

Professor points out Afghan anonymity

By PAM KELLEY
Staff Writer

In 1957, UNC history professor Herbert Bodman was working in Afghanistan affairs for the U.S. Information Agency. His was by no means a high level position, so while on a three-day visit to Afghanistan, he understandably was surprised when he was entertained by the U.S. ambassador and all the department heads in the U.S. Embassy there.

Perplexed by the VIP treatment he was receiving, he asked them why they were going to such trouble for him. Their answer was simply that they were thrilled to get a visitor.

That incident, Bodman said recently, illustrates how little attention Afghanistan traditionally has received from the United States. It also helps to explain why most Americans still know virtually nothing about Afghanistan, despite its almost constant presence in American media in recent weeks.

In order to understand the Soviet Union's rationale for invading Afghanistan and to speculate on the outcome of the incident which has so successfully stirred the embers of the Cold War, it is necessary to have some background about the country.

But background about Afghanistan, Bodman has discovered, is not easy to find. No one knows the population of the country, because a census has never been taken.

"It would be difficult because of the mountainous, wild terrain," said Bodman, who specializes in Islamic history. "Parts of the country are accessible only at certain times of the year because of all the snow they get in the winter."

The climate of the country is similar to that of Idaho, Bodman said. Like Idaho, Afghanistan is mountainous in the north and desert in the south.

It borders Russia to the north, China for about 30 miles to the east, Pakistan to the east and south and Iran to the west,

but those borders are fairly arbitrary, Bodman said. "It's difficult to understand that geographical borders are quite a Western phenomenon. The rest of the world thinks in terms of people. The borders are wherever the tribesmen move."

It also may be difficult for Americans to understand that the Afghans are not a homogeneous people but are made up of several distinct Muslim tribes. Some are urban dwellers in the few cities in Afghanistan, but about 90 percent are farmers or shepherds, Bodman said.

Many are illiterate, but again there are no exact figures. Each year many suffer from malnutrition and die of starvation. "There are the hungry months between the time fall crops run out and the spring crops are harvested," Bodman said. Communications are poor, industry is almost nonexistent, and most travel is by animal or truck, although the country does have an airlines.

Russia apparently did not invade Afghanistan for its resources. Although experts are still not sure exactly why Russia did invade the country, Bodman said he believes Russia's move was primarily a response to a plea for help from the Communist Party of Afghanistan, which was in danger of being ousted from government. He said he also thought the invasion could be the first step in securing a warm water port on the Persian Gulf.

Whatever the Soviets' reasons, Bodman said he was sure that the Soviets would not be repelled.

"The people harassing the Soviets now will gradually give up, and their resistance will become latent. Islamic beliefs will probably become latent, too. The older generation will continue its beliefs, but the younger generation will be trained out of it," he said.

"We may see Afghanistan develop some. That's the major appeal of the Communist party there—to those who would like to see the country develop faster. But I think the vast majority of Afghans simply want to be left alone."

Mexico and America aid blind through cooperation

By MURPHY EVANS
Staff Writer

Improved relations between Mexico and the United States promises to help both countries deal with the problems of blind people, an official from the Research and Training Center on Blindness here said in a recent interview.

"I met with 70 to 80 representatives from throughout Mexico," said Donna Nixon, a research associate with the center who recently returned from a seminar on blindness rehabilitation in Mexico City.

"Mexico officials were particularly interested in the training of workers for the blind and in our outreach program here," Nixon said. "We discussed how Mexico could adapt some of our programs to what they already have."

Nixon said that an outreach program would spread rehabilitation and education programs to rural areas where service for the blind is scarce. "The program would involve setting up offices in the country from which workers could go into the homes of blind people and tutor them in needed special skills," Nixon said. In addition to this Nixon said small schools for the blind already are getting started and should be a great help

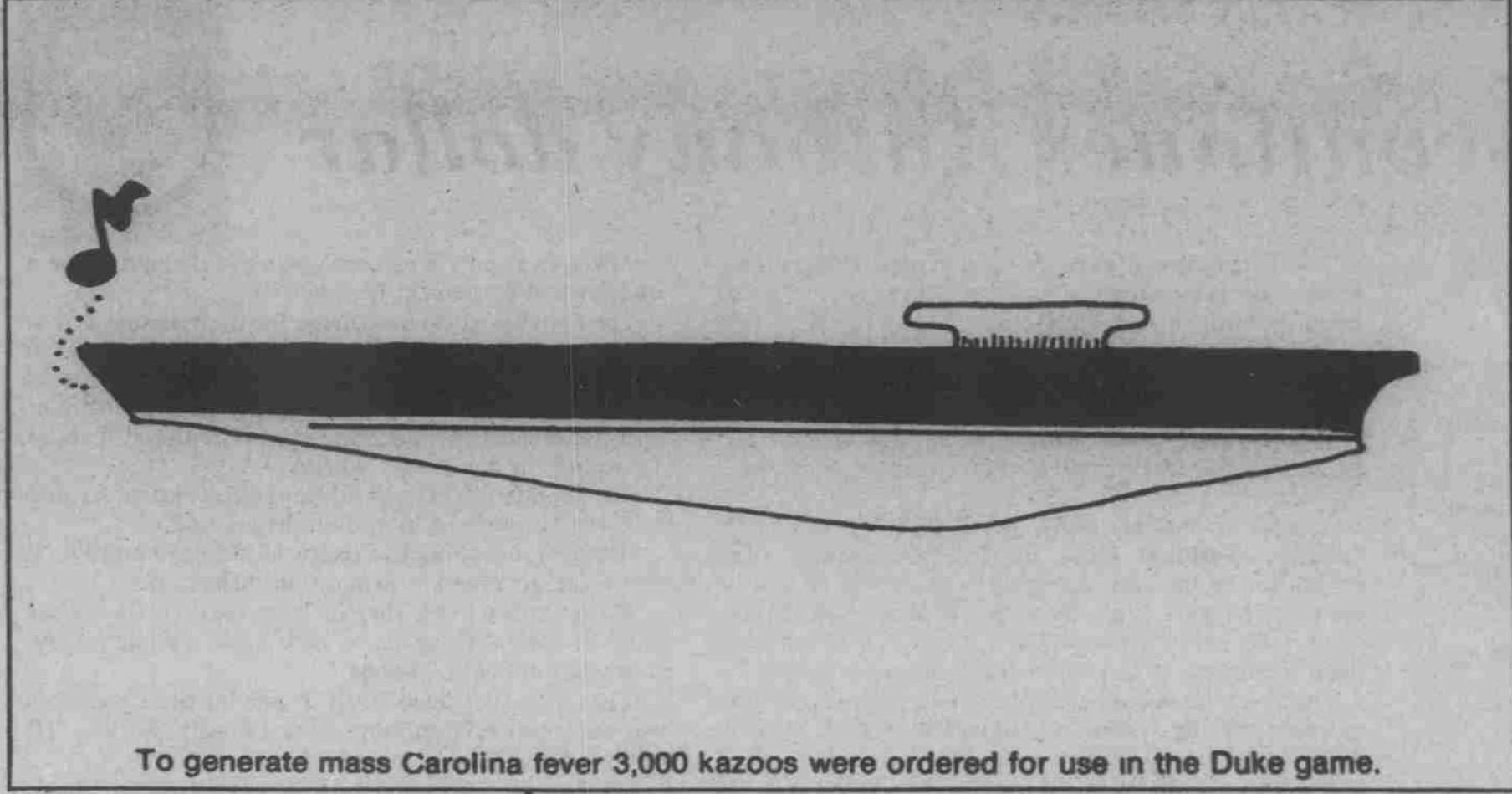
in meeting present problems. Thomas Baldwin, director of the center, said that despite Mexico's slowness in establishing a national program for blindness rehabilitation, it has one definite advantage over the United States.

"In Mexico, rehabilitation and special education programs are directed by one government office and are implemented at birth," Baldwin said. "Here, the two programs were directed by two offices within the old HEW. As a result, there was little cooperation. Rehabilitation counseling began at the age of 14, while special education began with grade school."

"Right now the center is working with the Department of Education to establish better cooperation between the two programs," Baldwin said.

Baldwin said that negotiations between the two countries probably will improve. Baldwin will meet in March with Louis Ibarra, director general of rehabilitation in Mexico. The two men will discuss joint programs for the future in an attempt to improve the exchange of research and ideas.

"This center would like to move in the direction of international cooperation," Baldwin said. "Everyone would prosper from a joint effort."



To generate mass Carolina fever 3,000 kazoos were ordered for use in the Duke game.

Kazoo atmosphere attends game

Picture this: A deathly silence falls over Carmichael auditorium and suddenly, 3,000 kazoos burst into "Hark The Sound of Tarheel Voices."

That, in essence, is what Student Body President J. B. Kelly has in mind for the Carolina-Duke game Saturday. He ordered 3,000 kazoos from the Triangle Advertising Company of New York City to be delivered at a cost of \$400.

The kazoos had not arrived as of Thursday night, but if they get here in time they will be distributed at the game Saturday to students in Carmichael Auditorium's bleacher seats, said Lisa Goodwin, Kelly's executive assistant.

The kazoos have been approved by Athletic Director William Cobey and other officials in Carmichael, Goodwin said.

"We're banking on the fact that they're (UNC students) a classy audience," Goodwin said. "We hope they won't abuse this."

"What we would like to do is to get the students to play along with the band," she added.

Funding for the toy instruments came from the Carolina Athletic Association, the Alumni Association, Carolina Annual Giving, and Student Government, Goodwin said.

—STEPHANIE BIRCHER



Free concert

Franklin Street fiddlers attracted a noon-time crowd

Thursday. Music drifting down the street was all that was needed.

Monopoly gameers strive for trip

Anyone who likes Monopoly will get a chance to play a big game soon—a very big game.

The Wake County YWCA is constructing what organizers say is the largest indoor Monopoly board ever built as part of its fund-raising tournament on March 21 and 22 at the Dorton Arena in Raleigh.

The 110-foot square vinyl board, which volunteers are constructing, will be an exact replica of a regular Monopoly board, except that it will be complete with flushing toilets at the water works, whistles at the railroads and a real jail, said YWCA spokesman Betsy Jones.

Preliminary games on regular-size Monopoly boards will be held March 14 and 15. Participants will be eliminated until 32 winners and 32 runners-up are left to play on the world's largest Monopoly board in the finals. The

preliminary winners will play on a regulation-size board in the finals while runners-up walk out the moves on the giant board.

The grand prize is a trip to Disney World in Florida, and the second place winner will receive a trip to Colonial Williamsburg. Other prizes include a color television.

In the true Monopoly spirit, the YWCA is selling spaces on the board to businesses for a minimum \$1,000 donation, and only 10 properties were still available as of Thursday, Stone said.

Proceeds from the big game will go to the YWCA building fund. Spectator tickets will be on sale at the door for \$2 for adults (over 12) and \$1 for children.

Registration forms to enter the tournament can be requested from the YWCA, 1012 Oberlin Road, Raleigh,

NC, 27605. The cost is \$3 for adults (over 12) and \$2 for children, and the deadline for entry is March 1. Registration will be limited to 1,024 adults and 256 children.

Israel dig offers credit hours to archaeologists

By DALE JENKINS
Staff Writer

The UNC Department of Religion and the Off-Campus Credit Programs will sponsor a four-week archaeological fieldwork program in Israel July 13-Aug. 8.

Professor Jack Sasson of the UNC religion department, a native of the Middle East and a specialist in ancient near-East studies, will teach the course, which carries six hours of undergraduate credit.

"The idea is that the students will be able to learn about the techniques used by archaeologists to recover the culture and the history of past civilizations," Sasson said.

Students who take part in the program will be involved in on-site excavations in the mornings and early afternoons. The afternoons will consist of lectures by archaeologists from the Tel Aviv Institute of Archaeology, Sasson, and lecturers from five other American universities.

"Students will be involved in two weekend tours of the Galilee and Dead Sea areas," Sasson said. "They will be given historical perspective on ancient Israel and two additional ways to sample Israeli life at their own discretion."

Although all applicants will be considered, those interested in receiving credit hours for the trip will have first priority, Sasson said. "They will be selected on the basis of a decent academic record, written approval from a faculty member and an interest in Mid-Eastern culture," he said.

Cost of the program is \$800, which includes tuition, board and use of tools and other equipment at the digging sites. Plane fares are not included and weekend tours are \$110 extra.

A total of 150 persons will be able to make the trip. Anyone interested should contact Off-Campus Credit Programs at 966-1038 or Sasson at 933-5666.

Deadline nears for applications to government

Persons wishing to apply for positions as Student Government treasurer or attorney general must submit applications by 1 p.m. Monday to the Student Government offices in Suite C of the Carolina Union.

Applications for positions on the Student Government executive staff, chancellor and vice chancellor committees, and student boards are due by 1 p.m. March 11. Applications are available in Suite C.

Workshop looks at art changes

A workshop in theatrical design will be sponsored by Rosco Laboratories Incorporated at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Paul Green Theatre.

Paul Wonek, who is a free-lance designer and consultant in New York, will discuss new developments in paints, scenic materials, lighting filters and projection technology. The three-hour session will concern practical applications of existing and future products. Participants will be able to work with the materials themselves.

There is no charge for the seminar, but those interested should make reservations by calling 933-1122.

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