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The Daily Tar Heel

89th year of editorial freedom

Faulty mortgage

The initial hoopla surrounding President Ronald Reagan's proposed budget cuts has subsided, but as the dust settles it is becoming clear that students seeking financial aid next year can expect a rough ride in the coming months.

If Reagan's proposals are approved by Congress, nearly 750,000 students may be forced to drop out of college this fall, according to a report submitted last week to the House Subcommittee on Post-secondary Education. Middle income families and students attending private schools would be hurt the most, but the sweeping cuts are likely to affect almost everyone unless Congress makes some amendments.

Reagan's final budget is scheduled to be released March 10 and hearings already have begun in Washington that are likely to continue throughout the spring. Although it appears inevitable that substantial cuts will have to be made, it is unwise to mortgage America's future for the present. Congress should realize that Reagan's proposals not only will affect almost every college and university in the nation, but might deny funds to students who need them the most.

This year nearly 7,600 UNC students received financial assistance from the Student Aid Office, in the form of grants, loans or scholarships. The program that affects the greatest number of students — and one which will suffer most under Reagan's plan — is the Guaranteed Student Loan program. Under present guidelines a student can take out a loan regardless of financial need, with the federal government subsidizing the interest rate.

The guaranteed loan program was established years ago, but only recently, with the soaring tuition rates and revised loan regulations, have many students taken advantage of it. Reagan Administration officials say the program is under careful scrutiny because of widespread abuses. At UNC the number of loan applications more than doubled in one year — from 2,000 in 1979-1980 to nearly 4,500 for the current academic year.

While many students applying under the guaranteed program truly need the money to make ends meet, other middle- and upper-income families have gone beyond educational expenses, and used the low-interest loans to pay other bills. Congress can institute several measures now that should help to trim the budget and still ensure that needy students are able to secure loans.

The first, and most practical move would be to base the loans on financial need. Stricter guidelines would help to eliminate abuses and provide money for low-income students who are not eligible for grants.

Another possibility would be to eliminate the interest subsidy provided by the government. Under present rules, a student pays 9 percent interest on his loan starting six months after graduation. The government picks up the difference between the 9 percent and the market rate at the time.

Regardless of what Congress decides to do, it should act quickly. Student aid offices across the country will not be able to process applications until they receive some indication of the amount of money that will be available. At UNC, the problem is compounded by the increase of applications since last year. The Student Aid Office had received 10,000 applications as of mid-February, an increase of 2,000 over this time last year.

Many educators who have lobbied for financial aid programs in the past admit that the Reagan Administration has taken a hard line and will work hard to implement the president's proposals. The administration is resisting pressure from special interest groups and insisting that all the cuts are justified.

It is therefore important that Congress act responsibly and not sacrifice long-term goals for short-term budget cuts. By working to provide money for college students Congress will avoid mortgaging the nation's educational programs and ensure that a post-secondary education is available to every qualified student based on need.

The Bottom Line

Sign up

Non-vote

Ever since he put a sign on the back of his pickup truck, Dennis LaRoche of Jacksonville, Fla., has had it made. The 24-year-old power plant technician, who decided it was time to settle down, hung a sign on the back of his pickup proclaiming, "I NEED A WIFE."

LaRoche doesn't have a wife yet, but things are looking up. He said he was dating 12 women who answered his ad. The sign lists his specifications: "Age 16-28, average or good-looking, part- or full-time job, rich or poor, with or without kids, single or divorced or separated. Must like to cook food, clean house and make lots of dynamite love. Have fun indoors or out."

It all sounds pretty sexist, but LaRoche said the response has kept him busy. "They call me Dennis Romeo down at the power plant because girls keep showing up at the gate to talk to me," he said.

Whether LaRoche's idea will work in Chapel Hill remains to be seen. After all, many of us don't have cars and we'd look pretty strange walking around campus with signs on our backs.

But don't fret if you don't own a car. There's always the trusty, time-tested method: the DTH personals.

Voter participation is getting to be a major problem at all levels of government. Even with the DTH exhortation to "exercise your franchise" (which doesn't mean walk your pet), far less than half of all students voted in the campus elections two weeks ago.

Of course, it could have been worse. They could have opened the polls and then had no one show up the whole day. The Elections Board would be stunned, which it usually is. But that's exactly what happened in the last election in Moline, Illinois.

There were only six eligible voters in Coal Valley Township and three of them had already cast absentee ballots.

The other three were either too busy or uninterested in the party primaries to select candidates for the Moline mayoralty and 4th Ward alderman race.

But the five election judges appeared and collected their \$50 fees. That, added to the price of printing special ballots for the election, cost Rock Island County \$500 — a rather expensive non-election.

And that's the bottom line.

Mel Blanc is the man of a thousand voices

'In Quotes'

By KIMBERLY KLEMAN

Even if you didn't know that Mel Blanc is the voice of most Warner Brothers cartoon characters you'd have little trouble guessing his occupation upon meeting him.

His voice — something like that of Sylvester the Cat without the lisp — is strangely familiar and rightfully so. Blanc has made over 3,000 cartoons in his 44-year career and is heard by over 100 million people each day.

His face, too, somewhat resembles his cartoon characters and assumes the features of Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Speedy Gonzales and Pepe LePew with each change in voice characterization.

"One day while I was working, a friend of mine started snapping pictures of me," he said. "What the hell are you doing?" I asked him. He told me I looked just like my characters."

At any rate, by the time you noticed the Bugs Bunny tie and tie pin that Blanc always wears and his embroidered Bugs Bunny shirt pocket, you'd certainly become suspicious of his identity and would probably be humbled. This man is the most well-known and most prolific voice specialist alive today. The late actor Peter Sellers, a noted radio celebrity at one time, described himself as the Mel Blanc of England.

A voice specialist is a good one if he can create two or three voices, Blanc said. When he last counted, he could do over 400.

"There are about 1,000 voice impersonators now, but not many who do voice characterizations," he said. "I won't do impersonations. To me, it's like stealing." Blanc said he created every character's voice from a picture the animator showed him.

"I can see a picture and come up with a voice instantaneously," he said. "Sometimes, it takes a bit longer than that."

Blanc created his first cartoon character's voice in 1937 when he was shown Porky Pig's picture.

"When I saw it I thought to myself, 'What a fine thing to ask a nice clean Jewish boy to do,'" Blanc said. He said he visited a pig sty a few times to make Porky's voice realistic.

Blanc created Bugs Bunny — his favorite character — in 1938.

"They showed me a picture of a rabbit they wanted to call The Happy Hare. They

wanted him to say, 'What's cookin'?' " he said.

Instead, Blanc suggested they use the name Bugs Bunny after animator Bugs Hardaway and the expression "What's up, Doc?" a popular colloquialism.

"They told me he was a little stinker, so I thought Brooklyn or the Bronx. I ended up combining the two accents," he said.

Though Blanc works almost exclusively for Warner Brothers, he once worked on a movie with Walt Disney.

"They wanted me to do the voice of a hiccupping cat for *Pinocchio*. I worked for 16 days and was paid \$50 a day," he said. "When Disney heard it, he said he couldn't use it because the children would think the cat was drunk. He cut all but one hiccup, which cost them \$800. 'Here' — Blanc hiccupped — "you just got one for free."

Though Warner Brothers cartoon characters have gotten cuter over the years, their personalities and the cartoon scripts haven't changed, Blanc said.

"The writers were always way ahead of the times. They wrote for all ages," he said. "You watch them now and you see all the little innuendos you missed when you were a kid."

In *Knights of the Roundtable*, a cartoon Blanc showed when he spoke here last Thursday, Sir Osis of Liver and Sir Loin of Beef were among the Knights of the Roundtable. This cartoon was one of six Academy Award winners Blanc helped to create.

Production techniques are markedly different now than in previous years, Blanc said.

"Most of the cartoons that are on Saturday morning TV are done in limited animation. The character blinks his eyes a bit, moves his mouth and the scenery revolves around behind him," he said.

Warner Brothers still produces cartoons for TV in full animation, where the characters actually move, but, Blanc said, the process took 10 times as long.

"A fully animated, six-minute cartoon takes 125 people nine months to animate, at a cost of \$300,000 to \$400,000," he said.

"The cost is probably why they stopped making short cartoon clips for movies in 1963. But now, a lot of people have been asking for them. Warner Brothers might begin again to make them," he said.

Blanc is currently doing voice characterizations for a full-length animated movie called *Looney, Looney, Looney Bugs* and a new cartoon, *Dino and the Mouse*. His other cartoons appear on all major TV networks.

"When they tell me one network got



Mel Blanc

DTH/Scott Sharpe

... artist has made over 3,000 cartoons in 44-year career

the best ratings one Saturday morning, I don't care. Three of my shows run simultaneously on Saturdays," he said.

And then there are always commercials.

"The American Express commercial was the best piece of publicity I ever received. Two years after it was made, people were coming up and asking, 'Hey, are you carrying your American Express card?'" he said.

Blanc also has produced commercials for Nine Lives Cat Food, a drug store chain and several charities.

"I enjoy visiting children's hospitals whenever I can. It gives me a good feeling to know I can make them laugh for a half hour or so," he said. "That's why I'm in this business. I do it to make peo-

ple happy. In these hard times it's nice to know I can make people laugh."

Blanc's most time-consuming work, however, involves speaking at colleges about twice a week. In two years he's lectured at 109 universities.

"I've been all over the country with colleges, and I think all college students are the same. Cartoons appeal to them because college kids are cartoon freaks," he said.

At 72, Blanc has no plans for retirement. "Did Truman Capote or Cary Grant retire? I love my work. I'll keep on working 'til I keel over," he said.

Kimberly Kleman, a sophomore journalism major from New Providence, N.J., is a staff writer for the Daily Tar Heel.

Letters to the editor

CGC criticized for cutting residence grants

To the editor:

After attending the final meeting of the 62nd session of the CGC, I cannot let my disappointment in the terminating of grants to residence halls, fraternities and sororities go unexpressed.

It appears that the Finance Committee's main objection to the grants was inequity. Since there are only 7,400 students living in residence halls and approximately 2,000 in fraternities and sororities, this means there are 10,600 students not eligible to benefit from the grants, thus resulting in inequity. Considering the manner in which the CGC distributes money, it is not feasible to expect equity to exist in every appropriation. All students are not going to benefit equally from their fees. Except for Chapel Thrill, no other activity or organization funded by the CGC encompasses as many students as these 9,400 affected by the grants.

Another point about the issue also concerns me. Even though the proposed bill had been researched for quite a while, some members felt there were too many unanswered questions. Passing the bill on to the 63rd session may have been viewed as a "cop out," but would certainly have been a better alternative than

ratifying it.

It also seems to me that many CGC members forgot their constituents, who put them in the position they were in. The power some of the members had in distributing money appears to have stood in the way of their ability to voice the concerns of those they were representing. One member went as far as saying that it was not the Council's purpose to improve university life. I hope this is not the general attitude of the body in charge of distributing student funds.

I realize the decision of the 62nd CGC

regarding the grants must stand. My only

concern is that future council members

look at both sides of an issue carefully

and vote according to their constituents'

best interests.

Jeff Bundy
02 Teague

Library needed

To the editor:

I would like to respond to a letter to the editor, printed on February 25, 1981, about the construction of the new library.

The idea behind the construction of the new library is that space for book

collections and for staff processing areas is needed not only now, but in the future. One librarian put it to me this way: "One of the most important characteristics of a library that people don't always realize is that it grows rapidly. If it runs out of room for books, does it stop buying books as they are published? How long can it do that before it becomes a bad library nobody wants to use? Books are now in storage in a warehouse in Durham; without the new central library, you would see a great university library soon becoming a mediocre library."

Mr. Conder's comment that our "centrally located facilities" are adequate is questionable — I invite him to speak to any library staff member in the Catalog, Acquisitions, Periodicals, Circulation, Humanities Reference, or BA/SS Reference departments, or any other person who works in Wilson Library and let him find out how "adequate" facilities are. And certainly he must have used Wilson Library and has found out how confusing the stack arrangement is!

I agree we need more dorms because of the outrageous rental prices for apartments in town, and that the new library took a lot of parking spaces (many library

staffers used to park there!). I think I can safely say that the new building will not only be attractive, but extremely useful for all students at Carolina, especially those who might be discouraged from using Wilson because of the confusing set-up in the stacks, which, by the way, is due to the library having to build additions to increase space for collections.

Mike Moyer
Undergraduate Library

Letters?

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes letters to the editor and contributions of columns for the editorial page.

Such contributions should be typed, triple-spaced, on a 60-space line, and are subject to editing.

Column writers should include their majors and hometowns; each letter should include the writer's name, address and telephone number.

Life in a landmark has its bizarre moments

By JIM HUMMEL

Old East

The University of North Carolina has designated a registered national historic landmark. This site possesses exceptional value in commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States. U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service 1966

For most people on campus, Old East is just another building, one of many at an institution that is rich in tradition and boasts of being the oldest state university in the nation. But for some people, including many of the dormitory's 96 residents, the building is special and carries with it a collection of stories worthy of that tradition — and some we'd all like to forget.

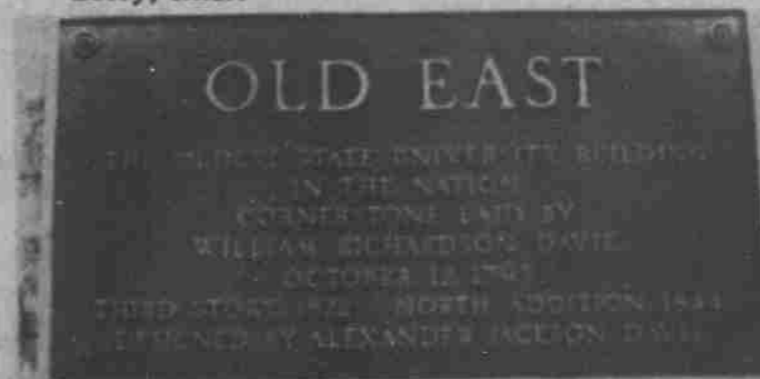
The Department of Housing notified me two weeks ago that once again I had survived the lottery and was eligible to return to Old East for the fourth year in a row — same dorm, same room overlooking the Old Well.

"You're going to be in Old East again?" most of my friends have said, convinced that I must be out of my mind to stay in a dorm my senior year. As a journalism major, and one who is perpetually behind schedule, Old East is the perfect home because I just fall out of bed and into class over at Howell Hall. And if by some incredible miracle I want to study, I can stay in my room because the walls are thick enough to drown out the stereo blasting next door.

But life in Old East is not all roses, and living in an historical landmark is not easy. As a bona fide historical site, registered with the National Park Service no less, my home has been designated "tour-worthy" and there is always some tourist hell-bent on finding the exact room where Thomas Wolfe is rumored to have lived when he came to UNC in the early 1900s. Anybody who has been in Old East, though, knows that is the

least of our troubles:

"Dominos Pizza."
"We didn't order any."
"Is this room 22?"
"Yeah."
"Old West?"
"Sorry, chief."



Old East, Old West, New East, New West, South Building. It all becomes pretty confusing at times. Old East is set up on a suite system, and it has caused more than a few people to have nervous breakdowns trying to find a friend's room. There are three towers in the building; each one is separated from the other and has its own entrance. This is good or bad depending on how you look at it and can serve as an excellent indicator of how devoted your friends are. Most people just give up looking for your room and go down to Hector's to get an egg roll.

As is the case with any bastion of history, there are bound to be stories that are passed down from generation to generation — exaggerated along the way — and

Old East's repertoire is no different. Most of the tales concern people who are supposed to have lived in the dorm — people like Thomas Wolfe, Andy Griffith and Charles Kuralt, among others — but nobody knows for sure whether they really did live there. It seems as if almost every famous person that ever attended UNC lived in Old East, but it is difficult to verify — so we just say they

did anyway. Makes for great conversation with the folks back home.

In the olden days each tower used to have two huge swinging doors that you had to fight to get into the building. It was a real hassle trying to carry a refrigerator or furniture in or out, and outright deadly if you happened to get caught on the rebound by mistake. I think we had a hotline to North Carolina Memorial Hospital alerting the emergency ward to watch out for our maimed visitors.

Several years ago some bright soul figured it was time to get new doors. What he didn't realize was that as an historical landmark all changes had to be approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Last fall we finally got the new doors, but already they're falling apart and there is talk about the good ol' days with the swinging doors. How quickly they forget.

Despite the hassles I enjoy my home, and if there's nothing interesting on television, a quick look out the window usually provides an interesting view. On a given day there is everything from the cheerleaders practicing in front of the Old Well during football season to Woody Durham interviewing Mike O'Koren (with Old East in the background of course) and the usual mobs of kindergarten kids killing each other to get a drink out of the Old Well. If they only knew how the water really tasted

Next time you go by, take note of the multitudes passing by the building, admiring the stunning architecture and historical significance. But it's best to view from a distance. It seems as if some mysterious red-headed kid has been known to pour buckets of water out the window at odd hours of the day and nobody knows when he'll strike next. So don't be surprised the next time you see a Dominos Pizza delivery body running down the street soaking wet — just consider it history in the making.

Jim Hummel, a junior journalism and political science major from Grafton, Mass., is editor of The Daily Tar Heel.