

# The Daily Tar Heel

76 Years of Editorial Freedom

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## MLA Should Take Sides On Critical Problems

The objections of a group of UNC professors to the events of the recent Modern Languages Association are wrong.

The two main objections that have arisen so far seem to be over whether the MLA should take political stances and over whether the resolutions are valid since only 500 of the 28,000 members of the MLA attended the session at which the resolutions were passed.

In connection with the last point, it would seem to us that since 27,500 members didn't bother to show up for the business session they don't care whether a minority enacts legislation. The only problem is that this apathetic majority didn't like the particular resolutions that came out of the session. If they really care so much they should have attended the session.

The other point, one that is very important, is whether this formerly apolitical organization should take a political stand, either to the left or the right.

In our opinion, when there are extreme importance to our society, such an organization as the MLA should debate the issues and take a stand on them.

The basis for this need is explained by Noam Chomsky, a noted linguist and radical.

He explained once that a person had ask him "should universities be ivory towers?"

His reply: "that's like asking 'should professors be human beings.' If they're not human beings they shouldn't be professors. I don't see how a civilized being in

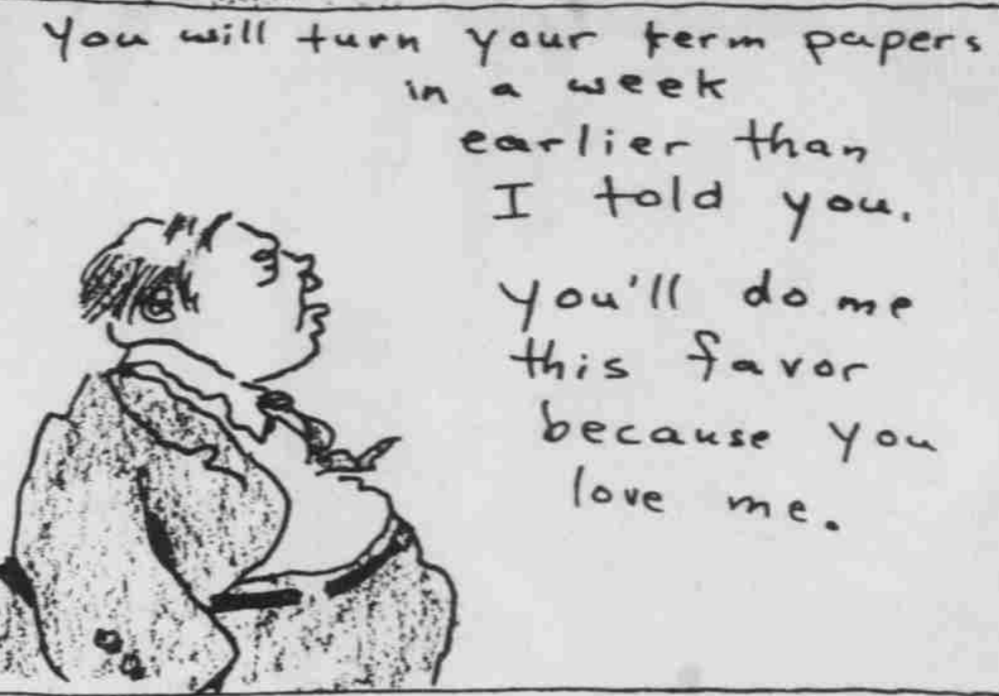
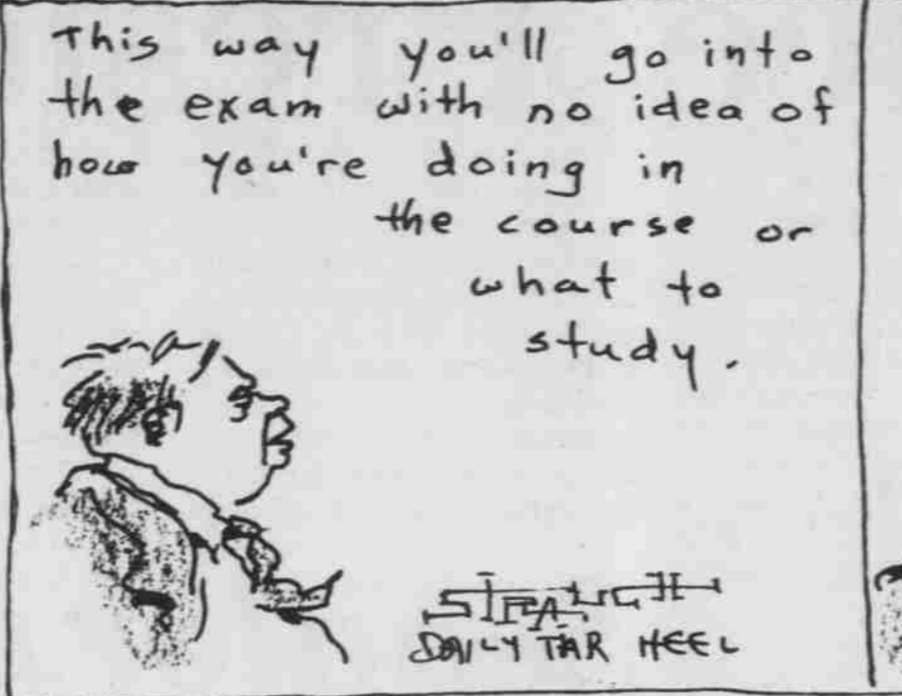
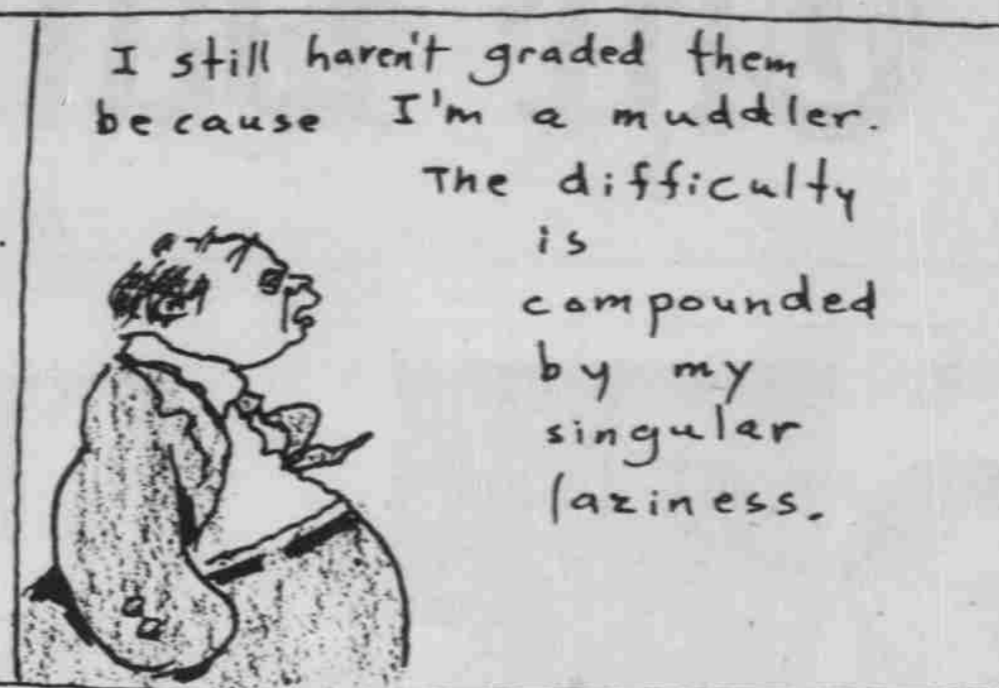
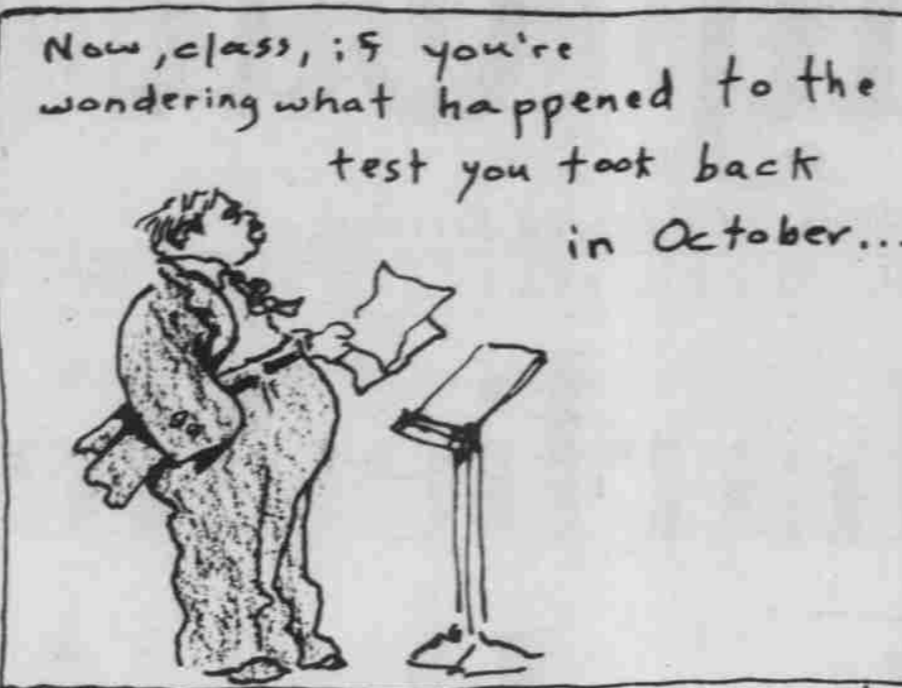
the United States cannot be involved in issues which are tearing society apart and which could destroy the world."

For too long America's social and physical scientists have sat around doing their academic work, seldom questioning its relationship to the society and the world. As a result there has been a proliferation of research laboratories that develop nerve gases, defoliants, techniques for psychological warfare, etc. The whole time the scientists have done nothing because they felt it would harm their objectivity by doing so.

However, in reality, if there is any question of losing objectivity by taking sides on the issue, they have already done so, for in merely working for the federal government or in failing, both individually and as an organization, to scrutinize the behavior of their society, they are taking a side—in favor of that behavior.

For this reason we are glad to see the MLA pass the resolutions it did. It's unfortunate there was not more discussions of the resolution at the time but that should not be blamed on the leftist that introduced the resolutions. The blame for that lies on the 27,500 members that didn't bother to attend the session.

If some elements in the MLA do not like the resolutions that were passed they should wait until next year and seek their repeal. Hopefully they can then fully discuss the problems of our society and realize their own need to take a stand on the critical issues of our time.



Eugene Sarver

## Israeli Holding Pattern Safe—Now

Eighteen months after the "Six Day War" peace in the Middle East appears as elusive, or even more elusive, than ever. Rather than providing a temporal anvil on which a permanent Middle East peace could be forged, these long months of uncertainty punctuated by Arab guerilla raids and Israeli retaliation have seen the emergence of a new status quo in that troubled region.

While the volatile instability of the Middle East gravely concerns a world already burdened by a Cold War breaking into flame in Vietnam and Czechoslovakia, Israel, lying at the center of Middle East tensions remarkably resembles the quiet eye of a hurricane.

Accustomed to living under a virtual state of siege for the last twenty years and with shorter more defensible borders than ever on the Golan Heights in Syria, the Jordan River in Jordan and the Suez Canal in Egypt (due to the smoothing out of the former jagged Israel-Jordan border and to the fact that the Suez Canal borderline ending at the broad Gulf of Suez is shorter than the old Sinai desert

border), as well as facing weak Arab military forces, Israel feels secure.

### RAID PROBLEM

While Arab guerilla raids are a continual problem, it is not a serious one as the highly mobile Israeli military has reduced guerilla escape time to a mere twenty minutes while inflicting casualties running as high as 80% on El Fatah and other fedayeen raiders.

Even night provides no cover for Arab terrorists as the Israeli army has begun using infrared equipment for night vision. Nevertheless, the growing ability of the terrorist organizations to attract college-trained Arabs from Europe and distant parts of the Middle East is likely to lead to growing effectiveness in their operations.

On the economic side, Israel is moving ahead at the phenomenal growth rate of 14% per year, well ahead of the high growth rate of 10% it posted in the 1950's. Moreover the current growth rate is especially impressive in view of the

economic stagnation in the five year period preceding the "June War" when no increase in Gross National Product was recorded.

### ECONOMY CHANGES GOOD

The current qualitative changes in the Israeli economy are as impressive as the quantitative growth. While Israel relied primarily in the past on exports of citrus fruits, polished diamonds and pharmaceuticals; now its economy is being geared to the high growth potentials of computers, electronics, jet aircraft and aerospace. Already Israel ranks third in the world in the relative number of computer programmers (behind the United States and Sweden).

With computer and electronics industries, etc. enabling Israel to take full advantage of its largest resource—skilled people—Israel's deficit trade balance should be increasingly narrowed. Moreover, the high wages and salaries in such industries are significantly raising the standard of living in Israel.

Already per capita income in Israel of \$1,100 compares favorably with France and Germany, while reducing the previously marked difference between the standard of living of Jews in Tel Aviv and such centers of affluence as New York, London, Montreal and Johannesburg.

The occupied territories presently held by Israel constitute both economic assets and liabilities. Oil pumped from Sinai wells as well as the agricultural products of the West Bank contribute to Israel's exports. (Israel continues to buy oil from Iran in order to maintain its traditional petroleum source.)

In addition, Israel has established some quasi-military agricultural settlements in all the occupied areas. On the other hand, military and administrative costs in the occupied territories are high, as is the overall military spending that Israel is required to undertake because of the continuing state of tension until the present Middle East situation is resolved.

### NON-RUSSIAN

While defense spending is high for this nation of under three million people, such as \$200 million for U. S. Phantom Jets, this is to some extent compensated for by the sale of captured Arab military equipment of Russian origin. Sales to Yugoslavia and Rumania have been brisk because the Soviet Union declines to sell those nations spare parts for the Russian equipment they have.

At the same time that Israel is enjoying prosperity and relative security, the Egyptians face much the opposite. Cut off from Sinai oil, their Suez Canal closed, tourism markedly down and the industrial towns along the Canal evacuated (due to the threat of Israeli artillery), Egypt has been in a state of economic crisis. Moreover, much of the remaining resources have been allocated to the military, further depressing the Egyptians' low standard of living. While some subsidies are received from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Libya, they are not nearly enough to compensate for the economic losses disabling the Egyptian economy.

A similarly dark economic situation casts a haunting shadow over Jordan. Cut off from the rich agricultural area of the West Bank as well as the area's religious sites with their strong attraction for tourists, Jordan's economy is kept going only by the infusions of Arab and Western aid.

### SYRIAN ECONOMY OK

Alone among the vanquished Arab nations, Syria's economy has not been seriously damaged by the territorial changes, etc. wrought by the "Six Day

## Letters

To the Editor:

For months the world's newspapers have told of the ever-escalating starvation in Biafra. In a November 17, 1968, news release, Senator Ted Kennedy stated, "The loss of life from starvation continues at more than 10,000 persons per day—over 1,000,000 lives in recent months. Without emergency measures now, the number will climb to 25,000 per day within a month—and some 2,000,000 deaths by the end of the year. The next year will only bring greater disaster to a people caught in the passion of fratricidal war. Crop exhaustion in combat areas will put over 8,000,000 men, women, and children in the clutches of total starvation."

In the name of national unity, the Nigerians have already destroyed over a million human beings. Experiencing in depth the animosity and wrath of the Nigerians, the Biafrans fear for their lives should they be conquered. So they continue to resist.

Concerned by their own diverse tribal nature, the nations of the Organization for African Unity have endorsed unity in Nigeria and starvation in Biafra. The West stands divided between Great Britain which is supplying Nigeria and France which is supporting Biafra starve.

In 1945, a world, shocked and horrified by 6,000,000 graves said, "It could not happen." and "If we had only known." Today in 1969, we know. Today, it is happening.

Sincerely,  
Joel Polin  
Biafran Children's Relief—U.N.C.

## UNC Women Will Be Free Only When They Want To Be

Women students are being allowed in men's rooms and being allowed to invited males into theirs.

Starting next semester some will be allowed to have unlimited closing hours. Sound like women on campus are beginning to be treated like the equals of males, are beginning to get some freedom?

Well, don't get carried away thinking they are becoming emancipated.

For instance, there's a friend of ours who found out how free she is. She was preparing to leave for the vacation and left the addresses of all the places she was going to be over the vacation with the house mother, like a good girl.

Then, at the last minute on the day she was to leave she found out that she couldn't go to the one city that she had said she would. It was too late to change the notice she had left with the housemother and too late to contact the Dean of Women's office to make a change. That night, instead of going to her originally stated destination she stayed in Chapel Hill, intending to call the Dean of Women's office the following day. Unfortunately, before she could do someone turned her in for violation of the regulations. Now she faces a trial in student courts and the possibility of an official reprimand or probation.

These regulations strike most male students as extremely foolish. Apparently it doesn't strike too many women students as foolish as they have tolerated them for so long, and it is only when they begin to want some freedom that they will begin to get it.

For the sake of our friend we hope that won't be too long.

## UNC Failings Show

While in Boston over the Christmas holidays my wife and I went on a wild shopping spree. You may imagine that we flew around buying the exotic things one doesn't find here in Chapel Hill, but actually we shot our wad at the Coop (MIT-Harvard's counterpart of Student Stores), stocking up on the ordinary little things which, in Chapel Hill, go at exotic prices.

To give some idea of what a rich Harvard lad pays to stave off bad breath and headaches, here is a list of toiletries selected at random (not cut down so as to display only the more outrageous discrepancies). The first price column gives the price we paid, i.e. the price to the general public. Column 2 gives the price a student pays at the Coop (As members of the cooperative society which runs the store, students get 10% discounts. Memberships cost a buck). Column 3, as one might expect from comparing it with columns 1 and 2, shows the Student Store price as of Jan. 7.

	COOP public price	COOP member's price	Student Stores the price
Crest (reg. flav.) 3.25 oz	\$ .53	.48	.65
Alka Seltzer 25 tabs	.57	.51	.69
8 tabs	.33	.30	.39
Bayer Aspirin 24 tabs	.33	.30	.41
50 tabs	.51	.46	.63
Band Aids 32 Ass'd.	.55	.50	.67
34 Wide	.63	.57	.77
Dristan 12 tabs	1.19	1.07	1.49
Head & Shoulders fam. size tub	1.33	1.20	1.65
lg. size jar	1.49	1.34	1.85

In some cases, moreover, Student Stores carries only the relatively expensive small packages. Example: At the Coop a package of 15 Gillette Super Stainless Steel blades costs, including discount, \$1.43. At Student Stores one can only buy 5 packs at \$ .79 each. Total cost for 15 blades? \$2.37, or roughly 164% of the Coop price.

Or consider book bags: The only one you can get here is a fancy all rubber job for five bucks. At the Coop a less classy bag may be bought for \$1.69. The Coop's bag is definitely shabby in comparison to the fine variety of the Student Stores, but it is still good enough to take a couple of years abuse, and is at least within the reach of a student of average means. So high priced: That is the Student Stores' bag, and that is what we learned on our shopping spree in the big city.

Sincerely,  
J. W. Losse  
404 Pittsboro St.  
Chapel Hill

## Student Stores Study Will Aid Students

The Student Stores have finally decided to turn over to the Student Stores Committee a report on the finances and operation.

We are very pleased to see that they are finally doing this; hopefully it will be the first step to improving the service the students get from the Student Stores system.

The report will be studied by a Business Administration major or a member of the faculty of the School to determine exactly what their financial status is and whether, within that status, they are doing their best to be a student service.

At the least, if the study shows that they are not making excessive profits, it will allay the suspicions of students who have often thought that prices at the stores were being jacked up too much.