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# The Daily Tar Heel

92nd year of editorial freedom

## A well with a bottom

At this time last year, students were being asked to flush the toilet only when it was necessary and to shower only once a day. The area water supply had dwindled alarmingly over a dramatically dry summer, and it was hoped that conservative measures by the students flooding the town in August would reduce the anticipated demand on the water supply, enough, at least, to enable school to continue. This year, because of an unusually wet July (just ask the would-be residents of area condos how wet), lack of water is no longer a problem — here. However many southeastern states, which formerly thought water a nuisance due to flooding, are now becoming concerned about the danger of a future lack of water. States such as Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana are studying the possibilities of adopting some sort of comprehensive policy to protect the quantity and quality of water. It is imperative that these states adopt such a plan.

Increasing industrialization and irrigation have put demands on the once-perceived-endless supplies of water in this and in other areas of the United States. Compounding the problem is overdrafting, a.k.a. water mining, which not only dries up wells, but also reduces water pressure and in some cases may allow contamination by salt water in coastal areas. Overdrafting has even caused the land to sink houses in Florida. The problem for Mississippi is not so much that it is short of water, but that the water must be transferred from other areas of the state — an unwanted expense at a time when the Reagan administration has cut federal aid to expensive public works, including reservoirs, pipelines and treatment plants.

Florida and Georgia, both of which rely heavily on groundwater supplies for many of their water needs, were

among the first states in this area to adopt water management plans. For years Florida has had permits that limit withdrawals. Georgia's permits have been required since 1982, but exclude agricultural wells, a major drawback since Georgia has more than a million acres of cropland under irrigation. Public hearings will begin this fall in Arkansas to allow officials to regulate the withdrawal of groundwater, but the prospects don't look good: In 1983 Arkansas farming interests helped defeat legislation to require farmers to obtain such permits.

In addition to such regulative measures, the states have looked for ways to supplement groundwater supplies by using whenever possible large quantities of surface water that pass untouched through the region's rivers and streams. But these measures fall far short of a solution to the problem of excessive water consumption.

We in Chapel Hill had a bite-sized taste of what water restrictions are like last fall; we should understand the urgency of finding ways to prevent more cumbersome future shortages.

There are so many ways we can painlessly work to conserve: We can turn the water off while brushing teeth, use a tub of water rather than a running tap to wash dishes, jump in the shower one, not five, minutes after turning it on, and turn off leaky faucets whenever possible.

There may be no immediate need for such considerations here in Chapel Hill. But as we saw last fall and as we could conceivably see again at this time next year, the accumulation of water supplies is beyond our control. There is always a long-term need not to waste. It is crucial to use even resources which are often taken for granted without waste, as states in the southeast are slowly discovering.

## An 'A' in grammar

The conservatives in the Republican Party seem much more adept at handling the subtleties of the English language than at performing simple addition.

In writing the party's platform for last week's convention in Dallas, White House aides and Republican congressional leaders had polished the plank's stance on taxes into a carefully worded hedge designed to give Reagan a "wigggle room" in dealing with the burgeoning federal deficit. The platform read: "We therefore oppose any attempt to increase taxes which would harm the recovery and reverse the trend toward restoring control of the economy to individual Americans."

But the conservatives, led by Sen. Jack Kemp of New York, complained that this language could be taken to mean the party condoned tax increases that did not harm the recovery, so they pushed successfully for the insertion of a comma between the words "taxes" and "which."

The change, to be sure, makes the plank more correct grammatically speaking, but from a practical standpoint the alteration can't be more off base.

The numbers just don't add up: Total federal spending now amounts to about 24 percent of the gross national product, a peacetime record, while tax revenues

stand at about 19 percent of GNP. That means that 5 percent of the nation's output must be borrowed to pay the government's bills. Without tax increases matching increases in federal spending, which will undoubtedly go up because of the large defense budget, the deficit, now \$174 billion, will continue to grow. Indeed the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office recently projected that without further tax and spending changes the deficit will rise to \$263 billion by 1989.

Of course, what the Republican conservatives are banking on is that continued economic growth along with cuts in non-military spending will erase the deficit. For that to happen, though, the economy would have to grow at a clip fast enough to wipe out the deficit before potentially higher interest rates choked the economy — an unlikely prospect — and social programs would have to be cut to the bone — a gloomy prospect.

Fortunately, platforms are more often disregarded for expedient political purposes than they are followed religiously. Upon learning of the conservatives' comma cause in Dallas, a Reagan aide, meaning that the administration would raise taxes as a last resort, said, "We can live with it." That's fine as long as Reagan doesn't try to live by it.

## The healing of racial wounds

By JOHN HINTON

I felt a sense of pride when I learned that my high school, Needham B. Broughton High School in Raleigh, was listed in U.S. News and World Report as one of the best high schools in the nation.

In its story, "What Makes Great Schools Great," the periodical examined the merits of Broughton, Katahdin High School in Sherman Station, Maine, Thomas Jefferson High School in Los Angeles, Bellaire Senior High School in Houston, and Glen Brook South High School in Glenview, Ill., a suburb of Chicago.

"Excellence used to come easily to Broughton," the weekly magazine reported in its Aug. 27 issue. "When the three-story high school opened in 1929, it quickly attracted the sons and daughters of the city's elite. For nearly 40 years, it was the high school to attend in the state capital."

The population of my alma mater is one-third black and three-fourths of its more than 17,000 graduates succeeded to a four-year college and university, the magazine said.

I was a member of the class of 1979 when the school was celebrating its 50th anniversary and received a wooden plaque taken from material discarded from the library which was being renovated.

Before I walked the halls of Broughton, I heard stories about racial violence occurring at the institution, which sits about a mile and a half from my West Raleigh home. During the civil rights movement in the 1960s, many of the first blacks to attend Broughton lived in my neighborhood.

These pioneers had a rough time at the school where past governors sent their offspring to be educated. Many would return home each day telling their parents and friends about how they were being harassed by their white counterparts.

"The white students would spit on me in the hallways," said a black woman, a 1966 graduate of the



Broughton, who asked not to be named. "The whites would call us niggers all the time and demand that we transfer to the black high school across town."

She was referring to old Washington High School and Ligon High School, both of which are located in predominantly black Southeast Raleigh.

After the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in April 1968, things grew more tense between the races at Broughton. There were many fights between blacks and whites, especially in the bathrooms and in the hallways.

When a federal court issued a citywide desegregation order in the early 1970s, poor blacks whose parents attended Washington and Ligon came in large numbers to Broughton.

It was a clash of cultures, a 1974 graduate said. "We were coming to school where we didn't know anybody. Some of the whites were friendly, but we could sense that many didn't like us. Anytime you get two different groups of people who don't know or trust each other, you are going to have a lot of

problems."

During this time, a white male student was struck in the head with a heavy object, thought to be the blunt side of an axe, by two black male students. They were convicted of assault and each given a 12-year prison sentence.

After the incident, police officers patrolled the halls and relations between blacks and whites reached a boiling point.

I saw one such racial confrontation when I was a 15-year-old sophomore. A black guy riding his bike home ran over the foot of white guy. A one-on-one fight erupted in the parking lot and white and black people gathered around to see the punching.

Then a black school bus driver who said he was friend of the cyclist stopped his bus in the middle of traffic as a platoon of black males left the vehicle to join the battle. The white fellow was outnumbered at least thirty-to-one and suffered a old-fashioned butt whumping.

Everyone at the school was shocked. The talk among the students centered around why the bus driver stopped his bus and why

other white students, especially the boys, did not come to the aid of the guy being attacked by the mob.

That would have probably started a riot, a friend said recently. Even though I didn't like the victim of the attack and thought him a bully, I knew in my heart that this was wrong.

However racial harmony was achieved on the football field and in the gymnasium. Despite the team records, most of the players, regardless of race, were friends.

I visited Broughton last winter after I returned from frigid Ohio. Race relations have much improved. As I walked the hallways and ate lunch in the cafeteria, I noticed many interracial couples, as well as ordinary friendships between blacks and whites.

Success in both academics and sports is important at Broughton now, not petty racial differences.

Indeed, time does heal all wounds.

John Hinton is a first-year graduate student in the School of Journalism.

## Letters?

If you've got an opinion you'd like to share with us, whether it be in regards to an issue you've seen discussed on the back page or one that you feel merits discussion, we'd like to hear from you. That's what this page intends to be: an open format for the discussion of issues that

touch our university, our state, our nation and our world. We also entertain criticism on stories you've read in the paper. Letters to the editor and editorial columns should be typed on sixty-character line and should be triple-spaced.

Deadline for letters and columns is 2 p.m. on the working day before publication, and contributions should be placed in the green box outside the offices of *The Daily Tar Heel* in the Carolina Union annex.



## STV: an exciting, evolving medium

By JOHN WILSON

In the fall of 1983, eight students borrowed a television camera from the Department of Radio, Television and Motion Pictures and in one weekend made student television a reality at the University of North Carolina. Their thirty-minute show sparked such enthusiasm that the Campus Governing Council placed on the spring '84 elections ballot a one time, one dollar per student fee increase referendum to fund the purchase of the students' own television production equipment. With the help of Duke University's "Cable 13," the largest student television station in the world, Village Cable, which offers cable channel 11 as the "University Access Channel," *The Daily Tar Heel*, *The Phoenix*, WXYC and hundreds of interested students, the referendum question passed by an overwhelming margin of 80 percent in favor to 20 percent opposed. On March 22, 1984, the 65th session of the CGC passed its final bill, voting 22 to 0 to appropriate the \$22,000 generated by the increase immediately because of the overwhelming student mandate. STV was born.

Anxiously awaiting the arrival of STV's professional-quality camera, recorder and editing system, 108 students played an active role in outlining the operation of the virgin organization, which then claimed the modest headquarters of the closet next to the Union Activities Board office. The general body agreed that the ultimate goal was to maximize student involvement in the production and viewing of University-related programming. A five-person executive board was then elected, consisting of directors of programming, production, development, public relations and publicity. The board was given charge over final approval of all programming and expenditures. Once the equipment arrived, and Student Body President Paul Parker assigned it a safe home in Suite D of the Union,

a two-step system for checking the equipment out was adopted. First, a proposal describing the idea and plans for its filming must be submitted to the Programming Director and approved by the executive board. The process may take all of twenty minutes. Second, a person who has been certified by the Production Director as technically competent with the camera (not necessarily the proposer of the idea) must accept full responsibility for the equipment.

With spring term exams only two weeks away, STV was set in motion. Determined students worked quickly and efficiently to produce segments on lacrosse, WXYC, Gary Hart's visit to Chapel Hill, the rape problem on campus, Springfest and other topics of interest. The hard work involved was rewarded not only by the valuable experience gained, but also by the applause of the impressive number of students who watched the shows during special "STV Happy Hours" on the large screens of several Franklin Street watering holes, and by the commendations of other Chapel Hill residents who have access to cable channel 11.

As STV is entering its first full year of operation, opportunities to get involved in production, acting, writing, editing, advertising and fundraising are countless. Fall programming outlines are already taking shape, including a magazine format show, a sports show, a variety show and a news show, all of which will be the products of several teams working together. At Duke University, where 350 students produce between 25 and 30 hours of original television programming a week, shows feature aerobics, panel discussions on student concerns, and even tips on dorm cooking. While STV's infancy and need for student support are certainly evident when its \$8,100 annual budget is compared to Duke's \$34,000 figure, contributions from alumni, foundations and local businesses are expanding the station daily.

STV is not for students familiar with



television production alone: Only one of the five executive board members had any experience in television before STV's inception. STV is rather another outlet for student creativity and an exciting chance for students to get involved in, and contribute to, life at the University. Every student should feel welcome to get hands-on experience with what is literally student-owned equipment. All shows will be well publicized around campus, and can be seen on Village Cable's channel 11 or at designated times on the large screens in the Carolina Union. STV's first general body meeting of the fall is today at 5 p.m. in room 218 of the Union. Students are encouraged to attend and to participate in the planning of what we with STV hope will become an asset to this university for years to come.

Those who have ideas for shows can find proposal forms outside the STV office.

The possibilities for STV programming in the year to come are endless. Last year no one would have dreamed of filming a Tarheel's basketball game for a weekly sports show or receiving an interview from the Talking Heads for a music show. This year, with students support, STV can add an exciting, not to mention entertaining, dimension to life at UNC.

John Wilson is a senior classics major from Edgemont, N.C., and programming director of Student Television.

### The Daily Tar Heel

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