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The Daily Tar Heel

87th year of editorial freedom

The House race

When state Rep. Edward S. Holmes of Pittsboro decided not to run for a fifth term last week, many local political figures were disappointed because his absence will leave a void in this district's considerable influence in the state House. Holmes, who was chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee for four years, was a popular representative and a strong advocate of the University's interests who would have been a formidable opponent in the 1980 election. But his decision not to become a candidate opens the race and provides the opportunity for some fresh debate about the legislative priorities for the 17th District, which is comprised of Orange and Chatham counties.

Rep. Patricia Hunt of Chapel Hill, who also has represented the 17th District for the past eight years, filed to run for re-election last week. Hunt has also been an influential voice in the General Assembly, and her candidacy probably will mean that the other hopefuls in the House race for this district will concentrate on Holmes' seat. At least four Orange and Chatham county residents who have not yet filed are interested in running—a prospect that indicates the race could stir up some badly needed interest in the General Assembly races this year.

Counting Hunt, six of the seven people mentioned as possible opponents for the seats are Orange County residents. Wallace Kaufman, a Pittsboro real estate appraiser and writer who owns a realty company in Carrboro, and Chapel Hill Republican James Stephen Blair have filed to run for the two House seats. The field of potential candidates includes a Chapel Hill attorney, a Chapel Hill minister and school board member, a politically active Orange County commissioner, a Chatham County attorney who has said he is waiting to see whether other residents of that county will file and the purchasing agent for the town of Chapel Hill, who also is considering entering the Congressional race. The diversity of the field could give voters a difficult decision—and a chance to select candidates after the most hotly debated campaign in recent years.

While the University is a large part of the 17th District, its interests are often far different from those of the other portions of the district's population, such as rural Orange and Chatham counties. Both Holmes and Hunt have demonstrated an ability to represent these diverse interests, and the possibility of seven or more names on the ballot this year means that voters would have a good opportunity to choose representatives who could continue the capable leadership the district has enjoyed during recent years. The voice of the 17th District has been strong in Raleigh, and the likelihood of a vigorous 1980 campaign means chances are good that its influence will continue.

A gold mine

Many students who think of the Carolina Union simply as a place to grab a snack, shoot some pool or lounge on the sofas aren't aware of the multitude of social and cultural opportunities the Carolina Union Activities Board provides. Located in Room 200 of the Union, the board each semester develops and presents programs and activities ranging from free flicks to touring Broadway productions. The board's activities are financed by a student fee of approximately \$4 per student per semester.

The board comprises 10 committees which are chaired by members of the Activities Board. All Union-sponsored events are planned by student committee members who volunteer their support and time. In addition to the Film Committee which sponsors the popular free flicks held in Carroll Hall, the board has committees devoted to fine and performing arts, human relations, recreation and social events.

A glance at the bulletin board near the information desk on the first floor of the Union gives an indication of the board's efforts to provide a diverse and fulfilling program of activities for Carolina students. The premier event of the week on campus, the appearance of former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young Wednesday night in Memorial Hall, is sponsored by the Carolina Forum Committee. A stroll through the second floor gallery of the Union reveals a display of women's photography sponsored by the Gallery Committee. And notice of events scheduled for February—a new musical revue and an undergraduate photo exhibition—indicates that the board's efforts are continuous.

The Carolina Union is a lot more than free flicks, bowling lanes and fast food. Carolina students have a gold mine of activities in their own backyard, just waiting to be used and enjoyed.

The Bottom Line

Day 3: Ordeal over

The newest rage in terrorism? You guessed it—kidnapping vending machines.

So far, it seems, the only advocate of the new craze is 67-year-old Carl C. Lane of Columbus, Ga. Sick and tired of losing money in newspaper drop boxes, he removed an offending machine from a restaurant in Columbus after the machine took 50 cents but gave no Sunday paper in return.

Lane left his name and address with the restaurant's manager and was apprehended shortly thereafter. Lane explained to the arresting officers that he never intended to keep the box and said, "It's cheating and swindling to take your money and give you nothing in return." After a three-day ordeal, the machine was returned unharmed.

Unsettling advice

For those of you out there with the measles, especially the Southern belles, we only have one piece of advice for you: Watch out for "Dr. Upchuck." Forget all the things those Student Health Service people tell you about medicine. None will help you if Upchuck decides to get in on the case.

The phantom physician has become well-known on the post-surgical scene

recently. Armed with intimate knowledge of patient cases, the mysterious doctor has telephoned more than 200 women with phony medical advice—and unsettling advice it is.

In each case the caller, using the name of a doctor familiar to the patient, told the woman to drink two glasses of water (or other suitable beverage), stick her fingers down her throat and...

"This guy is wacko—he is a madman," said one man whose wife received a call from the wild and crazy physician. The woman drank the water but called her husband before following the second part of the procedure. Smart girl.

Despite the seeming ludicrous nature of these events, we caution you to be on guard all the time, folks. The medical world is deeply worried that the advice, if followed, could be fatal—or worse.

"He will kill someone, eventually," one doctor said. "Someone will asphyxiate on vomit or someone will split sutures or something." Now that is serious.

And possibly the most amazing thing is that Upchuck knows no cultural barriers. Fluent in many languages, he caters to the international clientele as well as the ordinary Joe(sephine).

Could he be lurking at Carolina? We're not sure, but we'll stay on the case. And remember, if that phantom call does happen to come, sit on your hands and don't drink a thing.

And that's the bottom line.

National enrollment in black studies drops

By JAMES ALEXANDER JR.

During the turbulent 1960s, enraged students on college campuses across the nation were marching, rioting and fighting openly for an active voice in campus and national affairs. While most of their protests centered on the Vietnam War and the draft, many students were seeking more diversified course curriculums at their respective universities. At the same time, black studies at these schools wanted black studies to be included in expanded curriculums.

Today, now that courses in Afro-American studies are offered at nearly 600 American colleges and universities in some form, enrollment in this subject area has apparently taken a sharp turn downward. A study reports that in 1976, only 442 students earned bachelor's degrees in black studies in the United States. That number dipped to 325 in 1978 and is not expected to rise above 300 this year.

Van M. Christopher, chairman of the Afro-American studies department at California State University in Los Angeles, offered one answer for the dwindling enrollment in black studies nationwide in a recent *U.S. News and World Report* interview. Christopher said the current economic atmosphere, which has induced college students to "go for their piece of the American corporate pie," has prompted many black collegians to take more practical courses in areas such as business and engineering. Of the estimated 1.1 million black college students in the country, more than half are registered in such courses,

Christopher said.

Aside from this indication of a changed attitude among black college students toward black studies and related courses, Christopher pointed out problems stemming from the universities themselves.

At many schools, the Afro-American studies departments have been watered down to levels of certificate-granting or seminar disciplines, rather than full-fledged degree programs. Other experts have attributed the downplaying of black studies not only to a lack of proper recognition by universities, but also to a lack of black faculty to keep the discipline going. For example, at the University of Texas, John Warfield, director of the Afro-American studies department, reports that five black faculty members have been lost in the last 18 months because of inadequate recognition of black studies as a true academic discipline by that university's community.

Despite such reports of black studies vanishing at most universities because of lowering enrollment and lack of proper recognition, some programs are enjoying healthy growth—from both increasing enrollment and administrative commitments for a strong black-studies program. To regenerate an interest in black studies courses, most institutions have narrowed the focus of the courses to more specific areas of concern, such as the black aspect of politics, economics, consumerism or societal and urban problems. Many of these courses have been moved out of Afro-American departments and into their respective disciplines, where they have received more attention.

Here at the University, a spokesman for the Afro-American studies department says there has been no noticeable decrease in students enrolled in black-studies courses, based on figures of students who have taken the introductory courses Afro-Am 40 and 41. In 1978, 98 students were enrolled in Afro-Am 40, compared with 92 in 1979. In 1978, 43 students took the second half of the course, Afro-Am 41, compared with 62 in 1979.

What's really hurting black studies courses on American campuses today is probably the fact that most students and instructors alike are misunderstanding the purpose of such a curriculum.

Unlike its impact in the 1960s, when black studies were installed to keep the interests of black students who were beginning to attend predominantly white schools, today's degree or concentration in this area goes a lot further, particularly in the job market. At Ohio State University, where the interest in black studies is reported to be one of the highest in the nation, department chairman William Nelson says corporations and urban agencies are hurting for college graduates who have concentrations in black studies.

Unless both students and universities increase their commitment to Afro-American studies programs, enrollment and interest will continue to dwindle and force black studies into extinction.

James Alexander Jr., a junior journalism major from Concord, is editorial assistant for The Daily Tar Heel.

letters to the editor

Watch women's b-ball before you knock it

To the editor:

Obviously Tyre Thompson does not know much about women's basketball. "Women players don't have what it takes" (*DTH*, Jan. 24). His statement that women's basketball is an unvarying array of layups and set shots is totally false. The women's game does have layups, but they come from steals, the result of good defensive play, or from well-executed fast breaks.

It's evident that he hasn't seen many women's games because most women use the jump shot, the same as men. In a women's game one doesn't see many board-jarring dunks, but the fancy moves are replaced by teamwork. Passing and setting screens are offensive weapons that women use to offset the fine man-to-man defense that most college teams now use.

Women's basketball has come a long way and will continue to progress. Women players, just like their male counterparts, continue to get better.

Thompson's assertion that women are physically incapable of playing an exciting game of basketball is absurd. His view must result from some mental block against women basketball players, because many women's games are fast-paced and high scoring. He is correct that support for the women is not overwhelming; but it continues to increase each year. Opinions such as Thompson's are the reason that the women's programs are not backed as strongly as the men's.

Thompson's proposal that other sports should receive more emphasis because they are not as dependent on "awesome physical ability to be enjoyable to the spectator" is ridiculous. These sports depend as much on ability as basketball.

I urge everyone to watch a women's basketball game. You won't see some of the things you are accustomed to seeing in the men's game, but look at how they work together, take notice of the pressure defenses, and then decide for yourself if you enjoy women's basketball.

Dixie Thompson
2209 Granville South

But until...

To the editor:

Though I consider the issue a stalemate, I would like to reply to the "sensitive" letters supporting women's basketball. "Women's team has what it takes" (*DTH*, Jan. 27), in order to clarify my obviously misunderstood point, I agree with all of them. I have watched several of our women's team practices, and they work extremely hard. Women's basketball is a fast-paced game. Bernadette McGlade is a fine women's player who deserves substantial praise for her rebounding record. But until women can hit 30-foot jumpers, spin 360 degrees on a layup or grab rebounds from the stratosphere, no one will come to their games.

Attila the Hun
a.k.a. Tyre Thompson
1421 Granville West

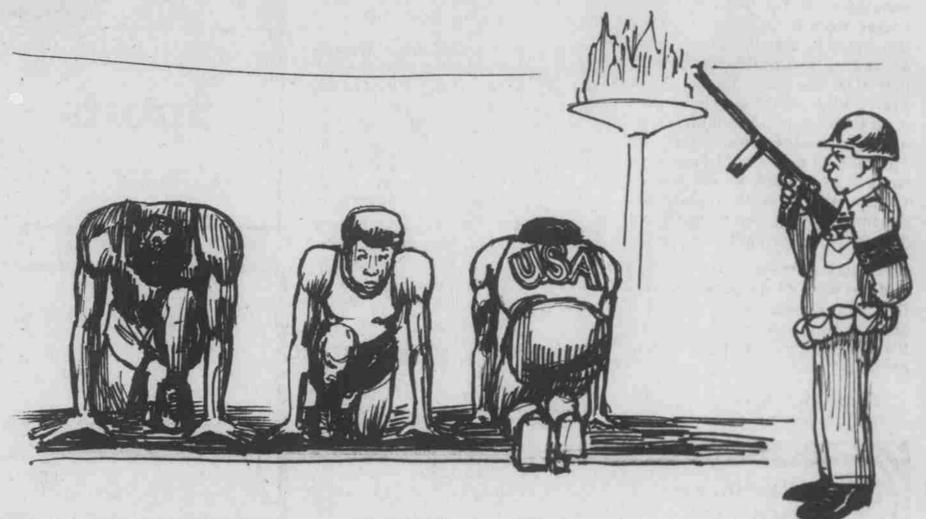
Point blown

To the editor:

I don't want to say "I knew I could count on you;" that sounds cynical and underhanded. Still, though I do appreciate your having run my letter "University should halt fouling of our nest," (*DTH*, Jan. 28), given it lead position and all that, it would have been nice to see it reproduced accurately.

I could cavil about paraphrasing, which is yours; I could complain about the breaking of my last sentence into two lines (I always hope "Department of English" will assist in getting people to leave my copy alone, but alas); but I do take issue with the omission of a key negative: in about the middle of your second paragraph. The parenthetical clause was supposed to read "(that may not be so hard to understand)." Your carelessness blows the point, naturally. Would that we could have more confidence in our paper as well as in ourselves.

Davis A. March
Department of English



Free-flickers: shh!

To the editor:

It's like a Saturday matinee Walt Disney movie where the audience steals the show. Their behavior is so disruptive that the film just becomes part of a cacophonous chaos.

But the audience is not children at a matinee; it's students at the free flicks, and they're making it impossible to enjoy the movies.

The most irritating distraction is the inevitable booing and hissing that occurs whenever a character does or says something the least bit wicked or devious and that starts again whenever the character reappears. Individual reactions—laughing, gasping, crying—indicate a movie's impact and effectiveness. This audience participation, this sibilant chorus, only proclaims what is so clear already. For less obvious evils, these vociferous denouncers are quiet: they probably only understand the most explicit.

Silence is a most important rule for audience conduct. Besides the booing and hissing, some members of the audience at free flicks talk throughout entire movies. Often they give running commentary: what they think will happen, what they think just did happen, who did what or why he did it. Some conversations have nothing to do with the movie: when the film begins they continue talking as before, sometimes in a lower tone but not always. Occasional whispers are acceptable, but continuous dialogue is not.

At several free flicks the auditorium has been so full viewers were turned away. Then those who did get in created such distractions the movies were ruined. Those who prefer to talk, discuss and participate belong at home in front of television.

Hope Bryan
Q-17 Royal Park Apts.

Produce more of our own

To the editor:

Jim Cox, in his response ("U.S. should concentrate on conservation," *DTH*, Jan. 21) to my argument that we should worry about producing, not conserving, energy, emphasizes one point which I included in my letter and which I wholeheartedly support: we must conserve to eliminate wasteful use of energy. He also says conservation is necessary to break the grip of OPEC on our economy. But he misses my point. To solve the energy problem, including breaking the power of OPEC, we should produce more of our own energy in addition to conserving to eliminate waste.

I should have been more specific. What

we should do is keep our hands off the oil companies and all other energy producers. Cox is right: oil is not in unlimited supply. But we are far from running out. Michael Halbouty, a geologist and independent oil producer, says there is as much oil yet to be found in the United States and in the world as has been found so far. It will not all be as inexpensive to produce as what we have produced so far, but that is not a major obstacle. As OPEC oil becomes more expensive, other sources become more attractive, and economic growth makes them more affordable.

What is ridiculous is that the federal government is subsidizing the production of gasoline at costs which exceed the price of OPEC oil. Instead of producing energy politically, we should produce it economically. Cox mentions that the Department of Energy is encouraging the development of certain energy sources. What he omits is the fact that the government is deliberately discouraging the production of oil by constantly trying to punish the oil companies for making profits. The fact is the only way the Department of Energy is going to encourage the efficient production of anything is to keep its hands off the producers.

Specifically, we can begin to encourage energy production in those areas in which we have the most expertise, including oil. We should make it profitable for companies to produce oil or they simply will not produce. If you tax something, you get less of it. The windfall profit tax is a burden on production of oil. There is no excuse for our government responding to an energy shortage by slapping constraints on energy producers. The windfall profit tax takes money away from production and diverts it to many other uses, none of which will produce as much energy as leaving the money where it is. There is no good reason for taking a dollar from those who would use it to produce oil and spending it instead on a government campaign to conserve energy.

Yes, we need to conserve, to cut waste. But we need to produce energy in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil while maintaining economic growth. The windfall profit tax can only make us more dependent on OPEC.

Doug Chapman
Chapel Hill

Murder

To the editor:

Many of the comments in "A matter of choice" (*DTH*, Jan. 24) are representative of the view of many pro-abortionists. Unfortunately, several of the comments are misleading and require clarification.

Pro-lifers are not attempting to impose their moral views on others any more than pro-abortionists are trying to impose their humanistic views on others. The only time when morality must be imposed is when the actions of one person impinge on the personal welfare of another.

It is a biological fact that the infant is genetically distinct from the mother—a unique being derived from the union of a sperm and an egg. The mere fact of attachment does not make the child a part of the mother. In addition, the fetus does not have potential for life, but is life itself. It does not have the potential to be a human being; it is a human being with potential. The concept of potentiality may be ascribed only to that state prior to the union of a sperm and an egg.

Also contrary to what was said in the letter, abortions are being performed at a time when a child can live outside the womb, since there have been "survivors" of these types of abortions. Some have even been adopted.

Just because a poll of Americans shows that some people support the killing of innocent children in the womb does not make it "apparent that most people do not believe that life begins at conception." I think it is safe to say that in general pro-abortionists have not been fully informed of what goes on during intra-uterine development and what actually happens to both mothers and children during an abortion. For those that are informed, they choose to disregard medical facts and opt for the quality of the life of the mother over the life of the child.

I urge anyone who reads this letter to examine the facts for himself. Do not continue to be brainwashed by some in the medical profession and the media. Except in a situation where the life of the mother is being threatened, the performing of an abortion is murder—nothing more, nothing less.

Austin Spruill
Department of Anatomy

Columns?

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes contributions and letters to the editor. For prompt publication, all submissions must be typed triple-spaced on a 60-space line and signed. Letter writers should include their address and phone number. Column writers should include their class, major and hometown. All contributions are subject to editing.