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91st year of editorial freedom

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Political mud wrestling

North Carolina's two political J.H.'s - Jesse Helms and Jim Hunt - are already bickering and alleging and finger-pointing in the quest for the senator's office, but the only ones really scared during this round of mud wrestling are the about 130 radio stations across the state broadcasting political advertisements.

Sen. Helms' campaign organization last week threatened to complain to the Federal Communications Commission about radio advertisements attacking Helms, saying that the ads were inaccurate and misleading. One formal complaint was filed against WBT of Charlotte, and the 78-station North Carolina News Network temporarily pulled the ads off the air until the Democratic Party substantiated its claims. The Helms camp has yet to state explicitly what parts of the ads were misleading.

Helms has been asking Gov. Hunt for a debate for months, but the recent skirmishes may bring the issues out sooner than Hunt's expected Democratic nomination in May, after which Hunt has said he would face Helms in a live debate. The recent attacks by Hunt's campaign organization focused on key issues such as tobacco support programs, Social Security and tax breaks for the wealthy. Obviously, Hunt is already shoring up those issues which he feels will be most beneficial to his campaign. But Helms also has an agenda of politically sensitive issues — namely school prayer, school busing and abortion — that he hopes will drive Hunt into a corner.

Perhaps the most important element in the latest slinging will be the credence attached to upcoming political advertisements - at least until both candidates get the official endorsements of their parties. After both candidates become official, radio and television stations must run political advertisements without censorship, dismissing them from any improprieties that might arise. Until then, radio stations and news networks will be asking for substantiation to back up all allegations. Helms was stung in 1979 when the Hunt administration forced the National Congressional Club to remove ads that suggested Hunt was using jobtraining contracts as political payoffs. So far in the 1984 senate race, the Helms campaign committee regularly has sent substantiating documentation with every advertising package, and the Democratic camp has now pledged to do the same.

No matter what the outcome of the Helms committee threats, the run for the Senate promises the North Carolina electorate one of the dirtiest campaigns in recent history. Even with all of the extra hype attached to the recent advertisements, exposing the issues early may be a plus for voters in deciding which of the two popular candidates will leave for Washington in 1985.

What Uncle Sam forgot to tell

By MARK STINNEFORD

Uncle Sam never leveled with me about civilian life. That's strange. During my six years in the Navy, much of which I spent overseas, he seemed so caring, so free with advice. Before we'd arrive in any foreign port, he'd offer these helpful lectures, designed more to protect innocent sailors from the natives than to emphasize U.S. national interests.

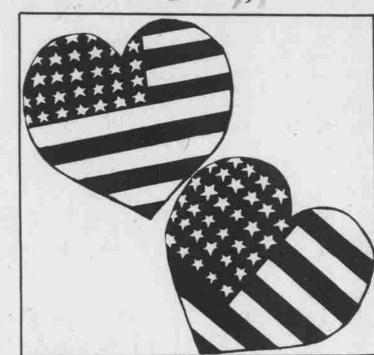
Along with the standard precautions about social diseases, he'd offer other gems: "Don't buy drinks for the bar girls. Don't expose the soles of your feet to a Thai. Don't refer to the Philippine ruler as a tyrant. And, please, don't tell a Frenchman his nation is washing up as a major power."

Sam was strangely silent, almost hurtfully so, when I returned to the United States. Maybe he was scared I would flee the terror of the civilian world to return to the comfort and security of my ship.

So, I returned to this country strangely out of touch with modern social customs. Having spent my formative romantic years in foreign climes, I was particularly ignorant of the rituals of American dating.

Overseas, dating never seemed to be a problem. Standing on a street corner in a strange land with an upside down road map and a befuzzled look, I was amazed at the number of compassionate females I met. In a coffee shop in Japan, I innocently told a woman student that I was planning to tour the city of Yokohoma. She immediately offered to be my guide, obviously fearing the damage that could be caused by an ignorant foreigner wandering around alone. Maybe those long stretches at sea with nothing but male company forced me to subconsciously devise ploys to gain female companionship once I got ashore. I don't know.

But it didn't take me long to figure that I was playing under new rules in the United States. During the last two weeks in the Navy, I was assigned to a base near San Francisco, not the best place to find out



about American dating customs. During a sightseeing excursion in the city I discovered that I was genuinely lost. A woman was standing nearby. "Can you direct me to the bus terminal?" I asked in my politest tones. She fled. "Welcome home!" I thought.

I've tried to adjust, but the dating problem has been nagging me a lot lately. It's even intruded upon my studying, diverting my attention from a microeconomics text during recent Friday evenings at the laundromat. During the rinse cycle the other night, I prepared the following questions for submission to the appropriate authority at the Pentagon.

Who pays? During my high school days in the early 1970s, the male was still responsible for providing the financial backing for dates. I understand that this archaic custom is finally breaking down. Even without the Equal Rights Amendment, I refuse to insult a woman by buying her dinner. Will this enhance my dateableness? Should I enter into negotiations

with a women who proposes to pay half her dinner but not the movie ticket?

In Japan, where equal rights based on gender are part of the constitution, I dated a woman with the soul of an accountant. She could split a dinner bill down to the last yen. I am not that picky. A dime either way doesn't matter.

What if the date goes badly? Overseas, language and cultural barriers made each date an adventure. If any kind of communication was achieved, the night was a success. But in the States, what do you do if your partner calls Barbara Cartland America's gift to literature or extolls the musical innovations of AC/DC? Can you throw up your hands and declare the date a forfeit?

What about this kissing business? It seems to me that too much of a date in this country is taken up worrying about whether a five-second good night kiss should be dispensed. In Japan, kisses are the moral equivalent of a St. Christopher medal and are proper only on the seventh date and beyond. Call me a prude, but I recommend legislating such a requirement in this country.

Isn't all this dating business a bit awkward and rigid? Why can't I go up to a woman and say, "Look, I think you're very interesting, but I'm poor. How about coming to my house on Friday, and we can sit on the lawn, drink wine and look at the stars?"

I asked advice from a female mentor who had never set me worrying on subjects ranging from houseplants to job applications.

"What if I think a woman is interesting but I can't afford a date," I asked.

"Get money," she advised.

I guess I have a lot to learn.

Mark Stinneford, a junior journalism major and staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel, is available for star-gazing and wine-imbibing on his lawn Friday night.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR **Behind Latin American myths**

To the editor:

Since the recent U.S. invasion of Grenada — an action that demonstrated the Reagan administration's determination to undermine popular movements in Central America and the Caribbean even at the expense of human rights and the right of a nation to determine its own destiny - I have been following the volatile situation in Central America with the utmost concern. Unfortunately, many Americans are not familiar with the long history of U.S. agression in Central America (there have been over 100 military interventions against Central American nations in the last 150 years), and consequently they tend to view the assault against Grenada as an isolated incident of U.S. "police ac-

tion" independent of our government's foreign policy. Indeed, the Reagan administration has effectively obscured the issue of official U.S. belligerence toward progressive democratic change in Central America and diverted the public's attention away from the worldwide implications of an antagonistic approach toward the popular mass movements of the Third World. Many Americans undoubtedly harbor a number of illusions about the ends and means of U.S. foreign policy. We are constantly confronted with a stream of misinformation about the accelerated U.S. military operations and economic warfare in Central America. Before we can even begin to understand the unique problems of the Central American peo-

department promise that it would im-

prove our kitchens? We haven't seen it

yet. The eighth floor kitchen is sorry. Our

oven is a fire hazard, more so than the

hot plates ever were. One of us tried to

cook a casserole in it at what was sup-

posed to be 350 degrees. The casserole was

supposed to cook 30 minutes. Twenty

minutes later, it was burned black. When

we took the glass pan out of the oven, it

broke in half in our hands. So, we figure

Only one burner works on the stove,

and the garbage disposal has been broken

and backed up with food since fall of

1982. So, not only are we stuck up here,

we're starving to death, too. Is anybody

P.S. We also object to the U.S. Marines

cifically trained to advise students on op-

portunities in this area, and the center has

an extensive collection of resource

material on study- and work-abroad pro-

meeting place for students of all nationalities. The Association of Interna-

tional Students, which meets regularly in

the center, is composed of both U.S. and

foreign students. Contact between

foreign students and the community is

facilitated through programs such as Host

Families and Community Outreach. The

Center is thus in no way the exclusive

preserve of foreign students. The word "international" in the title is meant in the

sense of involving more than one nation.

Finally, the International Center is a

Ellen Neerincx

Julie Hooper

Cindy Sawyer

Hinton James

housing owes us six or seven bucks.

ple, we must first dispel and discredit the numerous myths propagated by our government and often promoted by the press. Our policy-makers, for example, consistently ignore the broad-based popular support for most Central American revolutionary movements and explain (in typical Cold War fashion) all conflict in the region in terms of an ultimate East-West confrontation, as if to deny the legitimacy of these regional movements or to imply that Latin American freedom fighters are pawns of the Soviet Union or Cuba. The Pentagon recently demonstrated the effectiveness of this alarmist and illusory tactic when it made much ado about the "Cuban military presence in Grenada" which turned out to be some 780 construction workers and a handful of poorly armed military advisers. Similarly, the Reagan administration diverts attention away from its efforts to undermine burgeoning Nicaraguan democracy by pointing to an undefined Cuban "presence" in Nicaragua and ignoring that country's wide scale political reforms and massive gains in social programs since the immensely popular uprising that ousted the reign of U.S.-supported dictator Anastasio Somoza. When the Nicaraguan government began expelling Cuban teachers and ministry members last week and announced plans to hold free elections, the Reagan administration

sovereign American nations. The State Department, in fact, denied a visa to Nicaraguan Interior Minister Thomas Borge last Tuesday, giving the Nicaraguans even more reason to fear that the United States will pursue a Vietnam-like military "solution" in Central America. As students and academicians we should seriously question the "hard-tine" position of our government: Why does the Reagan administration wish to obstruct the flow of information between Nicaragua and the United States? Why has it systematically belittled all Nicaraguan efforts to make conciliatory gestures? Would most Americans continue to tolerate a belligerent stance against Central American selfdetermination if they were educated about the nature of the Nicaraguan struggle for survival? It is our responsibility to seek actively the information needed to answer these and other questions and to educate ourselves about the true U.S. interests in Central America (by attending educational forums like the recent Human Rights Week lectures and the teach-in on Central America scheduled to take place today in the Union). It is our responsibility to dispel the myths and misinformation of our government, to stand up against ignorance and blind militarism, and do everything within our power to prevent another Vietnam from happening in Central America. charged the Sandinistas with

The joy of giving

Go to University Mall on just about any afternoon this time of year and chances are that a parking place won't be easy to find. We're all pretty preoccupied with Christmas shopping. But we don't shop for friends and relatives because they really need the luxuries we're going to buy them. We shop because we can afford to give, and because the fun of receiving gifts is somewhat contingent upon our reciprocation.

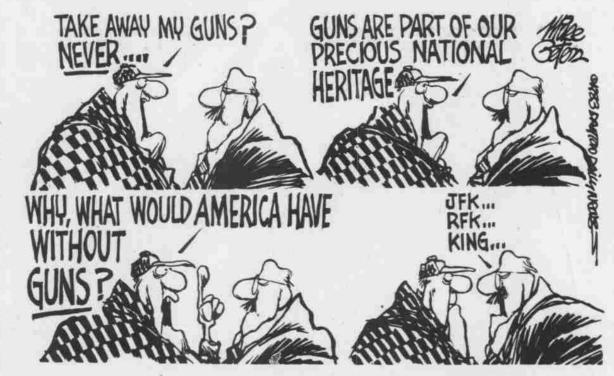
Gift-giving is one of those holiday-season ingredients that makes December perhaps the headiest month of the year. There's certainly nothing wrong with that. Most of us will return to campus in early January wearing new sweaters and playing new albums. Most of us will remember the holiday season as a time of joy.

Not everyone shares in our good fortune. For millions of Americans, the holiday season is only a bitter reminder of what they do not have, of how much less fortunate they are than others. Millions of Americans will not give or receive gifts. Many Americans will not even enjoy a special holiday dinner.

It us up to those of us lucky enough to enjoy freedom from economic concern during the holiday season to help bring a little bit of extra joy to the underprivileged. Put a nickel in the cup of the Salvation Army Santa. Contribute canned goods to holiday-season food drives. In the process of buying gifts for those who don't really need them, pause to give a small gift to those who really do.

THE Daily Crossword by John H. Hales

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HJ: Not worth the climb

To the editor:

We thought we'd send up a flare from eighth floor Hinton James to let everyone know we're trapped up here.

Some friendly vandals visited us last week and took a crowbar to our elevator panels. Now there is only one elevator that works, but it's reserved for privileged people (those on crutches, area directors and the like). Commoners like us get to use the stairs.

Sure, we're getting some good exercise, but rumor has it that the elevators won't be repaired for two weeks. And if someone does it again, the "powers that be" aren't going to fix the elevators until next summer, from what we hear.

We ask you: Is this justice? Who really gets punished by this? The people on the upper floors of the so-called Hilton do. We'd be willing to lay odds that no one up here messed up the elevators. We know how valuable they are.

And another thing, while the typewriter's warmed up. Remember last year when they took Chase Cafeteria and our hot plates away? Didn't the housing

'International' includes U.S.

listening?

being in Lebanon.

Marty Leary Connor

Misrepresenting Sandinistas

To the editor:

A recent column by Peter Reiner ("Sandinista human rights violations," DTH, Nov. 28) presents misleading information about Nicaragua. Reiner claims no personal experience or references to provide credence to his statements. Personal accounts by members of the Peace Corps, members of the Carolina Coalition for Justice in Central America and Carolina Committee on Central America who have worked with and interviewed different sectors of the Nicaraguan population contradict the details presented by Reiner.

"insincerity" and refused to follow the

Nicaraguan initiative for a new dialogue

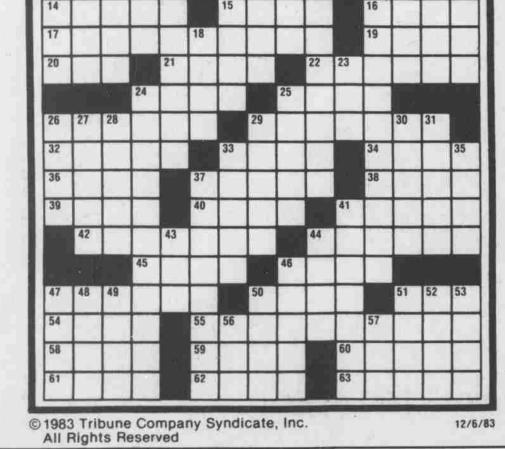
to diffuse tensions between the two

Reiner's accusations against the evils of the Sandinista government are based on partial information. His claim of "complete Sandinista censorship of information" is false. Censorship exists in Nicaragua, but La Prensa prints antigovernment articles, opposition parties speak out at the Council of State, even the U.S. Ambassador is allowed air time on Sandinista radio to freely express his opinion.

The Miskito Indians, which Reiner claims were systematically killed by members of the Sandinista government, were in fact relocated from their home on the Nicaragua-Honduras border in response to attacks in this area by Hon-

fighting has forced some Miskitos to flee into Honduras. But interviews with Peace Corps volunteers who work with the Indian refugees and with members of the Miskito Indian tribe have debunked the charges of genocide.

People I have interviewed from North Carolina who have lived in, traveled in and experienced Sandinista Nicaragua have been impressed by the current government efforts to educate, house, feed, medically treat and equally provide for a people so long mistreated by the U.S.-backed government of Samoza. Ration coupons for necessities such as flour, sugar, gasoline are distributed by the government in an attempt to provide the poor with basic commodities that under a non-rationed system would be too expensive. If any person is in doubt about the extreme poverty of the Nicaraguan people and their current struggle to gain improved living conditions, good sources for information are Amnesty International, North American Congress on Latin America, human rights newsletters from the region and the various activities on campus and in town which provide speakers and information about Central America. It is our obligation to inform ourselves and to pressure our government into attaining a humane foreign policy



grams.

To the editor:

In a recent article ("Union approves space for BSM," DTH, Dec. 2) Dean Hayden B. Renwick is quoted as saying that "special concessions" are made for foreign students in that the Carolina Union has "space exclusively for them." If he is referring to the International Center, Dean Renwick is subscribing to a common misconception about the center's purpose and function.

Contrary to popular belief, the International Center is not a "special concession" for foreign students. Rather, it is the office responsible for processing foreign students' applications, issuing visa documents and maintaining records (required by the U.S. government) on their legal status in this country. In addition, the center administers several exchange programs and conducts special orientation sessions for new foreign students.

The International Center is also an im-

durans. At the relocation site, Indians are not victimized by the fighting that occurs portant source of information for those in the border region and they have more interested in travel, study or work social services accessible to them. The abroad. One member of the staff is spewith Nicaragua.

Janet Suttie Visiting Lecturer





Susan G. Kirstein

Kingswood Apts.