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# The Daily Tar Heel

89th year of editorial freedom

## Textbook relief

Dishing out money for expensive textbooks is bad enough without the additional exasperation of contending with professors' late orders. Relief for withering wallets is in sight, however, if the Faculty Council implements proposals recommended by Student Government and the Educational Policy Committee.

Student Body President Scott Norberg and the University Services staff formulated the proposals in an effort to cut the waste and inefficiency that add to the cost of textbooks.

When faculty members submit late textbook orders, and when that late order calls for the same text the faculty member is using at the time of the order, the Student Stores is able to buy back a student's book for only 10 percent to 33 percent of the original purchase price. The normal buy-back value of a textbook slated to be used again is 50 percent. An inexcusable 77 percent of the textbook order for fall semester 1981, due April 3, 1981, were late.

To combat the problem of procrastinating professors, Student Government and the EPC have recommended that each academic department appoint an individual to be responsible for distributing and collecting textbook request forms.

Student Government has determined that a textbook rental system is unfeasible. But Norberg and the Faculty Council, in an attempt to cut down on unneeded edition changes, are urging academic departments and schools "to consider using basic texts when appropriate for two or more years when no appreciable change has occurred in a revised edition." Several departments are experimenting by committing in advance to sticking with a given basic text for two or three years.

Two years does not seem to be too restrictive a time span, unless there are major developments in a field. Authors and scholars have the right to keep their work up to date. Student Government's plans aims to prevent unwarranted changes. The proposals strike a balance, encouraging professors to be responsible with their textbook orders, while not limiting their freedom to publish. They go a long way toward keeping textbook costs under control.

## Busing backslide

Last week, the U.S. Senate approved the most severe anti-busing legislation ever passed by either house of Congress. Perhaps such legislation would not seem so ironic if February were not Black History Month.

Like almost every issue today, this amendment has split liberals and conservatives into two finite groups that refuse to look at both sides of the issue. No one claims busing is the only or best way to achieve integration in segregated communities across the nation, but it's the only one Americans have.

The legislation will prohibit judges from ordering busing for students who live more than five miles or 15 minutes from their schools. The other provision of the bill, which must next be approved by the House, would bar Justice Department lawyers from seeking busing orders in federal courts.

Setting time and distance limitations serves only to trivialize the issue, as if such provisions have anything to do with the quality of education received at these schools. Children, for years, have been riding buses for longer than 15 minutes or five miles merely to get to school and back. In fact, busing ironically served for years as a tool to do exactly what it is fighting now — segregating the schools. Black students were transported across town past the all-white schools to attend their own schools.

It is also ironic that two staunch supporters of the amendment, Sens. Jesse Helms and John East, are from the state that has had a successful busing program in its Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system — a system that has served as a model for other communities. Certainly, there are communities where busing has been a hopeless failure and impractical solution for ensuring integration.

But this does not mean that in the places it does work — and work well — it should be prohibited. Until alternate means are suggested, which unfortunately few politicians are considering, then there is no choice but to support busing for what it has been able to achieve.

To call busing "the worst tyranny ever imposed upon school children," as former Sen. Sam Ervin has, is to downplay the significance and benefits of a system which has encouraged black and white children to communicate and work together, perhaps learning to accept one another as equals. Without it, Americans are back to square one — guaranteeing that children have equal access to a better education regardless of race.

## The Daily Tar Heel

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## Media has sensationalized crisis in Poland

By LOUISE SPIELER

Lech Walesa, Solidarity, martial law.... In the past few months these terms and names have become synonymous with the plight of the Polish people. As a reflection on the state of Western politics, the crisis has sparked extensive press coverage and commentary from the Reagan administration. As a result of such widespread publicity, the Polish situation has lost much of its complexity — a situation which could prove perilous to already shaky Soviet-American relations.

In today's media-filled world, the Polish situation appears tailor-made as a public spectacle. By casting the labor movement in the role of the good guy and placing the Polish government in the part of the villain, the media has at times reduced the crisis to the level of a Hollywood drama.

Political theatrics, however, are rarely as easily resolved as those on the screen. Nevertheless, it is easier for the media to choose a simplistic version of the problems to present to its audience. Such a presentation encourages an "us vs. them" quality which could impair a rational consideration of the crisis by Americans.

Although Americans may sympathize with the repression under which many Poles are struggling, such national protests and strikes would draw similar reactions from the United States government. Should the Reagan administration be faced with such blatant disregard of its authority, sanctions would be placed on the rebellious factions.

Polish workers and their American allies must realize that a threatened regime, whether communist or non-

communist, will fight for its survival. If Americans are to be of real assistance to the Poles, they must widen their perspective to include a more just appraisal of both sides involved.

Americans would also be wise to be more critical of their choice of causes. In the United States' frantic race to preserve a balance of power between itself and the Soviet Union, it is tempting for American policy-makers to throw their weight behind any leader of a movement which professes anti-Soviet sentiments.

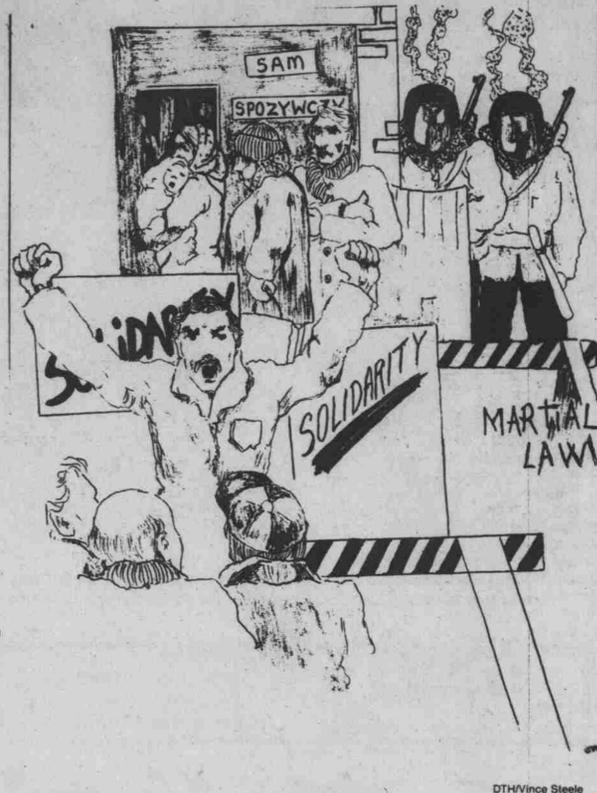
However, such a policy may prove to be diplomatically awkward; the United States' role as global protector of democracy seems attractive in theory, yet impossible to practice. It seems imperative that the country put less effort into unequivocal support of Solidarity's ideology and more thought into a realistic course of action.

Such a course must be chosen carefully and with an appreciation for the facts of international politics. In order for American's actions to have an effect on Soviet expansion, support of Europe and Japan is needed. Without the aid of these nations, U.S. sanctions will become inconsequential barriers to trade.

While many Americans may continue to support the cause of Walesa and his Solidarity movement, they must not allow themselves to be blinded by loyalty. In the contemporary political scene, more are concerned with professed ideology than the consequences of its actual practice.

Few issues remain black and white. Surely the Polish crisis is no different. To portray it as otherwise is dangerous indeed.

Louise Spielier is a senior American Studies major from Charlotte.



## Letters to the editor

### Food committee cooks up several options

To the editor:

For the past 15 months, the Food Service Advisory Committee has had under way an intensive evaluation of the campus food service program. The object is to provide a basis for the planning of future food service at UNC.

As a student on this committee, I have been privileged to an in-depth and complete view of the current food service, problems it faces, and how it could run in optimum conditions.

There are several major problems facing UNC with respect to its food service. Of course, the issues of poor facilities, out-dated equipment and unattractive dining areas come to mind. But there are several other problems many students may not be aware of.

Not the least of these is the fragmented operation of food service here at UNC. Campus organizations providing service include ARA, Student Stores, (snack bars), housing, (in-room cooking), athletic department, (training table), and the hospital (in-house cafeteria). Off-campus operations include Granville Towers, fraternities and sororities and unaffiliated local restaurants. There is obviously strong competition for each student's food-service dollar.

Neither the advisory committee nor Student Government (I am a current executive branch cabinet member) support or advocate the abolition of any of the above separate entities. However, the committee does recommend that each department's efforts be coordinated. This could easily be accomplished by an administrative office overseeing each operation and acting as a liaison between departments. Not only would this allow one department to offer suggestions to another to improve quality and cut costs, but it would provide the best possible service to each student.

Two other points. One is that the idea of an independent fast-food chain on campus is ludicrous. There are numerous operations both on and off-campus which offer similar product lines. As one can clearly see, there is already too much segmentation and competition on campus.

Several years back, the Hardee's food chain visited UNC. After examining the possibility of locating on campus, it decided against it. When the contract for

the current food service was opened in February 1980, Hardee's had the opportunity, and declined, to bid. A Hardee's on the campus of the University of Tennessee recently announced its closing. And the Hardee's on the Stanford campus created a situation where a mandatory meal plan was necessary due to an overload of competition.

My final point will please the residence hall dweller. The committee has recommended not to curtail any cooking in the rooms. This should not be a worry to students anyway, as housing has been and will continue rewiring older dorms to more safely support devices such as hot plates and ovens.

Brent Clark  
310 Stacy Dorm

#### Major combination

To the editor:

The most essential ingredient in an effective institution is communication. In this large institution the more than 20,000 students need to be informed of changes which influence their majors and futures. Without student feedback, we might as well be in high school where our courses are majoredly decided for us and we have no say in our avenues of study.

The University of North Carolina not only made a major decision without determining its students' opinions, but it also failed to seek the opinions of the department members this decision influences.

Chancellor Christopher Fordham called the zoology and botany departments to inform them they would be combined into one department. There were no departmental meetings where an exchange of ideas could be made.

Anyone majoring in zoology knows that the grant of Drosophila eye color ranging to the study of tundra biomes is too wide and important for reduction. Botany majors want to remain photosynthesizing within their cell walls, safe from the Animalia Kingdom. Francis Bacon said "We cannot obey her if we stop trying to understand her."

This reduction to one department would be a gross limitation and necessitates student protest. Zoology and botany students unite so we can preserve our well-deserved identities!

Marie Sifford  
207 Pittsboro Street

#### Ties for bucks

To the editor:

Congratulations! *The Daily Tar Heel* got the biggest fashion scoop of the century. ("Donators awarded with ties," *DTH* Feb. 5). I must admit that the article was so subtle that I almost missed what must have been its intent: to introduce handmade Italian silk neckties to the women's fashion world. I simply cannot wait to graduate so I can give my mega-bucks and thus be eligible to wear this "signature of creativity" and "labor of love." But must I wear that grin too? Come on, Bill, Stan and Alexander, give me a break. If you are so creative, how about dashing off a scarf, or anything that a woman who gives could wear with pride. Have you considered that some women may not give to UNC because the only token of appreciation they would receive would be a necktie (which, needless to say, could be given to her husband or father—it's probably their money anyhow). How quickly the Reagan mentality pervades all walks of life.

Novie Beth Ragan  
Class of 1979

#### More Morton Grove

To the editor:

Mr. Paul Wyckoff's letter ("Morton Grove gun control law criticized," *DTH* Feb. 9) criticized the Morton Grove gun control ordinance. I happen to agree 100 percent with his reasoning. However, I think he, as a future lawyer, should realize that such an ordinance really boils down to a symbolic frustration with and complaint against the judicial system, which is incapable of handling violent crime.

When a gun is used against a human being, the judicial system plunges into action, spending all of its resources and efforts arguing what class of assault or murder the action falls under. And while admittedly clear-cut on paper, the differences between first- and second-degree murder usually end up cloudy in the minds of jurors after being besieged by hours of technical arguments in the courtroom. And the bottom line is this: sentencing highly depends on how well a lawyer is able to convince a jury of the premeditation, state of mind, and motivation of his client—all very subjective issues in real life.

A person shooting another commits, in my mind, the same crime whether the victim is killed or wounded. He has shown himself willing to kill, and only luck determines the outcome. The judicial system should not deal with how emotional the perpetrator was, how good or bad his aim was, or how good the victim's doctor was.

Society needs to decide that anyone convicted of using a handgun against another person will be subjected to a swift, uniform, and certain punishment. The motive, circumstances, and results of the shooting must logically be irrelevant, with the exception of self-defense. If you disagree with this, imagine yourself staring down the barrel of a loaded pistol pointed in your face. Should the person pulling the trigger be handled differently if you die, or if you merely suffer permanent brain damage like James Brady? What if the person is a perfect stranger as opposed to an enraged jealous lover caught in the middle of a love triangle?

The results of such legislation would be threefold: (1) the death penalty would cease to be a point of argument—society simply could not justify using it for the crime of "using a handgun;" (2) users of handguns would be more swiftly and uniformly taken off the streets due to the simplicity of the crime—either a gun was used or it wasn't; and (3) lots of trial lawyers would go out of business. Since lawyers generally make our laws, I give this whole concept a fat chance of zero!

Eric Plow  
School of Dentistry

#### High times

To the editor:

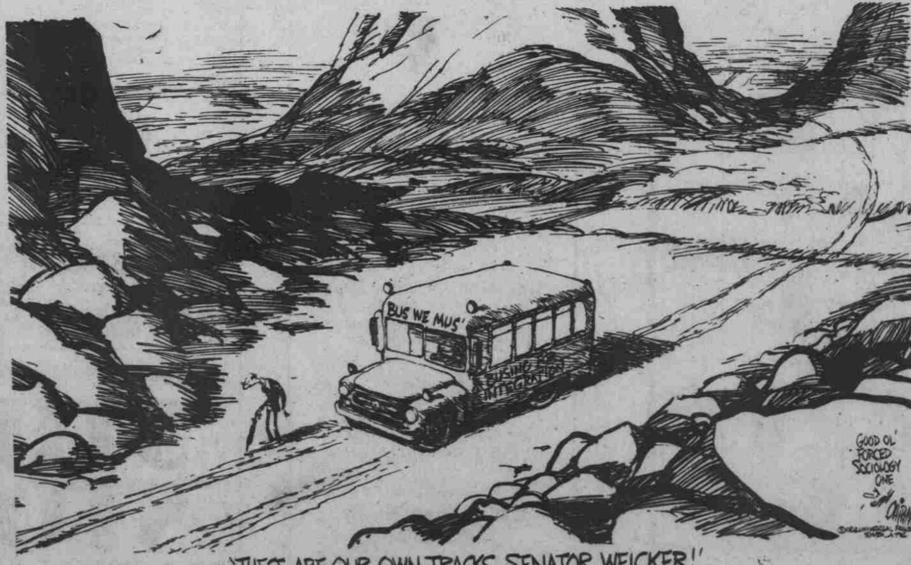
Words cannot express my sense of outrage at the feeble coverage that your paper gives to drug issues on campus. With reports that 90 percent of the students at UNC have tried marijuana and that a significantly high number are regular smokers and take other drugs, I think that you are clearly negligent in your coverage, or should I say lack of coverage, of these important issues. Drugs are important to the UNC student.

In the past few years I have tried three times to become a staff writer for the *DTH*. Each time I encountered the *DTH* conspiracy against drug users, masked behind claims that I could not remember the deadlines. The truth of the matter is that you're just anti-drug.

Consequently, I believe that the time has come to act. In the coming weeks you will be seeing a new student newspaper on campus that will present the drug-user's perspective on campus and national issues. The *Carolina Free Base* will provide the in-depth coverage of the issues that the *DTH* cannot and other campus publications will not.

Secondly, I am forming a student organization which will demand the Representation of All Student Interest Groups in Publications On Campus. ROASIGPOC will hold an organizational meeting this Monday at 5 p.m. in Carroll Hall Auditorium.

Robert N. Kaplan  
Chapel Hill



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.