

Lana Starnes

Siappuakauppais backward is?

Summer school has gotten underway. It's time to hit the books again and rechannel our thoughts to studying. Once again it's 20-page reading assignments, quizzes, papers and exams.

And while your mind is churning and clicking away like a computer, contemplate these few factual bits and pieces of information.

LARGEST VOCABULARY. The English language contains about 490,000 words, plus 300,000 technical terms. The average individual, however, uses no more than 60,000 words.

LARGEST AND SHORTEST ALPHABET. The language with the most

letters is Cambodian with 74, and Hawaiian has least with 12 (A, E, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, U and W).

MOST FREQUENTLY USED LETTERS. In English the most frequently used letters are: e, t, i, s, o, n, h, r, d and u, in that order.

COMMONEST WORDS. In written English the most frequently used words are: the, of, and, to, a, in, that, is, I, it, for and as. In conversation the most commonly used is I.

LONGEST WORD. The longest word in modern usage is sparvagsnaktiebologs-kensmutsskjutarefack-

foreningspersonalbekladnads-magasinsforradsforvaltaren, a Swedish word of 94 letters meaning "the manager of the depot for the supply of uniforms to the personnel of the track cleaners' union of the street railway company."

ENGLISH WORDS. The longest regularly used English words are anti-interdenominationalistically (32 letters); antidisestablishmentarianismically (34 letters); and praetransubstantiationally (37 letters). The longest in common use is disproportionableness (21 letters).

LONGEST PALINDROMIC WORDS. The longest palindromic word (a word

spelled the same backwards as forwards) is siappuakauppais, the Finnish word for soap-seller. The longest in English are evitative and redivider.

The longest palindromic sentence devised is one of 242 words. It begins "Deliver no evil, avid diva" and ends "avid diva live on reviled."

WORST TONGUE TWISTER. The most difficult tongue-twister is "The sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick." In Czechoslovakia it's "Strch prst skrz krk."

SHORTEST HOLO-ALPHABETIC SENTENCE. The shortest sentence containing all the 26 letters of the alphabet is "Jackdaws love my big sphinx of quartz."

LONGEST SENTENCE. The longest sentence in classical literature is one in Les Miserables by Victor Hugo which runs 823 words punctuated by 93 commas, 51 semicolons and four dashes.

COMMONEST NAME. The commonest name in the world is Muhammad. In the English-speaking world it is Smith. There were an estimated 1,678,815 Smiths in the U.S. in 1964.

OLDEST UNIVERSITY. The oldest educational institution in the world is the University of Karueein, founded in 859 A.D. in Fez, Morocco.

The Tar Heel accepts letters to the editor, provided they are typed on a 60-space line and limited to a maximum of 300 words. All letters must be signed and the address and phone number of the writer must be included.

The paper reserves the right to edit all letters for libelous statements and good taste.

Address letters to Editor, The Tar Heel, in care of the Student Union.

Glenn Brank

It's all in your mind, readers

Robert and some of his friends were playing in their sandbox one day. Robert's little mind was wandering, as children's minds are prone to do, and he thought of a word—a nasty word—that he had overheard at one time.

Of course, Robert was a child and didn't have any idea what he was saying. He leaned over and wrote the word in the sand in front of friend Leo.

Leo was a somewhat older and less-innocent child, so he knew what the word meant. And immediately, he ran around screaming and crying and generally kicking up a lot of sand.

All the other children merely laughed. The word meant nothing to them—it had no importance. What was funny were the antics Leo was performing.

After a while, Leo ran away crying. He

went and told Mother Judicial Board, who promptly came and beat Robert's tail and took away his word.

Naturally all the other children remembered the word because it had gotten so much attention, so they began to use it too.

Mother Judicial Board got fed up with the whole thing and proceeded to shut down the sandbox . . .

Fortunately, a North Carolina court ruling has put an end to this particular children's story. ECU student newspaper editor Robert Thonen was reinstated for his exams, and did not flunk out of college because he was immature enough to choose a useless four-letter word.

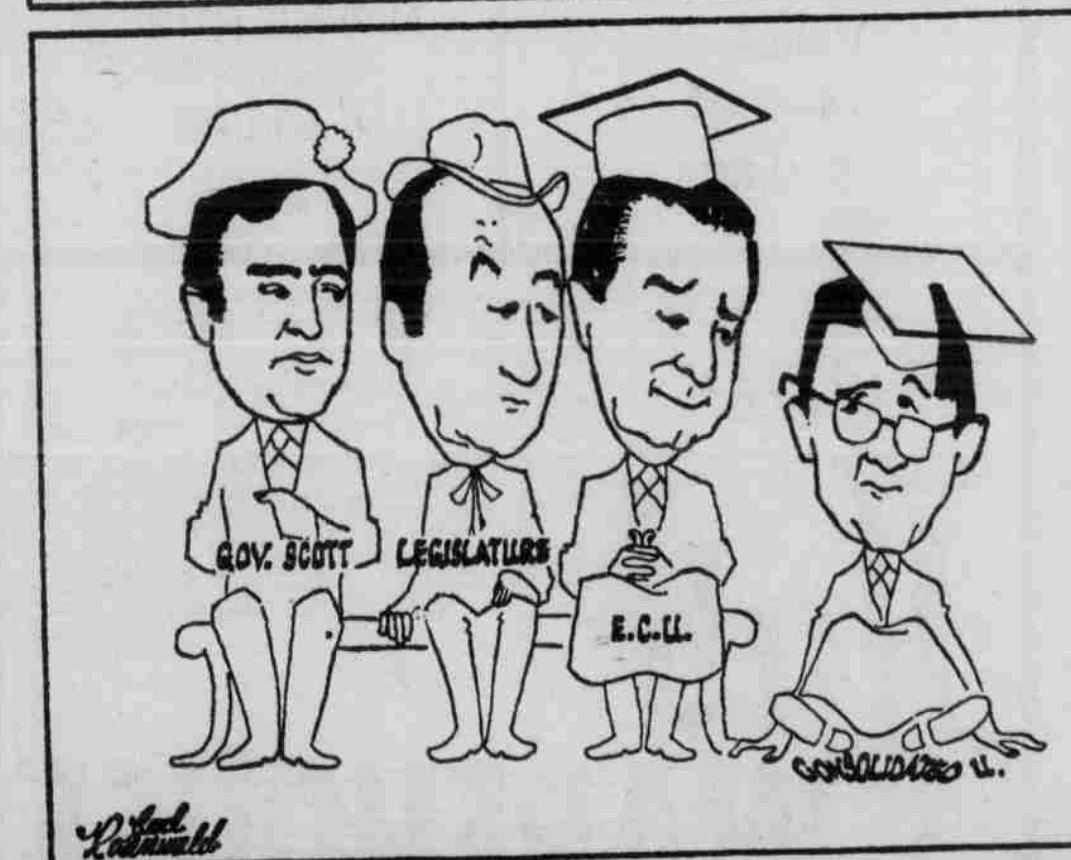
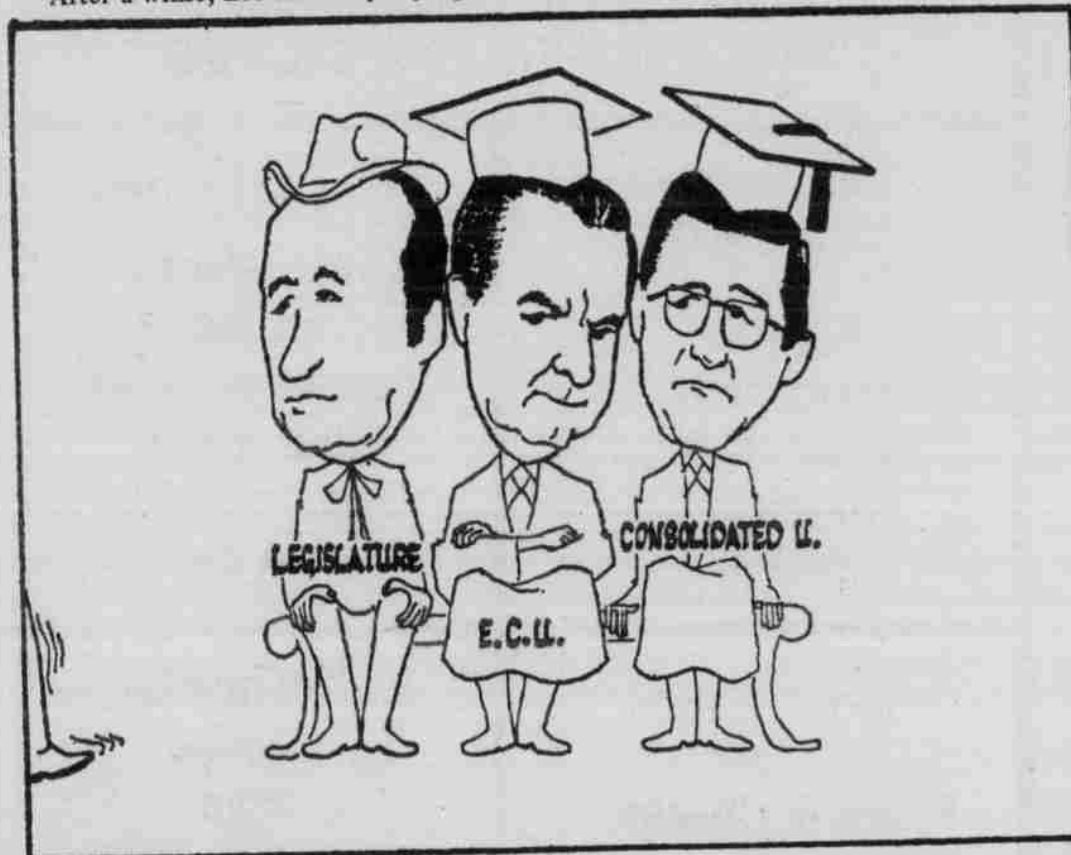
Excellence in immaturity, however, must be reserved for Robert's friend Leo. Leo proved beyond the shadow of a

doubt that you're only as young as you act.

An interesting and related sequel to this children's story is still circulating. Several members of the state legislature are making clumsy attempts to stifle the student press with legislation. They have called student publications—including UNC's own Daily Tar Heel—evil, lewd, obscene and so on.

These gentlemen should remember that all stories—even those of children—are totally subject to individual interpretation. The way a person reads and reacts to a story is primarily a reflection of his own thinking.

And so, gentlemen of the General Assembly, do not give yourselves the aura of naive innocents. It just isn't the way to live happily ever after.



Robert Wilson

UNC dorm life isn't up to par

Well, are you settled in your nice, new "home" for the summer? Is it one of those quiet, out-of-the-way houses in the country? Maybe it's an air-conditioned 2-bedroom apartment with a swimming pool on the side. Or have you chosen University "housing" for your residence these next 12 weeks?

The University has built housing for over 7,000 students. Why? The goal of some administrators seems to be: operate all living areas at full capacity, filling every available bed in every room on campus, to return maximum profits to the University. Why? And have you ever tried to experiment with your cubicle, like placing your mattress on the floor or hanging a picture on the wall? "Five dollar damage fee, son. Pay at the cashier's office." Why?

"No painting on the walls." "No pets." "Only plastitak." "Bicycles kept in the room may be confiscated." It is just beyond belief . . . the petty restrictions are endless. Yet students put up with it. Oh, but they have to, don't they? It may be another 20 years before there is enough off-campus housing for students. And even then it will be an hour's worth of commuting by car plus a 15 minute walk to campus. If other housing ever does become available there is always the old trick: "All students could use a little more orientation with the campus . . . so four years required residency."

There are some fine advantages in living on campus. The student is closer to his classes and he has a greater opportunity to interact with other students. But the University should not be satisfied with just these and should not be the one to take advantage of the

situation. The student should have that opportunity.

The old "living-learning" concept, a once popular synonym for dorm living, is fast losing its positive interpretation. No one can disagree that the greater experience of college life is outside the classroom. The University must set its priorities.

Is the primary function of on-campus living to fulfill financial commitments? The University must let loose the reins to allow the student freedom enough to make his own decisions, to at least attempt to have control over his environment.

It seems like such a simple matter. Landlords and tenants have been around since England of 700 A.D. The tenant lives in the house; the landlord collects the rent. Period.

Where is the problem? There is no need for the student to try to fit into the needs of the housing. His needs should be satisfied, not those of an 11 by 15 foot room. There are 28 different dormitories on campus, yet the environment of each is identical to all the others. What a simple waste.

The degree of potential creativity within the dorms is limited only by the enthusiasm and imagination of the students residing there.

The University's primary responsibility is to further the education of the student. It is not to protect the student from himself or the outside world. It is time someone tapped the educational reservoir of our campus living. Just think of the academic reforms at UNC, since 1795. Then compare it with the progress initiated by the faculty, administration or students in dormitory environment. Why?