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The Daily Tar Heel

86th year of editorial freedom

Springfest

Weather, booking agents and the Campus Governing Council are the only remaining obstacles standing in the way of a weekend of unadulterated entertainment this spring: two nights of the best music money can buy in Kenan Stadium, along with Henderson Residence College's traditional local concerts and the yearly Apple Chill celebration on Franklin Street. Timed perfectly as an end-of-the-year, pre-exam blowout, the new campuswide Springfest (borrowing HRC's slogan) will feature big-name concerts in Kenan on the nights of April 20 and 21 and is certain to win the hearts (and probably minds) of students of all classes and interests.

Just as impressive as the weekend's schedule, though, is the collective work that was needed to bring such an idea so close to fruition. As early as last fall, members of Student Body President Bill Moss' administration held countless meetings with University and town officials to sound out the possibilities of returning music to Kenan Stadium. They made numerous telephone calls to area and national promoters and agents and checked out the demands for security, lighting and other necessities for a big outdoor concert. This fall, the finishing touches were put on the notion and a promoter was found; all that remains is formal CGC approval of an appropriation of \$100,000 to help finance the project and the selection of the four bands that will appear.

And, of course, the ticket sales. At \$4 for students, it's an offer you can't refuse. We're eagerly awaiting the new Springfest, and in the meantime commend those who have played a part in a difficult but infinitely rewarding project.

After the boom

The average age of North Carolina's population is going up, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, and the trend seems to promise some touchy problems for the state's future.

An update report issued last week reveals that between 1970 and 1977, North Carolina's population grew from 5.08 million to 5.52 million. But the report also shows that the number of people in the state under 18 years of age decreased on the whole, while the adult population increased dramatically.

And the trend doesn't seem likely to reverse itself anytime soon. It appears that the particular needs and characteristics of an "older" society will be a major issue in our society for a very long time to come—in fact, until most of us are also "older." As the Census Bureau report reveals, those of us of college age are among the last products of the baby boom which followed World War II; as the report also reveals, we are failing for a number of reasons to reproduce that boom.

Of course, things won't be all that terrible for North Carolinians. The declining proportion of young people in the state's population reflects a nationwide trend toward an older population, so at least we won't be alone in dealing with its problems. And many economists feel that the South in general will continue to grow proportionally against the rest of the country.

But some adjustments will have to be made for the older population; it is a phenomenon, after all, for which our country and our state simply have no precedents. The most obvious consequence of our collective aging will be the demands it places on our economic life. Nationally, economic growth can be expected to slow from its current 4 percent annually to about 3 percent, according to a number of economists. And for many of the future members of the work force, the tightening of the economy will mean a reduced chance of securing a management position, while the growth of the over-65 segment of the population will place a tremendous burden of Social Security taxes on the work force.

The picture seems somewhat brighter for North Carolina. Many economists feel the tightening of the labor market will bring a drop in the state's unemployment rate and a proportional increase in wages; the state's economic growth, many feel, will continue pretty much unabated, as women continue to make inroads into traditionally male-dominated occupations and people continue to move here to take advantage of our expanding opportunities.

But if the aging trend will have its most important consequences in economic terms, other aspects of our society will probably reflect much of the same characteristics. Just as our economy will experience a slowed pace, so too, for example, will our political life. As a nation we can be expected to grow more conservative in the decades to come, and while this doesn't mean that we will take a sudden collective lurch to the right, it does seem to promise that our political thought will become rooted more solidly in its present patterns.

But if the picture seems to be one of general ossification, there is at least the hope that our generation will be equal to the task. Ours, after all, has seen—and caused—a great deal of change in its time.

Activist for atheism brings word to faithful

'In Quotes'

By DINITA JAMES

Madalyn Murray O'Hair could be anyone's mother or grandmother, judging from appearances alone. She could even attend the Baptist women's teas every Wednesday afternoon, for all you could tell from looking at her.

And she may be a mother and a grandmother, but you would never find her at a Baptist women's tea, unless she was there to convert the ladies to atheism.

O'Hair, head of the American Atheist organization and principal in the lawsuit that led to the barring of organized prayer in public schools, visited the UNC campus on Nov. 21.

On Nov. 22, she began litigation in Charlotte to overturn Article VI, section 8 of the state constitution, which says, in part, "The following persons shall be disqualified for office: First, any person who shall deny the being of Almighty God..."

She said American children grow up being Christians because the government believes a Christian democracy will defeat communism.

She said political leaders have reinforced the Christian doctrine. "Eisenhower never made a speech without linking atheism and communism. He had the idea that the only way to fight communism was with Christianity. This is one of the most idiotic ideas this nation has ever had."

The turning over of large amounts of land and buildings to religious institutions after World War II was another means by which the government indoctrinated Americans into Christianity, she said.

"The War Assets Administration took land and billions of dollars worth of buildings and turned them over to churches. The first one was 120 acres of land given to the Baptists in Florida. Florida State University. The largest was 300 acres and 237 buildings to the Seventh Day Adventists, who said they believed in the separation of church and state. They were liars. What they could get, they took."

The property owned by churches is under tax-exempt status, O'Hair said, and cuts taxpayers out of millions of dollars. "The churches own part or all of Borden Milk, Burlington Industries, Firestone, Hertz and Westinghouse. They've cheated you out of so much tax money just because



Madalyn Murray O'Hair

of their tax-exempt status."

O'Hair also said the churches own property that cannot be claimed as religious. "In New Orleans and Cincinnati, the churches own warehouses. I can't figure out why that's religious. What it is, is that the income is good, and they don't care where it comes from. So, in order to fight the boogeyman of communism, we decided to employ Christians, subsidize Christians and give tax money to Christians. Are we any better off now?"

According to O'Hair, we are not. "If you look, you'll see they are not fighting communism. Europe is Marxist. West Germany is Marxist. Portugal, China and Spain are Marxist. Even England is socialist. So the grand scheme to fight communism with Christianity has not worked. The Roman Catholics have just pulled off the biggest coup of all time. They pulled in a bishop from a communist country and made him pope. Now that's evidence of our grand scheme working that Moscow can send up a rocket for. There's detente between the Kremlin and the Vatican."

She also said the money donated by church members that goes to buy more factories and land could be used much better elsewhere. "Churches

get \$9 billion a year in those little wicker baskets. With \$9 billion a year we might eliminate VD. With \$9 billion a year we could fight cancer. With \$9 billion a year we could ease the slum conditions."

Atheists are concerned with the tax-exempt status of churches because it affects their and others' tax burdens, she said. "In the United States, 25-27 percent of the population is either atheist or agnostic. We have a long tradition in the States. Mark Twain was an atheist and so was Thomas Alva Edison. And the only thing I am concerned with now is to have those atheists try to correct the tax situation. We want to rally around the issue, bring the atheists out of the closet and see what we can do to ease the burden of taxes that is such a burden because religion won't pay its share."

Prayer and religious rituals are also a way government controls the masses, O'Hair said. "It is a way to control you by teaching you that you are no good. They teach you to rely on prayer. Prayer is useless exercise. All you do with prayers is deceive yourself."

And she also said ministers were corrupt and a part of the brainwashing system of the government. "I debate the ministers and then go to their hotels, the best hotels in town. I see their women. I see them feel up their women in front of me. I see their diamond rings and their whiskey. I drink some of their whiskey and then watch them leave in their Cadillacs."

"And then these ministers use sex to control you. Each and every one of you has masturbated. And each and every one of you has felt guilty about it, guilty about something as innocent and human as that. The government needs you Christians because you are mindless and faceless."

She said that if the freedoms of individuals continue to be diminished by religious institutions which forbid them, the government, with the help of atheists, will stop supporting Christianity.

"Atheists have always stood for freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of the individual and the individual's right to free thought. The churches are beginning to tell the government to go to hell, and when this goes on long enough, it's going to come down to a showdown between the churches and government. I'm just waiting to see that happen."

Dinita James, a sophomore journalism and English major from Stokesdale, is a staff writer for the Daily Tar Heel.

letters to the editor

Hunt education policy: a double standard?

To the editor:
While I can't doubt Gov. Hunt's good intentions regarding education, I must question his methods. He consistently puts his political cart before the horse.

An educational system can't be remade overnight, or in two years, or even in one term as governor. But in two terms? That's another story. With the proper orientation, that second term can be secured.

This is what North Carolinians have been served: window dressing.

The competency test and the Math and Science school are not inherently bad ideas, if they serve as hallmarks of a prudently strengthened educational system. Instead, they're being used as a bureaucratic whip to make teachers and students sit up and beg. Schools aren't improving their curricula, but are training explicitly for the competency test. If this keeps up, soon students will be spending their entire school careers learning to fill out a computer form, except those few gifted fortunates the governor deigns to receive into his quaint new boarding school. There they will learn to benefit the state (those, at least, who lack the career mobility to get their kids a better education out-of-state.)

Why pronounce the patient cured before administering his treatment? Let's make sure that all students can at least read before we fawn on the gifted ones. Improve schools for everyone, and there will be less compulsion to rescue the white and bright from the throes of public education.

R.K. Kloko
4427 Erwin

How about an Eskimo?

To the editor:
I thoroughly enjoyed reading the comments that Greg Crawford and Michael Bagley made concerning a name for the proposed new library ("Name new library for black," DTH, Nov. 30). Howard Lee is an excellent choice. Mr. Lee has made many an outstanding contribution to Chapel Hill and the University...and he is, of course, black. But let's not limit ourselves to just one out of many alternatives.

Consider the Italians. Certainly there have been, and are, many citizens of Italian descent that have given generously to this village. There have also been numerous campus leaders of Jewish heritage. In fact, I doubt that there is a single building dedicated to a Pole. Face it, there is no limit on the choices we have.

But seriously, isn't it about time that we, as responsible citizens of this university community, grew up? I am not by any means condemning Mr. Crawford's and Mr. Bagley's suggestion of dedicating the new library to Howard Lee. It's an excellent choice. But can we not consider such action on the value of Mr. Lee's contribution alone—and not on the color of his skin, or the land of his heritage?

Steve Hull
116 Connor

Et tu, 'DTH'?

To the editor:
I wish to express my profound dismay at the article "Latin—More students taking it, but doesn't make sciences

easier," DTH, Nov. 27. It seems superfluous to offer a systematic rebuttal of the article, since it is written from a stance of brute "practicality" which, carried to its logical conclusion, is antithetical to the entire humanities curriculum on this campus. The notions of what people are, and of our relationship to our cultural heritage, cannot be subordinated completely to the mastery of technical knowledge necessary for any given career. Else, what is now a university becomes a glorified vocational-technical school.

But even if one could accept practicality as the highest criterion for choosing courses, the article does a disservice to health sciences students. It implies that "Medical Latin" is another of those "unnecessary" language courses. This is simply incorrect. "Medical Latin," of which the real title is "Medical Word Formation and Etymology" (Classes 25), does not attempt to teach the student Latin or Greek. Rather, it deals with the 650-odd Greek and Latin words which make up literally thousands of medical terms (about 75 percent of those currently in use). By learning these root words, and the ways in which they combine to form medical terms, the course provides a system, a shortcut to mastering the many strange terms which confront every preprofessional in the health sciences. Far from being a language course, Classics 25 is practical in the most obvious way. Students who could find great value in such a course may well be discouraged from taking it because of your careless blanket application of the label "not necessary" to Classics 25 and courses of subtler value. Though I am sure that the author's intentions were benign, the result is pernicious. Hopefully, you can undo some of the damage by printing this letter. Thank you.

Christopher P. Craig
Classics department

More on nukes

To the editor:

I was intrigued by Mr. Rose's contention ("Distortions," DTH, Nov. 30) that anti-nuclear energy arguments are based on faith and emotion, not facts and evidence. Seldom have I encountered a person so confident of his own evidence and unwilling to accept criticism of his own beliefs. Apparently anything that can be mustered to support his argument is fact, and therefore a building block in the construction of progress. Contentions to the contrary are simply foolishness, in his view. He does not realize that his own approval of nuclear energy is based on his faith that it can be handled safely.

Call it faith or emotion or whatever, I cannot escape believing that it is dangerous to create large quantities of a material which is highly deadly even at a distance. Once the material is created, we have to live with it. My understanding of the current situation is that the nuclear industry is waiting for the government to come up with a satisfactory solution to the radioactive waste problem. How interesting—the industry is every day creating more of this deadly matter, trusting on faith that the government will find some way to get rid of it. I suppose Mr. Rose would counter this by saying that, based on his facts and evidence, radioactive waste can be stored safely if we are willing to take the necessary precautions. I think that to claim that it will never endanger anyone is to assume human perfection: as a student of history, I have yet to see evidence of such perfection in the past.

The manner by which we have come to depend on nuclear energy strikes me as irrational. A gigantic industry was created, people were then convinced that they could cheaply maintain their high level of energy consumption (maintain their addiction); and the liabilities have only recently become a topic of serious

debate. A more logical method would have been to reassess our real energy needs first, compare them with the liabilities of using nuclear energy, and then make the decision to build or not build it.

I think a little common sense in the first place would have indicated that we, and all the plants and animals on this planet (which unfortunately are never able to assert their interests in such matters), would be better off if we used much less energy and did not fool with this most dangerous form of fire. Now there is too much invested in the nuclear industry, and we are too much accustomed to the easy life it provides, to make abandonment of it "practical."

What really galls me is that the utilities never asked me if I mind them creating large quantities of radioactive waste. Of course, many things are done which I do not like, without my approval. This case, however, is particularly insidious—my living to a ripe old age and having normal, healthy children, depend on the utilities' perfect handling of deadly materials. That is fact, not emotion. Mr. Rose, you have faith that they can do the job flawlessly. I do not. There may not be monstrous trolls in the hearts of nuclear power plants, but I hope neither you nor your children or grandchildren ever have the misfortune of coming in contact with what is there.

Mathew Fischer
211 Craige

Letters?

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes contributions and letters to the editor. Letters must be signed, typed on a 60-space line, double-spaced and accompanied by a return address. Letters chosen for publication are subject to editing.

The Daily Tar Heel

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