# The Baily Tar Heel

90th year of editorial freedom

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#### BOGged down

No one was surprised last week when the UNC Board of Governors voted not to endorse a proposal for higher state aid to state residents who attend N.C. private colleges. After all, the state budget is tight and the BOG obviously feels an allegiance to first aid the already suffering UNC system.

But one also wonders whether the BOG would have endorsed the proposal even if money was not scarce. State law requires N.C. private colleges to route their requests for state aid through the BOG. The law is intended to help coordinate and plan higher education in the state, and at the same time produce a spirit of cooperation between private schools and the UNC system.

Instead, the law seems to have done the opposite. Routing requests from private colleges for more state aid through the BOG provides the BOG with an inherent conflict of interest. A limited amount of state funding is available for higher education. The BOG's first allegiance is to the welfare of the UNC system; naturally it cannot always make an objective recommendation to the legislature.

Once a recommendation from the BOG is made, the legislature is not bound to follow it, and frequently does not. For these reasons, the law has not been effective and has given the BOG problems since its inception in 1973.

BOG member Walter Davis wisely asked Friday that the BOG pass a resolution asking the legislature to change the current law so the BOG would no longer review requests by private schools for more state aid. The screening of private aid requests could be done by the Advisory Budget Commission, which already must review budget requests. The BOG and the legislature should heed Davis' request and eliminate the BOG from its needless and unhealthy involvement with the state's private colleges.

#### Insufficient funds

Area bankers are probably happy that State Sen. Charles Vickery, D-Orange, turned himself in Tuesday after finding that he had been charged with issuing worthless checks. If he hadn't been bouncing around as much as his checks, the whole mess might have been avoided. Now he faces a service charge he probably never expected.

The rubber check incident began last month when two criminal summonses were sworn out against Vickery by the owners of his Raleigh law office. They said that Vickery had paid two months' rent with bad checks totaling \$3,582. The only problem was that authorities couldn't find Vickery to give him the summonses. It was becoming a long and overdrawn affair.

Vickery denied the charges Monday and said he didn't even know the cops were after him. His wife claimed that Vickery had been carrying around a "big wad of cash" trying to pay off his debts. Given the charges against him, carrying cash was a good idea. It's too bad he didn't do that when he tried to pay his rent. But don't expect Vickery to learn anything from this, his most recent trouble with the law.

In November, he faces a hearing by the state bar for failing to represent a defendant in court after being paid to do so. Last December, Vickery lost his license when he refused to take a breathalyzer test after being stopped on a drunk driving charge. And last year, he was accused of performing a marriage in 1972 under the authority of a \$10 mail-order minister's license.

So Vickery is in trouble again. Voters needn't worry, though: Vickery has decided not to seek a fifth term as senator. Let's just hope he doesn't post bail with a check.



### Of Swiss mountains and bombs

By LINDA ROBERTSON

GENEVA — In Switzerland the Alps are inescapable. But, walking in the shadow of their snowy shoulders, they have a soothing, rather than imposing, presence

The tiny country's history has been shaped to a large extent by its geography. The Swiss have prospered while war has raged just outside their womb of neutrality. Surrounded by such a benevolent landscape, Switzerland has never felt compelled to fight for more. It is enough to have both the Matterhorn and the Jungfrau within its borders. In this land of manicured farms and postcard chalets, speeding tickets, bus fares and newspapers are paid for voluntarily because citizens adhere to what seems to be a national honor system. Insulation is complete. Unemployment has not even reached 0.5 percent.

People have long thought of Switzerland as a place of peaceful escape — from the millionaire seeking to stash his cash in a discreet bank, to Goethe, who wandered through the valleys of the Berner Oberland, interrupted only by the echoes of clanging cowbells.

Geneva is the cosmopolitan version of that same spirit of sanctuary. Lord Byron retreated to his hillside villa on Lake Leman in 1816, and Percy Bysshe Shelley lived just below him, closer to the shore. Lenin planned his revolution from a lakeside chalet in 1914, and, on the other side, Eisenhower resided in the Maison de Saussure during the Big Four conference of 1955.

The city specializes in noble negotiation. There are more conferences in Geneva than loaves of French bread. At the United Nations complex more than 5,000 meetings are held each year, most centering on humanitarian and social issues. (Ironically, Switzerland is so steadfastly neutral that it is not a member of the U.N.) The World Health Organization, International Labor Organization and Red Cross also have their headquarters here.

What better setting for the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks? After all, Switzerland is the country which has not been involved in a war since 1515. It derives its security from an extensive civil defense system, with bomb shelters under every house and hospitals hidden beneath the mountains.

The START talks resumed two weeks ago in Geneva after a two-month recess. Both Edward L. Rowny, chief negotiator for the United States, and Victor Karpov, his Russian counterpart, are more optimistic than ever that some resolution may be reached and subsequently approved by their governments.

Rowny, a 65-year-old retired U.S.

Army lieutenant with 40 years of military experience, and Karpov are old adversaries who spent six years on the SALT II negotiating teams in Geneva. They know the territory. They have already played

hours of linguistic chess and can now clear the board of cluttering rhetoric. Pressure from home and abroad should also speed up the laborious process.

Rowny thinks the U.S. proposal is the best he has seen in 10 years. The United States is asking for an initial one-third cut in existing warheads on each side, plus a new method of counting nuclear power. The Soviets are proposing controls on new weapons. Both the SALT I treaty, which has expired, and SALT II, which Congress did not ratify, are being observed.

"We're moving away from the illusion of equality to the reality of equality," Rowny said before the beginning of START. "SALT II limited launchers. That's like limiting the number of rifles without limiting the number of bullets you have or the caliber of the ammunition. Strategic launchers don't kill. It's not even missiles that kill. It's warheads that kill. If we limit them in number and in destructive power, we will achieve real arms control."

When President Ronald Reagan introduced his START plan in May at his alma mater, Eureka College, initial reaction was that Reagan, while claiming to have found a solution, was scuttling any chances for settlement. His target of 2,500 land-based warheads for each country would require the Soviets to dismantle 3,000 while the United States added 350. Opponents of Reagan's plan said that his unrealistic goal was a way of wriggling out of any compromise. There were other reasons for pessimism.

"President Reagan's philosophy and the power struggle that seems to be going on in the Kremlin over the approaching succession (to Leonid Brezhnev) are hardly propitious for fruitful talks," wrote S. Nihal Singh, editor of the *In*dian Express of New Delhi.

But world opinion has warmed since then, possibly because of the realization that a START failure could mean a renewed nuclear arms race.

"The fate of (the world) depends largely on whether an honorable and fair Soviet-American agreement can be achieved to limit and reduce strategic weapons," said the Moscow government daily Izvestia, reflecting an urgency felt around the globe.

superpowers are awakening from their stupor and heading toward a genuine

dialogue," wrote Werner Holzer in the liberal Frankfurter Rundschau.

Before a complete awakening, however, there will be a lot of yawning. The path to the bargaining table, strewn with ceremony, protocol and face-saving, is almost as circuitous as the talk that goes on around it. The negotiating sessions start at 11 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday in Geneva at either the Soviets' stately Villa Rosa mission across from the Palais de Nations or the Americans' antiseptic mission, a gray, eight-story office building further up the Route de Pregny.

The rhetoric is often as thick and rich as Swiss chocolate. There are endless bluffs and trade-offs. Remember, the Russians are very good at chess, and Americans have a reputation for excelling at poker.

"You can't set deadlines on this sort of thing," Rowny said. "One of the traps in negotiation is to let the Soviets believe you're too anxious. If you set a deadline, they'll wait 'til 20 minutes before midnight of the last day just to turn up the pressure on you."

Viewed objectively, from the peak of the Matterhorn perhaps, it all seems small and petty, like children playing a huge game of Risk or Battleship. But idealism thrives in Geneva. Maybe the United States and the Soviet Union can follow the example of the country they are negotiating in and someday practice peaceful coexistence.

Linda Robertson, a senior English and journalism major from Miami, Fla., is sports editor of The Daily Tar Heel.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## A C is not what it seems

". . . HOWEVER, IT'S EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT WE KEEP TALKING!"

To the editor:

Grades, like colleges, have two purposes: to educate and to segregate. The University, though pretending to be an institute of education, is more often an institute of segregation. It divides freshmen into medical students, law students, businessmen and the unemployed. However, the University also educates. It not only provides students with necessary vocational knowledge, but also affects their political, social and personal outlooks.

Grades are most blatantly a segregational tool. However, they too have their educational value. A teacher may use them to indicate to a student his or her weaknesses. Or, a teacher may encourage self-evaluation — an education in itself.

As segregational tools, grades themselves may be evaluated by two criteria: efficiency and fairness. Efficiency is their ability to select the better potential doctors, lawyers, etc. The fairness of a grade depends on whether the criteria by which it segregates students are just.

In "A C is a C" (DTH, Oct. 4), the editors proposed that professors may improve the grading system by issuing fewer As and Bs in several departments. They seem to feel that this change will increase the efficiency and fairness of the grading system. After all, interdepartmental inconsistencies in grading do not serve law schools trying to examine students' transcripts and are certainly unfair to the students themselves.

In the long run, however, such a change would do more harm than good. The inadequacies of grading in fairness and efficiency are enormous. Students get better grades not because they study more, or study what is vocationally important, but rather because of their ability to discern what will be on the test and how they can learn that only and specifically. The amount of effort a student needs to exert to get an A in two different classes varies greatly. Grades more often reflect testing ability than either specific skills or potential in a given area. Through eliminating one weakness of the grading system, the proposed change will act more like a mask than a cure. Because of the application of a Band-Aid, students, graduate schools and employers will assume (to a greater extent than they already do) the health of a system oozing blood from every tissue. This faith will decrease the efficiency and fairness of the grading system far more than the Band-Aid increased it.

More importantly, the proposed change will eliminate the educational use of grades. Professors wishing to teach their students will instead be forced to judge them.

Unless we are willing to revamp the grading system entirely, grading is best left to the discretion of the individual professor.

Andrew Kipnis
Evening College student
Apex

Lindsay's mistake

To the editor:
As regards "When ERA died..."

(DTH, Oct. 14) addressing the failure of the Equal Rights Amendment:

Carol Lindsay's most fundamental mistake is assuming that a commitment to equality before the law would render us as a society incapable of discretion. Such a commitment would no more mandate a disregard for individual difference than it would necessitate unisex bathrooms and unprepared women on the front lines; just as our national commitment to civil rights has not meant, as segregationists threatened, that your sister "had to marry one," or that our constitutional right to bear arms requires us all to pack Saturday night specials.

Lindsay urges that we cannot undertake to structure our society equitably until we have plumbed the murky depths of biological difference: "Until we understand truly what makes men men and women women, we cannot truly be fair to either sex." This has been the continued obfuscation of the opponents of ERA: to make sex, gender, the sole focus of argument, when in fact it is citizenship that is at issue - and surely we do feel as a community that we have an understanding of what it is to be a citizen. It is to enjoy the common resolution of your community to provide recognition to legal entities and protection under the law without discrimination to each of its members. It is to be fully responsible to and to have the full accountability of the society one is called on to work within. It should mean that any citizens are as a group equally liable while being accorded unequal guarantees of these most basic rights, as is now the case. I am especially disturbed to find the attempt to validate those rights characterized as "marching all over the country against each other.'

While I hope and expect that the struggle to gain equitable and humane treatment for all our citizens before the law will continue despite this most recent setback, and that its ultimate success will be of inestimable value to us all, I cannot help but feel that all of us must also be touched by the profound and pervasive disaffectation of those who have petitioned our society for a change long overdue, and of evident justice.

Lorraine Harris Snow Camp

#### Draft debate

To the editor: When I wa

When I was of draft age, there was a war in progress. People were being drafted and asked to kill in a war. Registration for a draft into military service was of secondary concern compared to being forced into imminent participation in war. To take a conscientious objector position then, as I did, was an effective rejection of war, the machines of war and a warlike mentality that pervaded the national government and for many years the national mentality.

That is not so today. By registration one declares one's availability for national service (which is by default military service) without any chance to establish one's position regarding participation in war: There is registration but no classification. In fact, if induction were ordered, one would have approximately 10 days, minus mail transit time, to assemble a case and appeal for conscientious objector or noncombatant status. After this time, one would be in

violation of the induction laws if one does not show up at the induction center. (I will be glad to help any registrant who wishes

For those whose moral conscience cries out against war, the machines of war and a warlike mentality that is again being promulgated by our government, there is no alternative to public non-registration as a way to say to the powers that be, "This is a thing I will not do." That there is no legal

alternative is unfortunate.

While violation of law is serious and should be approached only in full cognizance and acceptance of the consequences, to suggest that one should register merely because it is the law ignores the enormous capacity of law to stand outside the bounds of morality. One need only consider the old "Jim Crow" laws to see that this is true. I am deeply disappointed with The Daily Tar Heel's position in this regard. My heart goes out to those two young men who have been convicted for "... so persecuted they the prophets which were before (them)."

Gary C. Farlow Dept. of Physics and Astronomy Thanks to 442

To the editor:

Registering to vote is a process many of us fail to do. In the recent Student Government Voter Registration Drive, though, 442 students registered in Orange County. The turnout was surprising — in the past, only approximately half that number registered. Credit goes to many organizations: Young Democrats, College Republicans, N.C. Student Legislature, Black Student Movement, Student Government liaisons, the Loreleis and RHA. Most of all, credit goes to the 442

who took time to register.

In the next few weeks, students will be able to meet some of the candidates and to learn about the issues. The most critical issue of all, however, is that the students make the small effort to vote on Nov. 2. Those few moments in the voting booth may bring immeasurable returns. We, as individuals, feel fortunate to have this right to vote. We hope you do, too.

Jeff Whisenant Laura Culbertson Student Government, Town Relations Committee

## Base and petty

By DAVID C. BAGNAL

It has been a long time since President Reagan told the Democratic leadership in Congress to "either put up or shut up." I am not quite sure how long ago that was, but I do know that the Democrats have done neither. One would think that it would have been long enough to come up with something. To my dismay, as well as the dismay of the greater public at large, the Democrats have not been able to come up with anything new that can be translated into real policy alternatives for the American voters.

What the Democrat leadership has done is merely intensifying attacks on Reagan and Republican policy as a whole. This demagoguery, while not new in itself, is a bit different in that it is based on a twisted logic. This logic has a basis that defines rights and liberties in terms of dollars. Following from this, it is concluded that Reagan is not looking out for our rights if he decides to cut taxes and spending. This premise is epitomized by a leaflet that was passed out recently by the Young Democrats here on campus. The leaflet implied that to receive federal loans or grants for education is a right and that because men like Sen. Jesse Helms and Ronald Reagan are trying to place governmental spending under control it must be a conspiracy to take away students' rights. After reading one that was given to me by a friend (nobody brought one by my room), I developed this picture in the mind's eye of Doug Berger and Alex Charns, red banners in hand, standing around Helms screaming, "You owe

Rights don't mean dollars. Dollars can't buy rights. The amount of money

received annually from the federal government is not a measure of whether or not an administration is protecting our rights. Yet, the Democrats are banking on this petty and twisted logic that can so easily refute itself to carry them to sweeping victories at the polls this November.

It isn't merely cuts in federal spending that the liberal Democrats are further twisting to fit their logic. Jobs in a slow-moving economy are scarce. The Democrats claim that to have a job is a right. They have in the past drafted documents that would, if passed, make it the federal government's responsibility to hire anyone who could not find a job in the private sector of the economy. There is a movement now to resurrect the Humphrey-Hawkins bill or a facsimilie that closely resembles it. The strain on the federal budget that would be created by such a piece of legislation would in effect bankrupt the federal government.

To have a job is not a right, it is a privilege. The Democrats' answers to unemployment aren't real answers. They are products of shortsighted thinking that allows for mortgaging our future for the sake of victory in an election. Yet the Democratic leadership does realize that with unemployment currently at 10.1 percent they have an issue with salience, and they are willing to twist logic to define rights as jobs and federal funds. It is a shame that politicians can be so base and petty, but as we all know, this is an election year.

David C. Bagnal, a junior political science major from Winston-Salem, is second vice chair of the UNC College Republicans and triad regional director for the N.C. Federation of College Republicans.