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The Daily Tar Heel

92nd year of editorial freedom

Republicanism: Hiday's secret agenda

By DOUG BERGER

The fundamental question posed by the *DTH* in its editorial opposing the Campus Governing Council's adoption of contingency plans in the case of an invasion of Nicaragua ("Reign the lofty beast," Nov. 9) is whether it is appropriate for institutions, specifically the CGC, to address issues that are beyond the direct control of that institution. Was it right for Martin Luther King to use the church as a means to organize Americans around the issue of civil rights? Was it right for Jerry Falwell to use the church as a means to mobilize the citizens around the issue of abortion? Was it right for Catholic bishops to use the church as a means to speak out against production of nuclear weapons. Opponents of these actions have responded to these efforts by arguing that it was not the responsibility of these institutions to take up these issues.

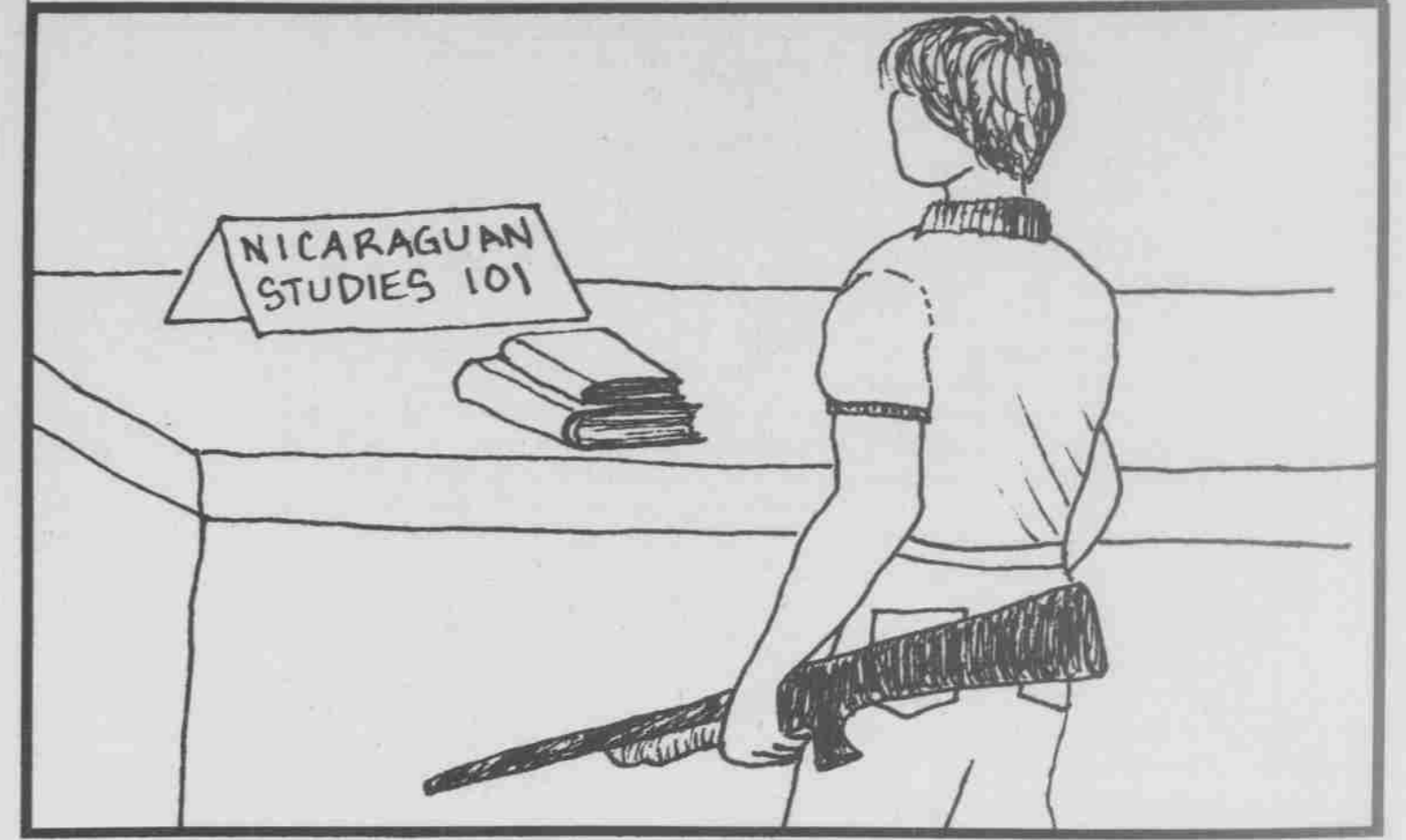
It wasn't until these institutions became politicized that issues of civil rights and the nuclear freeze became part of the American national consciousness. The CGC's endorsement of a contingency plan in case of an invasion of Nicaragua follows the same tradition as the actions taken by other institutions that ventured beyond a narrowly defined scope of responsibility.

Unfortunately, the *DTH* is not being intellectually honest with its readership. In the same traditions as those persons who opposed equal rights for blacks by hiding behind the state's rights argument, the *DTH* feebly attempts to hide behind an argument for a limited scope of government, when in reality a majority of *DTH* staff members support the militaristic policies of the Reagan administration.

The *DTH* attempts to distinguish itself from the CGC in its right to express views on issues like a Nicaraguan invasion by arguing that the *DTH* makes no claim to speak on behalf of the entire student body. (Every student must, however, finance those opinions through the collection of mandatory student fees.)

When I ran for the CGC, I publicly announced that if I was elected to the council, I would introduce legislation supporting contingency protest plans. I was elected on a platform that embraced a role for students on issues of national concern.

I am democratically accountable on the policies I advocated in my campaign. I was honest with my constituency from the start. However, when Jeff Hiday ran for editor he refused to answer direct questions about the editorial



Will Ronald Reagan and the 'DTH' sponsor internships to Nicaragua?

perspectives that he would articulate. He did not inform the campus that the majority of editors he would appoint would hold a Republican world view and that he would allow them to use the paper as a means to promote that world view in its news coverage of the electoral campaigns. Hiday's endorsement of Mondale will not let him off the hook from criticism of his leadership of the *DTH*. The progressive agenda stood more to gain from an editor who would have shouldered the responsibility of making sure that the campaign coverage was as even-handed as possible. Hiday had a moral responsibility to prevent State and National Editor Wayne Thompson from using his position to promote right-wing policies in editorials printed under the guise of news stories about the Edmisten-Martin gubernatorial race and the Andrews-Cobey congressional race. The fundamental difference between Hiday's right to express views on Nicaragua and my right as a legislator to set forth policy on Nicaragua is that Hiday kept his agenda hidden while I was open about my views on the role of student institutions.

Student Government has historically been and continues to be for the majority. It is a self-serving institution that acts as a vehicle by which students pad their resumes. The student body knows this, and it accounts for a voter turnout of less than

25 percent in campus elections. The progressives on the CGC have sought to transform Student Government into an institution that promotes a role for students to play in society at large. This transformation began with the last spring's commemoration of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. The event was the largest multi-racial rally since 1980, and it honored King by speaking out against the Ku Klux Klan and the South African policy of apartheid. The efforts continued with our voter registration project and our reinvestment of student monies into a credit union that provides financial resources for the development of businesses in North Carolina. Likewise, the contingency plans that the CGC has adopted are part of the move toward a comprehensive agenda that embraces a role for students to play as agents of social change. The plans adopted by the CGC speak to the very special role that students have played on foreign policy issues. Students were the catalyst in getting the country out of Vietnam. Through responsive, courageous student leadership, we hope to prevent the Reagan administration from going to war in Nicaragua.

Doug Berger, a graduate student from Smithfield, is the CGC representative from District 1 and a member of Students Effectively Establishing a Democratic System.

For Agriculture chair, Helms

Many North Carolinians casting a reluctant vote for Jesse Helms last week may have made their choice a bit more palatable by reflecting upon the bromide: "Jesse is a man of principle; you can count on him to stick to his word." Both detractors and supporters of Helms are hoping he'll live up to his reputation when it comes time to choose which Senate committee he'll head when the new session of Congress opens in January.

Helms campaigned on a pledge to keep the chairmanship of the Senate Agriculture Committee, claiming that his keeping the post was essential to prevent the elimination of the federal tobacco program. But Helms is now being tempted by the chairmanship of the Foreign Relations Committee, a position vacated by the defeat of moderate Republican Charles Percy of Illinois. As next ranking member of the committee, Helms could have the post for the asking. In fact, right-wing groups poured money into the Illinois Senate race in hopes that Percy would lose and that Helms would become head of the Foreign Relations Committee. The radical right is openly urging Helms to become chairman. Richard A. Viguerie, editor of *Conservative Digest*, said:

"America will be safer and stronger with him as chairman (of the Foreign Relations Committee)."

But Helms, at best, would be an impediment to U.S. foreign policy; at worst, he could derail U.S. efforts overseas. Helms is well out of tune with the mainstream of his own party — he

even makes President Reagan look like a peacenik. Helms opposes all forms of foreign aid, sees arms control negotiations with the Soviets as a sign of weakness and advocates propping up Latin American dictators (as long as they're anti-communist). He sided with Argentina over Britain in the Falklands War, delayed numerous diplomatic appointments by the Reagan administration, and opposed the Panama Canal Treaty as well as the normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China. His extreme positions would threaten the broad bipartisan support needed for a successful foreign policy.

There is little Helms could do for the state as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, but there is much he could do to ensure the state's well being by remaining as chairman of the Agriculture Committee. One of Helms' greatest achievements has been maintaining the tobacco program while other agricultural support programs have been pared or eliminated altogether. While Helms did vote for the doubling of the federal cigarette tax, he was also instrumental in the passage of a provision that will roll the tax back to its original level next year. Helms would be in poor position to grant such favors to the state if he gave up his Agriculture Committee post.

By turning down chairmanship of the Foreign Relations Committee, Helms could ease doubts that he is less interested in North Carolina than his right-wing agenda and a possible bid for higher office. This is one case where we hope "Senator No" says no.

Trees

(With apologies to Joyce Kilmer . . . and anyone else who appreciates good poetry.)

We think that we shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

And we regret the tragedy
of two beeches at UNC;

For 80 years we watched them grow
But now their time has come to go;

On these trees students left their mark
Initials carved into the bark;

But now the Arboretum's said
That our old friends, the trees, are dead.

Still, there's no reason to despair —
There's still a third beech thriving there;

So our children will live to see
A part of Tar Heel history.

Age catches up with the best of things. This time it's claimed one of the lesser-known but most personal University landmarks — the Arboretum beeches.

Chances are those weathered woodworks bear the initials of someone you know. . . possibly your parents. Even the most hardened cynic can see the sentiments inherent with each cut of the knife. For many an alumnus, thoughts of the beech trees evoke priceless memories.

But the beeches are dying. And Arboretum supervisor Curtis Brooks concluded that their time had come.

Do these trees have historic value? That depends on whether you're a sentimentalist or not. Brooks admitted that most legible initials are probably no more than a decade old.

Call this a sappy edit if you like, but even we hardnosers at the *DTH* get a little soft every once in a while. We'll miss you, old friends.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leave politics to real governments, CGC!

To the editor:
I am writing this letter to discuss the Campus Governing Council's actions regarding U.S. policy toward Nicaragua. This letter is not so much to indicate a personal opinion on the issue as to indicate my objections to the way the issue has been handled.

From the start, it should be pointed out that opposition to the bill cannot be equated to approval of an invasion of Nicaragua or any other country. It is simply disapproval of the bill itself.

There is also the question of whether to pass legislation about

issues not directly relating to UNC. As one person who lives in the CGC's 11th District (Olde Campus) said: "I voted for Tim Newman and Reggie Holley to be my reps to the CGC not to be my senator or congressman." He went on to say that he didn't think Holley and Newman's votes were representative of the views of the district.

During last year's election, I don't remember hearing anyone stating their personal political beliefs. But I guess the candidates will be espousing their beliefs in this year's elections now that the CGC has taken upon itself to rule on the

world issues it finds relevant and convenient to address. I think the CGC should do itself a favor and leave real politics to real governments. This is not to say the CGC does not provide a useful service. On the contrary, its main functions are updating the laws it governs by and allocating funds to campus organizations.

One may object by bringing up the CGC's actions to encourage divestment of UNC funds invested in companies operating in South Africa, but the issue there was the use of University money. If there were any UNC involvement in the

preparation of an invasion, such as a military draft or the use of the campus as a staging ground, that would change the issue entirely. But this is not the case at all. Since the representatives were not elected on their beliefs concerning American foreign policy and since this is an important issue to many students, why not hold a referendum and give the students a chance to voice their opinions since the CGC claims to be speaking for students?

Mark Edward Gilgor
Chapel Hill



CGC reps show guts

To the editor:
I would like to congratulate the Campus Governing Council for having the guts to take a positive stand with regards to a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua. Testimony before Congress has indicated that the Reagan administration has "deliberately exaggerated" the Sandinistas' capabilities in order to "justify covert operations aimed at overthrowing" the Nicaraguan government.

And as other military experts in *The Defense Monitor* have concluded: "The United States is threatening Nicaragua and promoting military solutions to the region's problems in preference to diplomatic initiatives and negotiated political settlements. Increased U.S. military aid and activities will not lead to an end to the conflicts in the region, but will raise the level of violence, make political settlements more unlikely, and risk turning national conflicts into regional wars. . . ."

If the United States does indeed go to war, it will be students, age 18-24, who may well be drafted into service to fight against a government that is supported by a larger percentage of its people than our own administration.

By taking the stand that they have, the CGC representatives have demonstrated their concern for the lives of their constituents.

I applaud the CGC for its courage in taking this historic step toward peace — the first university student body in our nation to do so! It was the students of America who helped to end the senseless war in Vietnam; it may be the student population who help to prevent the next war.

Brian Richmond
Chapel Hill

Hello, Mom?

To the editor:
Regarding the article, "A warm, greasy path to destruction," which appeared in the *DTH* on Nov. 12: If I wanted to know the hazards of ordering and eating a pizza, I would call my mom.

Jamie Smith
Ehringhaus

The Daily Tar Heel

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Distribution/circulation: William Austin, manager; Lori Crow, assistant.

Production: Brenda Moore and Stacy Wynn, Rita Galloway, assistant.

Printing: Hinton Press, Inc. of Mebane

Not a banner day for nasty official

To the editor:
Last Saturday during the Homecoming game, the cheerleaders sponsored a banner contest in which I chose to participate. I went early to the game, hung my banner, and made sure the banner would be lifted before the game as to not obstruct anyone's view. Returning at halftime, I found that my banner had been cut down. Those watching my banner explained that some man had torn it down saying banners were not allowed. The banner had been stuffed underneath the seats. Knowing there was a banner contest and not really knowing why my banner had been cut down, I hung my banner for halftime. Suddenly, a Carolina official ripped the banner from my hands and refused to

return it. After some argument with this man and two policemen, I found my banner was removed for two reasons. First, banners are not allowed because they block the view of those below. Second, my banner was thought to be objectionable.

Certainly, his first argument fails. The banner was never down during the game. Also, other banners were allowed to hang throughout the second half.

His second reason for removing my banner may be a little more valid. My banner showed a Tar Heel holding a Budweiser bottle. It said, "1984 Tarheels. For All You Do This BUDS For You." Although I see nothing wrong with this (no more than other banners allowed in

the past), I have heard I should not be sponsoring a beer. Even if this is true, he still had no right to remove the banner beside mine.

Let me say that this official was rude, uncaring, and totally irresponsible to myself as well as other students. When I asked if I could just have my banner back, he replied that it was going in the trash. He never did return my banner.

I hope this man realizes he stole my personal property. In the future, I think this official should be more aware and refrain to student activities and refrain from his rash tactics.

Paul Billow
207 W. Cameron

'DTH', Hinton owe Allen apology

To the editor:
In the Nov. 8 article, "BSM member calls Allen 'traitor,'" *The Daily Tar Heel* provided a forum for John Hinton to wage a character assassination against Claude Allen, press secretary for Sen. Jesse Helms. Allen was supposed to address the Black Student Movement on Nov. 7, but he never showed up. Hinton's explanation for Allen's absence was: "He's scared. He's a traitor pure and

simple." The article goes on to say that BSM members learned from calls to Allen's office and residence that he had taken the day off, "supposedly" to attend the meeting. Apparently, the *DTH* felt no duty to investigate the matter further.

The true explanation for Allen's absence was that his grandmother died Nov. 7. I happened to be in the Helms for Senate office when Claude received the news late that

afternoon.

Although it is no big surprise that truth is not a high priority of the *DTH*, I think the newspaper owes Allen an apology for shoddy journalism and Hinton owes Claude an apology for waging a character assassination against him simply because he disagrees with Allen's political convictions.

Jane Foy
Tar Heel Manor