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The Daily Tar Heel

89th year of editorial freedom

Tighter restrictions

Since it was announced two years ago, Gov. Jim Hunt's decision to put a freeze on state hiring has gained little publicity outside the circles of state government.

The policy, adopted in September 1979, put a cap on all hiring of state employees, equipment expenditures and travel expenses. The governor made the move in an attempt to offset shortfalls in state revenues that were predicted at the time.

To a large extent, the freeze has proven beneficial to North Carolina, although it has caused some problems for certain groups that receive state money, including the University, which has a higher turnover in personnel than other branches of state government.

Anticipating this problem two years ago, Hunt said certain exceptions could be made if there was enough evidence to show the requests were considered essential. But over the past two years, the State Budget Office, which processes the requests for exceptions, has not strictly enforced the original guidelines.

It comes as good news, then, that Hunt has decided to toughen the standards for exception and limit purchases and employee travel. The governor was prompted to take this hard line last week after learning that tax collections for October fell short of what was predicted by the state budget office.

But, more importantly, Hunt has made a good decision in setting a firm policy because the number of exceptions granted by the State Budget Office had caused the freeze to lose part of its effectiveness.

Six months after announcing the hiring freeze, Hunt was criticized for requesting two exceptions for his own staff, including a post in his press office. The governor's action at the time hardly set an example for the rest of state government, which was constricted by the hiring guidelines.

Since that time, the rule has more or less drifted into obscurity, with the State Budget Office routinely processing exception requests. Hunt's recent decision has finally given a boost to the original intent of the plan. If carried out properly, it should help the state recoup some of its lost revenue and at the same time give more meaning to a policy that has been largely ignored for too long.

Moot point

The independence of the judiciary has always been tenuously based upon the Constitutional system of checks and balances. This system has been unable to protect the courts from attacks by politicians unhappy with judicial decisions. Last week's statements by U.S. Attorney General William French Smith calling for a diminishing of judicial activism are further indications of the disconcerting strength of the move to strip the judiciary of its authority.

Smith proposes to limit judicial jurisdiction by appointing justices who will exercise restraint and by challenging decisions that would expand the court's authority. He would also support legislation that would overturn certain court rulings.

Some people have unfairly combined Smith's proposals with more extreme plans currently before Congress that could make that body an arbiter of issues the court could judge. Compared to these initiatives Smith's plans are moderate and backed by popular support.

But they are also misguided. Smith is correct in his belief that the judiciary has expanded its authority over the last decade, but he misunderstands the reasons for this expansion. He assumes it has come from an outright power grab by justices who callously intrude upon legislative prerogatives. In fact, much of the expansion has come from legislatures voluntarily giving up jurisdiction in matters too hot for them to handle. A prime example is the N.C. General Assembly's recent abdication of state redistricting to the courts.

Smith's proposals have a definite political purpose. They are aimed primarily at the issues of busing, abortion and school prayer and are intended to roll back past liberal decisions in these matters. Smith contends that the 1980 election shows support for conservative decisions on these issues. Such an analysis of the election is not only debatable, but irrelevant to judicial matters. The strength of the judiciary is dependent upon its independence from political influence.

This independence has made the judiciary the most activist branch of government over the past decade. That activism has left a legacy of progressive decisions marred only by a few unimportant abuses of authority. Those few abuses do not justify Smith's unwarranted actions.

Author, actress, poet refuses to specialize

By KIMBERLY KLEMAN

Editor's Note: Maya Angelou, author of the best-selling book I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings and most recently The Heart of a Woman, will lecture at 8 p.m. Tuesday, in Memorial Hall. The lecture is free and is sponsored by the Carolina Union Forum Committee.

Maya Angelou is an author. And a poet. And a singer, educator, dancer, historian, lecturer, actress, producer, editor, song writer and playwright. She speaks six languages fluently.

In an age of specialization, she refuses to specialize. In an era of conservatism, she takes risks.

"I think society is timid," she said. "There's a timidity telling young people they have to be polarized and compartmentalized. The expression 'jack of all trades, master of none' is an example. It's not an either/or situation. The conjunction is 'and.' So that you can be a brick mason and a ballet dancer, a poet and a painter. I resent being compartmentalized."



Maya Angelou

Letters to the editor

Canadian contrasts Toronto with Carolina

To the editor:

Yes, Beverly, there is iced tea in Canada. But wanting it in Toronto, in January, is considered slightly insane by a people who cultivate the fine art of staying warm in winter. Grits are another subject. The closest simile that could be offered, if you were to find an enlightened Canadian, is cream of wheat. To most, though, grits are what you sprinkle on the bottom of a bird cage to aid in the digestion of its occupant.

Barring the problems of mismatching, the Toronto Exchange must be lauded for the knowledge and insights gained by both sides in the endeavour. The program has been a pleasant surprise to me, a Canadian who was convinced that the cultural exchange being carried on across the borders was one-way. I am pleased to see efforts being made by Americans to gain knowledge of the similarities and differences of their northern neighbors.

My only desire is to see the program expanded beyond the boundaries of Toronto and, better still, beyond the borders of Ontario. Being a resident of one of Toronto's keenest rivals and who is influenced by the richness of the French Canadian experience, I can only hope that North Carolinians will have the opportunity to taste the diversities that lie both east and west of Toronto.

In the eyes of many Canadians, Toronto is seen as the most American of Canadian cities. The glitter, the size and the language are shared by their southern neighbors. This successful project could spread out to encompass the dual nature of the Canadian culture and stand to gain even more. Perhaps a letter to the International Centre of McGill University in Montreal might do the trick. Winter is

even more chilling there!

As to missing those things that distinguish Canada from the United States, I have a few items that should be brought up. Where are fresh cheese curds in North Carolina? My craving for them knows no bounds. For those of you who thrive on grits, might I tantalize you with a steaming bowl of Red River Cereal covered in maple syrup and cream?

When I go home for the holidays, I will not greet the Canadian winter or feel nostalgic for it. I can safely say that I have reached the penultimate in the art of keeping warm by wintering here. But I will feel no regrets about North Carolina as I nestle in front of the TV with my bottle of Brador beer and my plate of fresh cheese curds to watch "Front Page Challenge" and Gordon Sinclair ask a politician how much he makes.

Cathy McCarthy
Library Science
Ottawa, Ontario

Dead interview

To the editor:

As we were interviewed by Shelley Block last Monday, I had a feeling that she was going to write whatever she wanted no matter what we told her. And there are several spots in her *Spotlight* article, ("The Dead Baggers," *Spotlight* Nov. 5) that seem to bear out that feeling.

First of all, we never said we were anti-Greek. We are anti-preppie. But to assume that all Greeks are preps is another thing.

Also, we are not on this planet "to keep up with the new wave trend," as Block suggests. She also said, "The Dead Baggers have carried out the punk rock



motif even to their outfits." No, we don't sit around and get clever fashion tips from *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

Block seems to have boiled down anything having to do with "new wave" or "punk" to a fashion trend. Also, we are not "best known by their logo of a dead alligator." We have no logo.

I have one suggestion for future articles — get someone who knows about rock 'n' roll to write about it. If not, your music articles may be as believable as an art column written by Ray Charles.

Cliff Carmichael
Dead Bagger
214 Cameron Ave.

Sharpe stuff

To the editor:

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Sharpe's Formal Wear. Their avid support of the Tar

Heels, shown by donating tuxedos and formal wear for the UNC-State game, continued our tradition as the "class" university of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Again many thanks
The Carolina Cheerleaders

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.

The three faces of what happened on last eve

By TOM MOORE

Listen, officer, you don't want to arrest us; it was just one of those college pranks. We've been drinking a bit, and I admit maybe things got a little bit out of hand, but it was all in fun, you understand. What would we do with 16 street signs anyway?

We aren't planning to build any roads or anything crazy like that. We were going to put them all back up Monday, first thing Monday morning. You see our point, and I know you're a good guy and that you're going to just pretend nothing happened. See, Lex over there is already putting that stop sign back up. You can see I'm telling the truth.

It wasn't even our idea, officer. But we just joined this fraternity. We're the pledge class, and to prove your loyalty they make you do all sorts of crazy stuff. The brothers just told us to go downtown and steal 16 street signs. And the brothers would never want to keep 16 street signs. Street signs are just too tacky to hang up in the house; the national chapter would never stand for it.... Besides, you know what good citizens the brothers are; they come from some of the best families in the South. Do you think we would want to make a nice guy like you work harder than you already do? Look, Lex's already got that stop sign back up, and if you just let us go free, we'll put the rest of them back up, too.

Yes, we'll go peacefully. But really, sir, you know you're making a big mistake. I've explained it again and again, and I know you see what we were doing — that we didn't mean any harm. No, sir, you don't need to put any handcuffs on me. No, sir, I don't think I'm being obnoxious. I'm just trying to keep you from making a big mistake. The others are being quiet just because I'm the best speaker here; I can make things clear and keep a big mistake from being made. Yes, sir, I'll get in the car. But I really think you're making a big mistake.

Hello, Dad. I really don't know how to tell you this, so I guess I'll just be point-blank and tell you. I got arrested last night for pulling down street signs. Wait.

Wait. Let me finish. It was all a big mistake, Dad. I'm innocent, really. What happened was I spent the whole night studying in the library; you know how diligent a student I am. And I decided about 11 o'clock to take a break and go see the late movie. *Citizen Kane* was on, and since I never had seen it I decided to go. After all, Dad, I spend about 60 hours a week in the library studying, Dad, and I really need a break come Saturday night. And I figured *Citizen Kane* would make me a better-rounded person — culturally more sophisticated. Wait. Wait. I'm getting to that, but I want to go slow so you'll understand the dilemma I'm in.



Well, after I found what *Rosebud* was — I really couldn't believe it was his sled — well, I leave the theater, and who do I see but a bunch of my fraternity brothers, and they are pulling down all these street signs. Oh, my goodness, I thought, these fellows are destroying public property that hard-working taxpayers like my own hard-working father pay for. Now you've met these boys, and you know what fine young men they are. And you know they would never do anything like this normally. But they'd been drinking, and some people just don't hold their liquor that well. And I must admit there are a couple of boys in the frat who really are so spoiled, they just don't have any respect for public property. And these two spoiled brats were down there leading the others into trouble.

Well, I see all this going on, and I go over and I plead with them to stop destroying public property. I'm telling them all this, and then the worst thing that could possibly happen happens. These two policemen drive up and see the brothers carrying all these street signs.... I tried to explain that I wasn't one of the bad bunch, that I was trying

to get the others to stop. But the policemen wouldn't listen to me. Those guys are just out to nail fraternity brothers at anything. It was all a big mistake. A big, big mistake.

I'm glad you believe me, Dad. I'm so embarrassed that I'm sick to my stomach. We'll fight it all the way in the courts. That really makes me proud that you'd say that. You're a great father.

Boy, was Saturday night ever wild. You guys should have been there, or maybe you're better off that you weren't. But it sure was wild. What happened was Jay and Dick and Steve, fraternity brothers of mine, and Lex and Tim, who live upstairs, went and bought two cases of Bud. We were going to get drunk as hell, and Lex, he had these 8mm films that his brother brought back from Tijuana.

Well, we watched those things over and over. Lex said whoever makes that kind of movie must make a mint; all you need is a guy and a girl and a motel room. And then we started talking about how we all want to be pretty rich when we grow up. We kicked around a few ways to get rich quick. Then I said one way to get rich quick would be to sell street signs to college students to hang in the dorm rooms. And the other guys all agreed that this would be a great way to get rich because you wouldn't have any overhead. You could just steal all the signs, and everything would be profit.

Why don't we do it, I asked. Why not go right downtown and start our own sign business? It sounded like a great idea. It was about 3 a.m. and nobody was downtown. We started taking every street sign in sight. We got 16 of the things when all of a sudden this cop drives up, and we all knew it was over. I tried to bribe him, but it didn't work. These locals are so stupid that they never question their job. I tried to talk him out of it, too, but that SOB had it in for us. Me, especially.

But there's no way this is going to hold up in court. My Dad is getting a lawyer, and he'll run circles around that stupid cop. And before you know it, we'll have our sign business started up again.

Tom Moore, a senior history major from Greensboro, is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.

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