

The Tar Heel

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Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Group to monitor campus liberalism

Washington (CPS) — This fall armies of senior citizens equipped with notepads and evaluation forms will invade college classrooms across the country in search of "liberal" professors who feed students "disinformation."

That, at least, is the scene Reed Irvine, president and founder of the conservative watchdog group Accuracy in Media, would like to see evolve from his newly-organized Accuracy in Academia, scheduled to begin operations this September.

Concerned about what he calls the "liberal" slant of many college instructors, Irvine plans to enlist senior citizens and other volunteers

to monitor college courses.

"The idea is to see whether kids on college campuses are being fed disinformation or misinformation," Irvine said in a recent Washington interview.

Once inaccuracies are uncovered, Irvine says the group will "expose what is going on, and by exposing it, hopefully persuade those responsible for it to do something about it."

"It's really a pity for people to take advantage of innocent kids who don't know anything, and feed them a bunch of garbage," he adds. "Obviously, not all the kids are able to fight back."

But such a monitoring of instructors' course contents "is best left to colleagues and peers for academic criticism," says John Bennett, director of faculty and self-regulation programs for the American Council on Education.

"Fellow instructors are in the best position to say whether the pedagogy involved is appropriate with regard to balance and accuracy," he says, "not outsiders looking at everything from a conservative perspective."

"If all they wanted to do was sit in and monitor instructors' courses, I'd say fine," remarks Jordan Kurland, associate general secretary for the American Association of Univer-

sity Professors and director of the union's academic freedom division.

"But how they ferret out the information and how they attempt to censor the information remains to be seen, and holds all sorts of potential problems," he says.

Indeed, applying public and political pressure against professors who don't agree with Irvine's world view "certainly holds the potential for something like the blacklisting in the 1950s happening all over again," says the ACE's Bennett.

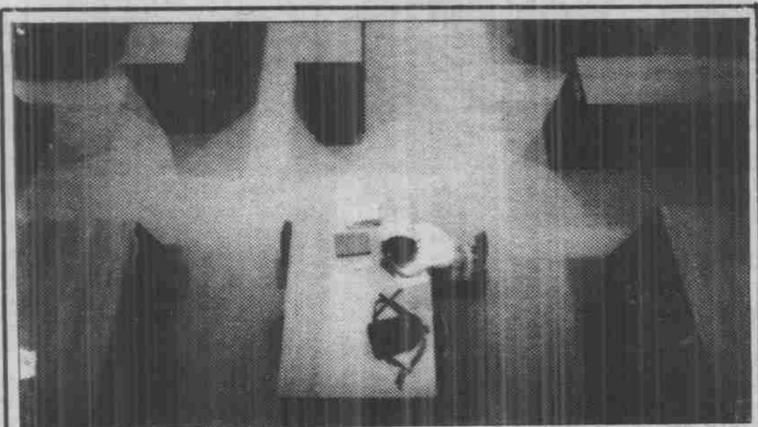
Irvine, however, says his group is not interested in stifling academic freedom or in censoring what professors say in their classrooms.

But "if somebody says something that is wrong," he adds, "people ought to be free to criticize it."

"It's one thing to have a diverse group of people in a classroom engaging in stimulating discussions and debates," says Bennett. "But to go into a professor's classroom with the intention of reporting to politicians and administrators is the wrong motivation."

AIA should be operational "some-time this fall," says a representative in AIM's Washington headquarters, adding that the new watchdog group was formed "because so many people

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Tar Heel/Jonathan Serenius

The shadows of Davis Library fall on many students hard at work now that exams are less than two weeks away.

Tax changes affect colleges

(CPS) — American colleges and universities could lose as much as \$900 million in donations next year if President Reagan's tax reform package becomes law.

Colleges, which are relying increasingly on gifts and contributions to make ends meet, consequently could have to cut the number of courses they offer, their services to students and faculty members, and even financial aid to students, various observers say.

If Congress does approve the tax reform package as it stands now, alumni would have fewer reasons for donating money or services to colleges and to the foundations that give

to colleges, says Dr. Charles Clotfelter, a Duke Economics professor who has studied the package's impact on higher education.

If Clotfelter is correct, the tax reform package would cost American colleges from \$800 million to \$900 million in donations this year.

Corporations alone gave \$1.29 billion in grants and equipment to colleges in 1983, the most recent year for which the Council for Financial Aid to Education has complete numbers.

The tax reform package, while eliminating many of the tax reasons corporations would give money to colleges, does preserve tax breaks for

companies that donate equipment to non-profit institutions.

Although the bill's future is still uncertain, some schools report it's already affecting fundraising this summer.

"Some people who are concerned about changes in tax laws are speeding up their contributions, to take maximum advantage of the tax breaks before the laws change," says Bruce Newman of the Rutgers University Foundation. "But others are delaying their plans, saying 'I'm going to wait and see how it falls.'"

"We haven't seen any drop in

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Shareware to change UNC word processing

By Kevin Meredith
Staff Writer

Shareware, a new marketing philosophy in computer software, and sixty new computers on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus will make writing the proverbial college paper easier and less expensive than ever for students this fall.

Until last semester, Microsoft Word was the program used exclusively by students to write papers and have them printed by University computers.

The Microsoft Word program, encoded on a diskette smaller than a legal size envelope, costs \$227. Copying the program onto another

diskette is a violation of copyright law, so the program's use was limited for students.

The program could be used only on the 15 or so personal computers in House Undergraduate Library, and was checked out to students, who parted with their student IDs until the diskette was returned.

PC-Write, a new word processing program, will be far more accessible through a method called Shareware, which is based on the idea good software should not cost a lot of money to use.

What this means for UNC-CH is that one diskette containing the PC-Write program has been bought by

the University for \$10, as opposed to the several thousand dollars that must be spent to buy a dozen or so diskettes with the Microsoft Word program.

The University has also paid \$75 for a printed user's manual, telephone support for questions and a quarterly newsletter to keep the University and student users up to date on improvements for the program.

The program, written by Bob Wallace of Quicksoft, can be copied by anyone without infringing on copyright laws. In other words, students may check out the PC-Write diskette or borrow a copy from someone else, and legally copy the

program onto a blank diskette (available for \$2.00 at the Ram Shop, located in the Students Stores' Daniels Building across from the pit.)

Thus, students may compose papers (or anything else, for that matter) on any computer with a compatible disk drive. After the paper has been proofread and edited, it can be printed on standard composition paper.

In addition to the disk-drive computers in House Library, a cluster of 60 computers will be installed on the third floor of Venable Hall.

John Harrison, associate provost,

said service will begin Oct. 1 in Venable, and the computers and printers will be available seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. or so. Two computers each in eight dorms across campus will also be available, he said.

Sherry Graham, of the Resource Center for Instructional Computing, said the new program and the Shareware approach will "cut down on the traffic jam" of students waiting to check out the Microsoft Word diskette in the computer lab.

"We'd rather lab assistants had

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Editor's Note

Following complaints from the University administration last week I decided to include a letter in every copy of The Tar Heel that was mailed to incoming students clarifying the article on the presence of rats in the loading area serving Lenoir Hall, the Carolina Union, and Davis Library. We now reprint the text of the letter for the benefit of readers who did not receive it:

In reference to the story on page fifteen of today's paper "Rats infest Lenoir basement after recent storms" and the reference to that story in the "In This Issue" box on page one ("ARA Rats: Infestation follows recent storms"), I feel that some clarification is necessary.

The Tar Heel retracts the use of the words "ARA Rats," "Infestation," and "infest." We did not intend to imply that the rodents were the direct responsibility of ARA and in addition it

should be noted that ARA has a grade A sanitation rating.

In addition, the wrong version of the story was printed. The first paragraph should have read:

A Big Mac-size dead rat was found in the loading dock area serving Lenoir Hall, the Carolina Union, and Davis Library, and there had been other cases of infestation. But there is no chance that the rodents could get into Lenoir Hall, according to Tony Hardee, Director of ARA Food Services.

The Tar Heel stands by the remainder of the story which I believe to be fair, balanced, and accurate. We regret any inconvenience or embarrassment caused by the story.

— Jim Greenhill

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