Bobby Hurling.

It seems Mr. Hurl was stopped in Durham after demonstrating a unique version of the four-wheel weave basketball drill. Police on the scene administered a breathalyzer twice. Baby blew a 0.11 and a 0.10, either one a three-point on the inebriation scale.

Forgetting that blood alcohol levels are like golf scores and best kept low, Hurlhead started to claim the higher tally before an sympathetic police officer told him he had the right to be stupid, but not to drive drunk in the lane. The cop added that maybe Booby should lay off the wine.

Now, I don't mention all this to promote any sort of Burpy Slurry-bashing on the part of partisan Tar Heel fans. Far from it, I don't think Bubbly deserves any more abuse than your average Dookie.

With that in mind, however, it's time to review a little pertinent history:

The Dookheads, also known as the Cameron Crazies, and once upon a time the Student Animals, over the years have delighted in ridiculing opposing ACC players who had a little run-in with Johnny Law, plus a few who looked funny.

Dean Smith thinks almost as poorly of them as Rams Club members do of UNC students (but that's another tale of bear-eyedness). Sports Illustrated was impressed enough by the Dookheads' attitude to publish a five-page story on their antics a few years ago.

A few examples:

■ In the early 1970s, Maryland had a forward named Jim O'Brien, with curly red hair and fair skin. During warm-ups at Cameron one day a Dookie wearing a red Bozo-the-Clown wig, a red rubber nose and floppy shoes joined the lay-up line behind O'Brien. The Crazies roared.

■ In 1979, UNC's Mike O'Koren's acne prompted a Duke banner calling him the OXY-1000 Poster Child.

■ In 1984, the Crazies pelted Maryland's Herman Veal, who had been implicated in a sex assault episode, with panties. One Dookie hoisted a sign that read: "Hey Herm, did you send her flowers?"

■ In 1985, after N.C. State's Lorenzo Charles stole two pizzas, the Dookheads bombarded him with pizza boxes during warm-ups.

■ The next year, after Wolfpack blockhead Chris "470" Washburn was accused of stealing a friend's stereo, they tossed album covers and LPs onto the court.

■ The same year, in a show of consummate maturity and sublime originality, the Bunch of Geeks chanted "Private school, public school!" before the Carolina game. They followed succinctly with "We're smart, you're dumb!" Side-splitters, those Crazies. Nobby hasn't been arraigned yet, and,



Matthew Easley
Say the Word

who knows, maybe he'll plead out or the Rodney King jury will find him not guilty.

But the point isn't really Hurl's guilt, it's fairness. Because if there's one thing Dookies have always wanted, it's to be treated like Carolina students. (Now that their basketball program is just about on our level, that's more likely. But they're still from New Jersey, they're still rich elitists and they're still obnoxious as hell. Just ask Dean.)

We don't want to be unfair. In fact, we owe it to Bippy to extend to him every bit the same hospitality his Rat Pack fans have shown others over the years.

Now I'm not saying we should do anything that might offend His Holiness Dean.

Don't think I'm suggesting that we should, say, bury Hurlale in Blue Cups from He's Not during warm-ups here next season. I would never recommend such a thing.

And I'm not proposing that we carry into the Rams Dome those blue-light flashlights you get at the circus, the ones that resemble police lights.

I'm not even talking about wearing convict-style clothing near court side, or holding aloft Hurler mug shots.

Nooooooooo. We here at the First State University are too civilized for all that. I don't think we should ever fail not to disregard such a notion.

My only point is this: You've got to give the devil his due.

Matthew Easley, who will not miss the wine-and-cheese crowd after he graduates this summer, urges all youngsters to just say no to Dook.

Perot deceives America with 'outsider status'

Billionaire cowboy Ross Perot is saddled up and ready to ride to our rescue — but only if we say "pretty please."

Perot's Texas twang, legendary business success and simple "kick butt" message have garnered national support. His voluntary campaign army, bankrolled by \$100 million of Perot's own money, is well on its way toward putting this reluctant messiah on the ballot in all 50 states. Now that he's considered a legitimate alternative to the established political parties, it's time to take a careful look at the candidate who fashions himself as a man of action, a humble "people's servant."

Perot casts himself as a political outsider, someone who will tell us the truth and shake up life inside the Washington Beltway. And yet, everything about his informal campaign reflects the calculated ambiguities and clever deceptions that he blasts in his opponents.

As a preeminent salesman, Perot sells his myth — that he is just a successful businessman who reluctantly answered a "spontaneous" surge of grassroots support demanding he rescue America from the career politicians.

This powerful populist has no program and no party, just a cult of personality. With politically adept maneuvering, he repeatedly has refused to talk in detail about the major issues he would face as president. Perot realizes discussing specifics might destroy the mass-based appeal of his candidacy.

Although he shouldn't be expected to have an opinion on every government program, Perot should have a broad vision of where government should go and how it should get there — a vision detailed enough to highlight which programs should be curbed or expanded and which taxes should be raised or cut.

So far, Perot has pledged to eliminate fraud and waste. This age-old political

Dacia Toll
Guest Writer

promise won't serve as a substitute for a coherent national agenda.

For an amateur aspiring to the nation's highest political office, "trust me" is not an adequate platform.

Perot recently disappeared on a 60-day retreat, a crash course in American politics designed to educate him about a diversity of complex issues.

While he attempts this impossible task, the popular charade in which he plays the honest, straight-talking outsider candidate has been challenged by numerous sources. Former White House aides describe Perot as the "ultimate insider." Perot apparently was an Oval Office groupie during the Nixon administration who eagerly courted favor from the Watergate gang.

William Safire, a high-level Nixon aide, wrote about the old pro Perot, a veteran of the business-politics complex who often asked for favors in procuring and protecting lucrative government contracts. In exchange, Perot promised contributions to projects aimed at boosting Nixon's image.

A battery of reporters, armed with the artillery of the Republican campaign machine, has begun uncovering additional details behind the Texan's success. Extensive interviews with Perot's adversaries and allies have revealed his penchant for intimidation and reliance on strong-arm tactics.

This corporate cult figure is the same man who reportedly recommended that the city of Dallas combat its drug problem by cordoning off impoverished minority neighborhoods and conducting house-to-house searches for drugs and weapons. This "get tough" approach makes for good soundbites but would

probably do little to alleviate the nation's chronic drug problems perhaps — and a lot to endanger our precious constitutional protections against illegal search and seizure.

Among the most disturbing revelations about Perot was a report that in July 1989 he tried to intimidate the publisher of The Fort Worth Star-Telegram in an effort to quell negative news coverage of a family-controlled Fort Worth airport development. According to publisher Richard Connor, Perot hinted that he would embarrass the paper with photographs suggesting a romantic involvement between a Star-Telegram employee and a city official.

This may be merely political hardball to Perot, but in some circles it's called blackmail.

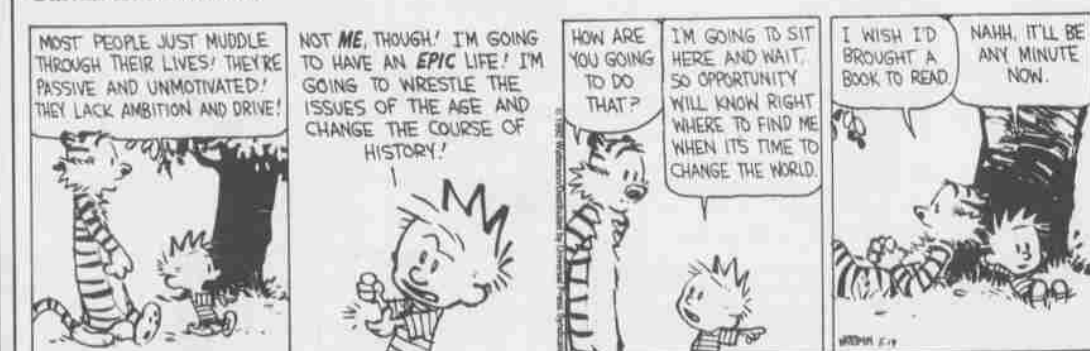
Perot's candidacy, however, must be appreciated. His pungent straight talk has been an interesting twist in a typical round of presidential politics. His direct assaults on "the system" may force his rivals to move toward a more searching debate of national problems.

The political climate is ripe for an independent candidacy. George Bush is saddled with domestic stagnation and haunted by the visage of Saddam Hussein. Bill Clinton can't escape his "Slick Willie" label or the baggage of his party's failures. Voters obviously are sick of politics — bureaucratic stalemate and congressional scandal.

But a national renaissance would require patient persuasion, continual compromise and a battery of specific plans. Disgruntled voters shouldn't look to Perot's simple business magic of slick maneuvering to provide a realistic escape from the nation's political strait-jacket.

Dacia Toll is a rising junior political science and economics major from Bethesda, Md.

Calvin and Hobbes



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