

JIM HUMMEL, Editor

SUSAN MAUNEY, Managing Editor  
MARK MURRELL, Associate Editor  
JONATHAN RICH, Associate Editor

EDWINA RALSTON, University Editor  
JOHN ROYSTER, City Editor  
CHARLES HERNDON, State and National Editor  
BETH BURRELL, News Editor  
CLIFTON BARNES, Sports Editor

TOM MOORE, Arts Editor  
KEITH KING, Features Editor  
SCOTT SHARPE, Photography Editor  
ANN PETERS, Webmaster  
CHUCK JAMES, Ombudsman

# The Daily Tar Heel

89th year of editorial freedom

## Spare us

There is an old saying that a politician is never satisfied unless he is running for something. This week's announcement by several politicians that they will be seeking election to the governor's office in 1984 seems to reinforce that axiom, considering Election Day is more than three years away.

Gone are the days when a candidate can file several months (or weeks) before Election Day, nail up a few posters and give a speech or two. Apparently most of the better-known politicians in this state think that getting an early start has a direct relationship to getting elected, which is depressing for those of us who have to listen to the extended rhetoric that accompanies a long political season.

What is even more depressing is news that Insurance Commissioner John Ingram is considering a gubernatorial bid in 1984 and beginning to map out his strategy already. "He's listening to his public," an aide to Ingram said this week. We have some advice for Ingram: give it up now and spare us all the agony that generally accompanies an Ingram bid for office.

The Democrat's most recent fiasco was in 1978, when he was landslided by Jesse Helms in the race for U.S. Senator. Since first being elected insurance commissioner in 1972, Ingram has been able to gain re-election, despite a poor public image and repeated court defeats involving insurance increases, which prompted some to suggest he change his slogan to "Losing for you."

Last November, three aides to the incumbent were so frustrated with their boss's performance that they resigned and decided to run for commissioner themselves. Unfortunately, they split the vote and Ingram was re-elected to another term.

But perhaps the most distressing thing about the possibility of Ingram's running for governor is the fact that while he is out on the campaign trail, the state suffers because his time is not being devoted to important insurance questions that affect a large segment of North Carolina.

Ingram is mistaken if he thinks he will be able to gain enough support to defeat what is shaping up to be a strong field of competition. Concentrating his efforts on the job of insurance commissioner instead of dreaming about a higher office would be the best thing he could do for the State of North Carolina.

## Ripping it up

Nobody in this town probably gives a damn about Manhattan's Biltmore Hotel, but its sad fate last week illustrates a crass fault that is peculiar to America. We are forever destroying our own history, while there is precious little to spare.

The Biltmore, an elegant place in the 1930s and 1940s, gradually lost its attraction, although its name was once a household word.

So a mere 68 years after it was built, workmen moved into the hotel's first floor and started to rip out wood and plaster, converting the 27-story structure that was once haven for the characters of Salinger and Fitzgerald into the headquarters for the Bank of America.

Known for its gilded Palm Court and huge clock under which hundreds of people have met through the years, the Biltmore was "not architecturally significant," a renovation architect said. Although the clock will be kept, the historical interior of the hotel along with its charm are gone. A few more years of the American past will be hauled away with the rubble and junked.

How typically American. If it's too expensive to work around history, we just rip it up. There is probably no town that has not lost a cherished building this way.

In Chapel Hill, residents are luckier than most. While a few structures have been razed to make way for bland, modern, classroom cubicles, the most historical structures have been preserved, with a major \$157,000 renovation of Playmaker's Theatre now nearing completion. Though the record here is not perfect, it is worthy of emulation.

Castles still stand in Europe. Even though many may be in ruins, they are better off there than they would be near American cities. We would have turned them into fast food restaurants, amusement parks, banks or parking lots long ago.

# O'Connor's role as female judge over-played

By BEVERLY SHEPARD

Sandra Day O'Connor's nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court has made her a center of controversy. On one side, feminists and liberals herald her appointment as a great step for women. On the other, conservatives and many members of the Moral Majority say O'Connor's views on abortion and the Equal Rights Amendment betray the 1980 Republican platform.

Much of the controversy would be eliminated, however, if both sides could look beyond O'Connor's "womanhood" and see her qualifications instead.

One look at O'Connor's record should erase any doubts concerning her qualifications. O'Connor, who attended high school in El Paso, Texas, graduated at age 16. In just five years she attained her undergraduate and law degrees from Stanford University, graduating *magna cum laude*.

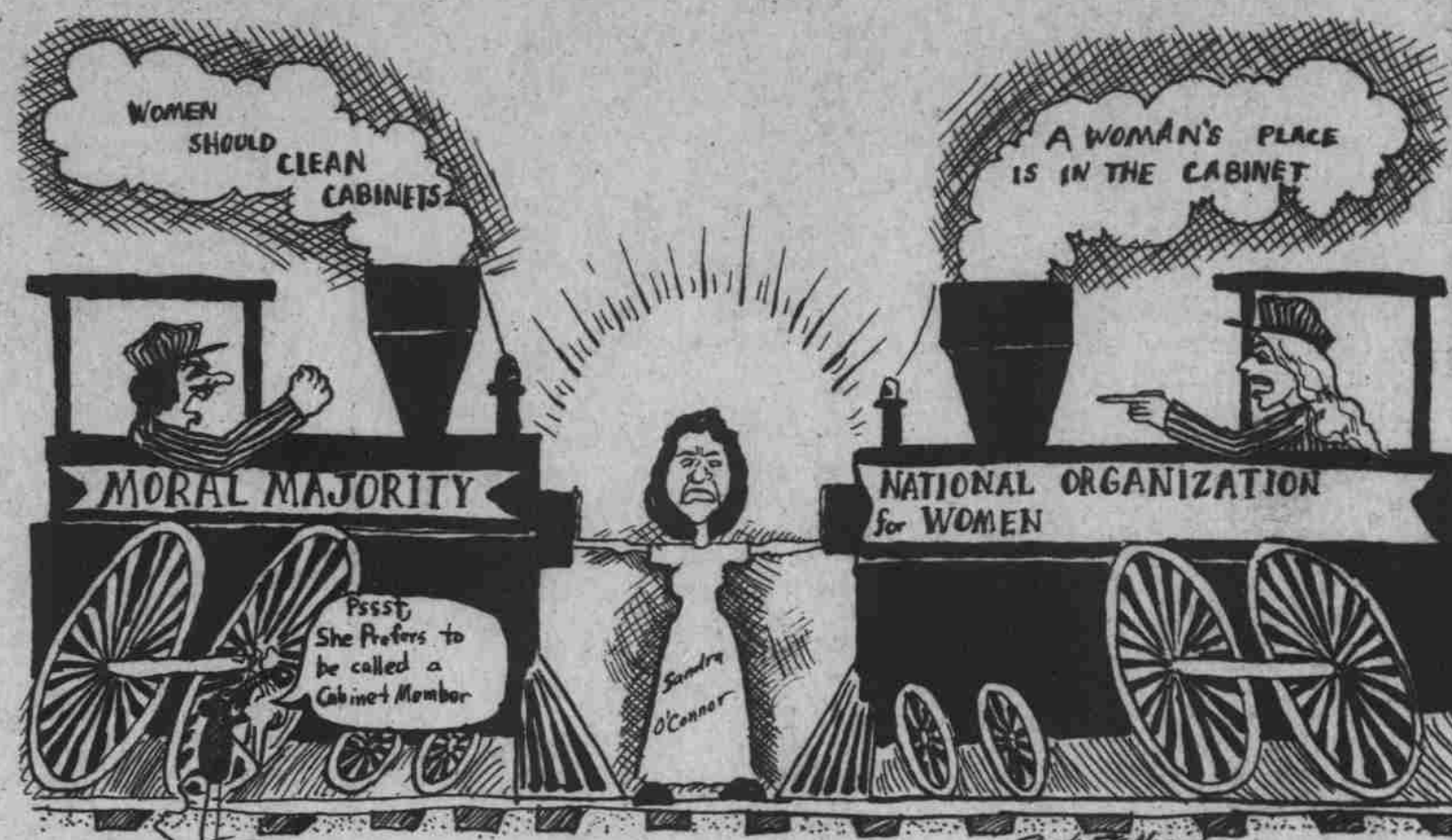
As a state senator, O'Connor became the first female majority leader of the Arizona State Legislature. Since 1979, she has been a judge in the Arizona State Court of Appeals. Paul Gewirtz, a Yale law professor, described O'Connor as "smart, fair, self-confident and altogether at home with technical legal issues."

All things considered, O'Connor, as a lawyer, state senator, trial and appellate judge has an impressive record of experience. Regardless of her sex, O'Connor has the necessary qualifications for the job of Supreme Court justice.

Chances are that Reagan was playing politics by appointing O'Connor. If, indeed, he was, this will not be the first time tokenism has produced government appointees. But, often overlooked, is the record tokenism has had in producing dramatic changes. Some of the same doubts circulated when Thurgood Marshall, the first and only black on the court, was appointed. But in the years of Marshall's service, his liberal attitudes alone could not change race relations in this country. And should O'Connor's nomination be approved by the U.S. Senate in September, her opinions alone will not substantially change those of the eight other judges, who as members of the court for many years have deep-rooted legal interpretations that they will probably continue to uphold.

Still, members of the New Right and Moral Majority and other conservatives contend that Reagan betrayed a campaign promise by appointing an individual to office who was not in favor of "the traditional family and the sanctity of human life."

A summer edition of the *Conservative Digest* lists O'Connor's faults as an Arizona legislator: In 1970, she voted for an abortion bill. In 1972, she voted twice to prompt Senate action on the Equal Rights Amendment, and two years later she co-sponsored a bill calling for a referendum on the amendment. In 1973, O'Connor co-sponsored a family-planning bill, that among other



things, would allow abortions for minors without the consent of their parents. Again, in 1974, she voted against measures urging Congress to determine the legality of abortions and voted against prohibiting state funding for abortions at the University of Arizona hospital.

What conservatives have overlooked is that O'Connor is a political and judicial conservative. Her record is one of conservative voting as well. For example, she voted to restore the death penalty and voted against compulsory busing to achieve integration.

O'Connor, who has never confirmed any pro-abortion sentiments, may simply believe that a woman's personal life should be none of the government's business and that an issue like abortion has no place in a legislative agenda.

## at large

If conservatives could grasp this point, they would also realize that, as a woman, O'Connor's attitudes on abortion will not interfere with her service as a judge. Should the issue of abortion come before the court someday, O'Connor's single vote — should it be pro-abortion — may make no more difference than Marshall's vote against the acceptance of William Bakke into medical school at the University of California at Berkeley.

On the other hand, too many females are over-emphasizing O'Connor's impact as a female judge. Eleanor

Smeal, president of the National Organization of Women, said O'Connor's appointment was "a major victory for women's rights." But on issues other than abortion and ERA, O'Connor's opinions may not be as agreeable. O'Connor may burst the bubble of expectations when feminists see once she puts on that black robe, her interpretations of law will be those of a judge rather than those of a woman.

As a member of a minority, I can sympathize with O'Connor, who is being forced by society to wear the tag of "woman judge" instead of "qualified judge." She is trapped into defending her sex against her qualifications, something that a conservative, white, male judge would never be forced to do.

Certainly, one can expect O'Connor's perspectives, as a woman, may differ from those of the male justices. But that diversity should be considered as an asset, instead of a liability. Changes may come, but not immediately. And minorities, as objects of tokenism and criticism in the past, know that O'Connor should not be forced into being a token candidate for either group.

In the 191 years of the court's existence, none of the 101 judges have been women. In that sense, O'Connor's appointment does, indeed, break a tradition. But, it is unfortunate another tradition has remained unbroken — that of labeling a book by its cover rather than judging it by its content.

Beverly Shepard, a senior journalism major from Jacksonville, is an editorial writer for The Daily Tar Heel.

# Housing shortage should improve in the future

By JONATHAN RICH

When the UNC athletic department recently announced the acquisition of \$15 million in private funds for the new sports complex, most students applauded. There were some, however, notably those on dormitory waiting lists or those who commute daily from off-campus apartments, who could only note the discrepancy within a university that can build a \$30-million sports complex, but cannot furnish basic housing to its students.

Chronic housing shortages, both in the University and surrounding communities, have almost been accepted as an inevitable aspect of university life. Last spring, 1,380 students were closed out of University housing. These people joined almost 12,000 other students in a yearly scramble for affordable off-campus housing. Meanwhile, the local apartment market remains as tight as ever, with vacancy rates for school periods fluctuating between 1 and 2 percent.

Housing has not always been such a problem, nor must it remain so. In the 1960s, when the University community still numbered only 13,000, University housing

was much less competitive, especially with many students preferring to live off campus. As the student population increased steadily during the subsequent decades, four South Campus dormitories were constructed by 1968 to accommodate the new growth. For several years these dorms were not filled to capacity — now they are as packed as the rest.

Part of the housing shortage is the result of poor planning and unrestricted University growth. But there are other factors, as well. Inflation and rising apartment costs have driven many students to seek more reasonably-priced campus housing. Meanwhile, high interest rates and a continued influx into the Research Triangle have limited the construction of new housing, making apartments a scarce and expensive commodity.

Although the University has for years attempted to alleviate the housing shortage, numerous plans and proposals have proven unsuccessful. State laws that require that University housing be self-supporting have made expansion almost impossible, because of high interest rates and construction costs. The decision by the UNC Board of Trustees last spring not to continue with plans to build student apartments on the University Couch property near Kroger Plaza seemed

to signal that further student housing was out of the question.

Does this mean that future generations of students must resign themselves to dorm lotteries and tight housing markets? Not necessarily. It is encouraging that the administration has finally proposed a workable plan to alleviate housing difficulties. If the first project proves successful, another dormitory could later be added, Temple said. Additional student housing will have the double advantage of providing housing to students while taking pressure off the low-cost housing market — a long-standing source of contention between the University and local communities.

## locally

John Temple, UNC vice chancellor for business and finance, said that his department was looking at various designs for a new housing complex capable of holding 500 students. The development would be financed by higher rents for all student housing, rather than forcing the new residents to pay extravagant rents. The housing project would drive student rent up a maximum of \$100 per year, Temple said. Since on-campus students are now paying only an average of \$700 a year, the new rates would still give them a bargain on housing.

Temple will present various designs for the new project to the UNC Board of Trustees in October. Once they have chosen a definite plan, it will have to be ultimately approved by the N.C. General Assembly next May. It is encouraging that the administration has finally proposed a workable plan to alleviate housing difficulties. If the first project proves successful, another dormitory could later be added, Temple said. Additional student housing will have the double advantage of providing housing to students while taking pressure off the low-cost housing market — a long-standing source of contention between the University and local communities.

Construction of new off-campus apartments largely depends on current interest rates. While rates are now prohibitively high, most financial experts predict they will drop within the coming year. When this occurs, there should be a boom in the apartment/housing industry. Students can expect housing shortages to persist, especially as the Research Triangle area continues to develop. Yet while no consolation to current students, future Tar Heels should be in a better position to find low-cost housing.

Jonathan Rich, a junior political science and history major from Quogue, N.Y., is associate editor for The Daily Tar Heel.

# Teachers' hit list could endanger education

By JOHN DRESCHER

The North Carolina Association of Educators has declared war.

Beating its chest and shouting a battle cry, the 50,000-member organization has said it is tired of taking fiscal abuse from its funding organization — the state legislature. So the educators' organization has jerked a page out of the book of various right-wing political action groups by singling out how legislators voted this year on a few separate issues. The NCAE has flunked 35 legislators who "need improvement" and targeted them for defeat in their next elections.

The group, which previously has been involved primarily with lobbying, feels legislators have not been listening.

"NCAE has played the quiet, dignified role for years in its lobbying effort," wrote Peter G. Toggerson, a Wake County teacher and member of the NCAE board, in a letter to the *Raleigh News and Observer*. "What have we gotten for it? We have been ignored, mistreated and insulted. Teachers in this state are tired of subsidizing not only public education, but grand state office buildings and horse arenas."

It's easy to understand Toggerson's position. Political activity by the NCAE is welcomed, and legislators should be accountable for their voting records. Teachers are becoming increasingly angered and frustrated over poor classroom situations and, consequently, over their relationship with their employer, the state government. Teachers do not feel that education is getting a large enough share of the state budget — and they are probably right. Toggerson's reference to horse arenas refers to \$4.3 million appropriated to two arenas in the last budget that could have gone to public schools, and it's easy to understand his anger.

Yet, in developing its hit list, NCAE has rated legislators as either "for education" or "against education" by looking at only five issues, a gross oversimplification of judging a legislator's true position toward education. Issues cannot be taken out of their context and be expected to give a true representation of a legislator's record.

For example, a vote for the budget will be counted as a vote "against schools." Certainly, funding was not allocated for some educational needs, including teacher pay raises, but writing the budget is a complicated process, with many key decisions made not on the floor, but in committee. The five issues the NCAE picked out, including such diverse issues as how legislators voted on an increase in the state gasoline tax, hardly constitute a reflection of a legislator's voting record on public education.

## the state

John I. Wilson, president of the NACE and leader of the effort, said the organization's goal is to raise "a war chest" of \$400,000 to use in "electing friends of education to the next General Assembly." Wilson said the NCAE would recruit candidates, which it has never done before, but the NCAE's recent tactics already demonstrate that the NCAE will campaign against certain candidates, not just for its candidates.

Craig Phillips, state superintendent of public instruction, realizes perhaps better than anyone else that schools lack funding. In a recent article for the *Greensboro Daily News*, he wrote that public schools "face chaos down the road unless our legislature acts soon."

Yet, he also said the NCAE was getting into dangerous ground with its hit list, and condemned the

action in a letter to the 170 members of the legislature. Calling the NCAE's list an "irresponsible attack," Phillips wrote: "I want you ... to know that I am deeply concerned over the recent action of the N.C. Association of Educators in black-listing certain members of the assembly in an effort to discredit the performance of that assembly."

Pressing the matter further, Wilson riled legislators even more when he singled out four powerful Senate leaders for criticism because they are pushing for a study of the state's teacher tenure law. Wilson contended that the study might lead to legislation that would weaken the Fair Employment and Dismissal Act, which assures teachers' job protection after three years' probation with a school system.

Wilson again overreacted. The senators were asking for a study — they weren't taking any action. Any capable teacher would have no fear of the study. Only those who are tenured but shouldn't be — and maybe this is more than Wilson would like to admit — would fear the study. There's every indication to believe that these senators were working to improve public education, not hurt it.

The unfortunate aspect of the NCAE's action is that a negative campaign based on shallow, misrepresented information will only anger legislators and serve to harm, not help, public education. The NCAE should have learned from the Congressional Club's distorted advertisements against the gasoline-tax increase this summer that vicious attacks can work against their originators. Already one senator has said the NCAE is "biting the hand that feeds them."

Undoubtedly, that hand could do a better job of feeding education and probably will when the General Assembly meets this fall. Until then, the NCAE would be wise to find a better way to channel its efforts and money, before it fails the test of helping public education.

John Drescher, a senior journalism and history major from Raleigh, is an editorial writer for The Daily Tar Heel.

