

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

Cutting corners no shortcut

Building brick pathways to cover the shortcuts students have trampled into campus lawns is not only an annual waste of \$100,000, but it is gradually transforming Carolina's campus into a N.C. State Brickyard.

The Physical Plant maintenance crew laid the original brick pathways with consideration for the natural flow of traffic from building to building. These paths gave all students equal access to every sector of the campus.

From the first day the bricks were laid, the school has granted the students a great privilege. The primary reason for the campus' design was for students to use, not for the administration to display. No "Keep off the Grass" signs were erected. No administrators or faculty reprimanded the students for playing touch football games on lawns in front of academic buildings. Indeed, this vibrant spirit is a cornerstone of the University's foundation.

However, over the past 30 years (and increasingly so in the past five), students have exploited this privilege. And unless students stop cutting corners, the campus lawns will someday be brickyards.

Either by ignorance, impatience or apathy, students continue to trod

shortcuts between the brick walkways. Students no longer walk to class — they trailblaze their way. In fact, this has become such a popular way to travel that these blazers soon gain followers. These paths are pounded day after day until the students' final goal is completed — a permanent dirt path in the most convenient direction.

The construction across from Hector's, where an old highway of sorts was covered with bricks, is just one example of the problem that these trailblazers cause. It is absurd that some find it necessary to travel tangential to the 50 miles of brick paths already on this campus. If the Physical Plant workers must continue to brick the trails because of lazy walkers, the only natural surroundings that will soon remain on campus will be a few traffic islands of trees and shrubberies.

Pride in campus beauty needs to be reevaluated. The campus is for the students to enjoy — physically and visually. The maintenance crew will continue patching up the grounds that students destroy, without warning. But when Carolina's campus looks like the urban N.C. State campus, only the brick masons will have no regrets.

Support V-8s, not oil barons

FLASH: Oil prices are now the lowest they have been since the mid-1970s. But to those of you who thought this had to be good news — sorry. Even though Americans have been relishing the drop in gas prices, the economy may dry up in the coming decade.

Most consumers viewed with glee the longer lines and cheaper gallons at the gas pumps. To the average motorist, cheap gas means more delightful excursions to the beach and to Grandmother's house. To make matters better, inflation and interest rates have fallen and the stock market has been soaring for weeks. Indeed, this so-called oil glut has been a soothing balm to the American economy — so far.

But the federal government is beginning to cap this gusher of good news, saying the U.S. economy will suffer in the 1990s. Vice President George Bush is leaving for the Middle East today to try to persuade the leading members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to restrict productivity. Granted that consumption remains stable, this will decrease the world's oil supply, and, as any economically astute person knows, bring an increase in oil prices.

But why would consumers want the Arabs to raise oil prices?

The answer from federal officials is that U.S. interests are not served by

extremely low oil prices. Yeah, right. The more immediate danger is to the interests of U.S. oil companies. It seems oil companies aren't making enough money to continue drilling.

So, the United States is now in the business of rescuing floundering oil companies — are these the same guys who are always buying each other out, the same ones who could afford to retire the national debt? No, didn't think so.

Because OPEC raised its productivity last fall, it is directly responsible for the falling prices. And because this lowers their profits, one begins to wonder just what those Arabs have in mind. Many senators, including Idaho Sen. James McClure, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, have said they fear the Saudis are lowering their prices now only to raise them later.

If this is true, why is the United States encouraging them to manage their businesses well? Why are we helping them make money? In the 1970s, the price of a barrel of oil increased by 400 percent. It just doesn't make sense for these United States of America, home of the Cadillac and other gas-guzzling V-8s, to fight for higher gas prices.

Let OPEC suffer for its avarice, and let the oil companies feed off themselves for a change.

Any which way you lose

Scene: A dimly-lit, smoke-filled back room of the seediest bar in Carmel. A jukebox in the bar is stuck; it keeps blaring the same song, "Play Misty for Me," over and over again. The walls used to be pink, but they've been so spattered by beer, grease and body fluids, you can barely read the faded movie posters on the wall. A light rain is breaking outside.

Characters: one woman and three men, gathered around a poker table. The men, old and fat, are sweating heavily, puffing nervously on cigarettes. The woman, however, mayor of the city, is utterly cool and collected, looking with disdain at her "boys."

"Well, boys, what are you going to do about him?" the dame says, as devoid of emotion as the stuffed orangutang hanging above her.

"It's clear we have a problem. This is my town, or it was until HE came in. For years, we've been fixing elections to go my way — the way that's best for this city."

"Nobody denied it. Everybody knew who HE was. HE was Dirty Harry."

"Let's review our situation," she continued. "We held a press conference so I could explain how all those fake names got registered to vote. Some Joe started asking too many questions. So you, Bobby, tried putting the muscle on him."

"It would have worked, too," "Prince" Louie nervously sputtered. "I warned the Joe that his kid could get awful sick real quick if he didn't go back home to her, where he belonged. He was just about to give up, too, when Harry came out of nowhere and told

The Bottom Line

me to just shut my face. Nobody's ever talked back to the 'Prince' before."

"HE doesn't play by our rules," Her Majesty said. "We've got to shake him, somehow, that's the bottom line."

"Maybe if we told HIM we'd get the studio to jack up the syndication rates for 'Rawhide'..." Louie's voice halted with the sudden impact of a match being lit.

"Just try it, Louie," Dirty Harry said. "Just try it." Next to him stood — no, not Sonya Locke — a meek, frightened man holding a polling booth. The "boys" scattered.

"See this, Ms. Mayor?" Harry asked, pointing to the man. "It's a voter, with a voting machine. And it's got the power to blow you away, like you never knew what hit you. The way I see it, there are two things you can do. One, you can admit your government is fraudulent, pull out of the race and leave town on the next train. Or, two, you can try to make a break for it, hoping that you get your paid-off police buddies before this guy casts his vote, legally knocking you out of office. What's it gonna be?"

The lady of ice started melting under the hot glare of Harry's eyes. She ran for the door. Harry's eyes squinted. Nothing could be read in his face — no joy, no remorse, no human feelings. He turned to the loyal citizen. "Go ahead," he said. "Make my day."

—S.T.

Tar Heel Forum

Committees committed to students

Are you frustrated with the irritations of University life — lack of parking, high textbook prices or a shortage of financial aid? Do you often wish there were some means whereby you could express your opinion and know it will be heard? If so, apply to be a student representative on the committees listed below for the 1986-87 school year. Consisting of students and faculty members, these committees meet to discuss specific University problems and formulate policy recommendations. All students are eligible to apply for positions on the committees. Undergraduates willing to serve on the committees, including student members of the 1985-86 committees, must complete the applications, available in Suite C of the Student Union, by April 10. Graduate students must apply through the Graduate and Professional Student Federation.

Listed below are the committees, the number of students appointed to each and a brief description of their individual functions.

Chancellor's Committees

Buildings and Grounds — two undergraduates and one graduate; involves the development, improvement or replacement of new and existing physical facilities on campus.

Calendar — two undergraduates and one graduate; studies the current academic calendar and makes recommendations for alterations.

Established Lectures — two undergraduates and one graduate; makes arrangements for University lectures.

Marta Ackers

Guest Writer

Scholarships, Awards and Student Aid — three undergraduates and two graduates; helps set policy in these areas.

Traffic and Parking Appeals — two undergraduates and one graduate; hears appeals from decisions made by director of security services.

Student Awards — three undergraduates; oversees the chancellor's student awards ceremony, which is held annually.

Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance's Committees

Energy Conservation — one undergraduate and one graduate; assists in the development, coordination and implementation of energy conservation programs for the University.

Food Services Advisory — five undergraduates and two graduates; provides advice to the vice-chancellor and the director of the campus food service on the policies and procedures established by the University administration and food service management.

Student Stores Advisory — three undergraduates and two graduates; provides advice to the vice-chancellor and the Student Stores management on policies and procedures established by Student Stores management.

Traffic and Parking — four undergraduates and one graduate; advises the vice-chancellor and the director of security services on the policies and procedures established by security services concerning traffic and parking.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs' Committees

Student Health Services Advisory — three undergraduates and two graduates; reviews existing health programs and policies, identifies and makes recommendations for solving health service concerns.

Additional Executive Appointments to Committees

General Education — one undergraduate; reviews course proposals and discusses educational undergraduate issues.

Audit — five undergraduates; oversees the operations and policies of the Student Activities Fund Office.

Student Educational Broadcasting — two undergraduates; oversees the operations of WXYC in accordance with Federal Communications Commission standards.

Apply today and increase student impact on campus issues.

Marta Ackers, a junior Latin American studies major from Shaker Heights, Ohio, is the chancellor's committee coordinator for Student Government.

'Winter' talk

To the editor:

The concept of nuclear winter presents an exceedingly bleak view of what the world would be like after nuclear war — even a very limited one. In view of the fact that we have based our national security in great part on nuclear weapons, it is important that everyone be aware of the likely consequences of their use. This topic will be discussed at a very important conference to be held in 104 Howell Hall from 2 to 4 p.m. today.

The conference is co-sponsored by UNC's School of Journalism and a national organization, the Scientists' Institute for Public Information. The program includes some of the best-informed authorities on this most timely of all subjects. If you have an interest in your own welfare and future, your attendance at this conference is of utmost importance.

Charles Jenner
 Professor
 Biology

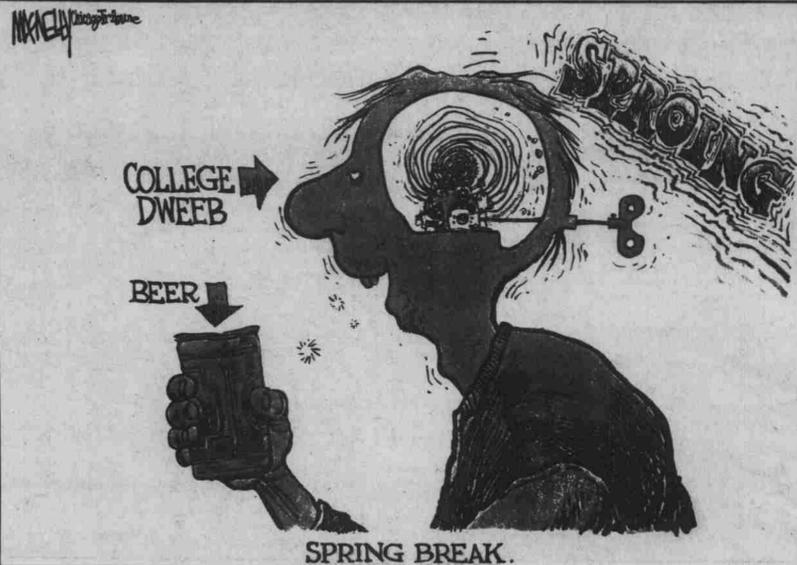
Petty protest

To the editor:

Recently, I have observed students protesting the University's South African investments by building shanties outside South Building. This has disturbed me due to the fact that these protesters are claiming to "live" as the blacks live in South Africa. This is quite ridiculous, because there are many items in these "houses" that would be non-existent in a typical black South African house, which these shanties represent. I went by the shacks Tuesday night and observed that they were covered with plastic so that the protesters would not get wet due to the rain. I also heard Jamaican music coming from an American radio-cassette player with batteries. In addition to this, I did not observe any evidence of any human waste in the area, so I must assume that these protesters have the use of modern toilet facilities.

I say all this to make one point: If these people want to protest, the least they could do is protest correctly. If they do not like the policy of this university toward South Africa, then there are surely other public institutions of education that would be willing to accommodate both the protesters and their views on the subject without making any major changes. If they feel so strongly that what the University is doing is so wrong, why do they attend this institution in the first place? Most students at this university have pride in this school due to its heritage and standard of academics. These people must have no pride in their school, otherwise they would find a way of protesting that would not bring embarrassment to their school and would not disturb the atmosphere that is an integral part of this fine university.

In addition to these complaints, I must say that the situation in South Africa is not as bad as the protesters would claim. They make themselves out to be experts on South Africa, so I will ask if they have ever been there, and/or do they have friends there? If not, why are they telling us what it is like to live there? I have several friends from South Africa — from both inside and outside the government — and I received the same information from both. They say that the situation in South Africa is improving and that the current slow transition of power from white domination to intergrated



SPRING BREAK.

Letters to the Editor

Another 'nam

To the editor:

Reagan's policies regarding Central America are cruising a perilous course. Although any American president should, as a top foreign policy priority, promote programs to suppress the spread or threat of communism, I disagree with Reagan's means of achieving this fundamental and very important goal in Central America.

Reagan wants Congress to approve his \$100-million Contra aid program, which, if approved, would almost certainly lead to the further disbursement of millions of dollars in taxpayers' money to a cause that, under Reagan's policies, would inevitably mean that U.S. troops would be sent to Central America. (Incidentally, the Contras have already spent or misused \$70 million in U.S. aid since 1981.)

I advocate that the money be used to assist the struggling class in America — such as the small farmers and the economically deprived blacks — all of whom are neglected by the conservative administration in Washington. So, in my judgment and that of the Democratic leadership in the House and Senate, peace through effective negotiations would lead to a settlement of the existing problems involving the Sandinistas and Contras. This is also what Sen. Ted Kennedy advocates.

Nonetheless, Reagan's plan would lead to a dead end and thus exacerbate tensions in other Central American countries. In regard to negotiations, Latin American countries such as Venezuela and Mexico favor this method for solving the dispute. Military air-strips are being built in Honduras by the United States to supply groups in their efforts to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.

Are you willing to risk your life in Central America when intensive military confrontation is unnecessary? On March 24, Reagan charged that Sandinistas were pushing into Honduras. He was glad to hear this report confirmed; it gave him hope for more support for his Contra aid program. This proves that Reagan is trigger-happy. Meanwhile, Reagan's request for increasing the number of U.S. advisers and U.S. involvement in combat is threatening

to lead to another Vietnam.

I don't understand how the Contras could actually overthrow the Sandinistas when hundreds of Sandinistas are disguised as Contras and the Sandinistas far surpass the Contras in guerrilla warfare experience. Interestingly enough, however, many of the Contra forces have been directly linked to the Somoza regime. Reagan certainly doesn't deserve the requested \$100 million for the Contras.

The CIA may make the mistake of overthrowing a legitimate government and replace it with a dictatorship, as it did in Guatemala in 1954. Former President Jimmy Carter believed the Sandinistas were legitimate, while the Contras have a very bad record regarding civil rights.

John F. Kennedy, the greatest of the American presidents, once said, "We should never negotiate out of fear, but never let us fear to negotiate." The Sandinistas want to negotiate, but Reagan broke off negotiations with them. I advocate that Americans should take a neutral and mediating position to encourage needed negotiations. Now, isn't this better than going to Vietnam — pardon me, Central America — just to be shipped back in plastic bags? This would severely damage America's prestige.

Keith Cooper
 Sophomore
 International Studies

Letters policy

Wanna tell the world your side of the story, how it really happened? Write us — we'll listen. The following is The Daily Tar Heel's policy for "Letters to the Editor":

- Each person whose name appears must include a phone number, year in school and major.
- We maintain a limit of two signatures per letter. If the writers hold positions in an organization relevant to the letter, they should include those positions in addition to the information above.
- Letters must be typed, double-spaced, on a 60-space line (set your margins on 12 and 72). Please turn in letters by noon the day before publication date.