

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

For stability, try democracy

In reconvening Monday, Congress began debating an array of sanctions against South Africa. Given the dual considerations of preserving U.S. interests in South Africa and changing that nation's repugnant domestic policies, Congress should choose with caution.

There is little point dwelling on the racist unfairness that pervades South Africa — apartheid has been decied as an evil system. Similarly, faulting apartheid without doing anything to eradicate it is useless, a point well made by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in a column in Sunday's Washington Post.

Kissinger envisions, and rightly so, a great danger of South Africa being consumed from the fringes as extremists of all races and viewpoints react more and more violently to "non-solutions." This is what the United States cannot afford, and what Congress must work to prevent.

According to Kissinger, the only way the United States can hope to ameliorate the South African struggle is to guide it toward an American-style democracy. He wrote that a true democracy in South Africa must meet three principles:

- Apartheid, with its unequal sharing of political power and separation of races, must be abolished;
- The elective process must rely on the one man, one vote tradition, and;
- The establishment of a system of representation and checks and bal-

Paragons of public service

There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed.
— Albert Schweitzer

If ever there were two men that lived by that credo, it was Hargrove "Skipper" Bowles and Dan Moore. With unbounded passion for cultivating the religion of human service, these UNC alumna greatly enhanced the University and the state they dearly loved. Their deaths this week, each after bouts with lengthy illnesses, call for reflection on their accomplishments.

Saturday's formal dedication of the Dean E. Smith Student Activity Center was the culmination of years of dreaming and hard work, much of which Bowles spearheaded. As director of the fund raising drive to erect the center, Bowles silenced cynics who didn't believe that more than \$30 million could be collected. The center stands today as a testimonial to his determination and direction.

But the center is just one of many contributions Bowles graciously made to the University. He served two consecutive terms on the University's Board of Trustees — including a stint as chairman — in the late 1970s, a time of explosive growth for the University. He also gave of his time

ces similar to that in the United States.

With these three concepts, so fundamental to the nature of true democracy, should be included another that might easily be overlooked. The United States should take the greatest care to prevent those same groups now demanding political power from creating a new monopoly. For although a new government that would oppress the white Afrikaners might be deemed apt vengeance, it is merely another form of the same scar. To prevent this, Kissinger says whites can give up no more and blacks can demand no more than would suit democracy.

In carrying out all this, Congress will also consider U.S. interests in South Africa. A prime exporter of resources crucial to the Western economy, South Africa is of strategic and economic concern to the United States. A related focal point is protecting these interests from the Soviet Union, which also covets South Africa's natural resources. Many a senator, congressman and South African has captured the attention of the media with conjurings of the Soviet threat.

While it should keep these peripheral concerns in mind, Congress should first be concerned with the more concrete issue of ending apartheid. For it is by establishing democracy that South Africa will become more stable, which, in the end, will secure the interests of both nations.

to numerous charitable organizations, working for improved treatment for victims of such hardships as alcoholism and physical disabilities.

While Bowles has been remembered by those who knew him as "exuberant," Moore has been recalled as an effective leader through a more deliberate, scholarly style. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of UNC, Moore came from a long line of leaders in the political and judicial fields.

During his term as governor, Moore faced a time of tremendous unrest on college campuses with affairs such as the Vietnam War and civil rights. This was compounded by N.C.'s Speaker Ban Law (a law that banned speeches on state university campuses by avowed communists), an emotionally charged issue that peaked during his administration. Moore showed the savvy to settle the issue in the public forum, allowing for valuable student input. His term brought other strides for education, including the establishment of UNC at Charlotte and providing the initial funds for the N.C. School for the Arts.

The legacies left by Bowles and Moore provide UNC students and all North Carolinians tremendous role models — as alumna, leaders and people.

Color Yambo confused, cowardly

The King Kongs of the world's jungles and zoos — those bellowing, breast-beating, mighty gorillas of movie screen and "Tarzan" rerun fame — have been put to shame by a 5-year-old British boy.

Levan Merritt, lifted up to the wall of a gorilla pit at an English zoo, fell 20 feet into the anthropoid apes' pen when Dad (Steve is his name) turned away. The patriarch of the clan (Yambo is his name) soon approached the boy. The other gorillas followed.

As Levan's parents waved for help and yelled for their son to remain still (which should've been easy, since he'd been knocked out by the fall), Yambo began petting him. But when Yambo's gentle backstrokes brought Levan to consciousness, the boy howled in terror and pain.

Startled, the gorillas fled to their shelters at the far end of the pit. Meanwhile, rescue

The Bottom Line

workers who'd run to the scene figured things were safe, so they climbed down and retrieved the lad.

Four burning questions remain from the whole sordid affair.

One: What would Freud say about the father putting his son in a precarious position in the proximity of potentially perilous primates?

Two: Why would Yambo, a member of a typically aggressive species feared the world over, treat Levan as gently as a weeble and then run when the boy cries?

Three: What kind of name is "Yambo"?

Four: Is this kid related to Bobby Knight?

Tar Heel Forum

Democracy no place for oppression

Linda Holzer

Guest Writer

It has been asserted by some members of the UNC Student Congress that the Carolina Gay & Lesbian Association does not deserve to receive funding from the student government, that a minority organization of homosexual students does not deserve official recognition from the University. It seems to me that there are two issues here: the legality of homosexuality and the rights of a minority.

The question of legality is a dynamic, powerful thing in a democracy. Our system of federal and state laws is constantly subject to review and interpretation. Laws are subject to change; what remains constant is the commitment of the United States Constitution to protecting individual freedoms.

At one point in our nation's history, it was thought by our judicial system that the phrase, "All men are created equal . . ." was not meant to include members of the enslaved African race. At a later date, our courts contended that the same phrase was meant to exclude women from constitutional privileges. It is my belief that both women and Afro-Americans were worthy of the privileges of citizenship before the courts decreed that this was so. Claiming that homosexuality is illegal because of the existence of laws like North Carolina's "unnatural acts" law is as ridiculous as the 19th century contention that a free African-American is illegal because a slave is not a human.

Justice Harry Blackmun filed a dissenting opinion in the Supreme Court's July ruling on Georgia's sodomy law, excerpts of which bear repeating here:

"This case involves no real interference with the rights of others, for the mere knowledge that other individuals do not adhere to one's own value system cannot be a legally cognizable interest, let alone an interest that can justify invading the houses, hearts, and minds of those citizens . . ."

"I can only hope that . . . the Court soon will reconsider its analysis and conclude that depriving individuals of the right to choose for themselves how to conduct their intimate relationships poses a far greater threat to the values most deeply rooted in our nation's history than tolerance of a nonconformity could ever go . . ."

In crass disregard for the responsibility of acting as elected officials in a democracy, seven members of the Student Congress signed a letter stating, "We . . . do not want the CGLA to waste student fees by sending us unsolicited copies of their newsletter, 'Lambda.'" They implied that because they

are not homosexuals, they need not be aware of the concerns of gay and lesbian students. I wonder if Gov. Jim Martin has ever written a letter like that to the Affirmative Action Council? After all, he is a male Caucasian, not a woman and/or a member of an ethnic group and/or physically challenged.

In our government of, by and for the people, we are unique because we respect the will of the majority, and we defend the rights of the minority of our citizenry. That is in marked contrast to some foreign governments, where it may be a crime to express or allude to ideas that are contrary to the dictates of the ruling party and where minority status in creed or race is grounds for state persecution. Our elected officials are responsible for being aware of and responsive to their constituents. Representatives in the Student Congress at UNC are not exempt from that responsibility. If representatives of this congress decide that the rights and concerns of one segment of the student population are invalid, they belittle the significance of every minority group in the student body; they demean individual freedom.

To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln: As I would not be oppressed, so would I not be an oppressor. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy.

Linda Holzer is a graduate student in music from Chicago.

Relearn defense

To the editor:

On Aug. 25, an article appeared on the front page of The Daily Tar Heel concerning the death of Sharon Stewart ("Campus death leaves lasting scar"). For those of you who don't know about the case, it concerns Sharon Lynn Stewart, who was abducted and murdered by 16-year-old Maxwell Avery Wright, a confused and apparently violent young man.

In this article, a number of statements were made which to us seem incredible and, at best, thoughtless. Specifically, twice in the article it was stated that nothing could be done that had not been done to assure the security of Stewart. In one case, the article stated that "little could be done to prevent the same thing from happening again." In the other case, Frederick Schroeder, dean of students, was quoted as saying that "Miss Stewart wasn't doing anything that anyone could look back and say, 'Gosh, if only . . .'"

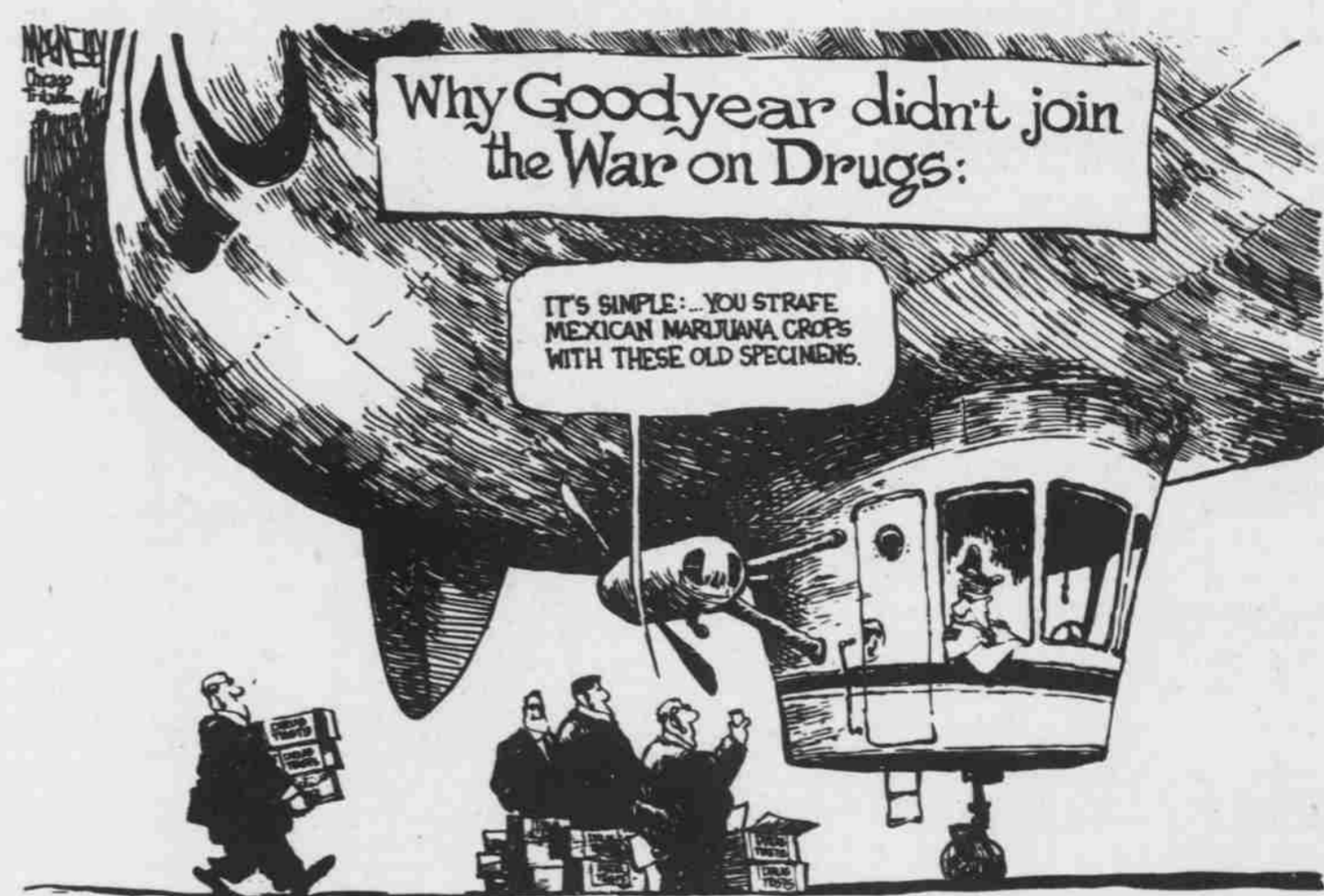
We very strongly disagree. First of all, one of the basic facts that is often overlooked is that Stewart was not alone. Wright also recognized this, and the first thing that he did was to separate Stewart from her companion, telling her to drive off, which she did, giving Wright the advantage. Secondly, Stewart also followed his demands, rather than fighting, which made it easy for Wright to kidnap her unnoticed.

The troubling thing about this kidnapping and murder is that it was, in fact, so easy. It was later reported that Wright had tried to kidnap another woman at knife-point, but had given up when she resisted. We wonder if Stewart would be alive if she had resisted. In any case, it could not have turned out worse for her than it did. Stewart, as the article points out, was less than 75 yards away from a police officer when she was kidnapped. But he did not know that she was in danger, much less being kidnapped. Had she screamed and fought, the officer's attention might have been drawn.

Yes, it is true that Stewart was not doing anything that anyone could look back and say "Gosh, if only." The problem is what she did not do — she did not take an active role in her own defense.

This is not to lay the blame on the victim for the crime. The assault on Stewart could not have been prevented, since she took all the proper precautions, but it is clear, especially in this case, that some resistance could have led to a much more positive end result. Unfortunately, in our society, women are so often told that they need someone else to protect them, that very often they believe that they are not responsible for their own safety. This is promoted by statements like those of the university officials that say that nothing else could be done.

Women themselves can take an active role in their own safety. Being assertive is one of the most important tools of self-defense. Screaming, kicking, biting and running away are all examples of effective self-defense techniques. Unfor-



Letters

tunately, physical assertiveness is a response which has been so stifled in women by society that, often, it must be relearned. One way to learn or relearn fighting defense is to enroll in a self-defense course. Ironically, the self-defense course offered for women by the Chapel Hill Police Department was canceled because not enough people signed up for it.

It is disturbing to see so many people concerned about assault, and so few actively learning to help themselves. Women must make an effort to defend themselves rather than depending on other people to protect them. We were informed that the police department will give the course if enough people call up asking for it. It's cheap and only requires a little time and a phone call (968-2784). Take any self-defense course. Don't fool yourself, it might turn out useful.

MINA CHOI
Class of 1986

MARTIN GONZALEZ
Graduate
History

No to N-plant

To the editor:
Something very scary is happening. Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L) is planning on loading their Shearon Harris Nuclear Reactor with uranium fuel rods sometime in the next few weeks. Does the idea that a nuclear power plant will soon be operating just down the road from Chapel Hill send shivers up and down your spine?

It does mine when I consider that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) gave CP&L its lowest rating on construction of the plant's electrical equipment in January of this year. I cringe when I hear that during 1982-83, CP&L had more worker exposure to radiation than any other plant. I growl when I count the dollars that I will be paying to CP&L's stockholders when the cost of power increases if Shearon Harris starts up. I want to cry when I think of my fellow

human beings who were burned at Chernobyl and those projected hundreds of thousands who will die of cancer from radiation exposure. I worry about where CP&L is going to dump the tons of high- and low-level nuclear waste produced by the plant. I fear the NRC's prediction that there will be a major nuclear accident in the United States within the next 20 years. How does CP&L's plan to operate a nuclear waste factory just 22 miles southeast of Chapel Hill make you feel?

Some people feel like it's too late to do anything now that the reactor is nearly built. They are wrong. The Coalition for Alternatives to Shearon Harris (C.A.S.H.) believes that we — students and citizens — can do something. Other plants in the United States have been stopped by citizens, students, businesses and local governments. We can do it, too.

Do yourself and UNC a favor. Stop by the C.A.S.H. table in front of the Student Union and find out more about the threat that sits in Chapel Hill's backyard. Join us at the Carolina Campus C.A.S.H. meeting tonight at 8:30 in the Union. Listen to the growing number of people who are realizing what a waste of money and a threat to human lives Shearon Harris represents. Then help us in our protest and effort to stop Shearon Harris before it starts.

CINDY NEVILLE
Senior
Biology
Carolina Campus C.A.S.H.

Unconcern

To the editor:
Student Congress members Dave Edquist, Dave Brown, Rob Friedman, Lori Taylor, Paul Winter, Chuck Brown and Mark Gunter show the extent to which they are concerned about student affairs by refusing to read "Lambda," a newsletter representing an organization on our campus of approximately 150 members.

By not reading this newsletter, they can remain oblivious to the issues that concern

CGLA members. While representing the student body, they will remain ignorant of the various views of the student members within this particular organization. They will easily avoid the opportunity that a university environment provides, to learn about different ways of viewing the world and approaches to life taken by people with a perspective on life unlike their own. They will represent us by refusing to listen to (or read) voices with which they may disagree.

Remaining uninformed as they represent us, they heroically combat the democratic principles many of us hold so dear.

CAROLE BREAKSTONE
Graduate
Folklore

Airwave sanity

To the editor:

In the Sept. 4 Omnibus article about local morning radio shows ("Morning shows shake listeners out of bed with variety of bells, whistles and rattles"), the writer forgot to mention what should have been an obvious inclusion in the list of "wake-up programs." Yes, it's one that's broadcast from here on the UNC campus: WUNC's morning news program, featuring "Morning Edition," a product of National Public Radio.

The show doesn't usually include bells, whistles or rattles, but it does feature some reasonably intelligent people reporting the news, weather and sports. They manage to do this without annoying advertisements, "off-the-wall comedy tapes" or a "Zoo Crew." WUNC is located at 91.5 FM. Check it out.

MICHAEL JOHNSON
Graduate
Speech Communications

Write on

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader feedback. Please deliver letters or columns to the letters box in front of the Daily Tar Heel's main entrance.