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# The Daily Tar Heel

88th year of editorial freedom

## Paying politics

### Out-of-state money flows to North Carolina

By JOHN DRESCHER

An accepted fact of politics is that incumbents have distinct advantages over their challengers. Politicians and those who study politics agree that incumbents have access to various ways and means of getting elected that challengers do not.

These advantages of incumbency are now being used throughout the state, as they have been for years, by Democratic officeholders to the chagrin of their Republican challengers. Powerless to change the system, Republicans can only grit their teeth and complain under their breath about the unfairness of these incumbent "machines."

This year, however, a new source of power is battling Democratic patronage. It is green, it has presidents' pictures on it and it is flowing to North Carolina Republicans from out-of-state as it never has before.

Preliminary reports show that this year Republicans are keeping up with, and sometimes outpacing, incumbent Democrats, largely because of the influx of contributions from outside North Carolina.

Democratic U.S. Senator Robert B. Morgan and his challenger John East, filed preliminary reports with the Federal Elections Commission last week, and East was clearly the fund-raising champion. According to the report, East raised \$742,545, more than twice as much as Morgan. Much of East's money came from out-of-state donors through a nationwide direct-mail campaign.

Gov. Jim Hunt, a Democrat, subsequently attacked East's financing. "The outsiders and big special

interests are trying to buy themselves a Senate seat," he said.

Hunt has a point. Many of East's largest contributors are from political action committees who represent "Big Oil," hardly a well-represented group in North Carolina. East has received large contributions from groups like the Amoco Political Action Committee of Chicago, the Merit Petroleum PAC of Houston and the Dallas (Texas) Energy PAC.

Morgan, too, has received money from out-of-state, but not nearly as much, and his campaign fund has often consisted of money raised by employees, union members and trade associations to support political candidates.

One has to wonder why the out-of-state Big Oil groups that support East have been allowed to play such an active role in North Carolina politics. The campaign-finance laws of 1974 actually intended to prevent large special-interest groups from buying an election, but N.C. Republicans have actively exploited loopholes in the law to lure large contributions from out-of-state.

In fact, the conservative Congressional Club has a computerized mailing list of 180,000 individuals who can be relied on for money—and 150,000 of them live out of North Carolina, according to columnist Ferrel Guillory of the Raleigh *News and Observer*. The Congressional Club's fund-raising methods, with their emphasis on non-North Carolina support, are threatening to re-shape the structure of North Carolina politics.

Traditional-style campaigning is becoming a thing of the past for some Republicans. While Hunt takes the grass-roots approach and works from the bottom up, various Republicans are trying to buy broadcast media time and work from the bottom down by projecting a media image.

Hunt roles up his sleeves, shakes hundreds of hands, kisses babies, makes speeches, holds news conferences

and interviews with the press almost daily. He has made down-home contact in each of North Carolina's 100 counties.

His Republican opponent, I. Beverly Lake, however, makes one or two appearances a day, sometimes none, said R. E. Carter Wrenn, executive director of the Congressional Club.

"The best thing you can do is buy time on television," Wrenn said.

Are Lake and East trying to buy the election through the media? You bet.

"We'll be raising money right up to the last four or five days," Lake said. "I've never been associated with any campaign that was adequately financed, something I don't share with the governor."

This is an interesting statement. If Lake feels his campaign is not adequately financed, then why is he relying on expensive media advertising? It is much cheaper to campaign at the traditional grass-roots level than on the state-wide television level, and yet Lake refuses to stump extensively. Instead, he is trying to use out-of-state money to buy votes on television.

It is clear that the 1974 campaign-finance law needs to be overhauled. Campaign financing is in worse shape than it was before the law was passed. Out-of-state interests should never have the influence that they currently have in North Carolina.

It is shame enough that an election in North Carolina can be bought. It is even more shameful that a state election can be bought by out-of-state interests.



Lake

John Drescher, a junior journalism major from Raleigh, is an editorial assistant for The Daily Tar Heel.

## Iran on the radio

Twist through the radio dial these days and you can get an idea of what America wants to hear. The B-52s and Bruce Springsteen have new albums out, and a new single has been getting some airplay farther up the East Coast. It's after the Beach Boys' "Barbara Ann," sort of:

Bomb bomb bomb, bomb bomb Iran  
Bomb bomb bomb, bomb bomb Iran  
Bomb Iran/Let's take a stand  
Bomb Iran

The nation's got a feeling/Gonna hit the ceiling  
Bomb Iran/Bomb bomb, bomb bomb Iran

This inanity goes on to say unpleasant things about the Ayatollah and to threaten Iran with obliteration. It is plainly aimed at a particular market, a nation weary of waiting for the release of the 53 Americans hostages in Iran. President Carter also has begun to target that market, and he is changing the nation's foreign policy accordingly.

At a campaign stop Monday in Youngstown, Ohio, Carter announced that he would lift all economic sanctions against Iran if the hostages were freed. That is the last concession he can reasonably make without making a formal policy apology for the United States' former support of Iran's shah—a gesture he has repeatedly ruled out.

Before the president sealed his final bid, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, Hashemi Rafsanjani, said that conditions for the hostages' release will be set in two or three days. Carter, and the nation, can only hope that the Iranians will be satisfied.

Aside from its importance as policy, Carter's action raises questions about his behavior as president and politician. Increasingly, he seems to get the two roles confused. To announce a foreign policy change two weeks before Election Day in, of all places, Youngstown, Ohio, is to muddle governing with politics.

The president can hardly be criticized for attempting to secure the release of the hostages. Still, the manner in which he conducts such negotiations is important. Republican candidate Ronald Reagan already has suggested that it would be more fitting, and more effective, if he would negotiate through diplomatic channels rather than the American media.

The new concession, at best, could persuade the Iranians to let the hostages go; at worst, it is a sign to terrorists that they will not be held responsible for their acts. Whatever its effect, Carter's wielding of policy for political gain is irresponsible, and voters should acknowledge it as such.

## States rights and racism

Two important issues have come to the forefront of the 1980 election locked arm in arm: race and states rights. This in itself is not surprising, for these two questions have been entwined since the Confederacy defended slavery more than 100 years ago in the name of states rights. During the ensuing years, various candidates and parties have used the issue as a justification for stifling black progress.

President Jimmy Carter did both of these issues a great deal of harm recently when he said states rights have become code words for racism. That's not to say he isn't partially correct. However, by making such a statement, Carter tried to make the two issues inseparable when in fact they are separable and perhaps should be split once and for all.

Americans' growing concern with the incursion of the federal government into their lives cannot be dismissed by such sweeping generalizations.

If anyone should understand this point, Carter should. After all, he used the issue of states rights in 1976, saying then that something must be done about the "horrible Washington bureaucracy." While Carter perhaps has found combating this burdensome bureaucracy impossible, many Americans continue to feel its presence. They see it in increasing taxes, in tons of regulations and in the interference of the government in the family.

These are real concerns not at all steeped in racism. Both blacks and whites are questioning the notion that only the federal government is capable of dealing with the problems that beset our society.

In fact, as noted a political writer as T. H. White has termed Carter a "federalist," a description that links Carter with the conservative views of Alexander Hamilton rather than the philosophy of less government espoused by the more liberal Thomas Jefferson. Certainly, this analogy simplifies a complicated issue. No one would deny that the federal government must engage in righting historical wrongs. At the same time, Carter must not be allowed to carelessly label self-government a racist idea; it is on such an idea that men like Adams, Jefferson and Madison founded this country.



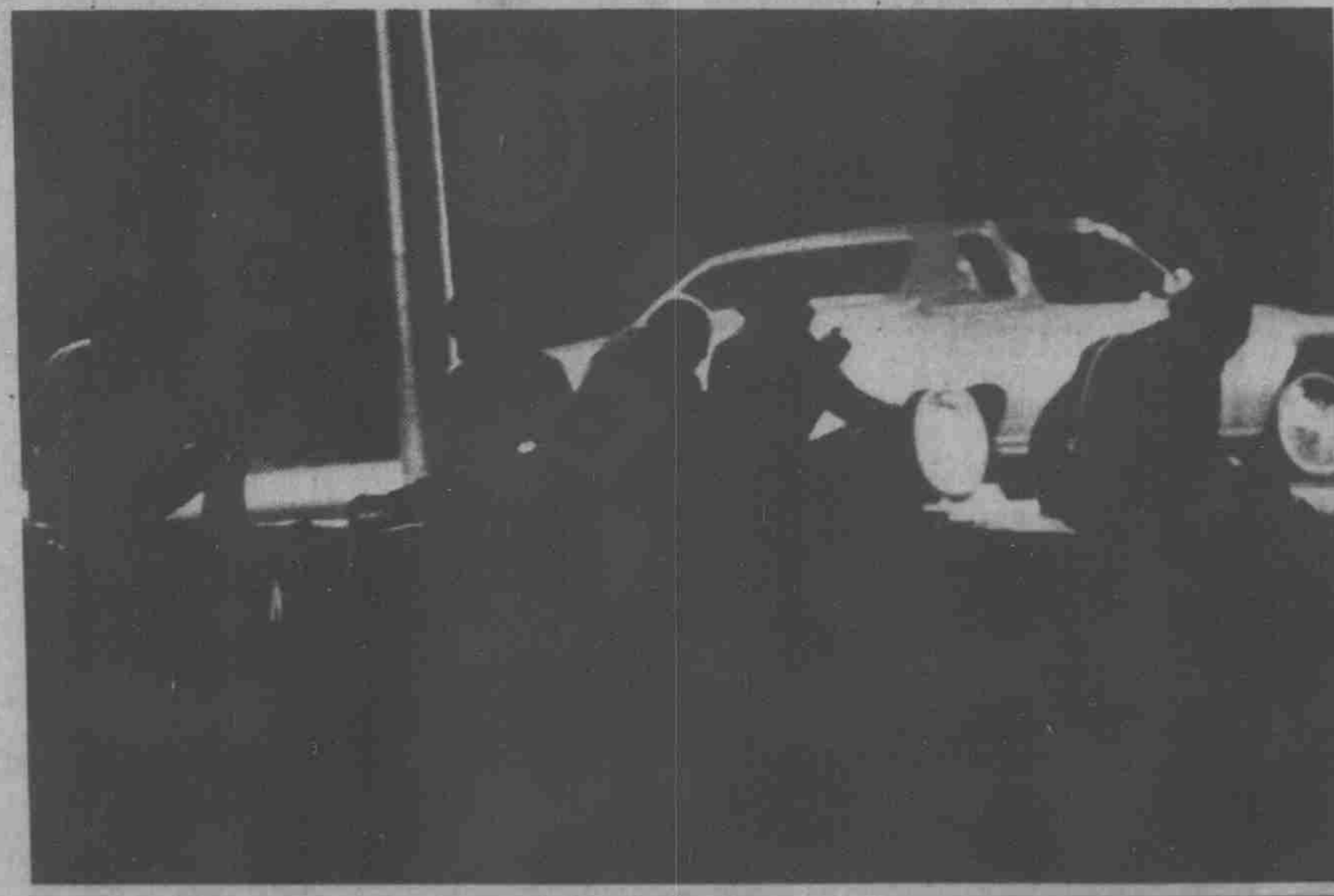
East



### On Main Street

Winos? After spending a few quiet days in Carrboro with these people, living, laughing and crying with them, DTH photographer Matt Cooper found that these people—called winos—are mothers and fathers, veterans and farmers, rich in memories and tall tales. Their only problem seemed to be loneliness. But with a little sunshine, a bottle of wine and good company, it can all be forgotten for awhile. Winos? No, just good people.

Staff photos by Matt Cooper



### letters to the editor

## 'DTH' Chicken Little attitude attacked

To the editor:

It had to be a fluke: the Page 2 story, "N.C. SAT scores rise as nation's decline," (DTH, Oct. 11). However, your Oct. 15 editorial still emphasized the national decline vs. N.C.'s minuscule increase.

No one can accuse the "Good Humor" Tar Heel of a Chicken Little attitude where local issues are concerned. You really dig to find the silver lining.

Heralding that the national SAT averages are plummeting to North Carolina's own low standards would not have satisfied some quarrelsome newspapers. They would have focused on why N.C. scores have stagnated at such a low level. Do the schools fail the students? Is enough spent on education? Are student minds impaired by malnutrition during infancy? What...?

If your hard-hitting SAT story and editorial are typical of The Daily Tar Heel then I fear you've missed your calling. You should have been the Glad Rag of the Judenrat of the Warsaw

Ghetto.

Stan Jenkins  
Chapel Hill

### Planetarium facilities

To the editor:

I was most distraught upon reading Rebecca Hill's letter, "Handicapped facilities," (DTH, Oct. 16) concerning the facilities of the Morehead Planetarium and the insensitivity of the staff. As an employee of the planetarium who worked the Saturday of Hill's visit, I feel it necessary to point out some inaccuracies in her letter, principally due to several misunderstandings. First, it is true that no parking exists for handicapped persons in the planetarium lot. However, this is no fault of the planetarium. The parking lot is under the authority of the University Traffic Office, and all comments concerning parking should be directed to it.

Secondly, even though the planetarium was constructed in 1949, it is almost without exception entirely accessible to the handicapped; however,

its design necessitates that a staff member accompany them. It is not a condescending attitude that requires a staff member to open doors. It is but a fact: No one, handicapped or otherwise, can move freely through locked doors or call elevators that are key operated.

This brings us to the most sensitive issue. Hill laments the spiritless, inappropriate attitude of the staff. In this, she could not be more wrong. There is a common misconception that the planetarium is a fancy bit of computerized machinery where staff consists of little more than people to take up money and look official. This is entirely incorrect.

There is no computer. There are, instead, levers and switches, and dials, all hand operated, and complex to the point that it takes two people to give shows: a console operator in the chamber to run the stars and a technician in a back room to operate a barrage of projectors and special effects. These people take great pride in giving the best shows possible.

The true problem is simple. The planetarium does not receive regular

operational funding from the University. Nor, contrary to popular belief, does the Morehead Foundation pay the salaries of the staff. The planetarium relies upon its ticket sales to survive—a strange plight for a facility of such great educational value.

There are currently a cashier, a console operator, a technician and a person to watch over the art galleries. During a show, none of these persons is available. And so, it was necessary to ask that Hill wait a half hour until the show was completed before she and her companion could be taken through the building.

I regret that Hill and her friend did not stay through the end of the show and see the objects of science and art that lay within their grasp. This week marks International Planetarium Week, a period of time in which the planetarium goes all out to show what it has to offer, including behind the scenes glimpses of what makes the planetarium function.

Billy E. Faggart, Jr.  
Student Technician  
Morehead Planetarium

### The Daily Tar Heel

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