

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

Lillie and students deserve better

Student Congress' attitude when denying Bruce Lillie a second year as Elections Board chairman was insensitive, irresponsible and condescending. The evidence to substantiate such harsh claims is great.

In voting against Lillie, the congress violated general elections laws and the Student Constitution. The elections laws say Lillie is not out until he resigns or is impeached.

However, an impeachment process was in effect carried out in the Wednesday meeting. Several representatives viciously attacked Lillie — unwarranted on this or any other level of politics.

Brad Torgan said he was particularly irked about the districts with high graduate concentration. Lillie has admitted his mistakes with these polling sites and has contacted graduate student leaders in hopes of avoiding such problems again. Torgan, who Lillie says never asked him about possible solutions, said of Lillie: "You don't reward incompetence." Who died and left Torgan king to pass such a pompous judgment?

A focal point of the debate concerned the David Brady T-shirt affair and Lillie's decision not to disqualify Brady for exceeding spending limits in his campaign. The Student Supreme Court backed up Lillie's decision. However, members of the congress re-tried the case Wednesday night with Lillie as the

defendant. Dave Edquist said the T-shirt controversy "basically dragged the whole elections process through the mud." Lillie was dirtied as well, but stood firmly by a very unpopular decision.

Several representatives expressed great concern over maintaining legitimacy in the elections process. But Lillie said only three — Rob Friedman (a plaintiff in the Brady case, Jody Beasley and Neil Riemann — approached him to talk about the administration of the elections. Any criticism of Lillie's job by other representatives is hard to justify.

Campus elections are notoriously ridden with problems. Perhaps something working against Lillie was succeeding Edwin Fountain, who supervised what was considered the smoothest-run election in recent memory. But even Fountain's term had a few problems.

Perhaps Lillie made more mistakes than most chairmen. However, he has concrete ideas on how to improve the understaffed, underfunded elections process. These ideas were not given merit Wednesday.

It is quite ironic that while the congress refused to accept Lillie's errors, it committed an error itself. We hope Lillie remains as Elections Board Chairman, and we urge the congress to handle its business in a more responsible manner.

Letter of discontent

The propaganda has hit the fan, and this time it's been flung all the way from Moscow to Raleigh, with a side trip to Washington. Recently, Vice President George Bush received a letter from a group of Soviet students that criticized the United States (that's a shock) and condemned nuclear weapons. Bush, hoping to "start a dialogue between the future leaders of our two nations," forwarded the letter to Raleigh's own Enloe High School and asked teacher David Cordts to select a group of students to respond to the letter.

Among other things the Soviet students — all members of Komsomol, the Communist Party's youth organization — accuse Americans of hypocrisy. "The U.S. mass media are always 'trumpeting' about protection of human rights and freedom in America," the letter reads in part. "But those are only words. . . . In your country elementary human rights are violated: the right to life, to work and to education. . . ."

"We are against the preparation of nuclear war, which threatens all mankind with destruction!" the letter continues.

"Yes, yes, yes to the sunny world!
 "No, no, no to nuclear weapons!"
 Will someone please hose these young Soviets down? Cordts has dispatched about 25 Enloe students to draft a response; let's hope it's not as poorly written as the Komsomol letter.

How does one respond to such idiocy? "With sarcasm!" Mark Twain would say. That said, here's our tongue-in-cheek two cents' worth:

Dear Young Communists,

Glad to hear from you. How are things over in the Evil Empire? We're doing fine, thanks.

With all due respect, we must disagree with your no-questions-asked endorsement of a sunny world. The sun is vastly overrated; in fact, it can be rather inconvenient on a hot day. And try looking directly at it sometime — you'll be temporarily blinded. (Though it probably wouldn't affect you, as you're permanently blinded.)

As to your charge that Americans' basic rights are regularly denied, we must admit you've got us beat there. The Soviet right to work is especially fulfilled in your labor camps. And your country's benevolence should serve as a model for the rest of the world, as Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Hungarian, Czechoslovakian, East German and Afghan citizens would no doubt attest — even if your country didn't threaten them with tanks.

In closing, let us say, No, no, no to endless bickering about dead issues! Yes, yes, yes to constructive dialogue! Sincerely,
 Americans Against Diatribes

With little allied support, U.S. bombs Libya's center of terrorism

The United States bombed Libya Monday, in what is being called retaliation for the Beirut nightclub bombing, when one American was killed. President Reagan said Tripoli and Benghazi targets were the "nerve center" of Col. Moammar Khadafy's involvement with international terrorism.

Although Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger said the targets were chosen in order to limit civilian casualties, perhaps as many as 100 civilians were killed. Khadafy's adopted 15-month-old daughter was killed, and two of his sons, both pre-schoolers, were injured. Khadafy was suspected dead or injured until Wednesday, when he appeared on Libyan television to rally his people.

Tension and criticism of the bombing in Sudan has led to an evacuation of 200 non-essential U.S. diplomatic personnel. The evacuation stems from the shooting of a U.S. embassy communications officer there Tuesday. The blame for the shooting is still undetermined, but many suspect Libya, which had been conducting surveillance of the embassy.

One Libyan military counterattack failed Tuesday, when a Libyan ship fired two missiles at a U.S. Coast Guard installation on the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa. Both missiles fell short.

Various demonstrations against the action throughout Europe have shown that many there

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disapprove of the bombing. Several West German demonstrations, particularly one in Hamburg, clearly expressed anti-American sentiments. In London, demonstrators censured Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for allowing the attack to be launched from Britain.

U.S. may drop SALT II

President Reagan's top aides are urging him to abandon SALT II, apparently in response to alleged Soviet violations. The United States has abided by the treaty since its completion in 1979, even without a U.S. Senate ratification.

Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, CIA Director William Casey and arms control director Kenneth Adelman have recommended a U.S. withdrawal from SALT II. Those who support the agreement include Secretary of State George Shultz and Paul Nitze, veteran arms control negotiator.

Reagan is expected to decide by this weekend on whether to deploy a new Trident submarine, complete with 24 ballistic nuclear missiles, without dismantling some older launchers. In the

Tar Heel Forum

Defend financial aid for needy students

Editor's note: A student-faculty rally on financial aid will be held in the Pit at noon today.

Jerry Homer
 Guest Writer

During the past half-century, Americans have witnessed an unprecedented increase in the availability of federal funds for those seeking education beyond the high school level. With the increasing importance of education in our technological society, this development must be seen as an advantageous one for various individuals as well as our nation. One can scarcely think of a society, especially one supposedly as advanced as our own, where education is not viewed as the very foundation for a better future.

In this light, the rise of Ronald Reagan and his particular brand of political conservatism must be seen as an odd and even frightening phenomenon. The analogy of a farmer planning to eat his seed corn might be apt in describing Ronald Reagan and the funding cuts proposed in his administration's budget for fiscal 1987. When considering the massive defense increases in the budget (8.2 percent above inflation), the 21 percent cuts in education appear especially staggering. Weigh that thought the next time you hear a Reagan supporter critique the values and priorities of our generation.

We in the education community do not ignore the current massive federal budget deficit, but we do contend that educational cuts do not strike at the root of this problem. According to the U.S. Student Association, the value of student aid for college students has dropped by 20 percent since 1980, and it is obvious that many other federal programs have faced similar cuts.

The fact that the defense budget has increased almost 100 percent during the same period might lead one to believe that our recent record-level deficits are more than the result of "welfare queens" or students who apply for federal loans so that they can spend spring break in the Bahamas. Even in granting that the Reagan administration has made some spending changes in accordance with sound judgment or the will of the American people, current tax and fiscal policies are in need of major revision.

When applied to Carolina, the gravity of this resolution becomes particularly apparent. Combined with cuts under the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act, the president's budget proposals could cost Carolina as much as \$730,000 for the upcoming school year. Pell Grants, which are provided for extremely needy students, will be eliminated for more than 500 students and will be reduced for more than 700 additional students. Also, the nearly 1,000 students who receive college work-study funds will also have their aid cut. The more than 3,200 students who borrow through the Guaranteed Student Loan Program will be forced to pay higher interest rates and will have interest charged on their loans while they are in school. Fortunately, the Office of Student Aid remains committed to the goal that any student, regardless of financial resources, will

be able to attend UNC and reminds students to continue to apply for aid. Yet for the 1986-87 school year, they report that they will "be almost \$2,000,000 short of being able to meet the needs of eligible undergraduate students." Perhaps it may be unwise to assume next year that all the missing faces have been lost to graduation.

In the secluded domain of Chapel Hill, we may be tempted to believe that American political developments are mere rumblings from Washington, Soweto or Tripoli. Yet it should be painfully clear that Reagan's policies on education affect the future of us as individuals and the future of our society as well. These cuts affect not only colleges and universities, but all other facets of our educational system, including the elementary and secondary schools. If we in the education community do not care enough to act on this issue, we can blame only ourselves when faced with the possible disaster.

The members of Congress are in the process of drawing up a budget for fiscal 1987, and one can be sure that every group which receives federal moneys will undertake vigorous lobbying efforts. We must make sure that our congressional delegates realize the seriousness of our concern about this issue. By accepting a chance to learn at this University, we affirm our belief in education as the foundation for a brighter future. It is now our responsibility to ensure that this foundation is a strong one.

Jerry Homer is a sophomore history major from Raleigh.

Be a neighbor

To the editor:
 For more than a hundred years, the United States has wavered from a policy of good neighborliness toward Central and South America. The U.S. role in the assassinations of Arbenz in Guatemala (1954) and of Allende in Chile (1973) represent bald imperialism. Arbenz and Allende were both popularly elected leaders. The U.S. justifications for moving against Arbenz and Allende amount to a declaration of imperial privilege. Likewise, our efforts to overthrow the Sandinistas in Nicaragua are simply another example of flexing imperial prerogative.

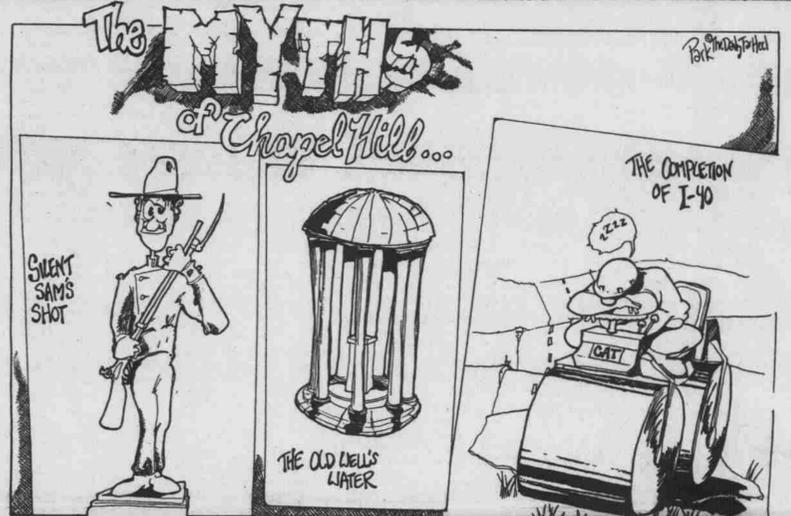
No one in the Reagan administration suggests that the Sandinistas have lost the support of the Nicaraguan people. Rather, it appears to be the Reagan strategy to wear down the people through Contra terror and economic blockade so that the Nicaraguans will rise up and cast out the Sandinistas for the audacity of incurring imperial disfavor.

We Americans need to convince our representatives to disabuse Reagan from the notion that this is his, or even our, hemisphere. North and South America comprise a dozen-plus nations and about a half-million people speaking Spanish, French, English, Portuguese and other tongues.

The time has come for the United States to trust more in our democratic ideals, to respect more the privilege of our neighbors to practice self-determination and to become a good neighbor by listening to what our neighbors are telling us.

In the meantime, the Reagan administration gambles that through economic isolation and armed terror against Nicaragua, we will provoke a change in its leadership. Whether this strategy is likely to backfire is arguable enough, but that does not diminish the fact that it is a bad policy, and that the only good policy is to become a good neighbor.

The figure of \$100 million might get lost in accounting at the Pentagon, but for a nation of three million people who average maybe \$300 a year and eat beans three times a day, \$100 million is a king's ransom. If we in the United States want to be a good neighbor, we will find better things to do with that \$100 million.



If we have become pessimists, and fear communism more than we trust our ideals, then we are the ones who betray a revolution!

JOHN HEUER
 Physical Plant

Oops — our snafu

To the editor:
 I recently wrote a letter to The Daily Tar Heel in which I expressed my views on Vietnam, South Africa and protest. In this letter, I used the following words: "But what were some of the results of American disengagement?" By some unfortunate error, the DTH printed the following words: "But what were some of the results of the American involvement?" By some strange coincidence, this error reversed the meaning of what I said.

The reason I'm saying all this is because if someone wants to write to the DTH to disagree with my views, I want to make sure that person knows what I said, not what was printed in the DTH.

You guys at the DTH need to tighten up your act.

ALAN CULTON
 Junior
 Political Science

Editor's note: The error was an unfortunate typesetting mistake, and The Daily Tar Heel regrets it.

Letters to the Editor

She's Number 1

To the editor:
 Melissa Jarrell, captain of the varsity softball team, certainly deserves recognition for her outstanding performance as an athlete. She is a senior, and played her last game at UNC Thursday. Melissa has played in just about every game since her freshman year. I think she should be highly commended for all the time she has devoted to her sport, for all the hard work and effort she has put forth and for all she has achieved here at UNC. Melissa has never missed a practice and, as long as I've known her (four years), she has always demonstrated the true meaning of sportsmanship.

Since becoming captain this season, Melissa has led her team to 29 victories. She has caught in every single game from start to finish! This past weekend, she caught nine straight games and made the All-Tournament Team. I just want everyone at UNC to be aware of her accomplishments. She makes excellent grades, she trains at least five hours every day and still finds time to perform the duties of a captain.

The softball team has never received much coverage in The Daily Tar Heel, but all will be forgiven if this one letter is printed. This past weekend, the softball team finished No. 1 in the tournament at George Mason University. To date, their record is 29-10. They have only a few more games to play before the season ends, and I, for one, would like to see the last few games covered by The Daily Tar Heel. Melissa Jarrell, you are the No. 1 athlete in my mind.

SENGA ALLEN
 Senior
 Health/Physical Education

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.
- Please limit letters to 250 words, which is about one-and-a-half pages.

The Week in Quotes

• "There was an article in the Atlanta paper last Sunday that said I was done, washed up, through. . . . I read where it said that people at 46 don't win the Masters."
 — veteran golfer Jack Nicklaus Sunday after winning the Masters championship in Augusta, Ga. He is the oldest player ever to win the prestigious tournament.

• "He has the style of the guy next door, your buddy at the country store, the man you meet on the street corner and swap yarns with."
 — N.C. House Rep. Billy Watkins, D-Granville, describing Jay Robinson, the former superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Robinson resigned his post last week to become a vice president of the UNC system.

• "We have trusted power to people who are sick. . . . If Western civilization were a person, we should be directing him to the nearest War-Preparers Anonymous meeting."
 — novelist Kurt Vonnegut Jr., author of "Slaughterhouse Five." "Cat's Cradle" and other widely read works, during a Wednesday night Memorial Hall speech.

• "We are not going to let them get rid of

us."
 — Jonathon Piper, one of over 100 Yale students arrested this week in anti-apartheid demonstrations at the New Haven, Conn., university. A group of students had erected a shantytown to protest Yale's \$400 million investment in companies doing business with South Africa.

• "It basically dragged the whole elections process in the mud."
 — Student Congress Rep. Dave Edquist on the T-shirt controversy in this year's student body president election. Bruce Lillie, former elections board chairman, was not re-appointed to the board by Student Congress in its Wednesday night meeting, largely because of his handling of the T-shirt affair.

• "If you can't think of any reptiles that they remind you of, you draw them as small children."
 — Jeff MacNelly, political cartoonist and creator of the "Shoe" comic strip, on the art of drawing politicians. MacNelly, who drew for The Daily Tar Heel and The Chapel Hill Weekly during his college days, spoke at Memorial Hall Monday night.

Compiled by editorial writers Ed Brackett, a senior journalism major from Hendersonville, and Dewey Messer, a junior journalism major from Whitler.