

GEORGE SHADROU, Editor

DINITA JAMES, Managing Editor  
BRAD KUTROW, Associate Editor  
THOMAS JESSIMAN, Associate EditorKAREN ROWLEY, News Editor  
PAM KELLEY, University Editor  
MARTHA WAGGONER, City Editor  
JIM HUMMEL, State and National EditorBILL FIELDS, Sports Editor  
MARK MURRELL, Features Editor  
TOM MOORE, Arts Editor  
SCOTT SHARPE, Photography Editor  
MELANIE SILL, Weekender Editor

# The Daily Tar Heel

88th year of editorial freedom

## President Reagan

You could have heard a pin drop in the Carolina Union Tuesday night, except for the quivering voice of President Jimmy Carter as he conceded the presidential election to Ronald Reagan. It was an eerie silence, the kind of quiet that comes with tragedy and death. You expected the tears to come and you waited for them. But they didn't. Not even a sigh came. For the entire night it seemed people were holding their breath and would never let it out. Ronald Reagan was president. That was the news. And not only was he president, but the Senate was Republican and that's something most college students have never seen. They were, it is safe to say, in a state of shock.

Moreover, the overwhelming victory of Reagan magnified the shock. He did not narrowly defeat Carter. He thrashed him in one of the most amazing displays of political power in U.S. history. It was the last thing in the world anyone expected, including Reagan.

But that's history now. Like it or not, Reagan will be president and the Senate will be Republican. The question on most people's minds is why? Why did this seemingly close election suddenly snowball into the Republican victory it was? That's a question folks will scratch their heads about for some time. Certainly, the signs were there even if some of us didn't want to read them. This election was, for many people, the opening of windows. People wanted fresh air, wanted a change. It is as simple as that.

Carter's administration, while not a total disaster, did not inspire in the people of this country any sense of confidence or faith. His campaign did little to alleviate their concerns. The fact that the economy has been riddled with inflation and unemployment, that the hostages are still in Iran, that the Soviet Union and numerous allies seem to see this country as an impotent world power, all made a lot of people wary of Carter, justly or not.

This election does not mean, as some might suggest, that the majority of people in this country oppose equal rights or helping the poor and disadvantaged. It is our hope that this mandate Reagan received does not indicate that Americans will accept the dogma of the right wing in this country *prima facie*—or helplessly watch as some of the more myopic in the country try to ignore real problems.

Reagan must put at ease those who honestly fear him. He said Tuesday that his election was a humbling experience. It was an appropriate remark, because he now faces the reality of being president. Simple solutions, slips of the lip and carefully worded dogma will no longer suffice. We hope Reagan proves as progressive a president as he was governor of California; he must grow up, and quickly, to the complexity and power of his job.

Still, he is the president-elect. He has shown himself an incredible campaigner and a remarkable leader in many respects. To write him off prematurely with tasteless jokes and overreaction will only satisfy the smallest of minds. It is certainly not beyond our sensibilities or sensitivities to wish him luck and success. His success is the people's and his failures can only hurt the people. Whatever his presidency becomes, we will grant him the benefit of the doubt until shown otherwise. It seems a mature—and necessary—attitude for all of us to take.

## Iran, again

We have done our time in Iran. Eight Americans were killed there in a rescue effort that never even came close. It's sad that few people talk about that anymore, but it happened. We have watched as the Iranians manipulated our press—encouraging bidding wars over the footage of hostages. We have been baited again and again into hoping for settlements and deals that were only lies. Some would say that by supporting the shah we deserved whatever reprisals the Iranians deemed our due, but that is simply not the case.

Over the weekend, the Iranians took one more step in their game of international blackmail. They set their latest terms for the release of the hostages and then demanded, first, a reply "as soon as possible," and then that it be made public "through the mass media." President Carter and his staff wisely decided that no action should be taken until after the election—they had learned the hard way that responding to such commands only led to disappointment.

Former President Gerald Ford said after Ronald Reagan's victory that the outgoing and incoming administrations should take advantage of the transition period to pose a united front to the demands of the Iranians. Indeed, the transition period offers our government the unique opportunity to transcend party lines for once and perhaps present to the Iranians not a country of bickering politicians but a strong and unified nation that can approach whatever negotiating table agreed upon with patience and integrity.

## For the record

In an editorial, "Student Opinion," *DTH*, Nov. 4, *The Daily Tar Heel* stated that while Student Body President Bob Saunders did not know that a new adviser was being sought for Student Government and other organizations, Executive Assistant and Inter-Fraternity Council member Lee McAllister did. In fact, McAllister knew only that an adviser was being sought for the Inter-Fraternity Council. The *DTH* regrets the error.

## The Bottom Line

### Canadian Bound

"People won't believe it back home," Andy Comar said. "They just won't believe it. Four years ago it was a peanut farmer, now an actor. They're going to wonder what's happening to America."

Comar, a 20-year-old from Toronto, Canada and a member of the Toronto Exchange group that left Chapel Hill Wednesday, made that comment while watching Ronald Reagan make his victory speech Tuesday night.

For Comar and his cohorts Election Night was an education in bizarre and original slogans.

"Let's goose step into the '80s," one voice shouted at the iridescent

television tube as Reagan spoke.

"Maybe we can plug him into a Beta Max and fast forward the next four years," someone else said.

"It's a shame it has to be this way," Comar later said. "I mean, here you have so much choice, you'd guess people would be upset if their candidate lost, but not quite so upset if they see the American people give Mr. Reagan a chance before condemning him. I know the Canadian people will."

A short time later Andy Comar and 38 other Canadians got on a Voyageur bus and headed for Canada—disregarding, as the Republican platform urges, the 55 mph speed limit.

And that's the bottom line.



"The reason I chose Morrison was because the blacks were down there. It's one thing going to school with whites, and it's another living with them."

—John Slade

"I would like blacks to be able to make a choice about where to live, but that doesn't exist now because there are not enough blacks on North Campus."

—James Leutze



# Segregation

## Prevalent as ever in residence halls

By THOMAS JESSIMAN

No matter what we'd like to believe, segregation still exists at Carolina. Perhaps it no longer takes the involuntary form of the pre-60s era—the "white only" buses and rest rooms—but a "voluntary" form of segregation still flourishes. It is present in the dining rooms and classrooms where blacks sit on one side of the room and whites on the other, and it is there, most of all, in the placement of students in residence halls.

It is common knowledge that, for the most part, blacks live on South Campus and whites on North Campus. People can juggle figures as long as they want, but that is the simple fact. In many of the dormitories on North Campus that average 200-300 people, only three to five of those are black—and that estimate is probably far too optimistic. The vast majority of the blacks who attend Carolina live on South Campus in three high-rise dormitories—Hinton James, Morrison and Ehringhaus. Granted, some blacks live off-campus and others live in Scott Residence College, but a very high percentage live in just those three dorms.

John Slade, a junior from Yanceyville, lived his first year on South Campus, but has lived in Mangum dorm last year and now lives in Grimes. He chose Morrison his freshman year because he had participated along with other black high school seniors in a special weekend at Carolina for National Achievement scholars. He was housed in Morrison for that weekend. "The reason I chose Morrison was because the blacks were down there," he said. "It's one thing going to school with whites, and it's another living with them. I knew blacks would be on South Campus and chose it, I guess, as a kind of security blanket."

Slade did not condemn the segregated living situation on campus. "It's more of a cultural community thing than anything else, and I don't think that's bad at all." He said he liked North Campus and was glad he had given it a chance, but for all cultural activities he goes to South Campus. "If I had to move to South Campus I would, but now I prefer living here—it's more convenient."

But being one of only two or three blacks in his dorm for the past two years has been awkward and difficult for Slade at times. "I'm not always comfortable living here. I don't always feel like I'm wanted. Last year in Mangum I was tolerated. My RA was black and lived on my floor, and, at first at least, the feeling on the floor was 'here comes another one.'"

Slade said that he and the whites in his dorm have to be careful not to offend each other. "It can be straining—you have to be so conscious of what you say and do. If we have a dorm meeting and I don't want to go, I have to wonder if they think I'm not going because I'm black." Even taking a shower becomes something he has to think of in racial terms. "When I first moved into North Campus, I wondered whether I should take a shower when everyone else does or late at night like I like to. After a while, I just decided to do what I wanted to."

### Adjustment

Slade said it was hard at first for him to adjust to North Campus. "I get awfully happy when a black person visits me—especially someone from South Campus." He said he didn't think he could have coped with living on North Campus his first term. "It's hard adjusting to this place (North Campus)—especially when you have been raised in a black neighborhood." When asked if he would prefer that Carolina have a more integrated living system, Slade said, "Ideally, I would, but I've learned you just can't be too idealistic about too many things."

One strong critic of the segregation in housing has been James Leutze, a history professor and member of a housing advisory subcommittee that, among other things, has discussed this issue. "My immediate reaction is that it is a bad situation," Leutze said, "but there are some mitigating circumstances. Someone might say that if blacks all want to live together then they should be able to. That may be true—there may be more support systems for them on

South Campus. But arguments like that sound an awful lot like ones we were hearing not so long ago—people saying that blacks liked living in houses without screens and that they like eating watermelons and going around without shoes.

"I would like blacks to be able to make a choice about where to live, but that doesn't exist now because there are not enough blacks on North Campus and there are no support systems there. Thus, in reality, we don't have a free choice system."

Leutze said there were no easy solutions to the problem, but that the first priority should be to get more blacks on campus. After that, one option might be to reserve places for blacks in North Campus dorms. "A serious problem is that most North Campus dorms are already filled before some blacks even hear about financial aid." Housing contracts are awarded on a first come-first served basis. A more radical solution would be to use a computer to assign students randomly to dorms, Leutze said. In that manner, it would be highly unlikely for all the blacks to end up on South Campus.

Leutze said he knew both his solutions might be called "social engineering" by some. "But I would rather do some social engineering than stay with the status quo." It could be that some blacks would feel uncomfortable if placed in a predominantly white dorm, but they should not have come to Carolina if they felt that way, Leutze said. "It may be tough now for blacks living on North Campus, but they are surviving."

### Just talk

"The University has been talking about doing something about this housing situation for the past four or five years, and it keeps getting put off to the next year. If the University is committed to integration as I think it should be, then I think this situation should not be tolerated. Something must be done, and we've waited quite a while on this one."

Darryl Owens, a sophomore from Goldsboro, had mixed feelings about the housing arrangement of blacks and whites. "In some ways, I feel it's bad, and yet I sort of leave it up to the individuals. If they feel they can live on South Campus then they should stay, but if they can come to North Campus, that's fine too. It is a learning experience living with people you haven't before."

Owens said he has had no problems living with his white dormmates in Lewis. He does spend much of his time on South Campus though—most of his friends live there and there are cultural attractions like the Upendo Lounge and some Black Student Movement activities. The obvious split between blacks and whites on North and South campuses, Owens thought was not primarily racial, but rather just the way things have worked out over time. Whites are more likely to live on North Campus because their parents and alumni friends have lived there and recommended the area, Owens said, and blacks might have begun living in South Campus dorms when they opened 10 years ago because they were the newer and more appealing then.

Owens suggested one other possible explanation for the black and white dichotomy in dorm living. "If you're not used to living with whites or blacks, each group might try to stay with its own to make the adjustment to college easier." He also noticed that there were more blacks on North Campus this year. "I think that's good. We're going to have to live together in this world anyway, so we might as well be prepared."

James Condie, director of University Housing, said that as long as people were living, for the most part, where they wanted to, the split of blacks and whites was not a major problem. The housing application does not ask for a student's race, and thus the Housing Department actually has no effect on where blacks and whites will live. "There's no way we can do what some people say we do—here's another black person, let's put him on South Campus."

Condie said the percentage of blacks who get their first choice on a housing application was very similar to that of whites—with probably less than a 4 percent deviation. Unlike Leutze, Condie said that blacks were admitted at essentially the same time as whites and those who have to wait on financial aid before they decide to come to Carolina were not badly

discriminated against in housing assignments. In recent years, there also has been an effort to house high school visitors all over the campus, so blacks and whites are more likely to choose different areas when they decide to come to UNC, Condie said.

"Some of the blacks I have spoken to say they like living on South Campus because the dorms are newer," Condie said. "Another reason is that on South Campus you have eight people in your suite that you get to know very well, but in North you might get to know two or three well and another 40 superficially." Condie may be right about that difference between the two campuses, but that difference, if it really is one, should appeal to all students, black and white, and does not explain the segregated living set-up.

### Voluntary segregation

"There's a proud feeling among the black people here," Condie said. "That pride they have with themselves and their peers. It's like they're saying, 'We can stand integration, but if we don't have to be away from our friends why should we be.'" Condie's view of the voluntary segregation in dormitories on campus provides a sharp contrast to Leutze's opinion that blacks really do not have a free choice with their housing options.

Benita Bell, a junior from Greensboro, said the difference between North and South campus had less to do with race than with culture. "Even if we had a quota system I think blacks would still come down to South Campus for the cultural activities." If the segregation were intentional, she said she would see it as bad, but she does not think the present system is negative. She emphasized that she lived on South Campus because her friends and family were there, not specifically because many blacks lived there.

Eli McCullough, governor of James dormitory and a member of the housing subcommittee, said that spreading minorities out across campus might benefit people more. "Since there are so many claims of discrimination and racism, that might result in a breakdown of some of the barriers between the races." He said that he thought if blacks were placed more evenly in the residence halls, there would be no great threat to preserving their culture on campus. Like Leutze, he also cited the difficulty some blacks have in getting North Campus dorms because they have to wait for financial aid.

Cindy Hodgkin, a senior from Randleman and RA in James, said she would like to see a greater mix of blacks and whites in dorms, but she objected to any kind of quota system. "I think people should be able to live where they want—period."

Suzie Schmitzer, a white junior from Raleigh, is living on North Campus for the third year in a row. She said she had been surprised by the housing split of the races when she arrived at Carolina. "I wish we were more mixed in and we could be more at home with each other. Ideally, it's not the way you'd want it, but realistically, it's college. It winds up being segregated whether you want it or not."

The housing subcommittee that Leutze and Eli McCullough served on heard opinions from a number of black students on the issue of the divided campus. Some felt the situation was a serious problem, others did not. Summer vacation cut short the subcommittee's work and it has yet to convene this year. A number of committee members interviewed though expressed doubts about how much clout that committee had anyway. They felt that the Division of Student Affairs and the Housing Department were going to do what they wanted regardless of the subcommittee's proposals. This is an attitude Student Affairs and Housing should quickly dispel.

The Residence Hall Association and housing are planning a survey for later this year on this whole issue. Perhaps that survey will show that most people do not perceive the North-South housing situation to be a problem, but more likely many will wish, like Suzie Schmitzer, that there was a better mix of blacks and whites. If that is the case, then Housing and Student Affairs must make a serious commitment to altering the situation. For some, though, they have already waited too long.

Thomas Jessiman, a junior English major from Newton, Mass., is associate editor for *The Daily Tar Heel*.



The North-South dividing line