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The Daily Tar Heel

86th year of editorial freedom

Persuasive evidence

Roundabout the time people begin to converge on Franklin Street to take in the Homecoming Parade this Friday, a smaller and more subdued group of individuals will begin meeting in 100 Hamilton Hall. The immediate attention of the student body will be drawn to the floats, the bands, the madcap antics the parade will certainly feature; barely a student soul will find its way to the Faculty Council meeting taking place at the same time. But while the charm of a good celebration wears off quickly, the actions taken at the November session of the council may see their effects felt for years to come.

Once again, a Student Government proposal to extend the drop period is on the agenda of the Faculty Council. Once again, the walls of Hamilton Hall will hear student voices call on the council's good will, asking for just two more weeks to make basic, important decisions. Once again, the talk will turn to exhortations decrying "grade inflation" and to charges that students are looking for easy ways out.

Some may say *deja vu*. Things, though, should be different. This time, Student Government has done its homework, and will come to the council armed with more than abstract arguments for academic freedom and surveys of student and faculty opinion.

In its statement to the members of the Faculty Council, Student Government divides its case for a two-week extension of the drop period into three distinct parts. First, Jim Phillips and his assistants outline what they call "Old" but pertinent arguments. To quote from the statement: "We readily acknowledge that the twelve week drop period was too long. We agree with the Educational Policy Committee that the choice of a particular time limit for the drop period is somewhat arbitrary. We strongly contend, however, that the four week drop period is too short for a number of sound educational reasons." Those reasons? During the first four weeks, most courses do not provide the information students need to judge their educational value and the quality of the teaching. In most intermediate and advanced courses in the natural and social sciences, for example, the first weeks are devoted to review of principles learned in introductory classes—hardly a good, solid sample of the rest of the semester's work. In the humanities, subject matter can shift dramatically for week to week, and the professor's ability to inspire the student, as well as his demands, are difficult to gauge quickly.

The second part of Student Government's case offers a new argument that strikes at the heart of the Faculty Council's thinking. When the council first cut the drop period back to four weeks in the spring of 1976 (and then when it reaffirmed its decision in October of last year), one popular argument in support of a shorter drop period was the purported effect such a move would have on rising grades at UNC. Thinking that students exercised their drop options to save their QPAs, the council called for a hard line—and got it.

But a study conducted by Dana Cagle for her Principles of Policy Analysis course, and which is included in the SG statement, found absolutely no statistical correlation between the length of the drop period and grades earned at Carolina since 1974. In fact, grades last fall were higher than statistical analysis would predict irrespective of the drop period.

The last line of defense for a six-week drop period centers on a survey of drop policies at other colleges and universities which shows that Carolina's four-week period is one of the shortest. Students at Stanford, for example, can drop a course after the final exam has been administered; at Maryland, Texas and Clemson, the drop periods are 10 weeks long. Rutgers undergraduates enjoy a 12-week drop period just as do those at Columbia. Yale students have an 11-week drop period; Georgetown students have eight weeks. At Harvard—with a four-course load and a "shopping" period in lieu of formal registration—the formal drop period is shorter. But then again, professors there are forced to outline fully their courses early in the semester if they wish to fill the seats in their classrooms.

The information which Student Government has gathered for the Faculty Council is as persuasive as it is thorough and thought provoking. It points to a conclusion that students have found inescapable, but which has somehow eluded the members of the council: Carolina's drop period is too short. Few other schools use a four-week drop period—presumably because it serves no useful purpose. The four-week period fails to attack grade inflation, and even if it were successful as a grade-reducing drug, other measures, with no harmful side-effects, could be used. In fact, about all the four-week drop period does is to board the fancies of the Faculty Council while it forces students to make hasty, ill-founded decisions.

The Faculty Council can continue to worship the myths which are the basis of the current drop policy, but it cannot deny the evidence Student Government brings to its court. The council can endorse its four-week drop period and hinder the academic pursuits of the student body, or it can extend the period by two weeks in recognition of the fact that more time—just a little more time—is needed to assess the educational value of a course at Carolina.

The Bottom Line

Ramada monk

You're probably aware by now that monks at a monastery in Egypt claim to have found the skeletal remains of John the Baptist. Some of the skepticism might be wearing off of you by now when you consider that the religious order has ancient documentation that John's body may indeed have been hidden at their altar some 1,100 years after his death. (It seems the holy man's body was carried around for hundreds of years to prevent religious oppressors from stealing it.)

But something bothers us about all this hubbub. The monks claim they unearthed the body three years ago, but kept the news a secret lest thousands of pilgrims flock to a monastery unable to accommodate the crowds.

Well, it just so happens that the monks have coincidentally announced the opening of a new 100-room hotel. Smart men, these monks.

How's he put his pants on?

Sure, y'all know that Jimmy Carter is from Plains, Ga., and that he attended the U.S. Naval Academy as a young man. But what's his hat size, huh? What's his favorite biblical quotation, smart guy?

Cocktail partyers, now you can be the life of the next get-together. Thanks to a 13-page government pamphlet, you too can learn the little-known facts surrounding our 39th president. Compiled by a White House staff member during a period of several weeks, this handy booklet tells you everything you wanted to know about James Earl Carter Jr.,

whether you asked or not.

Imagine the larfs you'll get as you tell some anecdotes of Jimmy's childhood. "When he was five, he got a whippin' for stealing a penny out of the church collection plate."

"That's nothing. One day he shot his sister, and I quote, 'in the rear' with a BB gun."

The pamphlet even relates the story of the president's first date. It seems that Jimmy was only 13 at the time, and it was the first time he was allowed to drive the family pickup alone. (Does this sound like something out of *The Waltons* to you too?)

What's that? You say you're not much of a storyteller? Despair not, social climbers. Just bone up on the list of Jimmy's favorites.

You can start off with an easy one: Jimmy's favorite sport is stock-car racing, as if we didn't know. But let's move on to some of the more particulars.

Favorite color: blue.
Favorite scripture verse: Revelations 3:20.

Favorite poet: Dylan Thomas.

Favorite books: Tolstoy's *War and Peace* and Agee's *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*.

Of course we're still left wondering about other favorites we're sure the president has. The pamphlet doesn't mention Jimmy's favorite Beatles tune. It says nothing about his choice of aftershaves, or whether he sports boxers or jockey shorts. (Although we speculate that, being a navy man, his scivvies are of the former variety.) Obviously there'll have to be a sequel to this pamphlet.

And we can't wait for the movie. And that's the bottom line.

Anti-nuke future down; lead looks strong

By JEFF PORTERFIELD

Living as we do in this placid era, it's a wonder that a matter as trivial as species survival could generate any excitement at all. A defeat on the football field can result in a night of drowned sorrows; a botched midterm can bring us down for a week. But concern over life-or-death issues? That went out with the peace sign.

Most of us have by this time trimmed our shaggy locks and traded in our denim wardrobe for more conventional attire. Our goal is to make money, preferably lots of it, and if our success involves sacrificing our own values for the ideals of those who happen to be in charge of things, then by golly, we're just the generation to do it.

What a shame it is that a handful of protestors of the '60s variety has chosen to stand in the way of progress by speaking out against nuclear power. The fools are obviously unaware that the unleashing of atomic energy constitutes a boon to mankind rivaling the discovery of fire, the invention of the wheel and the development of biological warfare. Nuclear reactors would eliminate the need for barbaric and inefficient solar power plants, and would

provide us with employment, hard work and enough financial security to supply ourselves and our families with the most prestigious lead-lined fashions money can buy. So what if our tonsils glow in the dark? We'll have enough guaranteed energy to keep the wheels of technology turning for a lifetime (or 90 days, whichever comes first).

And that's just part of the story. In a gesture of goodwill toward our overseas allies almost on par with the 1970 invasion of Cambodia, the Westinghouse Electric Corp. graciously has volunteered to sell a \$1.1 billion reactor to our friends in the Philippines. Maybe they should have stuck with refrigerators. The Marcos dictatorship of that country now wants to make sure the local inhabitants receive all the benefits of nuclear power—whether they like it or not. No doubt assuming that the plant's location in an earthquake zone and the 200 odd safety flaws in its design only will add suspense and excitement to the otherwise boring existence of the populace, the Marcos regime has taken to arresting, torturing and otherwise making life difficult for those who publicly voice the opinion that no nukes are good nukes. Fortunately, all of us over here live in a democratic society which espouses freedom of



speech, freedom of thought and equal consideration of all points of view. Over here, we just run the lousy troublemakers off the road.

So if you're one of those backward freaks supporting alternative energy research, you might as well give up the struggle right now. The cause is lost. As any nuker can tell you, oil is rapidly running out, coal is too dirty and the sun is useful only for giving us a good, deep tan when we're

vacationing in Acapulco. We're a business-minded nation, and we're not about to let muscular deterioration, chromosome damage and increased risk of cancer stand in the way of our good-paying jobs. Yessir, it looks like nuclear power is here to stay.

Too bad we're not.

Jeff Porterfield is a sophomore journalism major from Burlington.

Orange Republican election gains illusory

By GERRY COHEN

The result of last Tuesday's election in Orange County may have surprised a few folks. Orange always has had a reputation as a liberal and Democratic area—it was one of only two of the 100 N.C. counties to vote for George McGovern for president, and it has voted for only two Republican candidates in the last 60 years.

This year, Republicans ran energetic campaigns for two local offices for the first time in memory, and after the election, Republican chairperson Ray Montgomery said that the GOP was making "inroads" in Orange, and another local Republican said 1978 was a "great step forward" for the local GOP.

It might interest the public to look at the election returns, however, which show that the Republican local candidates took their worst local shellacking since 1970 last week. In other words, they didn't gain—they lost.

I'll compare the 1978 and 1974 state Senate races, and the 1972 through 1978 county commission contests. Remember,



Richard Batts

also, that the top of the ticket was not as strong in Orange this year as usual. Nick Galifianakis got 69 percent of the vote in 1972 for U.S. senator. Robert Morgan got 68 percent in 1974, and John Ingram got 60 percent in 1978. Yet local Democratic candidates have continued to increase their local margins.

In both 1974 and 1978, Democrat Charles Vickery had Republican opposition from Chapel Hill. In 1974, Vickery got 66.5 percent of the vote in Orange against Ed Tenney, but in 1978, he got 69.7 percent against Richard Smyth. The liberal Vickery also showed strength in both conservative rural Orange and liberal Chapel Hill-Carrboro, getting 69.7 percent in both areas.

In the county commissioners race with four-year terms, two liberal Democrats faced two conservative Republicans in 1972, and got 68.9 percent. In 1974, liberals took over county government with a slate of two conservatives and one liberal candidate; who got 72.0 percent of the vote. In 1976, the GOP ran no candidates, and in 1978, Democrats nominated two liberals (Norm Gustaveson and Anne Barnes), and one conservative (Norman Walker), and got 73.2 percent in the countywide race, leaving a four-member liberal majority on the county commission. Anti-public spending speakers vigorously attacked the county commissioners throughout the summer budget process, saying that angry county residents would vote out the liberal commissioners. The only thing they forgot was that the public health and education programs which the commissioners have increased were popular with the voters, and the electorate gave an even bigger yes to a board even more liberal than the one that conservatives attacked this summer.

The Democratic trend in Orange came despite a factor that was supposed to help the GOP—the presence of Richard Batts

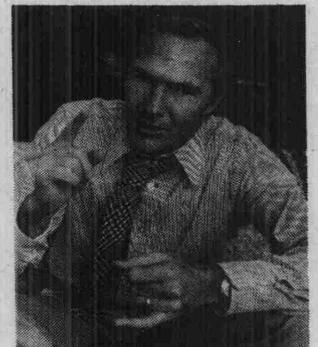
on the ticket. Batts, a black Republican, got just 33.1 percent of the vote, less than some local Republicans got four years ago.

The local trends seem to indicate several things. Nationally, columnists are bawling what they see as the demise of political parties, and the rise of single issue special interest groups. Yet in Orange County, the two local parties seem to be strengthening. Liberal Democrats and conservative Democrats held together and elected a liberal-dominated ticket with several conservative candidates on it, which is nearly unheard of in these days of ticket splitting; the Republicans ran their first real local campaign that I can remember in 10 years of contributing articles to the *Daily Tar Heel*.

One of the strongest indicators was party registration. Democratic registration outpaced Republican this fall among new voters by a 79 percent to 11 percent margin, but more importantly, independent registration was only 10 percent, lowest in memory, indicating that the two active local parties have interested voters.

Orange is a highly Democratic county, and the Republicans have a hard job. They have elected a few Republicans to non-partisan office, such as Phyllis Sockwell, Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Board chairperson, but have had little success in partisan races.

The value of endorsements was mixed this fall, as usual. The *Daily Tar Heel* endorsed Batts and he carried Mason Farm, a mostly student precinct. Other student areas voted heavily against Batts, however. The Black Caucus endorsed Batts, but he still lost in the black precincts. The *Tar Heel* was selective in its endorsements, a difference from some past elections. When I ran for mayor in 1975 (and lost by a 62 to 38 margin), the Young Republicans sent out a letter to all



Sen. Charles Vickery

student Republicans saying that Republicans should vote against me because I was more liberal than my opponent. No matter that I was calling for increased bus service (something we are finally getting this fall), and my opponent was advocating cutbacks in bus service. The YRs apparently were more concerned at the time with "narrow ideology than with how the candidates helped the general interests of their group. This is not solely the fault of the YRs because the Young Democrats and just about every special interest group has been guilty of the same thing.

Students concerned about the rise of special interest groups trying to stop the ERA and end abortions should get active in political organizations that try to hold candidates responsible to their platforms. The political parties in Orange County should watch the performance of local officials this year and keep their feet to the fire.

Gerry Cohen is a Chapel Hill alderman.

Letters to the editor

Black admissions stand needs clarification

To the editor:

The following is an open letter to Chancellor N. Ferebee Taylor:

It has been quite some time since Dean Hayden B. Renwick charged the University with inconsistent admission policies.

We, the UNC Black Campus Cabinet, are still wondering if and when you will respond directly to each of his accusations.

We listened to your blanket statement at a recent Faculty Council meeting and we are still left wondering what the University has to say about Dean Renwick's allegations.

We question the admissions office's claim of using black students in the spring follow-up program for minorities when no black students were used.

We question your definition of a qualified student. You say no qualified blacks were denied admission, but exactly what do you mean by "qualified"?

We also wonder why you took so long to respond to such serious charges. Or do you consider these charges "serious"?

We wonder if the University is more committed to recruiting athletes than blacks, since there were athletes admitted with lower qualifications than blacks who were rejected.

We wonder if the University is more committed to admitting and keeping athletes than blacks, since this University spends much more time and money tutoring and advising its athletes than its black population, or for that matter tutoring and advising "plain ol' students" period.

We hope that you as a mature individual would extend to us, a group of mature individuals, the courtesy of a meeting (time and place of your choice), during which these questions could be answered. We wish only to clarify some dangerously clouded issues.

Do you?
UNC Black Campus Cabinet

From the hapless few...

To the editor:

For the past few weeks, the Carolina Union has shown *Battletar Galactica* on the wide-screen television upstairs.

Well and good. There's no accounting for taste. But Sunday night that television was used for the far more worthy task of showing a film on world malnutrition. So the barbarian horde descended upon the hapless few watching *60 Minutes* downstairs, and arbitrarily turned the channel.

I wouldn't have hurt anyone to miss the

first 15 minutes of such swill as *B.G.* The Union owes us an apology, and a promise that similar cretinisms won't happen again.

R.K. Klocko
4427 Erwin Road

Vote of confidence

To the editor:

As a loyal Tar Heel fan, I suggest Dick Crum be nominated for coach of the year—he has shown amazing ability in renovating the defending ACC champions and bowl team into a pitiful tragedy. Crum has exhibited phenomenal

wisdom in such decisions as removing Amos Lawrence when the team reached scoring position against Richmond, after it was Lawrence who had rushed to that point. Maybe such moves were made out of compassion for the "poor Richmond Spiders," winners of only one game until Dick's contribution. Mr. Crum's program could be the answer to any troublesome future expansion of Kenan Stadium.

Charles Eddy
761 Airport Road

