

# NUC conference honors French courage

by Doug Hall  
Staff Writer

In March of 1871, the people of Paris had just undergone a four-month-long siege by Bismark's Prussian army during the Franco-Prussian War.

After the siege, Paris established the Third Republic.

Later this month, the New University Conference (NUC) in Chapel Hill is commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Parisian's response to the Third Republic. The celebration is the Socialist Liberation Festival.

The Third Republic, according to NUC, was run

by "rural conservatives unsympathetic to the needs of the working people and shopkeepers of Paris."

When the Third Republic took control of the government, the people of Paris still held weapons they had used during the siege. The head of the new government sent troops to seize a cannon from the armed populace, called the National Guard, on March 18.

The troops fraternized with the crowd which gathered, refused to fire upon the people and allowed the crowd to seize and execute two generals who had been ordering the troops to fire. On that day, March 18, the Central Committee

of the National Guard called for an election of a municipal council, the Paris Commune of 1871.

NUC says the Commune, although not lasting long enough to carry out what it began, provided the answer to a question often presented to revolutionaries: What do you do after the revolution?

"One of the Commune's first acts was to abolish the standing army and the police, and the streets of Paris became safe to walk again," said an NUC release Monday.

The Commune also helped to decentralize France's government and gave more power to the workers and common people, the release said.

The Commune was crushed in April of 1871 by

the troops of the Versailles government, and an estimated 25,000 Parisians were killed.

"The Socialist Liberation Festival, sponsored by NUC, will commemorate the struggle of the martyrs of Paris and study how the lessons of the Paris Commune may be applied today," the release said.

The celebration, which will take place two or three days before March 18 until several days after, will feature several noted spokesmen for leftist causes.

The festival will also include music, workshops, films and panel discussions.

One of those scheduled to speak during the festival is Dave Meggesy, former professional

football player for the St. Louis Cardinals and author of "Out of Their League," a criticism of professional football.

"In his book he exposes the violence, racism, authoritarianism and preoccupation with masculinity deeply in football," NUC said.

Meggesy, in his book, describes his years in professional football as a "schizophrenic life in which I was torn between doing what was necessary as a football player and trying to be a human being."

Meggesy played for the Cardinals for seven years and started the last three as linebacker. He quit football before the 1970 season when he was making \$33,000 a year.

## ECOS attacks Alaskan pipeline

by Woody Doster  
Staff Writer

ECOS Project Director Watson Morris has charged the proposed Alaskan oil pipeline is "too big a risk to take with the only earth we've got."

Construction of the proposed pipeline, which would carry oil almost 800 miles from Proudhoe Bay in north Alaska to

Valdez in the south, is currently halted by a Federal Court injunction.

Three conservation groups secured the injunction in April prohibiting the Secretary of the Interior from authorizing the project.

The groups charged the Interior Department had not complied with the provisions of the National Environment Policy Act and would violate the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920.

"The Interior Department argues the pipeline must be built for 'national security,'" Morris said. "They say we need the Alaskan oil to lower our dependence on imports from the Mideast."

However, continued Morris, "their own figures dispute this. They show an increase in Mideast imports from 530,000 barrels per day in 1970 to over six million per day in 1985, even with Alaskan oil."

The pipeline would be four feet in diameter, carrying oil at 150-180 degrees Fahrenheit. It crosses three major mountain ranges and major drainage systems.

"Each mile of the pipeline would contain about one-half million gallons of hot oil," Morris said. "A leak or a break could cause an unprecedented destruction of fish, wildlife and migratory waterfowl."

He added the Interior department's report on the pipeline stated "there is a probability some oil spills will occur, even under the most stringent enforcement."

"The southern two-thirds of the proposed route is very susceptible to earthquakes," said Morris. "The southern terminal of the pipeline at Valdez was destroyed in the 1964 quake."

"No adequate earthquake warning system has been devised anywhere," he noted.

Over much of the route, the ground is perennially frozen to within a few feet of the surface. This is called "permafrost."

"U.S. Government studies show a buried and heated pipe would melt the permafrost," Morris said. "This could cause the pipe to sag, break and be carried away in mudslides."

"The effect of an above-ground pipeline on the migration of caribou can't be predicted," said Morris.

The pipeline would have to cross about 350 streams and major rivers. "The erosion of a riverbank could cause a pipe to rupture. Oil spills in river drainage systems would damage fish, birds and wildlife," charged Morris.

"In addition to all this," he continued, "earth scars from construction and quarrying would last for years. Vehicle tracks made 20 years ago on the tundra still fill with water in the summer."

The Interior Department's hearing record is open until March 8. "Everyone with any interest should write and have his ideas included in the official record," Morris said.

"The true value of this part of Alaska is its scenic beauty and magnificent wildlife," he said. "We must not destroy this for a short-run profit for a few."



Although April showers have come to Chapel Hill a little early this year, the March flowers have arrived on schedule. Elizabeth Foster doesn't seem to be very happy about the rain, but the flowers make it a little easier to accept. (Staff photo by Johnny Lindahl)

## Preliminary approval given

# Graduate language changes

by Keith Carter  
Staff Writer

The Administrative Board of the Graduate School has unanimously approved changes in the foreign language requirement for UNC graduate students.

Under the new proposal, which the Faculty Council will take under consideration at its Friday meeting, each graduate department would be able to establish its own foreign language requirements. The final decision on whether to implement the new requirement rests with Chancellor J. Carlyle Sitterson.

Jim Becker, chairman of the educational planning and curriculum committee of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation (GPSF) said that UNC graduate students are presently required to take either courses in two foreign languages, place out of the languages through equivalency tests or substitute designated courses for one of the languages.

"This revision of foreign language requirements for graduate students is a fairly common trend across the nation," Becker said. "It has been endorsed nationally by the Modern Language Association (MLA)."

Becker quoted an MLA publication as saying that foreign language needs to "vary greatly from discipline to discipline or even within a discipline. In many areas a reading knowledge of two foreign languages is essential, while for others, this may not be the case."

The MLA study also revealed evidence

that requirement changes do not necessarily mean a decline in the number of people taking foreign language courses.

Becker said he personally supported changing the foreign language requirements and he feels "most graduate students are in favor of altering the regulation."

## Scott biographer set for Greenlaw speech

Dr. Edgar Johnson, the biographer of Charles Dickens and Sir Walter Scott, will speak at 8 p.m. today in Greenlaw 101 on "Scott's Great Theme."

In 1969 Johnson won the American Heritage Biography for his two-volume edition, "Sir Walter Scott: The Great Unknown." In the biography based on 15 years of research in published and unpublished sources, he completely reevaluated Scott's character and writings.

Johnson also received acclaim by the critics for an earlier work, "Charles Dickens: His Tragedy and Triumph." This

book was widely circulated as a selection of both the Book-of-the-Month Club and Reader's Subscription.

In addition to his biographies of Scott and Dickens, Johnson is the author of a critical history of English biography, "One Mighty Torrent," and two other novels. He has edited a dozen other books and has lectured at many leading universities.

From 1949 to 1964, Johnson served as the chairman of the English Department at City College of New York. Presently he is a member of the Graduate Faculty of the City University.

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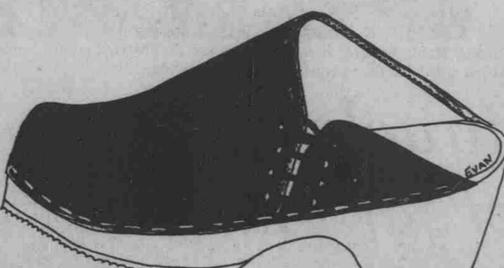
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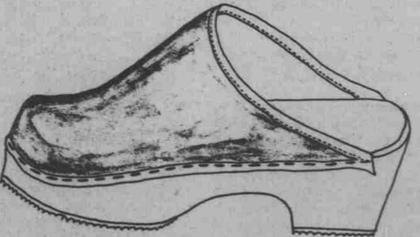
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