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The Daily Tar Heel

88th year of editorial freedom

Slow boil

The administration has once again raised the idea of a mandatory meal plan, which most students thought was firmly on the table. Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James O. Cansler said Tuesday that some form of mandatory meal plan or a student fee increase would be needed to fund renovations of the three campus food service areas.

Clearly, the food service here is in trouble. It is perhaps the most universally loathed of the services the University provides. Relatively few meal tickets are sold, and most are sold to freshmen who are away from home for the first time. Since the present Chase Cafeteria, Pine Room and Hunter Hut/Fast Break outlets were set up, the trend away from the use of campus food service has continued.

With the concept of residence halls as places to sleep, study and live came kitchens and cooking in dorm rooms. The growing number of restaurants and fast food places downtown and growing sorority and fraternity membership have provided more competition than Servomation and now ARA can handle.

What seems possible here is that students do not need or want a large-scale campus food service. The solution suggested by Cansler would either force students to use such a food service or subsidize it through student fees. Even if Chase and the Pine Room are remodeled, as he suggests, it seems doubtful that they will be able to attract many more students.

The Food Service Advisory Committee, which is considering alternate solutions to food service problems, is driving for an April decision deadline. They have relented long enough, however, to hold several hearings on the food service before choosing an option. Before it decides to make anything mandatory or levy yet another fee increase, the committee should stop to get an idea of how much food service the students can stomach.

What, me worry?

The U.S. Postal Service wants to raise the price of mailing a one-ounce, first-class letter from 15 to 20 cents. The price hike, which would be the fifth increase in 10 years, must be approved by the independent Postal Rate Commission.

Before the commission makes the increase, it should listen to the suggestion of Rep. Barry Goldwater Jr. (R-Calif.). Goldwater has proposed an act that would allow domestic corporations to promote their logos on stamps.

Goldwater's proposal, the Free Enterprise Postage Stamp Act, involves permitting corporations to bid for space on a limited number of stamps. The government would then sell the stamps to the public for the same price as its other stamps.

The bill proposes a one-year trial program with 100 million stamps going on sale to 2,000 corporations at a minimum bid of \$10,000. Goldwater's father, Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), has proposed a similar bill in the Senate that would make the minimum bid for a series of 5 cents per stamp, or \$130,000, for a minimum series of 2.6 million stamps.

Regardless of the actual figures, the Goldwaters have a good idea. Ironically, the idea was first suggested 15 years ago in the humor magazine MAD. In the July 1966 issue of MAD, the magazine's star, Alfred E. Neuman, was featured in a three-page article that showed postage stamps advertising rental cars, shaving cream and soap operas. MAD's editor said that many of the magazine's satirical ideas have become reality.

This is another that should. There is certainly nothing sacred about U.S. postage stamps. True, many stamps have honored famous Americans or commemorated historical events. The first two stamps issued in 1847 featured George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. But since then stamps also have featured everything from college football to the world's fair.

Obviously, the commercial stamps should be done in good taste. The U.S. Postal Service could lay down guidelines for the design of the stamp that must be approved. For example, companies could feature a picture of their founder, with a small logo tucked in one corner.

The postal system produces 6 billion stamps annually. If Rep. Goldwater's plan became law, and the program was expanded to include all 6 billion stamps produced each year, a minimum of \$1.2 billion could be produced annually. That's enough to keep the price of stamps where they are, the Postal Service in business — and Alfred E. Neuman happy.

Coalition for Social Justice defines concerns

By JOHN DAVID REED
and
ALEX CHARNS

Over 1,000 UNC students and faculty members marched to South Building Nov. 20 and took part in a demonstration protesting the verdict of the Klan-Nazi trial. Emotions ran strongly across campus that week; even the most apathetic of UNC students found themselves wrestling with the prospect of an American justice system which could condone the cold-blooded murder of five people, all recorded on videotape.

Black people across the South shuddered that the Klan-Nazi's "United Racist Front" could be given such a blatant green light to roam the streets with automatic weapons and kill at their leisure.

Two law professors at the rally spoke of a correlation between the rise of racial violence and the philosophy of the New Right which was, and is, revamping social policies in Washington.

Most students who were moved by the rally went home and wrote off the bizarre verdict as a rare aberration of justice. The common rationalization was that institutionalized racism would lead any Southern jury to interpret the Klan's actions as self defense. And after

all, weren't these people who got killed Communists? Haven't all good Americans been taught to react with a primal terror when they meet a Communist?

A group of 40 or 50 students began meeting together in the weeks after the rally. At first we called ourselves the Rally for Justice Committee and we set two primary goals: to educate people about the legal aspects of the Greensboro trial, and to speak out against racism and against government policies which infringe on people's civil rights.

In two organizational meetings this semester the committee formally named itself the Coalition for Social Justice and defined a set of concerns and goals. The primary functions of the coalition are to provide information about institutions and policies which infringe on basic human rights, and to provide a forum for discussion of such issues. The coalition will also serve as a network for coordinating organized student responses to such policies.

We have formed working committees to do research and propose coalition activities in the following areas:

- Economic justice — to investigate such issues as food stamps, health care, labor and fair housing, etc.
- Civil rights — to work to eliminate discrimination due to race, sex or religion.
- Environmental concerns — to research policies on pollution, nuclear power and alternatives to fossil fuels.
- Alternatives to Militarism — to advocate a foreign

policy based on diplomatic negotiation rather than militarism to oppose nuclear proliferation.

• Separation of church and state — to investigate Moral Majority proposals such as book banning and the Human Life Amendment.

We also have a committee which will be concerned with the activities of corporations, and a committee which will gather information on government policies and legislation.

The coalition's first project is sponsorship of a forum on the Klan-Nazi shootings and trial. The event, planned for late February, will include a showing of the videotapes from the shootings and a talk by a lawyer involved in the civil suit. Speakers on the significance of the rise of the Klan are also being considered.

Other projects include a campaign to make Martin Luther King's birthday a holiday and the showing of a film about violence to women.

Interested persons are welcome to join the Coalition for Social Justice at our next meeting planned for 8:30 p.m. Wednesday in Room 202 of the Student Union. Earle Tockman, a lawyer for the civil rights suit, will speak at the meeting. The civil rights committee will meet in the same room at 8:00 p.m.

John David Reed is a junior chemistry major from Kings Mountain. Alex Charns is a law student from Livonia, Michigan.

Letters to the editor

'Extremist' Caldicott misinforms audiences

To the editor:

I read in Thursday's Daily Tar Heel that the Carolina Union is sponsoring an Energy Symposium which, according to Nadine Bourgeois, is "not meant to be either pro- or anti-nuclear." Then I read that Dr. Helen Caldicott is to lecture and conduct a workshop on radiation. Dr. Caldicott is vehemently anti-nuclear. Asking her to lecture about radiation is like asking Adolf Hitler to lecture on "Jewish Culture."

As a radiation protection professional I am dismayed at the selection of Dr. Caldicott. Her past public presentations and writings contain numerous falsehoods, serious exaggerations, comments and numbers totally out of context, and impossible scenarios. In short, her science is poor.

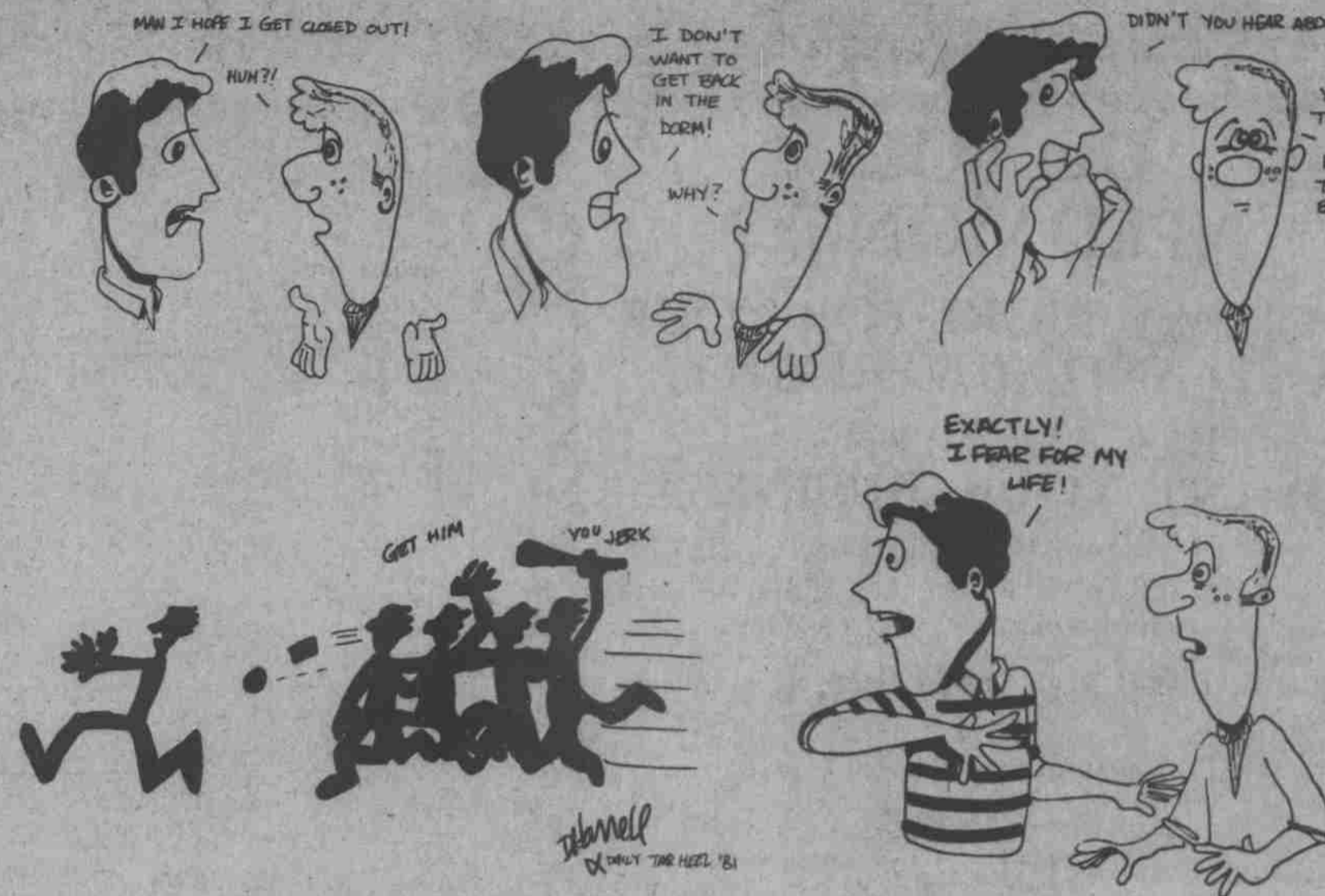
More alarming than her cavalier disregard for facts, however, are the psychological manipulations she employs to fire up her audiences. Dr. Caldicott seems to be at the forefront of a radiation witch-hunt that uses tactics similar to those in the McCarthy hearings on communism in the early 50s. By equating nuclear holocaust, nuclear power, radioactive waste and low-level radiation exposure, Dr. Caldicott is cruelly and wrongfully misleading her listeners. Her points are made not by reason, but by emotionally terrorizing her audience. She peddles fear.

Dr. Caldicott and I are in agreement about nuclear war. Who can argue that there would be few survivors and no winners in a nuclear exchange?

But at the other end of the spectrum of radiation intensities, Dr. Caldicott's conclusions and implications are preposterous. She represents an extremist minority far from the mainstream of science. For example, in its 1980 report on the effects of low-level ionizing radiation, the National Academy of Sciences did not see fit to reference Dr. Caldicott's work, even though it cited over 1,100 references from all over the world. Is this the kind of "radiation expert" that the Carolina Union spends student fees on?

I plead with the Carolina Union organizers to schedule equal time, not for pronukes, but for persons like myself who are well informed on radiation topics and can give an objective presentation of radiation effects in the context of other risks. To do less than this is to admit the agreement of the Carolina Union with Dr. Caldicott's tactics and conclusions.

Daniel J. Strom
UNC School of Public Health



Warren reply

To the editor:

Yesterday several law students wrote to the DTH claiming that I had made a false statement about the candidacy of Anderson Harkov ("Harkov defended," DTH, Feb. 17). I don't know what code of morality is in vogue in New York (or wherever the accusers come from), but in North Carolina calling somebody a liar is serious business. For the benefit of those who say I am incorrect and uninformed, here are the facts.

I did not infer Andy's promise to "politicize" the Graduate Professional Student Federation from his unexplained comment that he "opposed everything I stood for." I did not arrive at the claim by way of interpreting his statement that he was "the only progressive candidate." Rather, I quoted, almost verbatim, Andy's statement to the GPSF about his intentions.

At the GPSF meeting prior to the first election (which none of my accusers ap-

parently attended), Andy said, "I disagree with Ray, I think the office should be politicized." He then explained that as president he would speak out for ERA, "abortion rights" and other issues. "When you vote for me, you get my philosophy," he added. One GPSF senator asked Andy just what his philosophy was. "I am a liberal progressive activist," was the reply.

Andy actually promised to politicize the GPSF. As for those accusing me of error, it is they, and not I, who are either misinformed or less than honest.

Raymond Warren
School of Law

Equality

To the editor:

I was not among those attending the Equal Rights Amendment debate in Memorial Hall on February 9th, but while watching the news, I saw film clips from the debate. When the possibility of draft for women was mentioned by Mrs. Schlafly, that valid point was met by sar-

castic laughter by some of those attending. Why?

The wording of the ERA amendment in no way prohibits the drafting of women. Even though legal precedence has been contrary to such action, women must accept, along with other changes to be created by the amendment, the legal necessity of instituting equal responsibility by sex in the defense of the nation.

I respect the basic premises of ERA and I also respect the opinion of those supporters who accept the total responsibilities accompanying the rights inherited thereby. However, I cannot respect the opinion of women who do not accept the right of Congress to draft women (even though not necessarily for combat duty). This displays a lack of legal knowledge and a basic denial of reality. ERA is for men as well as women and this type of discrimination would be a definite inequality.

Steven Casey Laizure
Estes Park Apartments

Helms' abortion amendment unenforceable

By WARREN M. HERN

The recent DTH article by Betsy Russell on abortion legislation and the editorial concerning the Moral Majority's effort to suppress information about sex and contraception were timely and well done. It is important that the public in general and this academic community in particular understand the impact of the efforts by religious fanatics to restrict our civil liberties.

North Carolina is especially unfortunate to have as its senior representative and chief sponsor of these insanities in the U.S. Senate, Jesse Helms, whose intellectual poverty is now inflicted on a national audience. That Helms provides an amusing caricature of the Southern demagogue for the rest of the nation cannot be comforting to thoughtful North Carolina voters.

However, he is now a power in the Senate and he must be taken seriously. He has offered again his annual Human Life Amendment to the Constitution, which would define a person as existing from the moment of conception. Worse, he has now submitted a new variation which has an excellent chance of passing the Senate and wreaking havoc on both the Constitution and the federal judiciary.

The latest legislative maneuver requires only a majority and is sponsored in the House by Henry Hyde of Illinois. The legislation would stipulate that the word "person" in the 14th Amendment is defined as "existing from the moment of conception" and requiring "due process before the law." The second part of the legislation would prohibit lower Federal courts from ruling on any litigation involving abortion. It will effectively deny all women legal abortions and not just the poor, who have been the customary target of Hyde and Helms.

It is ironic that the inevitable consequence of denying fertility control to women who are poor will conspicu-

ously enlarge the numbers and misery of a class of people for whom Helms has no understanding nor compassion. This is especially true since he couples his crusade for reproductive profligacy with a plan for eliminating the Food Stamp program and school lunches for children. The fact that welfare costs will rise because of and despite his efforts will confound the progressive fascists who would rather eliminate the poor by giving them fertility control than by starvation of large numbers. Too messy.

The presumption that Congress has the collective competence to define the beginning of life for us is grotesquely absurd, but the prospect of a serious attempt should alarm every citizen. For the biologist, life began hundreds of millions of years ago and has continued in an unbroken sequence ever since. In abortion, the question becomes not when life begins, but who is best prepared to make the decision to transmit life to a new generation: the individual or the state?

As a physician specializing in abortion, I have helped women with this painful problem for the past seven years. I can unequivocally state that no one is better prepared to make that decision than the individual woman. In the name of "getting government off the backs of the people," the defenders of public virtue will have the state impose that decision by taking away the choice. What a monstrous lie they have sold!

The Human Life Amendment and Statute would define a person as existing from the moment of conception. When does conception occur? How soon after intercourse? Would the census taker bring a pregnancy test with him? Would that be an invasion of privacy? Will the IRS require proof of a positive pregnancy test for the extra deduction? What if the claim is for twins?

How do you classify ectopic (tubal) pregnancy? Do you prosecute the doctor who removes it? What if a woman smokes or drinks and has a miscarriage? Will she be guilty of murder? Will the embryo get a passport? Will a fetus conceived in the United States in a non-citizen be an American citizen if born abroad?

Will insurance companies give life insurance for the fetus? If it's a person, why not?

Will the intrauterine device, which can act as an abortifacient, be illegal under the new amendment? Will birth control pills be illegal, since they may be used post-conception to prevent pregnancy? What about the fact that any woman who is pregnant, intentionally or not, is at risk of death due to pregnancy? What about the fact that the woman who continues a pregnancy is 10 to 35 times more likely to die than the woman who has an early abortion under proper medical conditions? Is the death of a woman who has been denied a safe abortion a deprivation of her life and rights without due process?

If the Human Life legislation is passed, will everyone who is 64.3 years of age on the day it becomes law immediately become 65.0 years of age and therefore eligible for benefits from the bankrupt Social Security system?

The widespread availability of information and technology for performing abortions and providing contraception would make such legislation a laughingstock. It might occur, however, that one or more cantankerous, dissenting physicians who are notorious for performing abortions will openly challenge such a preposterous law and require the protectors of virtue to demonstrate the primacy of a six-week embryo over a disagreeable adult doctor.

Those who abhor abortion as a personal choice in pregnancy are entitled to their views and choices. This includes Senator Helms who, fortunately for all of us, will never himself face this dilemma. As a personal philosophy, it is not only intolerable; it may be sincere and profound. As public policy imposed on an unbelieving majority, however, it is psychotic, ridiculous, and totally unenforceable. We do not need more bad laws, but fewer and wiser. We do not need Helms and the Moral Majority to tell us how to live. Let them practice what they preach.

Warren Hern, a physician, is a graduate student in the School of Public Health. He is active in several pro-abortion organizations.

The Daily Tar Heel

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