

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

Ol' South rises — or falls

Remember Walter Mondale after several months of hard campaigning in 1984? Bags under his eyes, a less vibrant stride and an even more listless style of speaking than he usually offered. Presidential campaigning will never be known for treating a candidate's body well.

But the movement to create a Southern mega-primary won't do anything to remedy that. In fact, there are several reasons why this venture should be entered with great caution, if at all.

Nine Southern states are currently scheduled to hold their 1988 Democratic and Republican primaries on March 8 — only two weeks after the New Hampshire primary. Three more Southern states, including North Carolina, are considering the date (the decision on whether to move N.C.'s primary will be made by the General Assembly in June). Supporters want to give the region a major impact on the outcome of the election.

A Southern Super Tuesday would indeed have a tremendous role in the election — one-third of the delegates needed for nomination would be chosen. The momentum gained on this one day could be insurmountable.

But is that such a good thing? Thad Beyle, UNC professor of political science and an expert on comparative state politics, said he envisions an interesting but unsettling possibility. A relatively unknown candidate could focus a campaign on the early primary states, like Iowa or New Hampshire, score a surprise showing and sweep into the Southern spree of primaries with a tremendous advantage. Instead of

shifting importance to the South, it magnifies the influence of the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries.

Campaigning in the Southern states would undoubtedly begin much earlier. But what type of campaigning would result? Candidates would bounce from Memphis to Atlanta to Miami, giving speeches in airplane hangars and hobnobbing with the local dignitaries over lunch in airport cafeterias. The significance of good media coverage and the advantage of good looks would grow even stronger. But a visit with the small-town, diehard, true blue Americans would hardly merit consideration.

This idea could extend to other regions across the country. The primary season could focus on four primaries — North, South, East and West. Or, even worse, the result could be one national primary. This would encourage even more hopping from one airport to another, endangering the very existence of the town hall political rallies. The diversity of the primary season would be lost.

Should North Carolina elect to jump into this melee? It seems now that the state hardly has any choice. Candidates will spend so much time and money in this region gunning for Super Tuesday that a return appearance could not be deemed practical. North Carolina's impact on the presidential election would be greatly diminished.

Without any precedent, political observers can only speculate on the consequences of the Southern primary. But the potential backfire of this conglomerate needs to be more carefully considered.

Revoking contracts unjust

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has proposed that the federal government stop setting aside contracts for businesses run by blacks, Hispanics or women. This program, commission members claim, no longer serves its intended purpose — to help minorities get a foothold in the marketplace.

The commission's wants to suspend these programs because it says they encourage minority dependency on government, and in fact are ridden with "rampant corruption." Although the program may not be free of corruption, its benefits have been many. Minority businesses have enjoyed opportunities they never experienced in the past.

A cursory look at the commission and its chairman, Clarence Pendleton, is enough to make one question who is accusing who of being corrupt. The New Republic reports this week that "the most prominent black in the Reagan administration" has been part of such shady business ventures in the San Diego area that the magazine dubbed Pendleton the "bad penny" in politics.

The Reagan administration record on civil rights issues is a notoriously weak one. But such minority assistance has been endorsed not only by black Republicans, but by President Reagan himself. The programs criticized in the commission report were initiated by Presidents Nixon, Carter and Reagan.

This action would be a major blow to minority businessmen with the drive but not the capital to make it in the business world. Isolated incidents of corruption in these programs will make many aspiring businessmen suffer if the report's proposal is adopted.

However, once again consider the chairman of the commission. Pendleton, a black "ally" of Reagan, has come out against virtually every major federal assistance program for blacks. The New Republic said that Pendleton "has become what he hates most: a black man employed by the government primarily because of the color of his skin." Hopefully, the president will not heed Pendleton's request to deny employment for other minorities.

Tar Heel Forum

Parking should provide women's safety

Leslie Hankins
 Guest Writer

Because this week has been designated Rape Awareness Week, it seems a good time to suggest that the University take more of an active role in preventing rape by taking responsibility for dangerous situations that the University could eliminate.

A good place to begin would be the traffic office. I've just come from pre-registering for a parking permit for next year. As one of the many women student/teachers who commute and park on campus, I was aghast to find that parking places for commuters are all far away from the campus center and unsafe for women at dusk or dark (and, frankly, current events suggest daytime as well). The year before last, commuters could park on the Bell Tower drive, in addition to the more remote Rams Head Lot and the F-Lot. Now this drive area, which is well-lighted, nearby and fairly safe, is only safe for employees and residents of nearby dorms.

I know I am not alone in teaching until 5 p.m., staying for seminars until 6 p.m., attending films in the evening (I teach film), attending talks which go from 4 to 6 p.m. or later, or even studying late in the library. I must frequently must go to my designated parking place in unsafe circumstances. When I asked at the traffic office

if there was a policy to assign safe parking to women in those situations, I was told no. When I asked if there were any options for women in those situations, I was told women could walk to their parking lots and drive closer to the campus center after 5 p.m. and then repark and go back about their business (quite a feat if one is in a seminar from 3:20 to 6 p.m., I might add). Or we could call the Rape Escort Service every time we need to get to our parking places (every day? twice a week? Really, is this reasonable?) Or call the traffic office for a police escort. I strongly feel that these "options" are measures which put the job of rape prevention on the women, and the traffic office and University are not taking their share of the responsibility.

When I asked who had decided to make nearby, safe parking areas available for residents and employees only, rather than commuters, I

was told that Security Services Director Robert Sherman had made the decision and that it had been approved by the UNC Board of Trustees. The rationale was that students should be able to park near their dorms, and that the University needs F-Lot, Rams Head, etc. empty for big games and concerts. Frankly, I feel these priorities pale next to the safety of the women students on this campus.

I suggest that a positive, active role the University could take in rape prevention would be to establish safe, well-lighted, nearby parking places for women who must park and get to parking places at high-risk times. The Bell Tower Lot or Bell Tower Drive are examples of fairly safe areas which could be re-allotted for such cases. Women as a group are in special danger due to the threat of rape, and the University should help us as a group, rather than expect each woman to have to work out her own strategy for self-defense daily. I urge other women and concerned men to push for safe parking for women as a high-priority issue at this University.

Leslie Hankins is a graduate student in English from Durham.

Here, boy . . .

To the editor:

I, the undersigned, feel that I represent the overwhelming minority of canines here at UNC regarding the slanderous letter, "Going to the dogs," April 7. First of all, besides the fact that I can't get any sleep on campus in this beautiful weather anymore because arbitrary people are always asking me to go over to them or to run and get a stick for them, I think they must like me, although I haven't been offered a "flaming flea collar" yet.

As for the part about "messing" on the Sigma Nu house, I don't use the bathroom in my house anymore than you do in your dorm, Sean.

Where do you get off crashing on dogs, anyway? Maybe Nugget or I wouldn't come when you called us? Come on, you're a geography major. I do have my reputation as an "amazing canine" to uphold.

It seems the last part is slanted toward fraternities. So maybe they could have named me "Dammit." I still have more friends than you both, a bigger house and better food.

On a final note, I would just like to say that your perfectly penned prose astounded this old dawg. I'm sure everyone was pleased who had never read a catchy letter before. I hope you two are happy to know that I can no longer get-a-stick with the same pride I once could.

See you in the funny pages — I'll be the one with Scamp and Pluto.

Reuben

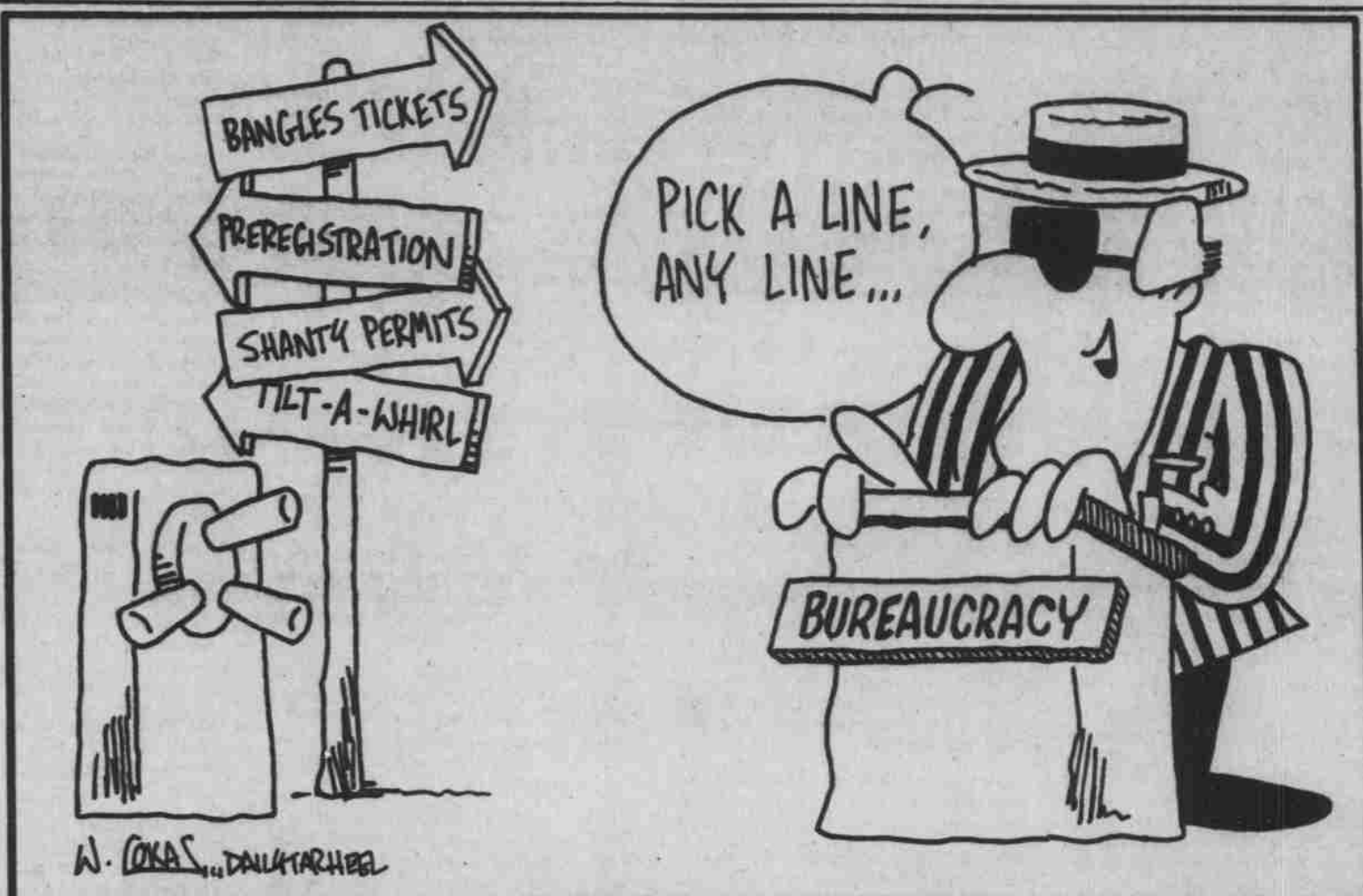
Need direction?

To the editor:

Greetings!
 The library has been called the "heart of the University." Libraries are one of the nation's most valuable resources. Libraries are a "subsystem of the total communication system in society" (Jesse Shera).

At UNC, libraries only seem to be newsworthy when their foundations are settling and the marble in the women's restrooms in Davis is cracking. Pardon me, there was also an article on vandalism in the Undergraduate Library.

April 6 through 12 is National Library Week. Why not take a moment to contemplate the topic, "What has the library done for me?" Research, resources and the refrain, "May I help you?" are replete. Have you been enlightened, informed, educated, directed, reserved, carded, accu-



Letters to the Editor

tured and recreated lately? If so, it most probably was at the library.

Need a "mantra" to meditate upon? Here are a few quotations from some of the unsung heroes and heroines of the world of Library and Information Science:

1. "The impact of a book on a reader is too personal, too important and too inherently creative an experience to be treated as a statistic." Edwin Wolf II.

2. "A library is like a volcano, dormant when unused but explosive and exhilarating for those who dare to become acquainted." Germaine Krettek.

3. "The productive citizen cannot afford to stop learning." Germaine Krettek.
 Have a good week and don't forget to give your favorite librarian a big "Thank you!"

Pat Feehan
 Doctoral Program
 School of Library Science

No censors here

To the editor:

Steve Matheny's recent letter ("Prayer's no joke," April 4) has caused me a great deal of concern. While I fully recognize his right to disagree with, and disapprove of, the recent DTH parody of Jesse Helms, I am disturbed by the comments contained in his last paragraph. The assertion that certain things are beyond ridicule strikes at the very basis of free thought and free press.

Matheny may have found the article to be "highly impious and offensive," but fortunately humor, parody and political commentary are not subject to his standards of piety and good taste. It should be

remembered that each individual differs in his or her concept of humor. There is no universal standard for judging it. Furthermore, religion and aspects of religious practice have been the source of humor and satire for centuries. Must we dispense with sections of the Canterbury Tales or, more recently, Bill Cosby's "Noah" and Dave Allen's incessant needling of clergies?
 I do not doubt Matheny's sincerity in his religious beliefs, and while I do not share those beliefs, I have no objection to his holding them. What I vehemently object to is any attempt to say what should or should not be written based on any individual's particular religious belief. Such practices may be standard fare in Iran, but they have no place in a pluralistic, democratic society.

Ken Butler
 Second year
 Law

caught a lotta rays while you were inside writing your English paper but lets see whose got the best tan.

Mark Middlesworth
 Sophomore
 Pre-English

Mighty brickyard

To the editor:
 (Sung to the tune of "Ein feste Burg," with apologies to Martin Luther.)

A mighty brickyard is our school. Its grasses are demising. Laborers pounce with bricks and tools on each dirt path arising. Students will not parade on walkways others made; They form paths of their own. Which makes officials groan . . . Soon bricks these paths are disguising.

Sharon Sheridan
 Senior
 Journalism

We can too rite

To the editor:
 Who do you think your kidding Sally Pearsall telling us UNC students we don't speak English good ("Lesson no. 1," April 7)? I wrote a good enough essay to get into this school with only a little help from my high school English teacher, and besides that I'm proud of that C- I struggled for in English W. If that don't prove I can speak English as good as you I don't know what would. Sure, I laid out in the sun yesterday and

Letters policy

• Every writer must include his or her phone number, year in school and major. Also, if the writer holds a position in an organization relevant to the letter or column, he or she should indicate that position.
 • We maintain a limit of two signatures per letter or column.
 • Letters should be typed, double-spaced, on a 60-space line.

The Daily Tar Heel

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On speech freedoms and choice of action

Two pieces of wood and a matchbook. And a gum wrapper.
 You held them easily in one hand, and you wondered what it was that brought you to the quad at four in the morning in the first place. You knew that the shanties had been taken down, so why did you come?

Perhaps you had always wanted to spend a night in the shanties, to pass time with others like yourself — those with thoughts of making the world jump back when you jumped, as Abbie Hoffman would put it.

Hoffman also said education was the process of subverting authority, and the two pieces of wood you held in your hand at 4 a.m. conjured up images of the protests you had seen on television as a child and those you had studied in books in your pursuit of higher education.

Thinking, you realized that what you held was the only tangible result of the Anti-Apartheid Support Group's effort.

Or is it?
 The support group's nonverbal form of protest worked well. By not screaming their message at people from the Pit at noon, the only time when amplified sound is allowed, the protesters gave their message even more impact — the same way a seductive whisper will catch your attention sooner than a normal voice in a room of normal voices.

Grant Parsons
 University Editor

The support group didn't play by the University's rules, either. So many organizations are perfectly willing to play in the Pit's mental sandbox, bouncing their otherwise valid concepts off the Union, Lenoir, Student Stores and the Undergrad, but the support group was willing to take their message to the streets, to play with the regulations and see if they could bend consciousness along with the rules, and their seductive whisper was heard far beyond the boundaries of South Building.

When a wall was built to protest the shanties' existence, it served only to bolster the support group's newfound power. Their whisper was met with a hoarse, defiant cry. The cry was louder, and within the University's rules, taking the wall's theoretically massive proportions and reducing them to two-by-fours and chicken wire, but their message was heard just as well.

Then, when the shanties' effectiveness began to wear thin, the support group organized a funeral march. Quietly, a coffin was walked

through the Pit and on to the shanties — another form of quiet, understated, disturbing action. And it wasn't disturbing because it came flying out of some Hot Wind blowing your way from the Pit, but rather because of what was conspicuously absent: noise. The dead make no sound.

You felt the slight weight of the wood, matchbook and gum wrapper and you knew there must be more. Just as the University tried to sweep quietly away the persistent whisper, they knew they could not remove it all. The objects you held represent more than just the remains of a once-great scheme. They are the seeds of education, enlightenment and change.

You wondered if you should take the wood with you, but you decided instead to place them carefully back on the ground where you first saw them. Let them serve as both a symbol of defiance and a physical reminder to South Building that your concerns cannot be swept away easily.

You looked at the stars and to South Building, and then your eyes came to rest on the two simple wood pieces. Heartened in a sometimes hard world, you walked quietly, introspectively home to the bed you knew would be waiting.

Grant Parsons is a junior journalism major from Grass Valley, Calif.