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# The Daily Tar Heel

86th year of editorial freedom

## letters to the editor

# Board of Governors delegate some power

To the editor:  
An article on the Board of Governors appearing in the Oct. 24 DTH and citing me as the source stated that the power of the Board of Governors "has limited the individual influence of the boards of trustees at each of the 16 schools and has left virtually all the decisions in the hands of the central board."

The statement is inaccurate; the 16 institutional boards have extensive powers. The theory consistently followed by the Board of Governors has been that only those decisions that need to be made centrally should be made centrally; all others should be made at the campus level, either by the Board of Trustees or the chancellor.

Among the areas in which nearly all power has been delegated to the institutions are these: personnel, campus planning, endowments and trust funds, admissions, student services, student activities, the construction of buildings, honorary degrees, campus security and the management of such auxiliary enterprises as the Carolina Inn.

The "North Carolina Plan" for higher education attempts to put sufficient strength in the center to avoid unnecessary duplication and to insure a coordinated system of higher education. At the same time it attempts to give as much freedom as possible to the institutions, thus encouraging institutional initiative and the development of a diversified system.

Many authorities on the governance of higher education believe we in this state have hit upon the best scheme yet devised for division of responsibility between a central board and the institutions. Our plan is admired all over the nation; it needs to be understood here at home.

John P. Kennedy Jr.  
Secretary of the University

### Great Scott

To the editor:  
Now that the voting for Homecoming Queen is over, although the winner has not been announced, I have something to say. Over a month and a half ago, we, in Scott College, started planning and working on a project...the selection of Miss Scott College. The project was intended to serve the purpose of creating a spirit of unity within the "New Scott College" (Whitehead, Teague, Parker and Avery). We felt that selecting and supporting a girl in our residence area for Homecoming Queen would foster a sense of "togetherness."

Committees were formed and each floor nominated a representative. The voting took place, and Ruth Lineberger was selected as Miss Scott College. A central committee then made publicity plans and submitted Ruth's name to the CAA. Posters were printed and were being sent to us via the bus company.

However, when members of the committee went to pick up the posters, they were not there. An imposter had intercepted them. At first, we thought that a friendly prank had been played on us, but as the voting day grew nearer,



there were still no posters. The bus company acknowledged their mistake in not asking for identification during the pickup and agreed to reimburse us for the cost of the posters. But we still had no posters.

The question remains: Who is low down and sneaky enough to do such a dastardly deed? At last report, the two villains had called the CAA office and admitted to thieving the posters. Why? They said it was a protest to Ruth's late registration. Did they not realize that other girls were registered after the deadline also? Apparently not. The crooks ruined our campaign, but not our spirit.

We're still very proud of the committee's hard work and of Ruth Lineberger—Miss Scott College. This whole incident made me realize how lucky I am to live in a residence area like Scott College. Here, we don't foster the growth of irresponsible, irrational and immature behavior. As for the scurvy who stole our posters, I can forgive, but I can't forget the incident. I'm glad you're not a part of Scott College and sad that you are a part of UNC.

Jimmy Huneycutt  
Scott College governor

### Students in politics

To the editor:  
The voters of Carrboro recently passed a critical bond referendum for \$1.5 million to be spent on recreation and bikeways. Student voters proved once again to be the decisive factor in charting

a progressive course for our town. Town elections and referenda have for the past few years reflected the degree of student interest and involvement. Three attempts by the Board of Aldermen seeking approval to use property taxes to support public transit have failed when the student turnout was low. Likewise the student vote has been the margin of victory in electing and maintaining a progressive board in the municipal elections of 1975 and 1977.

Though the student population is largely transient, its needs are very real. Only through continued participation in the electoral process and in the life of the town, will those needs be addressed. I encourage students to become even more involved. Get registered, file your personal property tax (in January), serve on an appointed board or commission, participate in our many recreation programs, and vote.

Douglas Sharer  
3 McAlpine Apartments

### Ceaselessly amazed

To the editor:  
The willful ignorance displayed by such opponents of nuclear power as the Kudzu Alliance, ECOS and your columnist Jeff Porterfield never ceases to be amazing. Spend a few hours in the library and you will find:

- 1) Radiation leakage from operating nuclear plants is so minimal that it is difficult to detect.
- 2) Death, illness and property damage from a worst-case core meltdown would be substantial, but the probability of a

core meltdown is extremely low, something on the order of being hit by a meteorite.

3) There are no current adequate plans for long-term storage of nuclear wastes. One alternative to this undeniable problem is not to store the wastes, but to reprocess and use them in the kind of breeder reactors currently operating in France and the Soviet Union.

4) Given our demand for energy, the immediate future supply of energy will have to come from an increasing use of coal, or nuclear power, or both, and a decreasing use of oil. Solar power can be helpful in such areas as residential space heating, but remains impractical for cooling, industrial use and transportation.

Nevertheless, these simple facts are passionately denied by anti-nuke activists. They prefer to dance around in skeleton costumes and prattle on about future generations glowing in the dark. Arguing with an anti-nuker resembles nothing so much as arguing with a religious fundamentalist. Facts are irrelevant; belief is based on faith and emotion. The emotion is obvious from Porterfield's column. The faith you can test for yourself: Try an experiment; argue with an anti-nuker and make up pro-nuclear studies and evidence. I have and found that it makes no difference. Anti-nukers remain opposed to nuclear power, regardless. Apparently, to their point of view, the essential point is that monstrous trolls live in the hearts of nuclear power plants.

A. Hewitt Rose  
F-1 Castilian Villa

## Justice for the 10

The case against the Wilmington 10. The phrase has an unmistakable ring to it. To the uninformed, it might sound as convincing as any pronouncement by our judiciary, to which we are used to lending much credence.

To the informed, however, the phrase rings hollow. It resonates, in fact, of every instance in which our system of laws has lent its credibility to causes of less worth. It is a sound which saddens and depresses.

For the uninformed, the Wilmington 10 are nine black men and one white woman who were convicted in 1972 of firebombing a grocery store and conspiring to shoot at police and firefighters during racial disturbances in Wilmington in 1971. They were convicted on the strength of testimony by three persons who have since recanted their stories, and the efforts of a state prosecutor who has since admitted to making gifts to one of the witnesses, and has been impugned by evidence that the state granted favors to the other two witnesses as well.

The case against the Wilmington 10 is a myth. And like all myths it contains a grain of truth; at least, that truth which is attached to events by our courts. And we cannot in all honesty gainsay the verdict of the jury which convicted the 10; the approximation of the truth with which they were confronted by the state in that trial was, after all, quite artful.

We can, however, and must, gainsay the disposition of the case by the state at that time, since then and now. As more and more of the improprieties in the case's handling have been revealed, the true nature of the case against the 10 has become more clearly delineated.

The case against the Wilmington 10 is a political and a racist myth. And however political, however unconcerned with justice and the law, however racist the case's handling was at its inception, it has only grown more so, by orders of magnitude, with every attempt by our state's leaders to deny its nature.

Unfortunately for those leaders, however, they have raised the case's political stakes so high, because of the magnitude of the injustice they have done the 10, that a higher political authority—that of the federal government—has been drawn in, inexorably and quite against its will. (The federal government, after all, has no great desire to contradict a state's government, or people, with which it is supposed to cooperate.) The brief filed by the U.S. Justice Department in Federal District Court in Raleigh on Tuesday, requesting that the convictions of the 10 be overturned, was by all accounts an answer to the federal government's many critics in this case (who include the Congressional Black Caucus and the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Amnesty International). Yet it was as well an answer shaped by a number of other political concerns—most notably for the conservative Democrats of this state, the South and the nation in general: it contained only very muted objections to the treatment of the 10, it was delivered by the Justice Department rather than the White House, and, significantly, it came after the November elections.

A stronger answer may be needed, however. Too much injustice has been meted out. For too long the racist and political nature of the case against the Wilmington 10 has been allowed to dictate its disposition; and for too long both state and federal governments have been generating political capital, by their actions and inaction, from the 10. We hope that the government's action in this instance will have its intended effect in law: the overthrowing of the convictions of the Wilmington 10. If not, it will be time for the nation's—the president's—political energies and capabilities to be turned directly toward returning justice to the Wilmington 10.

# New hope for Wilmington 10; Iran relatively quiet

## The Week

By TERRI HUNT

"I don't know how long I was there, but all of a sudden, the world caved in on me."

After "Butch" Summers, 30, was cutting a beam with a torch on the first floor of the Connor Hotel in Joplin, Mo., when the entire nine-story building collapsed last Saturday. Rescuers worked for three and a half days to free Summers from his entombment.

"I thought only the first floor had fallen on me," said Summers, who suffered a broken pelvis and three broken ribs in the mishap. "I would have felt a lot less hope if I had known it was a whole building."

On Tuesday afternoon, more than 82 hours after the 70-year-old hotel had fallen on him, Summers said he heard the rumble of voices. He took a pipe in his hand and started pounding. Officials said two falling steel beams must have crossed, holding up a slab of concrete to form the pocket which saved Summers' life. Summers said he could do no more than lie on his back or side in the dark cavity.

"It was a matter of just keeping my head and not panicking," Summers said. "I was scared some, but all you can do is keep your head and keep thinking that someone will come to get you out."

The landmark hotel collapsed one day before it was scheduled for demolition to make way for a new library.

The federal government asked a federal court on Tuesday in an unprecedented friend-of-the-court brief to overturn the convictions of the Wilmington 10.

In a 89-page brief, the government said it had found evidence that the defendants did not receive a fair trial when they were convicted of arson and conspiracy in a 1971 firebombing incident during a time of racial unrest in Wilmington.

Filed by the Justice Department, the brief questioned whether the state's chief witness, Allen Hall, told the truth when he testified that each of the defendants took part in the firebombing.

The department said its evidence indicated that Hall was not a reliable witness, that the defendants were not allowed to portray fully Hall's unreliability at the trial, and that the prosecutor, James Stroud, withheld from the defense an amended statement by Hall that cast doubt on his testimony.

Defendants in the case, nine black men and a white woman, were convicted of arson and conspiracy in connection with the burning of Mike's Grocery, a white-owned store, on Feb. 6, 1971. The firebombing came after a week of racial violence which left one white man and one black man dead.

Of the defendants, nine have been freed, eight of them on parole as a result of Gov. James B. Hunt reducing their sentences in January. The only defendant still in jail is the Rev. Ben Chavis, who is not eligible for parole until Jan. 1, 1980. However, if the court heeds the government's brief, all parole restrictions would be lifted.

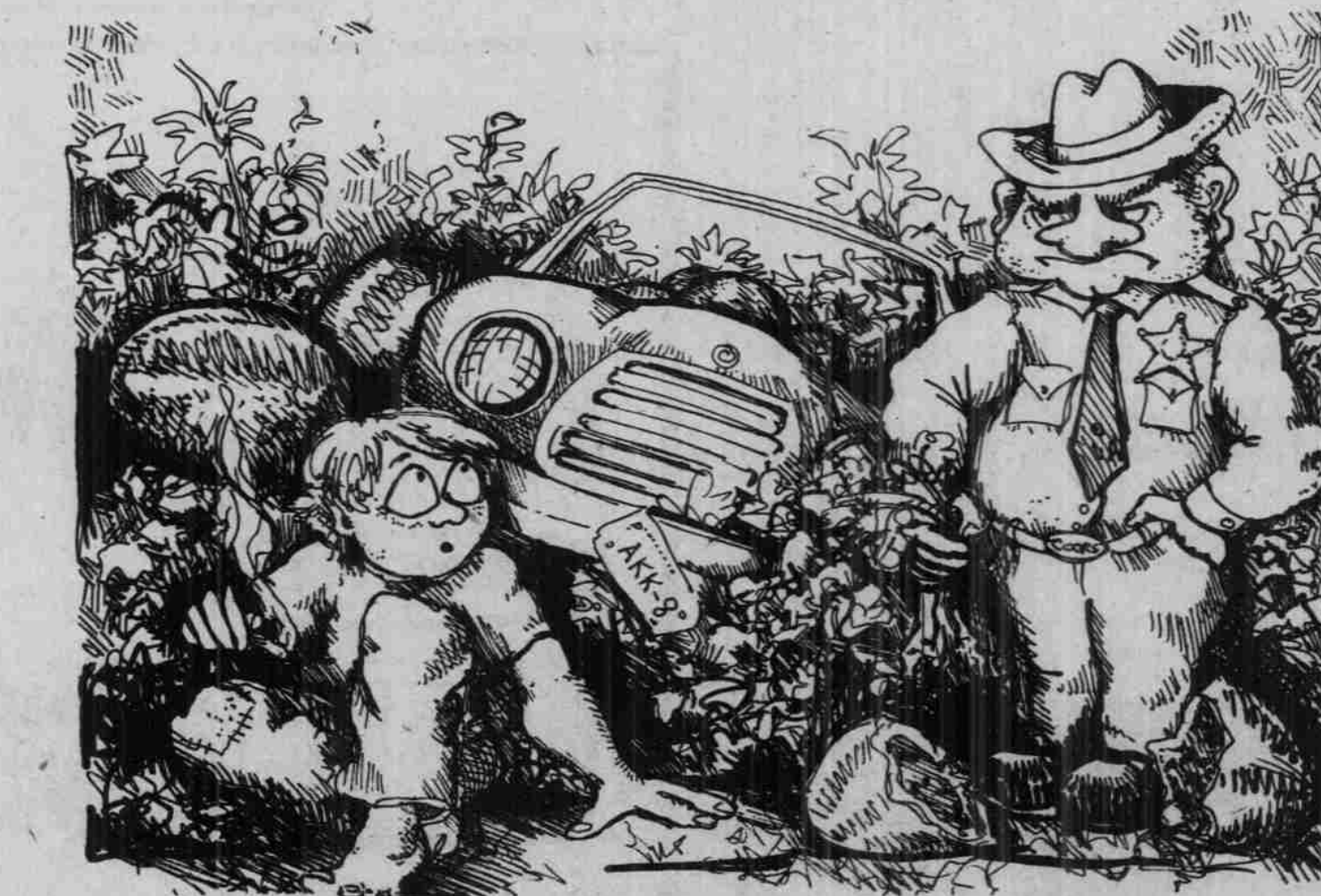
An air of uncertainty hung over Washington throughout the week as Egypt and Israel remained deeply divided over the future of the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip.

On Wednesday, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat termed the Mideast peace talks as being in a state of "crisis" and raised the possibility of a suspension to allow Egypt and Israel time to ponder their positions.

The sticking point at the talks has been Sadat's demand that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty be linked with progress on solving the West Bank and Gaza Strip questions. Under the Camp David agreements, Palestinians in both territories are to be granted autonomy within five years. Israeli officials oppose Sadat's demand.

Informed Egyptian sources said their government has formulated new proposals designed to avoid a total deadlock while still holding to Egypt's key demands.

In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Menachem



Begin said the Israeli Cabinet broke off a review of the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations to await clarification of the proposals expected from Egypt.

releasing political prisoners and replacing foreigners in the oil industry with Iranians. However, acceptance of the demands has not been made official.

By the middle of the week, relative peace and order were restored to Iran as the violent anti-government protests ended and striking oil workers returned to their jobs.

Government officials reported Wednesday that only peaceful marches to protest the rule of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi took place, as opposed to the bloody riots that had terrorized many Iranian cities in opposition to the 59-year-old monarch. The peaceful protests were in sharp contrast to the clashes between youths and security forces in the past four days which had left at least 23 persons dead and scores wounded.

Oil workers ended their 15-day-old strike when it was reported that the shah had agreed to meet their demands of ending martial law.

Speaking of oil, reports of new oil discoveries along Mexico's Gulf Coast have increased the prospect that the southern neighbor of the United States will supplant Saudi Arabia as the world's premier producer.

The national oil company, PEMEX, said Monday if the finds along the "Golden Belt" are proved, they could increase the country's potential reserves from some 200 billion barrels to more than 300 billion—double the amount of Saudi Arabia's reserves.

Participants in an investment scheme circulating in North Carolina claim that investors in the "Circle of Gold" chain letter can reap more than \$100,000.

There's only one catch—the N.C. attorney general's office says the chain letter is illegal and plans to stop its circulation.

The way the chain letter process works is that for \$50 a new investor buys a list of 12 names of other participants. The new investor then puts \$50 in an envelope and mails it to the top name on the list. He then adds his own name to the bottom of the list, sells the letter twice to reimburse his \$100 investment, and waits for the money to flow in.

Wake County District Attorney Randolph Riley said the chain letter is illegal under a 1971 N.C. law that classifies chain letters in the same category as lotteries. Riley's office and the Consumer Protection Division of the N.C. attorney general's office are determined to halt the letter.

Well, so much for marijuana and watermelons in Connell, Wash. It seems the town's police chief can't tell marijuana plants from watermelon seedlings. Tex German is suing the town for \$7,500 because Chief Andy Sawyer destroyed his watermelon plants thinking they were marijuana.

The chief, however, may be hard pressed to defend his position when the case goes to Franklin County Superior Court. He discarded the evidence after seizing them last May.

Sawyer said he received a tip last May that pot was growing in three junked cars. But German claims he used the abandoned cars as hothouses for his melon seedlings, closing the doors at night to keep out the frost.

German said the 800 melon sprouts that were destroyed eventually would have yielded 20 tons of watermelons. So, if there is a watermelon shortage this summer in Connell, we'll know why.

Terri Hunt, a senior journalism major from Stantonsburg, is a staff writer for the Daily Tar Heel.