

The Daily Tar Heel

90th year of editorial freedom

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Stay the course?

When the Republicans began to see their economic policies flounder in a continued sluggish economy, they refused to bail out. Instead they did the next best thing: They advertised. Through commercials on national television, they called for Americans to stick with the president, to "stay the course."

The commercials must have worked. According to a recent Associated Press/NBC News poll, 52 percent of the American public believes that the president needs more time for his economic policies to work. Just two months ago the figure was 38 percent. Through Republican propaganda, the emphasis on the declining inflation rate has grown to proportions large enough to make most Americans forget or ignore the increasing unemployment figures. Inflation affects the pockets of every American. Unemployment doesn't.

The poor economy cannot be blamed on the Reagan administration alone. To do so is to assume that the economy is shaped in four-year segments, rather than evolving through each presidential term.

32-year high

In September, 10.1 percent of the work force was unemployed, the highest figure since 1940. That means more than 11 million people are looking for jobs; an estimated 1.6 million more have already given up. In September, 9.6 percent of all adult men and 8.3 percent of all adult women were unemployed. Hardest hit are black teenagers with more than 48 percent out of work.

Conservative economists are quick to attribute the rising unemployment to the three-year-old recession that has sapped the nation's productivity and demoralized the businessman. Another key factor, they say, has been the rising number of workers entering the job market at the tail end of the post-World War II baby boom. And because of increased competition with foreign businesses, many American workers have priced themselves out of the market. In order to compete with imports, the American businessman needs labor at cheaper prices.

But the largest factor behind the statistics, and the one government officials are not prepared to meet, is the changing job market. Rising technology has led to the replacement of the common laborer. For example, economists predict that with further computerization and automation, about 200,000 auto workers will permanently lose their jobs. What has resulted from the new industries has been a large education gap — where few workers have the skills needed to fill newly created positions.

Millions of jobs will be created through the new industries. However, these numbers are of little consequence as long as other workers continue to be replaced by computers. Northwestern University Dean Victor R. Lindquist said in a recent *Newsweek* article, "Americans have learned how to replace workers with technology, but they do not yet know how to use technology to put people back to work."

New solutions

In the past, government and the private sector have worked separately to bring about changes in the economy. What is needed now is a comprehensive effort from all sectors of society to fight back the recession and eliminate unemployment. As cited in *Newsweek*, this can be accomplished through the approval of programs such as the newly revised Works Progress Administration, which would put portions of the unemployed back to work — this time on the nation's highways and dams.

The government must place new emphasis on helping workers adapt in today's changing job market. With technological advances, workers need to adapt to new jobs. Traditionally, the United States has emphasized education as a primary means for such an improvement. To meet this challenge, the government should enact tax credits to businesses which offer on the spot training of workers. More importantly, funding should be channeled to the high schools and universities that provide for more programs to train workers to meet the new job standards.

Economic policy does not have to be a trade-off between unemployment and inflation. The public needs to see through Republican rhetoric by realizing that 11 million people are unemployed and pressure government officials to adequately address the problem. Only when policies designed to help the worker adapt in a changing job market are enacted can the public then be expected to "stay the course."

A liberal town?

Desegregation hasn't changed social biases

By SCOTT BOLEJACK

I realize now, regretfully, that I'm just as naive at 21 as I was at 11. For whatever reason, I believed that no one still called a black person a "nigger." I actually believed that the time had passed when blacks were openly ridiculed in public.

I suppose I was fooled because part of the institutional racism of the past century has been dealt its death blow. I believed, I guess, that when segregated buses, schools and public facilities disappeared, racial prejudice as a whole had vanished also.

I was so convinced racism had disappeared that I actually started getting upset when I heard a disgruntled black charge discrimination. Surely, I thought those charging discrimination were just looking for an easy out to their problems. I had even gotten to the point where I believed that affirmative action had served its purpose and was better off discarded as a tool that was behind the times.

I was, I admit, a fool. Racial prejudice, despite obvious gains in desegregation of society, remains. It is alive and well and living in America and, yes, even in Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill? That's right.

If you're like me, you thought, or may still think, that Chapel Hill, with its tradition as a liberal university town, was immune from the disease that is racial prejudice. Such is not the case.

As has become habit of late, I was waiting on the J-bus outside the Pizza Hut on Franklin Street. I was leaning against a car. Another guy, who looked to be about 25, waited also.

I had been waiting awhile when some noise across the street caught my attention. It was a group of four guys and a girl. It was obvious that they were either drunk or

high. They managed somehow to make it across the street and to the guy who was waiting along with me.

It wasn't long after that that a couple walked out of the vicinity of Mr. Gatti's. He was black and she was white. They started to cross the street toward Granville Towers.

As the couple got about halfway across the street, one of the guys in the noisy bunch shouted: "Hey, man. Don't you know that black and white don't mix."

The black guy, trying to laugh it all off, said "I know they don't. They make yellow." The girl said nothing; she didn't even turn around.

The group finally left and the bus came. On the way to my apartment I sat quietly in the back of the bus and thought about what I had just witnessed.

I tried to pass it off by telling myself that they were under the influence of something. But that's no excuse. You may not say some things when you're sober that you say when you're drunk. But that doesn't mean that when you say them, you don't believe them.

I tried to tell myself that they were not University students. They certainly didn't look the part. But I had no way of knowing that for sure. And, even if they weren't, it wouldn't make a difference. You can be the most prejudice-free person around, but if someone you

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"They make nigger," another one of the noisy guys said.

The guy who spoke first said, "They don't stir very well either, man."

"Think about it, motherf---," the second guy yelled.

By this time the couple had made their way out of sight and the members of the group began to talk among themselves.

"I hate that," the first guy said.

"What's that?"

"White girls who date niggers," he answered.

"I don't understand," the second guy said. "Niggers just got white girls brainwashed."

The girl in the group said nothing. She just laughed and clung to her boyfriend who also remained silent. At this point the conversation became too sexually oriented to warrant printing.

know is prejudiced, it reflects just as badly on you and you should share the responsibility.

I don't blame those five people totally. I suppose their childhood environment had something to do with it as might the present economic situation. I blame also a society which tolerates racial and ethnic jokes as easily as it does a traffic jam.

Most of all, however, I blame people like myself who are naive enough to believe that the storm has passed, that reforms have put us all on an equal footing, and that the time has come when people judge a book, not by its cover, but by its content.

Scott Bolejack, a senior journalism and religion major from Germantown, is an editorial assistant of The Daily Tar Heel.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNC workers reject Cobey stands

To the editor:

Since Bill Cobey has received few, if any endorsements from Chapel Hill, he would certainly welcome and publicize University support if he had it. Beyond the facts stated by Susan Snipes in last Thursday's story "Cobey won't politicize University ties" (*The Daily Tar Heel*, Oct. 21), there are good reasons why Cobey isn't asking for UNC endorsements. He can't get them.

UNC employees on frozen salaries and students unsure of continuing loan availability know that we don't need more Reaganomics. Since 1981, scholarships, loans and research and construction funding have disappeared at UNC, transferred into Pentagon surplus and subsidies to corporations. Yet budget cutting is one of the few sure things that Cobey stands for. Given the chance, Cobey would vote for more Reaganomics and against UNC.

Obviously, high University administrators can't overstep their roles and join political campaigns. But signs are unmistakable that UNC leaders value Rep. Ike Andrews' powerful support for the University on the House Education and Labor Committee, and his long history of service to UNC as a Board of Governors member and state legislator. Andrews' help, for example, has been instrumental in making our medical center the fifth-largest in the United States. These might be reasons why Dean Smith appeared at an Andrews fund-raiser in Raleigh last month. (*The News and Observer* said he drew more attention there than the governor did.)

Susan Snipes might have read the signs more clearly if she had interviewed some of the political wives of UNC leaders. Marilyn Boulton, for instance, told a local reporter last week that she will vote for Andrews, partly because of his support for education. And Barbara Fordham, too, is an Andrews supporter.

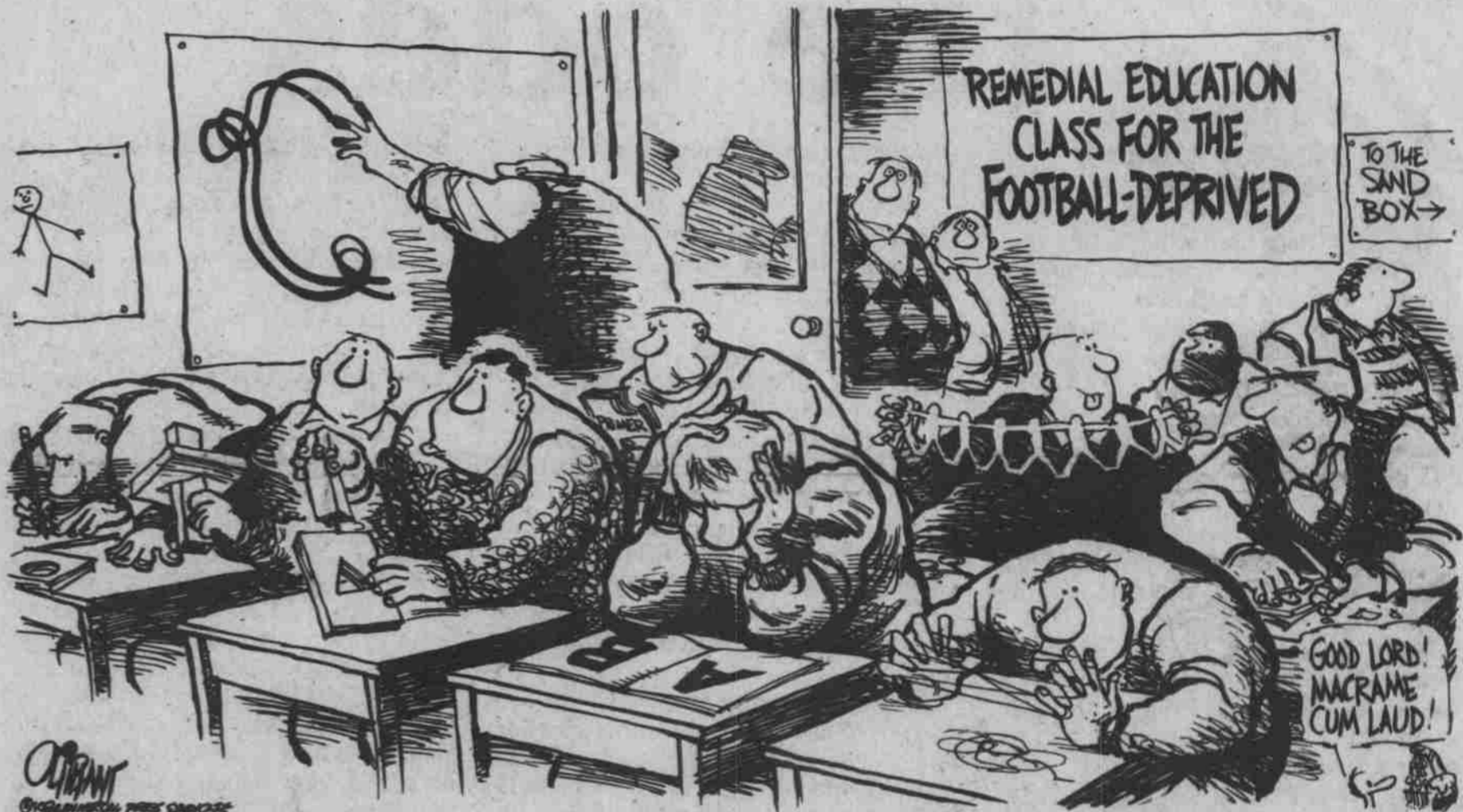
Thousands from the UNC staff have the same "University ties" that Bill Cobey used to. They're on the payroll; so was he. But nowadays, Cobey is working for somebody else. The Congressional Club is no friend of education or of this University. That's why Cobey can't politicize University ties.

Lightning A. Brown
Dept. of Psychiatry
School of Medicine

Character assessment

To the editor:

Yellow journalism? Divide and con-



quer? Which one, *Daily Tar Heel*; which one are you guilty of? No, don't answer. Let the Black Student Movement Central Committee answer those questions for you. You are guilty of both and the Black Student Movement will tolerate neither.

On Aug. 31, 1982, the *DTH* headline read "Calls for Impeachment" and the very next day the headline read "Impeachment Dropped." To date, no impeachment document has been presented to either the BSM Central Committee or to the *DTH*. Most recently, the headline read "Jenkins resigns over fight with BSM leaders" (*DTH*, Oct. 20). These sensationalist headlines exemplify the same professionalism as those of the *National Enquirer*. Now let us set the record straight.

Harvey Jenkins was not pushed, touched or yelled at by any BSM leader as one might assume from your headline. In an executive session of a general body meeting, he was simply asked to explain his resignation to the governing body. In which case he did and left the executive session with his resignation accepted by the

Central Committee. Harvey said that his role as BSM treasurer was not congruent with a more politically aggressive role that he wants for himself now and in the future. As the governing body of the Black Student Movement, we had a right to hear of it first and with a full explanation. As a supposedly responsible and respectful newspaper, the *DTH* had no right to slant the facts as it did. And if indeed the *DTH* were a responsible and respectable paper rather than a folded accumulation of gossip, then the *DTH* would have printed the truth instead of such yellow journalism.

There is yet one more point which the BSM Central Committee will take the liberty to express: Far too many times in world history has a majority people been successfully able to "divide and conquer" the minority. Listen, don't even try it. The *DTH* may have been successful at inciting our brother into becoming defensive toward the Central Committee, but the game stops there.

We, the Central Committee, do not fight our own so that the press can have a field day. We discuss, debate, listen and

respect each other. And we are sure that Jenkins will not fall into that trap next time. Therefore, don't even try that antiquated game with us. This letter is not written to or about Harvey Jenkins. This letter is the Central Committee's assessment of the character of the *DTH* toward the BSM.

Sherrod Banks
and the Central Committee
of the Black Student Movement

Letters?

The *Daily Tar Heel* welcomes letters to the editor and contributions of columns to the editorial page. All submissions 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 phone number. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Kids. . . kids. . . KIDS!

By JEFF GROVE

On Saturday I went to see a film at the Carolina Union. I had a hard time enjoying it.

That was unusual. The film was the animated classic *Dumbo*, Walt Disney's eloquent if simplistic essay on the problems of being "different." The print the Union Film Committee was using was of good quality. The temperature in the Union Auditorium was comfortable.

Why, then, did I find it difficult to enjoy the film? Kids. Lots of them.

Before faculty members, staff members and married students begin jumping on me and calling me a child hater, let me defend myself.

I like kids. I'm an education major, so I have to. But the kids who are taken to the Disney films the Union shows on Saturday mornings are a different matter. They show up in herds, with anywhere from two to six kids being brought by only one adult. Be honest, now. How can one adult control two kids in a movie theater, let alone six?

During most of the film, I had to strain to hear the

dialogue and music because of the constant hubbub created by the children. I had a rough time following the story line because the woman behind me kept explaining the story to her three little angels. She stayed about two minutes behind what was happening on the screen. Kids were wandering up and down the aisles with no supervision.

I have no objection to children seeing the classic Disney animated feature films. They were, after all, made with "the child in everyone" in the minds of the filmmakers. But I draw the line when the presence of all these children interferes with the enjoyment of the films by students whose fees have paid for the films.

The Union Film Committee supposedly allows each student to bring one guest to each film. How, then, do some adults get in with several children? The Film Committee should enforce its one-guest-per-student rule at all of its films.

This could be done by requiring all students purchasing tickets for the Saturday morning films to show a student ID. Each ID could be marked, the way they are marked when students vote in campus elections, to insure that no student receives more than two tickets.

I now hear screams from two camps: parents yelling "Unfair!" and Film Committee members asking,

"Who'll come see the films if we cut back on the number of kids who can get in?"

Parents, is it "fair" that you were able to take five of your children to see *Dumbo* when I was not allowed to bring two guests in to see a regular weekend film?

Film Committee members, most students don't come to your Saturday morning films because of the inconvenient showtimes — 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Three years ago, the Disney films were shown on Friday nights at twice their current admission price, yet all three shows usually sold out. Show the films at a convenient time, and students will pack the house for them.

The solution to the inequities the Film Committee has created involves a choice of two paths. Either enforce the one-guest-per-student rule at all times, or throw it out completely. Personally, I would prefer the former because I like to be able to enjoy a film instead of struggling through it. But either route would be acceptable. The point is the achievement of fair, equitable treatment for all students.

Jeff Grove, a senior English education major from Jacksonville, Fla., is assistant arts editor of The Daily Tar Heel.