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The Daily Tar Heel

92nd year of editorial freedom

Reading, writing and rhetoric

As the school year begins, the United States faces the enormous and exciting task of implementing hundreds of new policies aimed at reforming public education. The recent wave of rhetoric and policy-making has been called the most widespread attempt to improve American public education in its history.

All this talk of reform, besides producing hundreds of new laws ranging from higher teachers' salaries to longer school years, has had the crucial effect of concentrating interest on one of America's most pressing problems — mediocrity in education.

A recent report estimates that at least 240 state-level commissions and study groups have offered suggestions on how to improve schools. Almost all of these groups have come to the inescapable conclusion that educators should be paid more and that our school systems must set higher standards for both their teachers and students.

But often these groups become too bogged down with these obvious goals and miss out on the larger picture of overall reform of our public school

system. One of the best suggestions to come out of this heightened level of attention is the "open school" system.

This system would not only benefit "gifted" students (who become bored with their courses) by letting them work at a pace they find challenging, but it would also serve to inspire all students because of the increased feeling of independence. Students who might normally lag behind, knowing they will move on like everybody else at the end of the year, would feel more motivated if they saw that they had to master specific skills before they could keep up with their peers.

Of course, this plan would have to be coupled with other reforms such as higher teachers' salaries and tougher standards for new teachers, but it would undoubtedly have a positive impact on student motivation. The time is ripe for change and, given the current state of education, there is no time to waste. As Secretary of Education T.H. Bell said, "We face the biggest test of educational leadership, administrative competence and school diplomacy in our history."

Bullish on the Bulls

The Lynchburg Mets may have eliminated the Durham Bulls from the Carolina League championship series Thursday, but that didn't diminish the Bulls' stature in the eyes of many area baseball fans.

The Bulls, winners of three Southern Division titles in the last five years, have defied critics who said minor league baseball wouldn't work in the Triangle. When the Bulls moved to Durham Athletic Park a few years ago, the naysayers said the local populace was far too intellectual to get excited about the team. Try again.

The Bulls are thriving. One trend has been especially interesting — the "Bullization" of many Tar Heel fans. A growing number of folks from this intellectual bastion have been sneaking down U.S. 15-501 under the cover of darkness to spend their spring and summer evenings with the Bulls.

The Tar Heel faithful add nicely to what was already a diverse, if not bizarre, collection of Bulls supporters. There are tobacco workers, engineers, preppies, hippies, geeks, jocks, political science professors and philosophy grad students (oh, we already said hippies). Even UNC students and Dookies root in harmony. Perhaps Reagan and Chernenko could take a lesson from Durham's version of detente.

Why do the Bulls work in an area

dominated by big-time college athletics? Some people say it's just because beer is served openly at their ballpark. We're not so cynical as that.

Perhaps the Bulls succeed because they're not big time. You don't have to deplete your kid's trust fund or get up at 5 a.m. to get a ticket. Seats aren't hereditary. The bleachers (where most UNC students end up) aren't even numbered. Fans don't horde their position in the bleachers like some fiefdom; they'll make room for latecomers if you just ask nicely. Parking is ample and within a pleasant stroll of the park. Rich boosters have no need to buy or bribe their way into a space.

For uninitiated Tar Heels who'd like to see the Bulls when they open again in the spring, we do have to offer some warnings. Bulls fans cheer with gusto, whether their team is three runs up or eight runs behind. They don't sit on their hands when things go badly. We must advise the delicate of ear that umpires are cussed vigorously, whether they make bad calls or not. Durham does not have courtesy monitors running down the foul line, waving their arms daintily and saying, "Ooooooh, Ooooooh, don't boo!"

Despite such drawbacks, we recommend the Bulls to fun-minded Tar Heels. We hope you'll sneak there with us next year.

Editor's note

A comical perspective

Meet Bill, a regular kind of guy. He's an upperclassman. He lives in a dorm. And, like everybody else, he's got a host of humorous problems.

Beginning today, Bill will appear every Monday and Thursday in *The Man from Uncle*, a *DTH* comic strip created by freshman William Cokas. (For the first strip, see page 5.)

"Bill's designed around me," but Bill's personality is more exaggerated than that of his creator, says Cokas. "He's pretty much a normal guy."

In addition to drawing the strip, Cokas, who is from Rockville, Md., will freelance for the *DTH*. His most recent illustration is at the top right of this page.

It's important for a student newspaper to keep its student perspective, and there are few better ways than to run a comic strip by a Carolina student and about Carolina students. We hope you enjoy it.

Coming and going

After more than a year of setting to paper his wit, charm and wry humor for the back page, Associate Editor Frank Bruni moves to the slightly less-rigorous position of staff writer. Bruni, a junior whose interesting — to say the least — persona was experienced as much in the newsroom as on the back



page, has told friends he stepped down to "concentrate more on his social life."

Faithful *DTH* readers will be glad to know that Bruni is not severing all ties with the paper. He'll be lending his writing talents to the arts desk, where he first began work at the *DTH* his freshman year.

Replacing Bruni is long-time staff writer Mark Stinneford, 27, an ex-Navy man who certainly rivals Bruni for panache. Stinneford, a senior, wrote for our University desk his first three years here, and since last spring he has written for *The Chapel Hill Newspaper* and *United Press International*.

Other new additions to the editorial desk, run by Mike Toole, are writers Ben Perkowski, who edited the summer *Tar Heel*, and Michael Persinger, long-time utility man for the sports department.

Howard Cosell would be proud

These are only some of the many changes this fall at the *DTH*. In addition to other staff comings and goings, which will be aired in this space soon, by far the biggest change is our ongoing acclamation to the paper's new video display terminals.

The system, dubbed "Mr. Computer" by News Editor Stuart Tonkinson, keeps the staff on its toes. For instance, occasionally, like last night around 11:30, Mr. Computer decides to shut down. For the *DTH*, of course, it's a knock-out blow.

Well, we may have to take a standing eight-count every now and then, but sooner or later we'll get the best of Mr. Computer.

Jeff Hiday
Editor

Helms inspires unenthusiastic vote

By MATT MAGGIO

From the start of the Senate race, I was not thrilled with either Jim Hunt or Jesse Helms. As a conservative who believes in free enterprise and individual freedom, I found Jesse Helms objectionable in many ways. However, until this past summer I found my qualms with Helms to pale beside my reservations concerning the far more liberal Hunt, whose attitude on social programs, education, defense and taxes is antithetical to mine. So I planned to vote for Helms — solely because I thought he was the least objectionable candidate. But by his unique style, Jesse Helms has managed to do the nearly impossible — persuade me to vote for Hunt.

The "straw that broke the camel's back" was when our senator continued to associate himself with Roberto d'Aubuisson after reports that the latter's political party planned to assassinate the American ambassador to El Salvador. I do not believe Helms' claim that d'Aubuisson did not know of the plot; this assertion is contrary to both d'Aubuisson's personality and the organization of his ARENA party. After knowledge of this plot became public, Helms hosted d'Aubuisson on a visit to Washington — while practically nobody else wanted anything to do with the Salvadoran, who undoubtedly at least acquiesced in the planned killing of an American diplomat friendly to his county. While I think d'Aubuisson could do a better job against the communist revolutionaries than Duarte is, d'Aubuisson must first decide whether he wants to work with us or without us, and events like the killing of an American diplomat work against both the Salvadoran government and the U.S. government in the battle for popular support. American public opinion will likely determine the outcome in El Salvador, as it did in Vietnam.

But my problems with Helms go far beyond his relations with d'Aubuisson, which merely brought numerous other issues to a head. One of my worst concerns regarding Helms has been his deepening association with Jerry Falwell, a man whose ideas regarding the relationship between religion and government are essentially those found in Iran. The recent Republican convention showed evidence of a large and growing split between those conservatives whose philosophy is symbolized by Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., and those rightists who see Helms as their political leader and Falwell as their spiritual leader. Attempts by Falwell and Helms to enact an authoritarian theocracy in America are disgracing conservatives. The Republican Party is doing good neither for itself or America with its growing flirtation with fundamentalists who seek to inflict their beliefs on the nation.



One of my biggest problems with our senator is his total preoccupation with the New Rights "social issues," including abortion and school prayer. He exercises this obsession at a time when our nation has more immediate problems, such as reducing its deficit, reordering its economy and coordinating its foreign policy. Whether you favor school prayer or freedom of choice, you probably think that America has far more urgent problems — a fact not recognized by Helms.

Helms has long irked me with his willingness, even eagerness, to ally himself with anything that is right-wing or anti-communist. Something is wrong with a close chum of the South American "cocaine colonels" who poison our country. Something is wrong with a senator who sided with the Argentine dictatorship against the British in a war designed to distract Argentine citizens from how their government mismanaged the economy. Something is wrong with a senator who favors a Bolivian junta whose "enforcer" is an enthusiastic veteran of the Gestapo. Despite his

loudly-voiced concern for "traditional family values," Helms works with the Moonies because of Moon's opposition to communism. Helms also works with a variety of ultrarightists in a shadowy group called the "World Anti-Communist League" that seems to least borders on fascism.

I am also sick of endless appeals to bigotry by the Congressional Club and other Helms-linked groups. The worst of which was a fund-raising letter sent to grassroots Republicans (not even past donors) like my mother. The mailing asked in large type, "Will black voters lynch Reagan?" The letter carried the implication that Reagan would be voted out of office unless Republicans donated more money. This letter and more recent mailings that play upon racism have no place in American politics.

It took a lot to convince me to vote for a candidate I dislike — but Jesse Helms found a way.

Matt Maggio is a third-year law student from Burlington.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

For the truth, listen to the conservatives

To the editor:

After reading Brian Jones' column "Don't believe those conservatives" (*DTH*, Sept. 5), I didn't know whether to laugh or punch a hole in the wall. One thing I did know, however, was that my intelligence had been insulted.

Brian Jones' comments left many thorns in my side. The least of which were his opinions on the liberal press. It is written in our constitution that anyone, liberal or conservative, may put his opinions in print. I don't think that conservative thoughts are being published because the American people are ignorant enough to believe conservatives. They are published because Americans want to hear the truth once in awhile.

Jones claimed that Jimmy Carter's "outstanding" record on human rights was ignored by the press. I would like to bring out some of the highlights. One that comes to mind is the covert sale of arms to South Africa's apartheid regime. Another is the Taiwan Relations Act, which promised aid to a country whose human rights record, according to Amnesty International, is on a level with South Africa. Although Carter did make a lot of noise on human rights, it only served to strain relations with

the Third World. By losing contact with these nations, we not only gave the Soviet Union more strength but hurt our efforts to curb human rights. In fact, a government study found that there were more human rights abuses in 1980 than there were in 1976.

Reagan has striven to improve relations with the Third World and to reduce human rights abuses through diplomacy. I will not say Reagan has an outstanding record on human rights, but it is nothing to be ashamed of.

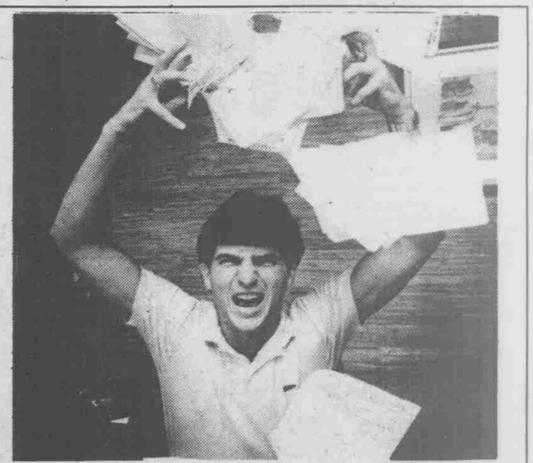
The second issue which upset me were the attacks on Reagan's budget policy. The deficit that we have now dates back to the 1960s, not 1980 as Jones seemed to imply. And if Jones is so worried about high taxes in the future, how can he attack the one man who has sworn not to raise taxes? The deficit has come mostly from mismanagement in the social programs, which must be cut. The role of the government is not to wage a war on poverty, but to provide services to those who are unable to work. Our social programs have led to an underground economy which is both wasteful and unproductive. There can be no real economic success until we are able to restore sense to our economy by reducing social programs.

Perhaps the most disturbing issue is Jones' military views. Jones justifies the high defense expenditures under Kennedy with the cold war and Cuban Missile Crisis. My I remind the American public that detente ended when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. Since then we have been in another cold war. I don't think that Jones should belittle the invasion of Grenada. It dismantled a Cuban (Soviet) airfield that could have been used to attack Venezuela, a country who has had border skirmishes with Cuban-supported rebels over the past few years. Reagan has built up our

defense so that these "rescue missions" don't fail (as some did in Iran and Cuba). I don't want war, and it has been shown that the best way to prevent war is with a strong defense. It was only our superior military position in 1963 that forced the Kremlin to back down in Cuba.

If Brian Jones represents the liberal point of view, then I must agree with James Watt when he said, "There are no such things as Republicans and Democrats, only liberals and Americans."

Robert J. Foster
Hinton James



Future president, hounded official or alien?

Multiple choice

To the editor:

Daily Tar Heel readers and wordaholics (people who will read the cereal box at breakfast if nothing else is available) may have noted that we are privileged to have daily front-page coverage of the opinions, quotes and oversized mug shots of our student body president. Granted that the views of the students' representative are important, Paul Parker has become such a universal feature in campus news items that I can only conclude:

1) Mr. P. has noticed that people with alliterative names have a good shot at the U.S. presidency and is already working on his name recognition factor. With his immense stock of informed opinions and old campaign posters, he'll surely do well, and we'll soon hear his name popping up on TV sets across the nation. U.I.

2) Paul is actually quite humble and reluctant to grant interviews, but *DTH* reporters have strict orders to collect every word he speaks for eventual inclusion in his biography.

3) A virulent alien life form (a la body snatchers) is consuming quotable individuals all over campus, creating clones that look, act and think exactly like Paul Parker.

Which explanation do you prefer?

N. Goodman
member of CGPPFP
(Committee to Get Paul Parker Off the Front Page)

Editor's note: Sorry, we're still trying to figure out if he found all those hardship parking applications he tossed into the air.

Terry Givens
Chapel Hill