

The Daily Tar Heel

95th year of editorial freedom

JILL GERBER, *Editor*
 AMY HAMILTON, *Managing Editor*
 SALLY PEARSALL, *News Editor*
 JEAN LUTES, *University Editor*
 DONNA LEINWAND, *State and National Editor*
 JEANNIE FARIS, *City Editor*
 JAMES SUROWIECKI, *Sports Editor*
 FELISA NEURINGER, *Business Editor*
 JULIE BRASWELL, *Features Editor*
 ELIZABETH ELLEN, *Arts Editor*
 CHARLOTTE CANNON, *Photography Editor*
 CATHY McHUGH, *Omnibus Editor*

Boycott uninformed protest

Students dissatisfied with bureaucracy often seem to think that there is nothing that they can do as individuals. They are wrong. The Black Student Movement was on the right track when it decided to tackle the perennial problem of high textbook prices this semester.

board opinion

But the BSM's initiative turned into a case study in how not to approach student activism.

There are ways that students can make their feelings known on this issue. They can visit Student Stores and talk to the managers. They can go to the Student Stores Advisory Committee and ask for action.

If that fails, they can appeal to the University administration through Student Government.

And precedent demonstrates that they would not be wasting their time following this process.

In 1981, Student Government and the Student Stores Advisory Committee formed a task force that compared textbook prices with those at other campuses. The task force suggested that Student Stores cut prices by selling more used books.

In 1981, 16 percent of books sold by the textbook department were used. Today, 31 percent of them are used. Student Stores, the sixth largest store of its kind in the nation, sells more used books than the top nine other

stores. But the BSM had all but ignored these channels before it announced a boycott of Student Stores.

Rutledge Tufts, general manager, said the first he had heard of the issue was when BSM President Kenneth Perry came to see him for 25 minutes the day the boycott was announced.

Perry said that the threat of a boycott put the issue in the public eye. The threat produced new information from Student Stores, he said.

But the BSM could have gotten the information if it had gone to the advisory committee, which it is now doing.

If students overuse their extreme measures, they will lose their impact and the administration will become better at fighting them.

The end result? Relations between the administration and students — already strained — worsen. A major campus organization loses some credibility.

The moral is that students must be aware of the issues that surround them. They should take part in the decisions made about those issues, using every channel available to make their feelings known.

But they must be informed. It is wonderful to have the freedom to make decisions. It is mature to look for the knowledge that will yield responsible ones.

Hedging will hurt peace plan

Despite homespun presidential rhetoric, Ronald Reagan has paid little more than lip service to the prospects of a peaceful solution for Central America's troubles. Just as Nicaragua is now beginning compliance with the peace plan it signed last month with four neighboring countries, Reagan has already labeled the agreement a failure and asked Congress to increase aid to Nicaraguan contras.

After a recent request to give diplomacy a chance in Central America by President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, the author of the peace plan, Reagan said he saw "inevitable complications" in the plan and predicted its ultimate failure. As far back as 1983, Reagan has called for diplomatic agreements in dealing with Nicaragua's Sandinista regime. Even last month, he stamped his seal of approval on the diplomatic approach when he teamed with Democratic House Speaker Jim Wright to endorse the peace plan signed in Guatemala City.

That agreement, signed by Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and El Salvador, calls for a regional cease fire, democratic reforms and amnesty for the contras to be carried out by a Nov. 7 deadline. Compliance will be monitored by a commission headed by a leading opponent of the Sandinista regime. The agreement has already begun to show signs of progress, as symbolized

by Nicaragua's agreement to allow the opposition's newspaper and the Roman Catholic radio station to resume operations.

The Sandinistas have said they will comply 100 percent with the peace efforts. But instead of waiting until Nov. 7 to see if they do, the Reagan administration has resorted to the mentality that peace negotiations will not succeed unless the United States continues the threat of more contra aid.

The reason for Reagan's impatience with the peace plan lies not with his concerns for political freedoms in Nicaragua, but with Soviet influence in Central America. A primary concern is that the plan permits continued Soviet aid to the Sandinistas. If left unchecked, Soviet influence in Central America would present a genuine concern to U.S. security. Still, Soviet influence has never risen to the point that it poses a legitimate threat. Under the peace plan, that influence is likely to become even less ominous.

Rather than resorting to threats that give the Sandinistas reason to abandon the peace plan, the Reagan administration should give the peace process a chance to work. After Nov. 7, the prospects for a diplomatic solution in the region can then be reviewed. If the plan is honored, it stands to promote democracy and peace in Central America. — **Mike Mackay**

non sequitur

The ads make TV what it is today

Anyone who watches television has to be familiar with this commercial:

Two men dressed in business suits walk through a corporate office.

"Southern Bell provides us with the ability to communicate and expand our business," says the first.

"And expansion and communication are important in business," says the second man knowingly, as the camera focuses on his scraggly four-foot long beard. The voice-over says, "John Naisbitt, author of 'Megatrends.'"

Gee, John, thanks for the brilliant insight. No one ever would have guessed that communication is important in business. No doubt a lot of small businessmen who had been striving for mass confusion and hysteria took notes.

Southern Bell must consider John Naisbitt to be a minor god or something, because he seems to be the crux of their ad campaign.

The next time John Naisbitt appears on

television, everyone should call the phone company and ask for Mr. Bell. Tell him that you're all sick and tired of John Naisbitt, and maybe they'll yank him for good.

Hopefully, Mr. Megatrends himself will catch wind of the Megatrend of disgust he's generating and disappear for a while, before he dries up from over-exposure. After all, he can only milk one book for so long.

If the Naisbitt-Bell commercials were finally yanked, then we could see some real quality advertising, like the commercial where Joe Isuzu goes to England, or where Bill Cosby talks to little kids about Jell-O.

But without a doubt, the greatest commercials are those for new Broadway musicals, where theatre-goers are interviewed as they leave the theatre. They all speak mechanically, with glazed eyes, and they all say the same thing, in the same hypnotic voice:

"Much... better... than... 'Cats.'"

Readers' Forum

The challenge of mastering the self

Sean Rowe
Staff Columnist

The last time I saw Al Palacio he was standing naked on a set of scales in the midst of what looked like an indoor slave auction. It was last winter, the morning of the ACC wrestling championships at Duke, and Al was ranked first in the nation at 118 pounds. The locker room was more than warm, but Al was shivering. Incomprehensible, unless you know that Al's normal weight is 150. One byproduct of wrestlers' weight loss is an inability to keep warm, and concomitant dehydrated shakes.

Another consequence is nightmares. Here is one from my own experience: You find yourself in a nocturnal shadowland. The mat is rolled out in a circle of light. A man appears, your opponent, wearing the plastic face mask favored by injured wrestlers. Your reason for being there is understood; you square off with him and first contact is made. He seems to anticipate your every move, the skill and cunning of his body is a perfect match for your own. At some point blood is drawn. You become more desperate. And just when you believe you are about to lose, he pulls back. He removes his mask. You look at his face and it is your face. He is you; and the struggle has been inconclusive.

The desire for a conclusion to that struggle is part of what wrestling is about, what wrestlers mean when they say their sport is intensely personal or "90 percent mental." To the wrestler, the opponent is always an image of himself. His struggle with the opponent is a classical dialogue with the self carried on in the language of the flesh. It is, even in the estimation of other athletes, the most grueling sport,

and nobility is achieved through action and physical triumph.

Casual observers of a wrestling match often comment on the sport's apparent eroticism. The hyper-masculine display of control and domination is immediately disturbing; the unusual spectacle of two semi-naked men in intimate physical contact leads some people to construe the underlying motive as homosexual. Wrestling is indeed erotic, but in the broadest sense of the word. It is the old Greek sense that the Western world has lost and longs for, the sense in which erotic experience involves the loss of individuality through direct participation with the physical world, a merging with nature that verifies the existence of the individual as part of the larger group.

Until a few years ago the audience at UNC home wrestling matches consisted of the janitor and his wife. The crowd has grown, but wrestling at UNC still lives in the shadow of football and basketball, and probably always will. It is not designed for the uninitiated spectator. It is not a game, not really even a sport; there is nothing in it that seems to belong to daylight, to pleasure, nothing about it that is playful. And although the wrestler in training shares the central obsession of the artist — the discovery of the self, perceived by others as narcissism — what he does in competition is not art, not theater, but a heightened vision of life itself, painfully real, a strange compound of lucidity and madness.

Some women enjoy watching wrestling, but most do not. It is a purely masculine activity conducted in a purely masculine world. As author Joyce Carol Oates writes, "Men fighting men to determine worth (i.e., masculinity) excludes women as completely as the female experience of childbirth excludes men." Wrestlers are practitioners of a lost religion of masculinity, an ethos of physical courage almost completely unrequited by the modern world. Within the male tradition of the warrior there is no separation between beauty and morality; beauty is strength,

Sean Rowe, a senior journalism major from Douglas, Ga., spent three weeks last winter traveling and training with the UNC wrestling team.

Don't criticize authors

To the editor:
This letter is in response to the letter "Thumbs down to letter writers" (Sept. 28) by Heather Shuler. It seems that her article, to use her words, was a "smart aleck's grotesque, critical overview" of the editorial page. By labeling those people who are inspired enough to respond to controversial letters as "couch potatoes," is she not falling into the same category?

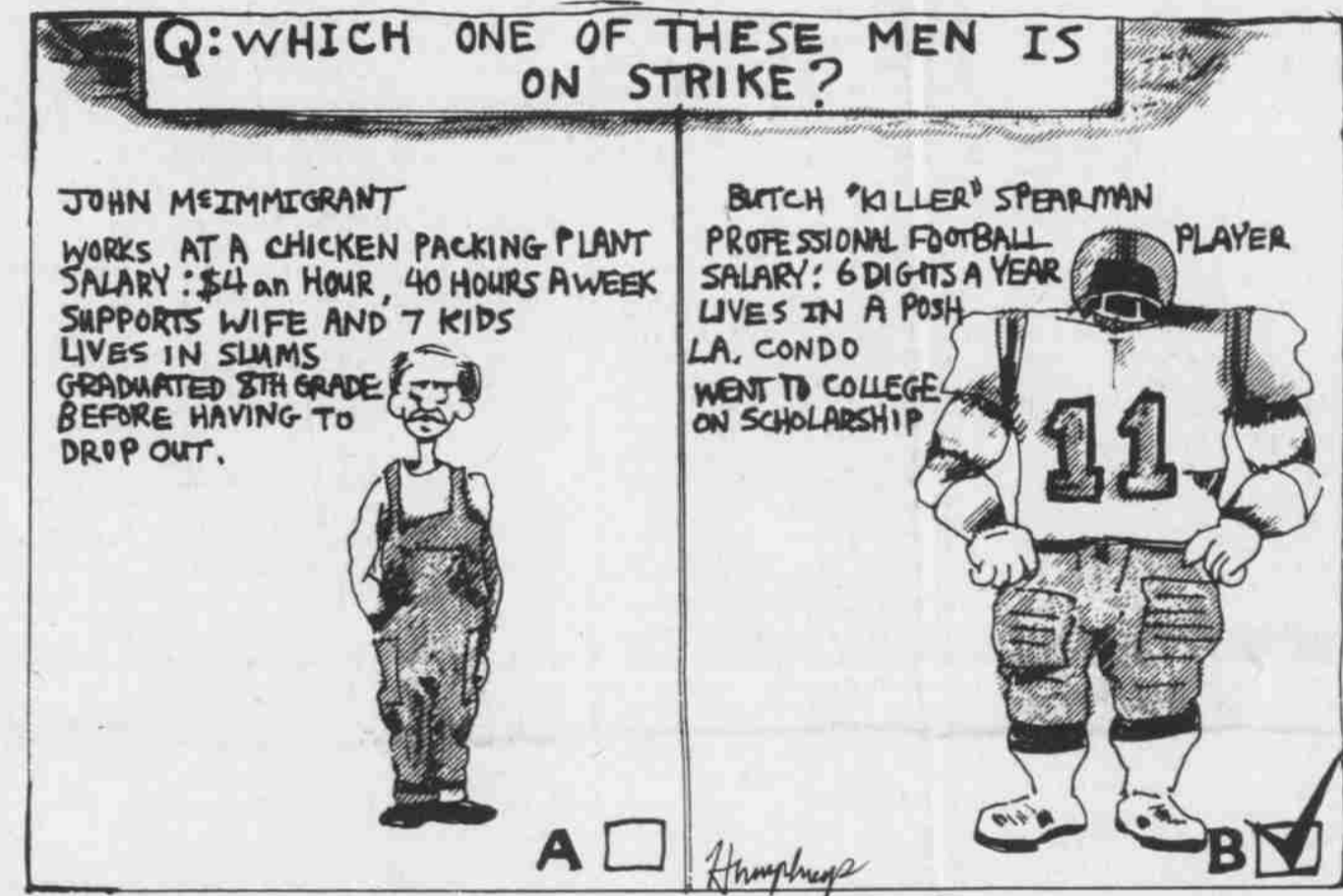
Rather than a slap on the wrists, these writers deserve a pat on the backs. Most people just read the letters to the editor and voice their objections to themselves. But these honorable authors take the additional step of putting their ideas forth on paper, thus receiving either criticism or praise. Is it fair to tell one side of a story and not expect the other? We don't live in a one-dimensional world. And Heather, if you still abide by your disgust and anger with the editorial page, then let me be the first to congratulate you — you are a couch potato!

MINDY DAWN FRIEDMAN
Freshman
Education

Send Tristam to the library

To the editor:
As Pierre Tristam attempts to argue every week, perhaps we illiterate Tar Heels need a well-read intellectual to grace the pages of the DTH as some sort of cultural instructor. Please inform Tristam, however, that he has been deemed unqualified for the position.

"Love and courtship, American style" (Sept. 22) is a good example of his pseudo-intellectual pretension. The piece starts with a clumsy allusion to 19th century writer and composer Frederic Chopin, though obviously Tristam was a bit careless in retrieving details from his cultural grab-bag. George Sand was



born a female, not a male, in 1804 and was still a female at the time of her death in 1876. Tristam would do well to read some of Sand's beautiful accounts of the love affairs she enjoyed with Alfred Musset. Perhaps Musset's name could be recycled for use in Tristam's next column.

The rest of the article is littered with other bits of carelessness. He goes on to lament the speed at which American couples proceed from first contact to sexual relations, compared with the conservative courtships of their "Old World" counterparts. He is obviously attempting a swipe at American morality, but every account I have ever heard of sexual customs has characterized Americans as puritans, while Europeans get the nod as the more promiscuous.

Tristam is advised to remember that his brand of pretension is reserved for those intellectuals who have earned the right of its possession. He should go back and read a bit more before assuming his position as dispenser of cultural wisdom.

JERRY HORNER
Senior
History/French

Join march for freedom

To the editor:
UNC is one of the top-rated universities in the United States. Carolina students have always been known for their academic excellence and political activism. Yet the institution that fosters these qualities and ideals still financially supports the apartheid regime of South Africa. How can we as students condone this?

Many of us are no longer willing to passively allow our university to support terrorism and racism. Students have also grown disgusted with the Reagan administration's illegal terrorist activities against the people of Central America by funding contra terrorism and supporting military repression in El Salvador.

On Saturday, Oct. 3, concerned citizens from across the will converge on Raleigh to march in support of freedom on South Africa and Central America. Sponsors of the march include groups who oppose apartheid and/or are concerned with Central America Help free South Africa and Central America. Join in the freedom march. More information is available at the Action

Against Apartheid table in the Pit.

STEVE SULLIVAN
Freshman
Music

MARY LISA PORIES
Junior
International Studies

Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments, ideas and criticisms. We ask only that you follow a few simple guidelines in exchange for access to this unique public forum:

■ When submitting letters or columns, students should include the following: name, year in school, major, phone number and the date submitted. Other members of the University community should give similar information.

■ All letters and columns must be signed by the author, with a limit of two signatures per letter or column.

■ The DTH reserves the right to edit for clarity, vulgarity, disparity and verbosity.

Ticket writers uphold long arm of the law

To the editor:

This letter is in response to a letter written by Michael Keaney on Sept. 25 "Ticket writers waste no time." He complained about the ticketing policies of police on Cameron Avenue around 9:45 a.m. His complaint was that citations were being issued to cars parked in the bike lane at 9:44 when the restrictions are removed at 9:45.

Keaney apparently believes that his right to a parking space in the bike lane before the "established time" is more important than the safety of the two-wheeled student. His respect for the law prevents him from parking in these lanes 10 or 15 minutes early, unlike those "brave few individuals" who wind up with \$25 tickets. Yet he waits in his car until the "bad man in blue" leaves. Obviously, he is blocking the bike lane before 9:45, presenting an obstruction to

bicycling traffic.

Any user of the bike lanes on Cameron Avenue will attest that the presence of those lanes increases the safety of two-wheel commuting. Any blockage of those lanes, such as a parked car, results in the cyclist having to enter the main traffic lane and potentially creating a hazardous situation.

The officer, observing which cars had parked there before 9:45, was merely enforcing the law. It is unfortunate that there were so many violators that he had to write a large number of tickets. If any of those people wanted to appeal their tickets, I am sure a process exists for them to vent their grievances. If Keaney and others feel that the 9:45 restriction is inappropriate, they should approach the city council with their reasons.

We feel that Keaney and others who park on Cameron Avenue before 9:45 pose a danger to bicyclists. The Chapel Hill Police Department should be applauded for its efforts to keep the bike lanes open. If Keaney wants a parking place that doesn't have a time restriction, he should consider obtaining an on-campus parking permit. However, since his driving to class adds to the traffic congestion in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area, we strongly suggest that he take a bus or even ride his bike.

MICHAEL LEVY
Graduate
Biochemistry

SCOTT BREIDENBACH
Research Technician
Biochemistry