

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

BCC suffering slow death

It's been three years in committee and seems no closer to reality than when first proposed.

Until someone in the Office of Student Affairs makes some definite decisions, until student supporters are willing to fight for the project, the Black Cultural Center will probably stay in committee.

A report by William Jones, Florida State University black studies director and a paid consultant, will be discussed by the committee next week. Jones has said he has two main criticisms of the BCC proposal: more University administrators need to show support for the center, and the BCC's mission needs to be narrower and more precise. His comments should be taken seriously by a committee that seems to be mired in discussion and inaction.

Part of the problem seems to come from two BCC concepts that committee members haven't reconciled. The Student Affairs version of the BCC story argues that the center will have to begin slowly, possibly with a spot in the Union, a little money, and a director to develop its functions. The committee's version includes a proposal with a library, lounge, art gallery and a staff including a secretary and

work-study students.

Because Vice Chancellor Donald Boulton has said the center will have a small beginning, some committee members suspect the BCC will remain an office in the Union, a propaganda tool for Student Affairs. But because the proposal describes a dream, Boulton has had to send the committee back to provide details, including a job description for a director.

It seems committee members are suffering from both suspicion and lack of drive. There have been understandable delays, but three years without a definite administrative decision is absurd. Something has to push the committee and administrators beyond meetings, or the BCC will die in the very committee which is trying to give it life. It may be time for students to try to gain public attention, support and pressure for the BCC.

And within the meetings, holders of the dream may have to accept the idea that the center will start small, but keep pressure on administration to ensure its growth.

Because whether or not the BCC will stay in the Union will make no difference if it doesn't come into existence.

Legislative entertainment

First the House of Representatives let the television cameras in, and then the Senate followed suit. Now, North Carolina's lieutenant governor and speaker of the House have developed a proposal which would open the state budget process to public view.

The N.C. budget proposal, though, involves more than merely allowing the voters a look at how their money is going to be used. The bill will also expand the Budget Committee, which presently comprises eight members, to more than 20 members, thereby presumably increasing debate on spending.

From all indications, the proposal should have smooth sailing en route to becoming law. It was initially presented by Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan and House Speaker Liston Ramsey, both Democrats, but has garnered the backing of Gov. Jim Martin, a Republican. Imagining its defeat is a difficult task.

But guaranteed success does not necessarily imply a pointless proposal. The changes effected by an open budget process will very likely be more cosmetic than substantial. Indeed Ramsey conceded that point by saying, "It's not any better, but it sounds a

whole lot better. In the eyes of the people, it will probably be better."

But up to this point, the budget has been drafted privately by an unofficial committee, termed the super sub-committee by some, composed of Jordan, Ramsey, and six other budget chairmen. The supersub met in secret, wrote major portions of the budget, and then sent their recommendations to the General Assembly. Their recommendations were typically passed swiftly by both chambers.

In effect, then, eight men set the spending agenda for the state. Even if their proposals were amended before the budget was voted on, those eight men defined the field on which the spending battle would be fought.

Jordan and Ramsey's idea seeks to remedy that by increasing the size of the Budget Committee. Gov. Martin will have no more cause to complain about the power of the "gang of eight," as he termed them. The proposal will also remove the stigma of "smoke-filled room" politics and illuminate the budget process. At a time when voter apathy is the rule of the day and the electorate seems increasingly separated from the elected, any attempt to open up the legislative arena must be applauded.

Industrial-strength cockroaches

It is of sound mind and body that The Daily Tar Heel prints the following story.

Man, some truism must maintain, has always been afraid of insects. Nowhere is that more evident than in Hollywood, and that is where this story begins.

The movie industry is up to their reels in B-movies about insects. The most famous is probably *The Fly* (1958). Roger Corman's excellent *Wasp Woman* (1959) is certainly notable. He's the same director who blessed us with *The Beast with 1,000,000 Eyes* and the *Attack of the Crab Monsters*. But wait, there's more. There's Patty McCormack's *Bug* (1975) featuring a giant man-eating cockroach.

Several bee movies (no pun intended) have been made: *Invasion of the Bee Girls*, *The Swarm* and *The Bees*.

Yes, it is a safe thesis (and probably a great honors paper) that there is an undeniable, perhaps irrational, fear of insects. If you're one of the older crowd — senior on up — you certainly must remember the killer bees from South America, or those fierce fire ants from Africa.

But now there is something new. The labs of modern science have discovered (produced?) yet another fearsome insect, the indestructible cockroach. You know, the

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industrial strength kind that is supposed withstand everything. The problem is that they are in a lab in Florida. That's a waste.

Defense Secretary Cap Weinberger said the other day it was necessary to raise the national defense budget to protect us from attack. Now, we're not about to debate the point, but we wonder whether Cappie and his crew have looked into all the possibilities of cutting defense costs. Namely, has he looked into SuperInsect '87?

He could reduce defense spending, we figure offhandedly, by at least 50 percent if he were to recruit this SuperInsect '87 — the indestructible cockroach — and send a whole mess of them over to the Soviet Union to eat the Communists out of house and home.

We're not saying it will work, but it seems a hell of a lot more feasible and fun than trying to shoot down their nuclear warheads with lasers. If it works, who knows, someday the cockroach may get *Time's* Insect of the Year.

Tar Heel Forum

Parallel struggles over two decades

Bewig/Lachs
 Guest Writers

After a semester of intense activity, the work of the anti-apartheid movement on the UNC campus culminated in November with two days of civil disobedience. The Board of Endowment refused to even consider divestment of its South African holdings, even though their usual refrain, "fiduciary responsibility," had been shown false: continued investment in South Africa is indeed far riskier than it is profitable.

When the Board continued to ignore faculty and student opinion, students responded by occupying financial offices. The next day, they refused to leave the shanty erected in front of the South Building. The charges against the first group of students were thrown out in December, but 13 students arrested for "trespassing" in the shanty will be tried today.

Today will also mark the anniversary of the birth of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Across the nation, the life of the great civil rights leader will be honored. It is appropriate on this day, remembering his goal of worldwide racial equality, to consider some important parallels between the American civil rights movement and the struggle going on in South Africa today.

The civil rights movement in America was the product of an oppressed people's outrage, just as the many student demonstrations, rent strikes and the call for divestment in South Africa are part of the struggle of that country's majority for equal rights.

"If I lived in South Africa today in the midst of the white supremacy law in South Africa, I would join Chief Luthuli and others in saying break these unjust laws," King wrote in 1961.

King also called for divestment. "The classic example of organized and institutionalized racism is the Union of South Africa. Its national policy and practice are the incarnation of the doctrine of white supremacy in the midst of a population which is overwhelmingly black. But the tragedy of South Africa is not simply in its own policy; it is in the fact that the racist government of South Africa is virtually made possible by the economic policies of the United States and Great Britain, two countries which profess to be the moral bastions of our Western world . . . We have been notoriously silent about the more than \$700 million of American capital which props up the system of apartheid, not to mention the billions of dollars in trade and the military alliances which are maintained under the pretext of fighting communism in Africa."

It is sadly ironic that the same racist arguments that were given against racial equality in America — that others knew what is best for blacks — have been hauled out once more as a response to divestment. Despite the fact that the call for divestment

originated in South Africa and is supported by the majority of blacks, President Ronald Reagan and others feel they may decide what is best for them.

It is a further irony that on King's birthday, amidst the many worthwhile celebrations planned in his honor and memory, 13 UNC students will be on trial in Chapel Hill for civil disobedience, "trespassing" on a public university campus by refusing to leave a shanty. King supported and participated in civil disobedience throughout his life as a traditional American response to injustice. But perhaps this juxtaposition is not surprising at a university which has not chosen to observe Dr. King's birthday, which is being observed throughout this country as a day set aside exclusively to contemplate a great man and his end, as well as the ways in which we can carry on his fight.

The work for justice in South Africa and in America, in Chapel Hill and on the UNC campus, must be remembered on this day. The UNC Anti-Apartheid Support Group is asking professors to set aside a minute of silence in their classes today in memory of Martin Luther King Jr., and to discuss with their students the meaning of his life and work. It is not over.

Matthew Bewig is a graduate student in history from St. Louis, Mo. Melanie Lachs is a graduate student in art history from State College, Pa.

Budget's merit

To the editor:
 Once again a Daily Tar Heel editorialist has taken the knee-jerk approach to writing a column.

The writer, whom I suspect is both a liberal and a Democrat, said in "More budget madness" (Jan. 12) that President Ronald Reagan's budget proposal was "a predictable failure."

According to an editorial entitled "There's Much Wisdom In Reagan Budget," written by the *Washington Post's* David Broder and reprinted in the Jan. 11 *Durham Morning Herald*, many budget experts find considerable merit with the Reagan budget. Robert Reischauer, an economist with the liberal Brookings Institution, was quoted in Broder's column as saying that "the president's effort to find major savings in the farm price-support programs is long overdue." Broder also quoted Reischauer as saying that "Reagan is right in phasing out the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Development program and Urban Development Action Grants." Reischauer called them "some of the least effective programs we have."

While Broder wrote that almost every one of the budget experts he interviewed had reservations about some part of the Reagan budget, he also noted that liberals such as Alice Rivlin of the Brookings Institution and William Gorham of the Urban Institute found merit in Reagan's new budget.

Although I usually disagree with Broder about politics, I admire him as a columnist because he researches topics and interviews knowledgeable sources before writing his opinion. It is unfortunate that these practices are the exception rather than the rule among DTH editorialists.

BOB ELLISON
 Senior
 RTVMP



Quality beyond the court

To the editor:
 Assuming Everette Mills' letter of Jan. 14 ("Coach critique") concerning the "Fat Cat Syndrome" and Dean Smith was serious in its intent, it would be wise for the average University of North Carolina reader not to respond by reeling off statistics, won-loss percentages and "big wins" by the Tar Heels since their 1982 NCAA championship. That sort of fan-baiting which so frequently can be seen and heard in bars beggars the question of what has happened to Smith's abilities as he has glided through the earthly vale of tears known as coaching into the misty realms of legend.

As a former DTH sports editor who was present at the creation of the eight-points-in-17-seconds legend against Duke, as one who got his indoctrination into what really matters in athletics as a sophomore engaged in a 90-minute talk with Coach Smith, as one who has gone to some trouble

to read his coaching manuals, as one who has since witnessed

the awe in the voice or the envy in the eyes of opposing coaches as they talk about their Tar Heel counterpart and as one who sees the love for him held by his graduated lettermen when they flock into the hallways outside the locker room after a game, I can assure the traditional UNC fan that Smith is a better coach today than he was when he began or even since entering the Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

Much of what Mills says is quite true, especially in regards to basketball history, but he overlooks a couple of points, the least of which may be that Smith has often backed rule changes that have guaranteed a more balanced NCAA field and undercut the strengths of perennial powers such as North Carolina. But the yardstick used by Smith — and for that matter, by Dick Crum — to measure success is far different from the one used by Mills and by many college coaches. North Carolina will assuredly lose some basketball games to "hungrier coaches," even as it must someday lose Dean

Smith, but everyone associated with the program will have gained much more.

ELLIOTT WARNOCK
 United Press International
 Raleigh

Commemoration

To the editor:
 To the UNC Student Body:
 As you are aware, today marks the birth of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., one of the most influential men in America's history. A week of activities beginning today and ending Tuesday has been organized to commemorate King's life and ideals. The kick-off event for the week's festivities will be a rally in the Pit today from noon to 1 p.m. The Black Student Movement requests that you observe King's birthday by attending the rally. Join us today and throughout the week as we, along with other campus organizations, pay tribute to the legacy of Dr. King.

CAMILLE RODDY
 President
 BSM

With courage and a little luck

Beth Buffington
 Staff Writer

The year 1986 taught me a lot of things; however, I still have yet to learn what some people consider to be one of the most valuable skills in college life — a respectable way to meet strangers of the opposite sex.

It happens a million times. You're walking around campus and suddenly you see the most incredible-looking blue-eyed brunette. You'd really like to start up a conversation with this stranger, but you know only a total idiot or a very courageous person would walk right up and introduce herself. Being neither courageous nor stupid, you look to see if you know anyone in his crowd. Of course you don't.

Next, you look to see what he's wearing. In a school with countless social clubs, dorms and fraternities whose members take pains to put emblems on clothing, you pick the one guy who isn't wearing any of these identifiable articles.

You're left with a few choices — the personals or a tracking device. Neither seems productive. So just how do you get to meet this fascinating stranger?

You don't — unless you happen to get lucky later on and meet him through fate. It seems impossible to meet strangers in college.

My roommate once tried to meet a guy at a frat court party. When he and his friends decided to roam through the crowd, my roommate saw her chance.

She politely asked him if he wouldn't mind opening her drink can since she had gloves on. Unfortunately, the guy had no idea what was going on. He politely opened her drink while his friends cracked jokes. In that incident, courage and creativity didn't pay off.

My best introduction to a stranger was an accident. A friend had invited me to a fraternity party and I had decided to call and see if the offer still stood. But I called

the wrong fraternity. The person that answered the phone was nice, and tried hard to help me figure what number I was trying to call. I never reached the friend, but the nice stranger took a chance and invited us to his fraternity party. We had a blast.

I'm not trying to encourage dangerous and estranged behavior, but it is nice to know strangers can be kind. And there are people out there who are interested in introductions.

So the next time some girl or guy tries to get your attention without being obvious, give them a chance. After all, it's like my great-grandfather says when he talks about working for John Reese (of peanut butter cup fame): "There are a lot of good people out there, and you'll never know just who you're gonna meet."

And the best things often happen by chance.

Beth Buffington is a sophomore journalism major from Jacksonville, N.C.