

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

SDI stance shows no good faith

Central to the breakup of the Reykjavik summit was President Reagan's unyielding stance on his Strategic Defense Initiative. The Reagan administration has already begun defending the program and explaining why the meeting ended on a somewhat grim note.

But Reagan must also explain how SDI would benefit the United States when its targets — ballistic missiles — should have already been voluntarily dismantled by the Soviet Union.

In an address to the nation Monday, the president confirmed that he and Gorbachev agreed to eliminate nuclear weapons within the next 10 years. During this time, the United States would continue to abide by the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which forbids either side to test or deploy systems designed to destroy missiles. Gorbachev sought to "strengthen" the treaty, and wanted to allow only extremely limited laboratory research on SDI. Reagan resisted, and the talks came to a halt.

In the same breath that he told the American people Monday the world might have one day been nearly free of nuclear weapons, Reagan explained the eventual stalemate in Iceland with words that may prove haunting: "In effect, he (Gorbachev) was killing SDI, and unless I agreed, all that work toward eliminating nuclear weapons would go down the drain — cancelled. . . . There was no way I could tell our people their government would not protect them against nuclear destruction."

Thus, just as he and general secretary had arrived at a plan to cleanse

their countries of most nuclear weapons, Reagan backed off, for reasons still unclear. The president says he wants to abolish nuclear weapons, yet he also wants to retain some version of SDI, feeling it would protect the United States from nuclear devastation.

But, assuming that the two sides agreed to go ahead with the arms reduction proposal, devastation from what nuclear weapons? If both sides complied with the agreement, neither would have enough warheads to launch a missile attack on the other. It is obvious, then, that what the president really was concerned about was that the Soviets would cheat.

For superpower negotiations to succeed, each side has to approach the table with good faith, believing that the other will offer only what it will deliver. Reagan has never displayed any good faith in the Soviet Union's intentions. He has repeatedly criticized the Soviet's research of ballistic missile defense and has claimed several times that they violated arms control agreements, especially limits on missiles.

In seeking to retain SDI to defend against what might have become non-existent, the president revealed once again his belief that the Soviet Union will never comply with arms control agreements. With this mentality, how could agreements ever be possible?

The proposals of both sides still stand and the chance persists that sweeping arms reductions will materialize. But first, the president must adopt a more open-minded approach, one that would not render any accord meaningless and useless.

Tar Heel Forum

Tar Heel fans could be 6th man

Ufuk Tukel
 Guest Writer

When a Sports Illustrated photographer visited the Southern Part of Heaven to snap some shots of our own Joe Wolf, 5,000 high-spirited, loud-cheering, Carolina-blue clad basketball fans surrounded him. What a picture it made, didn't it? I wonder what the caption will say? Probably something like, "Ranting, raving and kicking their heels at Number One." Too bad it's not true. What if SI took the real picture and told the real story?

Picture this: The photographer shoots a picture of Joe Wolf as he stands in front of 200 stern-faced, Rolex-wearing alumni who sit haughtily upon their cushioned, \$1 million lifetime-ticket seats. Where are the students? Well, of course, we're sitting quietly on our hands, wearing every color but Carolina blue, exactly 50 yards above the alumni — the distance from the worst seat in the Dean Dome to the playing floor. Maybe the caption would read, "Sitting quietly at Number One" or "We are Tar Heel born, Tar Heel bred, as you can see, we are Tar Heel dead." Yeah, that's what it could read.

I am in no way putting down the UNC student body, just attempting to arouse school spirit and show support for UNC athletes. One of the biggest reasons Duke did so well last year was because of student support. And what did the students get in return? A great team and a ton of publicity.

Now, if you were a senior in high school, and you were finding it hard to make the final choice between going to UNC and Duke to further your education, what do you think would be the biggest factor in influencing your decision? Would it be: 1) a free jam box with every meal plan; 2) a free keg of beer with every meal plan; 3) access to the undergraduate libraries and word processors after 2 a.m. on weeknights; 4) pregame basketball programming featuring how much each school paid for its

basketball arena; or 5) pregame basketball programming featuring the school spirit at each of the universities?

The point is that the biggest tool UNC has for recruiting students is the people. A true sense of school spirit shows the unity among all individuals on our campus. However, the only way to get the publicity of our unity is to open up, come out of the closet and get wild! Why wait until after a game to party? Why not party in the middle of the game to show undecided high school seniors and prospective freshmen, who are watching UNC on television, that we are a party school? Honestly, how many of you not only came to this university for an education but also to have a good time? I rest my case.

Now, what can we do to increase our spirit? First of all, we have to sit together. As big as Kenan Stadium and the Dean Dome are, I am sure that UNC ticket distributors can find a way to get 5,000 to 9,000 students together in one area. Second, tickets should be given on a first-come, first-serve basis only. None of this random distribution crap. The most committed always get there early, so they should have the best seats. The loudest should be in the front. It's only fair.

Since we are UNC students, we have to show a certain amount of class at our athletic gatherings. It's not proper to wave our arms while opposing teams take foul shots — that's rude. Neither should we yell against the opposing team's coach.

We, on the other hand, should show some respect in welcoming our visiting teams. How? Well, we could all wear the school colors of the opposing team. Not only will

Dean think that it's Danny Ferry's own classmates that are booing and waving their arms in hopes that he misses his free throws, but high school seniors will think that Dookies are a bunch of morons pulling for Carolina and booing the Blue Devils.

I wonder what Dean Smith would do if he got thousands of letters from us, the UNC students, saying that we wanted to sit together and wave our hands like waving was going out of style? Let's find out. Just sit down and write him a letter. It's free through campus mail. As a matter of fact, I would like Coach Smith to take the time to let us know what is wrong with having fun, or what the chances are of the students being able to sit together.

In all respect, Coach Smith, we appreciate the building and what you have done for UNC basketball. Thanks to you, a winning tradition continues year after year. We just want to help improve that tradition.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Nothing great was ever achieved without Enthusiasm." Whether we are physically a part of the roster or not, I seriously doubt that even J.R. Reid could carry this team without our support. If we never showed up for the games, never cheered or just didn't care, what reason would the team have to win? To impress the alumni? We want some recognition as the sixth man on the team.

When November rolls around, which can't be too soon, I'll look for myself in that Sports Illustrated just like everyone else. After I find my picture, I'll look at the overall spread and hope that we all didn't lose five pounds of sweat to look pretty for SI, but rather that we posed to show that we're a big part of the winning tradition of UNC basketball.

GO HEELS! We're rooting for you!

Ufuk Tukel is a sophomore biology major from Taylorsville.

Cohen's magic

To the editor:

Once upon a time, far, far away, there was a land called Futile. In this kingdom, the people with power had bright blue skin and those with any other skin color were slaves.

One day, a kindly old wizard happened into the kingdom. When he saw the unfair treatment of the slaves, he was very sad. That very night, he used his magic powers to rearrange the stars into a new pattern in the sky. He waved his wand and the stars shaped themselves into the form of a slave with shackles around her ankles and tears running down her cheeks.

"Now," said the wizard, "perhaps the cruel blue-faced people will see this image and understand that what they are doing is wrong."

But imagine the wizard's surprise when he found himself surrounded by a group of the very people he was trying to help. "You drew a picture of us sad and enslaved," one said angrily. Another said, "You must want us to be that way." All the people who had understood the star picture in the sky did not say anything. To them, the meaning of the stars in the sky was clear.

The wizard tried to explain what his picture had meant, but he was not heard. "What you wanted it to mean and those people who say they understood that meaning aren't important," they said, and they used the wizard as an example of a bad person whenever they talked about the bad blue-faced people, even though the wizard's face was not the slightest bit blue.

Finally, the wizard moved out of the kingdom and left the land of Futile far behind. Now and then he would walk by a different land where some group of human beings was being treated unfairly, but he never again drew pictures in the sky for them. "I must not make the same mistake again," said the wizard as he walked down the roads alone, leaving behind another kingdom without pictures in the sky.

I am writing for those who saw Adam Cohen's cartoon and recognized that it was intended as satire, in case he has gotten the impression that his intention was not clear.

HARRISON GREENE
 Graduate
 City and Regional Planning

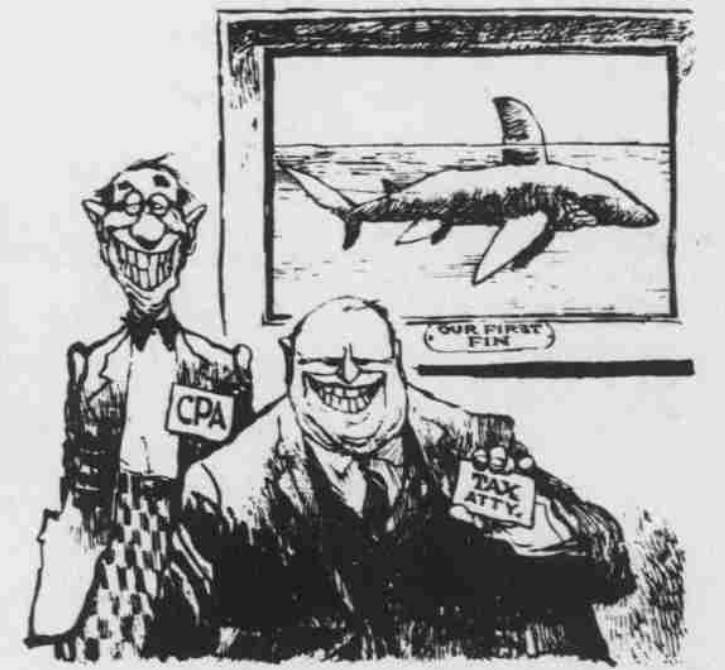
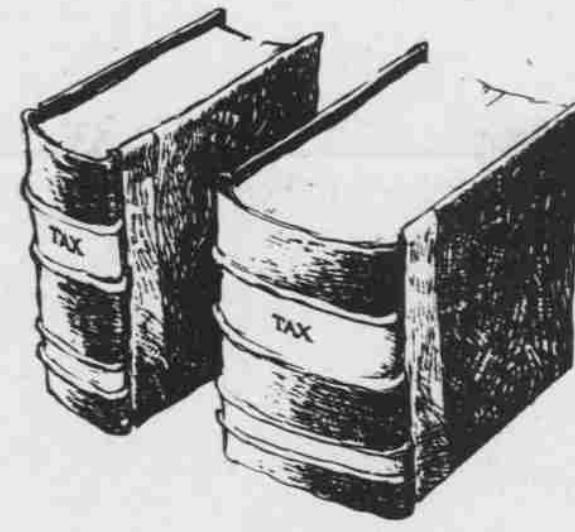
RHA red tape

To the editor:

I've been hearing lately what a bang-up job the Residence Hall Association has been doing converting the dorms into "residence halls/life assimilation modules." And I would like to throw in my two cents' worth.

1985 Tax Reform Quiz

- Which is the old tax code, and which is the new revised, simplified version?
- Why are these guys still smiling?



Editorial cartoons do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel's editorial board. The cartoons express the opinion of the cartoonist.

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comment. For style and clarity, we ask that you observe the following guidelines for letters to the editor and columns:

All letters/columns must be signed by the author(s). Limit of two signatures per letter or column.

Students who submit letters/columns should also include their name, year in school, major and phone number. Professors and other University employees should include their title and department.

All letters/columns must be typed. (For easier editing, we ask that they be double-spaced on a 60-space line.)

The Daily Tar Heel reserves the right to edit letters and columns for style, grammar and accuracy.

Back in the good ol' days, when Ehringhaus was just a dorm, I could walk into the Green Room anytime I wanted to. If I was tired from a long day of classes, or tired after work, I could crash on the beat-up couches and take a nap. They weren't pretty, but they sure were comfortable. The Green Room was a good place to meet people or just watch "Wheel of Fortune" or "The Cosby Show."

Now the Green Room is beautiful. It has brand new carpeting, and the new couches with the chained-on pillows are really attractive. The Green Room walls are newly painted white, and the TV is mounted on a really neat wallhanger. The only problem is the Green Room is no longer functional.

The couches are uncomfortable, and it's no longer possible to sleep on them. The TV hasn't worked since the semester began, and access to the Green Room is very restricted. In the mornings it is nearly impossible to get into the Green Room or any of the lounges, because the front desk is usually closed. If you want to get into any of the lounges, you have to turn in your ID and fill out a form.

Call me a maverick, or just plain irresponsible, but I think it's really asinine to make students fill out a form to use a key to unlock a door that shouldn't be locked in the first place, and then threaten them with the revocation of the privilege of using the key ever again if isn't returned in 15 minutes especially when the door is about 15 feet away from

the front desk, or if returning the key on time means running up and down five flights of stairs.

My understanding is that the reasoning behind this policy is that management doesn't want any of its beautiful new furniture stolen, and if they make students use a key to get into the lounges, it won't be. If this is the case, then I think management is out of touch with students.

No amount of restrictive policymaking is going to stop the troublemakers from removing the furniture from the lounges or tossing shopping carts off the fifth-floor balcony — but it will annoy the majority of people who need a place to relax, people who don't want to wait for the front desk to open, or to run up and down stairs trying to return a lounge-room key on time, while hoping no one has shut the lounge door in their absence.

BLAISE BYRON FAINT
 Junior
 English

Tar Heel born

To the editor:

Even though I am not living in North Carolina right now, I am a native Tar Heel and find it troubling that our great state university may actually be de-emphasizing the teaching of its own heritage.

Why is there a decline in interest of the history of our state among UNC students? As I see it, there are at least two reasons: 1) From 1972 to 1982 the teaching of N.C. history

was de-emphasized in our elementary schools, and 2) During the 1985 fall semester the University only offered one section of N.C. history. Is our history department not committed to N.C. history?

I love North Carolina! It is a wonderful state with a deep heritage, and whether we hail from Murphy or Manteo or anywhere in between, we must learn why North Carolina is the gem it is.

TIM GRAY
 Class of 1977
 Columbia, S.C.

Moral issue

To the editor:

In response to Jerry Truchinski's letter ("Harris needed," Oct. 7), I don't believe that Shearon Harris can be reduced to a simplistic cost-benefit analysis. The argument is more moral than that which can be researched in a book of statistics. The issue must be reconciled within our consciences, not in our wallets.

As to the emergency plan, how many average citizens know what to do in the case of a nuclear accident? The U.S. nuclear safety record may be superior to other industries, but it only takes one accident to ruin a lifetime.

Scare tactics? Perhaps. But I would rather be around to enjoy electricity, however costly or limited it may be. Wouldn't you, Truchinski?

ANNE YATES
 First Year
 Law



Back to Square (or Cube?) One

Remember the "In Search Of . . ." series? Host Leonard Nimoy would lead viewers through the haze surrounding a mystery and, after the second or third commercial break, suggest a solution to the puzzle. He had a knack for explaining in detail such anomalies as Stonehenge or the Lost Colony, without ever once saying, "Well, folks, this announcer is just full-blown, Gonzo confused."

Nimoy, however, has failed to address one of the great local mysteries of the 20th century — namely, why the structure called "the Cube" between the Pit and the Student Union is so dubbed.

This would perhaps be understandable if the Cube at least resembled a non-spherical solid. We wouldn't even quarrel if it had less than six sides, or if each of those sides were different sizes. Sure, Daniel Webster might start spinning in his grave about the whole thing, but this is the '80s, and one must be flexible.

But the Cube — pardon the grammar here, English pros, but we use it for emphasis — don't even come close to being an actual cube or any of its close or distant relatives. The structure has the requisite six sides, sure, but, since it doesn't even qualify as a rectangular solid, this fact is insignificant. The Cube is more like a huge brochure made out of plywood and set on its edge.

The Bottom Line

The upcoming addition of two more panels to the structure promises to further confound any efforts to compare the Cube with its namesake shape, as indicated by Jeannie Mitchell, Student Union president, who described the top view of the new structure. "It'll look like a stick person's body, only with two legs drawn on top instead of the head," she said.

"It might be called the Cube forever, in whatever shape or form it eventually takes," she despaired. The Union may sponsor a renaming contest, she said, but the name won't be changed "unless something great comes along."

And what names have the muses dropped on members of the Union Activities Board? "Nobody has any ideas," Mitchell said. "Maybe something with 'hex,' since it'll have ten sides."

If you're similarly perplexed, we advise caution before heading to Mr. Roget for help. The thesaurus' entries for "cube" fail to segue into more appropriate synonyms, leaving the reader back at Square (or is it Cube?) One.

We're convinced this one would have a befuddled, ill-mannered Nimoy demanding that Scotty beam him up.