

JIM HUMMEL, Editor

SUSAN MAUNEY, Managing Editor  
MARK MURRELL, Associate Editor  
JONATHAN RICH, Associate EditorEDWINA RALSTON, University Editor  
JOHN ROYSTER, City Editor  
CHARLES HERNDON, State and National Editor  
BETH BURRELL, News Editor  
CLIFTON BARNES, Sports EditorTOM MOORE, Arts Editor  
KEITH KING, Features Editor  
SCOTT SHARPE, Photography Editor  
ANN PETERS, Sports Editor  
CHUCK JAMES, Ombudsman

# The Daily Tar Heel

89th year of editorial freedom

## Unexcused absence

When massive numbers of Vietnam demonstrators converged on the White House during the turbulent 1960s, Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon chose to remain at their posts. But when President Ronald Reagan heard that 200,000 protestors were on the march to Washington, assembled by the AFL-CIO to show union solidarity in opposition to his policies, the president opted to slip out of town to Camp David for the weekend.

Reagan's action was a two-fold mistake. Presidents should not abandon their symbolic posts just when the going gets rough, but rather should be willing to accept all challenges and responsibility for their administration's actions. With his economic program and foreign policy subject to increasing attack, Reagan's vacation was particularly inopportune.

The president's unwillingness to face the nasty slogans and "Impeach Reagan" T-shirts was also indicative of his approach to the presidency. Although he is amiable, since assuming office Reagan has fostered a presidential style that is somewhat detached from the people. He has not wanted his carefully-scripted statements to be scrutinized or directly challenged by either angry protesters or cynical journalists.

Unlike his predecessors, Reagan has held very few regular news conferences during his first eight months in office. Instead, Reagan has chosen a more congenial, less challenging approach to the press — one in which a select few have been invited to chat comfortably with the president.

Given Reagan's embarrassing gaffes at previous conferences, it is not surprising that he has chosen a medium that does not take long hours of homework and knowledge of a wide spectrum of government issues. In addition to hours of preparatory briefing, a press conference requires the discipline of determining administration policies in advance on delicate issues.

Compared to Jimmy Carter's detailed, meticulous involvement in government policy, Reagan's ability to delegate authority is a refreshing change. Yet, Reagan cannot abrogate responsibility for his administration's actions, depending on trusted aides to formulate policy. If Reagan wishes to unite the nation behind him on his televised speech tonight, he must display an intricate knowledge of carefully-planned policies. He must also be willing to personally defend decisions that ultimately are his and his alone.

## Smart move

Despite the controversy that surrounded Secretary of State Alexander Haig's visit to West Germany last week, President Ronald Reagan made a wise choice in sending Haig rather than Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Haig's visit was not absent of protest — nearly 50,000 demonstrators gathered to voice their opposition to American arms policy — and Haig criticized the protesters for being silent about the Soviet nuclear arms buildup.

But Haig was the right man for the meetings, and he managed to lay groundwork for stronger U.S.-West German relations. Had Weinberger met with West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, the outcome might have been significantly different.

Weinberger, Europeans remember clearly, was the one who announced U.S. plans to assemble the neutron warhead and who would prefer to ignore European claims of right to consultation for future defense.

Haig, on the other hand, has given Europeans a promise to negotiate European arms control with the Soviets and has constantly repeated the United States' intent to pursue seriously a path toward arms control. Although Haig's controversial speech and the accompanying protest in Bonn shadowed his diplomatic skills, the talks with Schmidt should help the United States as it negotiates in the future with its European allies.

Changing perceptions of the United States' commitment to Western Europe, coupled with worsening economic conditions, have forced the administration to let the allies know that America might not immediately jump to their rescue in the event of a nuclear war.

But part of the Europeans' reluctance to take a greater share of the burden stemmed from the European perception that Jimmy Carter was inept and uncertain in many situations. Reagan has taken a harder line with the Soviets, which has pleased many of the allied countries.

Administration officials acknowledge that relations have improved and that the NATO nations are being more cooperative. Haig's diplomatic skill at Bonn should help reinforce that cooperation, and lead to future negotiations that could strengthen the strained relations between the United States and its Western European allies.

## The Bottom Line

### Bewitching

Politicians are called lots of things, but Joann Denton is beating her name-caller to the punch.

Denton, a candidate for mayor of the mountain town of Morganton, has openly called herself a witch.

She certainly is well qualified. Denton said she was once a go-go dancer and Sunday school teacher, which would seem to have prepared her well for a career in politics. Included in her platform is getting idle youth off downtown streets at night, cleaning vacant lots and barring shirtless men from the town's business district.

"The town has accepted me as the town witch, so why shouldn't they accept me as the mayor?" she said.

One has to question Denton's confidence in her belief that the townspeople have accepted her. She hasn't predicted a victory in the race — and she hasn't been seen flying around town on a broomstick either.

### Last laugh on lust

Women in those salacious, sexist James Bond films have come a long way since *Goldfinger* thrust Pussy

Galore into the limelight of the series of throbbing thrillers.

A few years later, the pandering producers saw fit to give us Holly Goodhead, but their latest venture has taken their treacherous treatment of women even further.

Flesh merchant Peter Wolf, the aptly-named editor of *Oui* magazine, got quite a shock when he signed the buxom British bombshell "Tula" — a walk-on in the latest Bond bomb — to do a photo spread for his magazine.

It seems Tula, who is seen cavorting by a swimming pool in the latest sexy celluloid sizzler *For Your Eyes Only*, was born a man and later underwent sex-change operations.

Or at least so says the bad boy British press, which is what we rely on for the scuttlebutt and scandal that often skates its way into this column.

But justice prevails. After all these years of mistreatment and cheap shots by Arthur Broccoli and his band of sexist pigs, women have finally gotten the last laugh on the backward Bond subculture — and all at a man's expense.

And that — according to the sexist police — is the bottom line.

# Hitchhiker's life story has been a far-out trip

By JONATHAN SMYLIE

As daily routines become habits and faces around campus grow familiar, an epidemic of complacency can occur. To prevent this stagnation, it might be good to remember an acquaintance or stranger, who has challenged your way of thinking, someone who made you wonder, made you question, made you look into yourself and then out again.

Robert Bobb spent a few hours with me one day during the second week of August. As we sat in the booth of a restaurant, he described parts of his world, telling of how he had lived off of America.

He claimed to have hitchhiked more than 7 million miles, panhandling America for a place to sleep and an extra buck — \$1 million, he said.

Traveler, philosopher and floor-scrubber, the 41-year-old stranger said he had hitchhiked around the world seven times and that he was writing a book about it.

Passing through Fayetteville, Bobb related some of the adventures and philosophies he had gained in his 30 years of travel.

"Hitchhiking to me is a profession," Bobb said. His skin was tight and dirty-brown from walking in the sun on roads across the world.

"People today won't look at life like it comes to them," he said, leaning forward over the restaurant table, his curly gray hair lying flat around his head.

"They want to hide from responsibility," he continued. "It takes someone to look into the unknown before they can know themselves.

"People are scared of what they don't know about. You can't be scared to look into the unknown. God put it here for us to explore. I am the type of man that wants to know what is out there, what is next."

Pointing to a young mother serving food to her four-month-old baby at the next booth, he said, "Now there is the unknown."

Wearing a military-camouflage shirt, its sleeves rolled up high, and smoking Winston cigarettes, Bobb talked about bits and pieces of his life, making them sound like a collection of fairy tales.

He said he spent his first eight years of life in Bethesda Boys Home in Savannah, Ga., after being delivered to the home at two months of age by someone who found him in a basket.

"At age 8, I decided I did not want to stay there any more," he said. "I was bored. I wanted to see the world, see what life was about, not sit behind a desk and shuffle papers. I didn't have anyone to depend on but me, so I left."

Bobb called himself the king of thumbs and claimed to have hitchhiked more miles than anyone else.

"I know how to panhandle, tramp, look poor," he said, describing how he supported himself. Panhandling is looking poor and hungry and asking people for help, Bobb said. He claimed panhandling works especially well in Florida, where he spent time "bumming off the rich."

"Panhandling is one of the biggest aspects in America," Bobb said. "I take those few dollars and put them away. Me, I have made a million and more. America will give it to you."

After leaving the boys home, Bobb scrubbed drug-store floors to survive, he said. "I grew up the hard way. I have been kicked all my life."

He made his way to San Francisco and caught a ride with a British flagship. "I scrubbed decks, I painted, I did everything I could to keep the captain satisfied."

The ship took Bobb, then 10, to Bremerhaven, Germany. He spent the next four years with a family in Copenhagen, Denmark, and then went to Stockholm, Sweden, to spend three years in the University of World Biology.

Bobb said that when he was 18, he returned to Copenhagen to marry the daughter of the family he had lived with, but that problems arose when the United States and later France refused to admit his girlfriend.

Bobb claimed that her entrance was refused because her brother worked for the KGB in Russia.

"I went to Moscow hunting her brother and begged him to flee to Denmark. He refused," Bobb said.

Bobb said he then traveled around Europe, washing cars in France and picking poppy flowers in Turkey to earn money.

In his many years of travel, he has stowed away in the luggage compartment of a 707 airplane, been caught in numerous stolen cars and has met many "jet-setters," Bobb said.

"I met Aristotle Onassis on a Greek freighter," he said, naming one of a long list of world figures he claimed to have known.

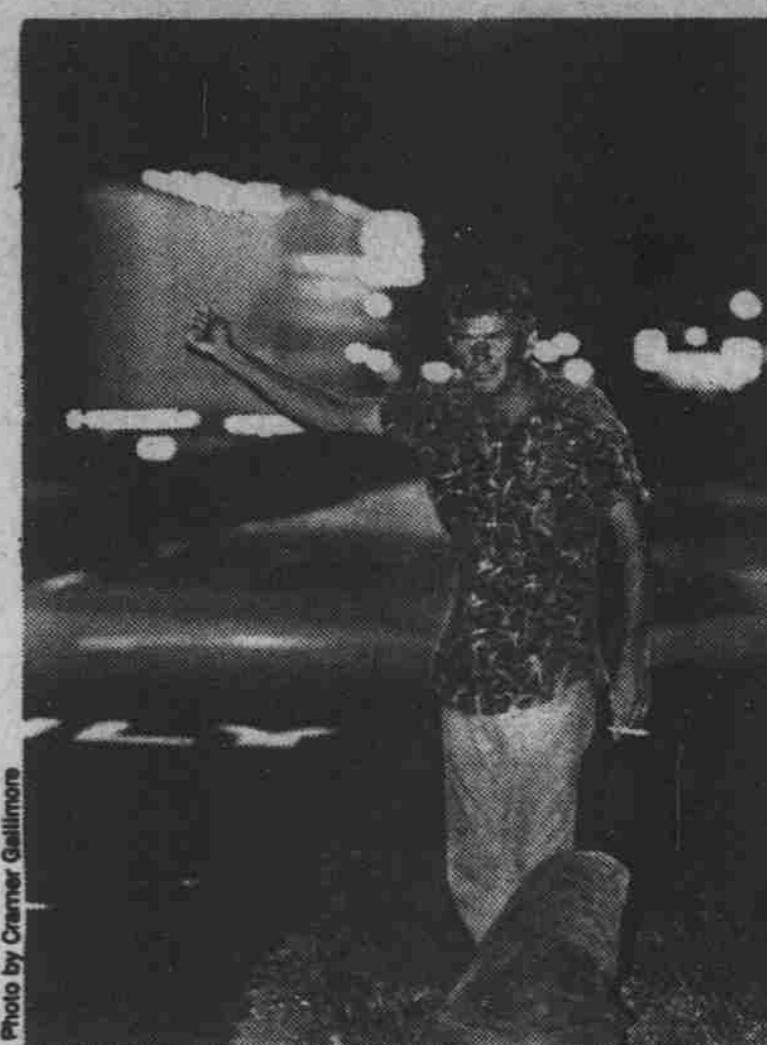
"He (Onassis) said he admired what I did for a living and said nothing in life is a challenge unless you can challenge it."

"People with money, they need companionship, yet they are dissatisfied with contentment. They just don't have anything to live for. They have no other perspective of life."

Bobb crossed his arms and leaned back in the booth. There were spots all over his arms, mosquito bites from sleeping outdoors.

He said he had spent many nights in the woods, hungry and tired, but surviving.

"Using the full luxuries in life, that is the killer. When you use them, you have never known the hard times. The



Robert Bobb

... at home on the road

hard times is what keeps you alive because they make you wake up. With money you don't care.

"Just look at the big, hungry business dealers. They base themselves on one thing — fine riches. People 35 to 45 are most apt to have heart attacks trying to push people and gain power, but they are only losing their souls.

"I value my life. I am like a bird. I am free as long as I can sleep and eat. Everything on this earth comes out of this earth. This earth right here is what God gave us.

"People don't realize what is out here until you get out here and touch it one time. Sure, I could buy a Cadillac. I don't want to. I want what God gave me," Bobb said, opening up his wallet and removing a single dollar bill, the only money he had.

"If you don't have nothing, don't go stealing," Bobb said. "Go ask for it. America has never let me starve to death out here on these roads. That is why I say thumbs up to America."

He said he would be traveling around the South and then head back to Europe later this year.

Standing under a bridge on Interstate-95 south, extending both arms, thumbs up, he leaned to one side as America passed by in the rainy hours of the early morning.

Jonathan Smylie, a senior journalism and English major from Charlotte, is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.

## Letters to the editor

# Student calls for halt in stoplight dispute

To the editor:

As your editorial "Stop and Go" (*DTH*, Sept. 22) pointed out, students and town residents will soon have to give up the privilege of crossing the 100 block of East Franklin Street without regard to traffic. Your recommendation for student action to prevent or delay installation of the signal lights is without basis, given the history of the issue, and would probably hamper relations with the town, instead of enhancing them.

On June 5, 1980, the Chapel Hill Town Council adopted a resolution concerning pedestrian safety measures. It requested the N.C. Department of Transportation to do the following:

- To study the placement of a pedestrian crosswalk with automatic signals in the area of Pickard Lane and install such signals if feasible.

- To study the removal of the "Stop for Pedestrians" signs at the crosswalk on the 100 block of East Franklin Street and replace these with automatic traffic signals if feasible.

- To study the feasibility of synchronizing the automatic signals on East Franklin Street and undertake such a synchronization.

The portion of the resolution which addressed the Pickard Lane crossing was praised by students and townspeople, all of whom recognized the dangers faced when crossing Franklin at this point.

In response to the 100-block proposal, Susan Strayhorn, then the Town Affairs Committee director for Student Government, communicated to the town staff and council Student Government's opposition to traffic-light installation. She cited the cost, problems of synchronization and past record of safety of the crosswalk as points to consider. She also urged reconsideration of the proposal.

Throughout fall 1980, the Town Affairs Committee and Student Body President Bob Saunders researched the issue by consulting the Department of Transportation, Chapel Hill Transportation Board, members of the council and students. We circulated petitions throughout campus, requesting that students sign the request to

the council to reconsider and rescind that part of the June 5 resolution which addressed the 100 block. On October 24, 1980, I petitioned the council to rescind the proposal, presenting to them signatures of hundreds of students who also wished to retain the pedestrian right-of-way.

Michael Dixon also addressed the council, highlighting the concerns of disabled students. Our arguments also included protection of the "village" atmosphere, problems of synchronization and our belief that this issue should have been considered separately from the Pickard Lane crossing. Having heard our position and after consideration of our information, the council remained in support of the original June 5 proposal.

Student Government did everything possible to portray the concern of the student body to the council, and it was very cooperative in providing us with the opportunity to do so. Students spoke out then — now is not the time to voice opposition. The Town Council studied the issue

and concluded that the benefits of installing lights at the crossing would outweigh the costs. We students should not continue to press this issue with the council; there are more important things for us to address. We strive to keep relations with the town on an agreeable and cooperative level — further provocation will only be detrimental.

Ruthie Leaver  
406 Ransom Street

## Letters?

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

All 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. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

# Reader, columnist off target on education

By JOHN DE VILLE

Friday's letter to the editor by Jackie Blount and a column by Mark Murrell, "Why was 'J.T.' kicked out of grade school?" (*DTH*, Sept. 18), present problems that share common roots.

Analysis of Blount's letter leaves the reader with two points: The number of incompetent teachers is large, and the answer to this problem is "higher teacher status." First of all, I seriously question Blount's information about teacher salaries. From my experience as a son of a North Carolina public school teacher and my knowledge of the ins and outs of the North Carolina education system, with the exception of administrators, the highest pay to my knowledge is slightly more than \$15,000 a year (for people who have a Ph.D. and 10 years of experience).

Local supplements are a joke; they rarely exist for the common teacher and then only in small amounts. In my

home county (Macon), for example, supplements exist only for coaches. A teacher in Macon County with 10 years experience and a master's degree receives slightly more than \$10,000 for a 10-month contract.

Take this amount and deduct federal income tax, state tax, Social Security and teacher's retirement fund (pension program equivalent to Social Security), and the teacher receives slightly less than \$750 a month (North Carolina teachers' salaries rank 38th in the nation).

## response

Secondly, I ask Blount by what mysterious medium is this "higher status" supposed to come. The statement, "Teacher morale and pride will increase only when we

are strong as a profession," is a circular argument that leaves her treading water.

Murrell's column shows how serious the problem of incompetency is by examining a recent incident. Unfortunately for the reader, he is off target. Murrell shows his ignorance of the problem when he faults the principal and superintendent for not being familiar with school policy and for being "timid and jumpy." Wrong, sir, they are all too familiar with "school policy."

"Policy" is that the jobs of principals and superintendents depend upon publicly controlled school boards. That means the parents can, so to speak, fire or give cause for transfer if the teacher has tenure. Parent petition squads headed up by a few disgruntled parents have cost educators more than their share of grief and positions. These small groups loom large and powerful to a principal or teacher when compared with apathetic fellow parents. Principals who feel they have no other parental or administrative support give in willingly to such demands as book banning. This gives rise to a rather sad system, because many competent educators are fired or resign out of frustration, leaving many incompetent and weak-willed educators behind who simply comply with every parental whim.

The solution to problems like those of Blount and the principal of the Wake County school is simple in statement, but may not find many willing participants. My advice to Blount and other education majors is that they not be education majors. People interested in educating society's youth should concentrate more on the subject they are teaching, not on what I feel is a waste of time — educational science.

Officials at Duke University have wisely seen this. Last spring, they kept only enough of their education department to ensure teacher certification, forcing those interested in education to do exactly as I have stated.

Then, Ms. Blount, when you and your colleagues are confronted by an irate college-educated parent, you have something more than confetti to throw back and stand on. You will have your status and will need not be ashamed nor hesitant about mentioning your profession. Finally, state legislators, seeing what would be an enormous increase in competence, would be obligated, I think, to give a proportionate pay increase.

I close by stating that I wish to teach, in some form, in a North Carolina public school.

John deVille is a sophomore from Highland.

## Legal advice

# Know your tenant rights

Editor's Note: This advice is prepared by Student Legal Services, which has an office in Suite A of the Carolina Union. UNC students have prepaid for this service and may obtain advice at no additional charge.

On a campus like UNC, where on-campus housing is truly based on "the luck of the draw," the demand for off-campus rental units is great. Many students are not aware of their rights and obligations as tenants, nor of the corresponding rights and obligations of their landlords.

Briefly, the landlord is required to keep the premises in a fit and habitable condition. This includes making repairs. You, as tenant, are required to keep the area you occupy clean and safe, to dispose of waste and to not deliberately destroy nor damage the premises. Do any damage and you may forfeit your security deposit.

Landlords are entitled to collect that security deposit, but you are entitled to get it back when you move. Your landlord is required to itemize any damages and mail or deliver this list to you, together with

the balance of your security deposit no later than 30 days after you move out. An important point for you to remember is that you should not be charged for normal wear and tear of your apartment.

Say you haven't moved out, but your landlord won't respond to your cries of roach attacks and leaking pipes. Do you have the option of not paying your rent until he answers your demands? The answer is an emphatic no! You may not withhold your rent and expect to keep your apartment. There is a possibility of putting your rent money into an escrow account and then notifying your landlord, but seek legal advice before doing this.

Advice for the day: 1) Read your lease carefully before signing. Make sure you understand all the rental requirements. 2) Itemize damages in your apartment when you move in, and have your landlord verify this. 3) Always pay your rent on time. 4) Seek legal advice before attempting to put your rent into an escrow account or break your lease.