

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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Education takes the fall

Martin should wait on prisons, roads

Under the leadership of Gov. Jim Martin's administration, North Carolina is now facing a budget deficit that will probably have a significant effect on its educational system. Although the budget crisis is sure to affect many different areas of state government, it appears education may suffer the brunt of the budget cuts. Martin has requested additional money be given to the prison system and highway construction, although he said during his second campaign for governor that he was an advocate of education.

Educators are aware of the potential damage these cuts could have and rallied Monday at the N.C. Capitol to protest possible cuts in education. This is not the first time they have clashed with Martin over cuts in education.

Legislators are now meeting in Raleigh to discuss proposed cuts for the 1990-91 fiscal year to balance a budget that is projected to be \$336.4 million short of original budget estimates. According to the state's constitution, the budget must always be balanced at the end of each fiscal year. Legislators and administrators are still not sure what kind of impact the proposed cuts will have on universities and secondary schools.

North Carolinians must question a governor who would rank education below paving roads on his political agenda. If budget cuts are implemented, there will be less money to hire teachers, less money to expand educational programs and less money for new text books. North Carolina schools are already lagging behind most other states in educational areas ranging from teacher pay to SAT scores. The national average for teacher pay is \$31,304 and the average salary for a N.C. teacher is \$27,814.

Teachers who are overworked and underpaid become disenchanted with the education in North Carolina. Many qualified teachers are drawn into other careers

because they lose the motivation to teach. Students who would make outstanding teachers often decide not to go into education because of low pay and working conditions. The paperwork teachers must fill out for their classes increases every year and detracts from the amount of time they could focus on improving their teaching skills and lesson plans.

The new cuts would certainly not improve the state's status. A state that can boast of such a fine university system should not have the shabby secondary school system North Carolina does. Although lack of money is not the only problem in the school systems, a vast majority of obstacles in improving the schools stem from it.

Members of the University community should be concerned about how UNC will be affected by Martin's attitude toward education and the impact his attitude will have on the children attending North Carolina public schools. Most students attending UNC are from North Carolina. If students in the state are not getting an adequate education, the quality of students being admitted to the state's universities is sure to suffer, even if the budget cuts don't have a direct effect on the University.

Martin and his administration need to examine their priorities. Little evidence has surfaced of his "deep" commitment to education during his two terms. Repairing roads and building prisons are important projects North Carolina must tackle. How can the state expect to tackle problems with prison overcrowding when it is not educating future leaders, though? For a governor who said he was going to be supportive of education, Martin has failed to make the grade. It is time for others besides the teachers and school administrators in North Carolina to protest his stand on funding education. — Nancy Wykle

Senior treasures

State celebrates its Older Americans

As the month of May ends, many North Carolinians plan to enjoy two of North Carolina's treasures -- its beaches and mountains. However, many people have failed to realize another treasure they might enjoy. N.C. Gov. Jim Martin declared May Older Americans Month in the state and referred to the older adults as "silver treasures." During the first few weeks of the month many events have taken place to honor the older residents of North Carolina including "Senior Fitness Week," "Senior Smile Week" and "Older Veterans Week."

More than one million people in North Carolina are 60-years-old or older, according to Human Resources Secretary David Flaherty, whose department houses the N.C. Division of Aging. North Carolina's total population is 6.5 million. North Carolina's elderly make up 17 percent of the state's population, but they are often overlooked by younger adults and children who fail to realize the important roles they play in our society.

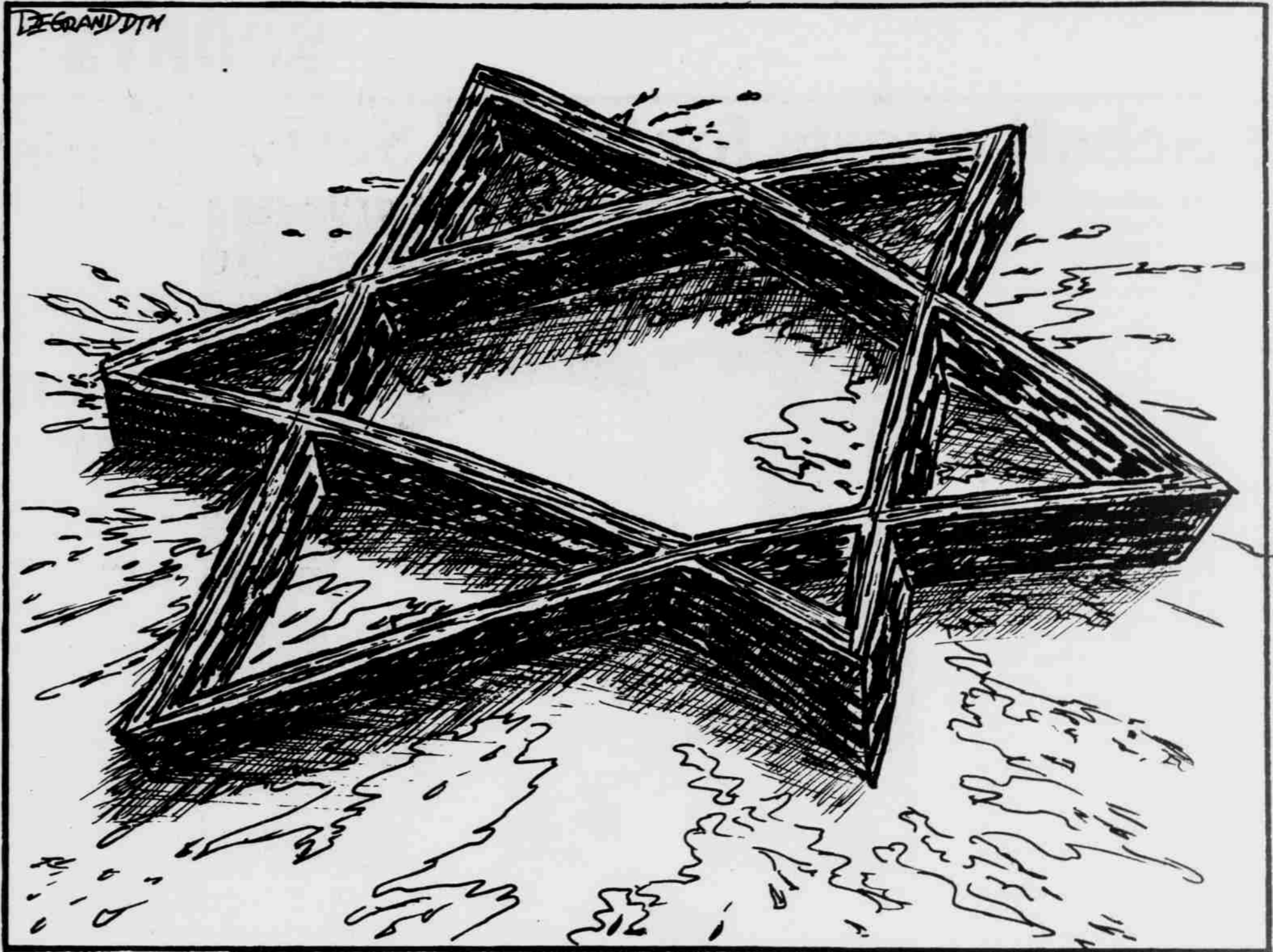
Gov. Martin emphasized the vital role the elderly play during his proclamation of "Older Americans Month" April 26.

"Our state's treasure is made up of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. They (old people) are our teachers, our leaders and our mentors. They guide us with their wisdom and courage."

However, many North Carolinians have decided to make the "older generation"

take a secondary role in our society. Many elderly are abandoned by their children, others are placed in retirement homes and still others are forced into early retirement. Japanese and Chinese cultures place high honor on its elderly population and gives this part of its population the honor and respect it deserves. But Americans have not adopted this type of respect, and more frequently we are forcing the older people out of our society because of their age. People refuse to take the feelings of the elderly into account or think about the effect such discrimination can play in the present and future societies. Many fail to recognize that one day they will be a part of the elderly population and might want the respect and honor that would be due to them.

The Golden Rule says, "Do unto others, as you would have done to you," but more importantly take time out to talk to a parent, grandparent, teacher or elderly neighbor. Ask one to come to the elementary schools or the community center and speak to a group of children. Elderly people play an important role in society, but they are often neglected because of the busy schedules in the "me" generation. So during the next week take time to stop and chat with an older person or go out to dinner with one. They have a lot to offer society if society will only give them a chance. — Cameron Tew



READERS' FORUM

World democratization not reaching S. Africa

Dale McKinley

Guest Columnist

The United Nations Development Program has called it "a new holocaust" and nobody seems to care! What am I talking about? This "new holocaust" is the systematic destruction and death that the region of Southern Africa has been suffering for the past decade, and that continues unabated. While the United States and other western nations pat themselves on the back for the so-called democratization that is sweeping the world, they seem to have conveniently "forgotten" that their own policies and geopolitical interests (not the Soviet Union's) are more than partly responsible for this "new holocaust." For the entire 1980's the U.S. and its principal ally, Britain, have directly supported and/or turned a blind eye to the destabilization that has been such an integral part of South Africa's regional role as a sub-imperialist power. As a result, the past decade has seen entire economies ruined, untold suffering and most tragically of all, the massive loss of human life.

Given the fact that the western media does not take this tragedy seriously (for reasons that should be obvious), it is imperative that people know the extent of the death and destruction. According to conservative estimates from the United Nations Development Programme, the direct and indirect effects of South Africa's destabilization have cost one and a half million lives since 1980! That's right, 1.5 million people dead, half of whom were under the age of five. In addition to this incredible loss of life, the Frontline States have lost \$60 billion to this destabilization. That is equivalent to 210% of the GNP of all the Frontline States combined (U.N. Economic Commission for Africa.) Many of those who have been fortunate enough to survive have become part of the largest population of refugees in the world, estimated to be around 4-5 million. This is the ongoing legacy of South Africa's extended apartheid and the support, acquiescence and indifference of the majority of the western world.

The country of Mozambique has been hit hardest by this "new holocaust." From 1982 onwards, with the indirect blessing of both the U.S. and Britain, the South African sponsored terrorist group RENAMO has wreaked almost unimaginable destruction on the people of Mozambique. Here are some of the results:

- over 30% of all health facilities destroyed.
- over half of the schools either closed or destroyed.
- an infant mortality rate that has now risen above 200 per 1000.
- an estimated 200,000 children orphaned.
- 6 million people out of a population of 14.6 million are on the verge of mass malnutrition and starvation.

(All of the above figures come from the U.N. Economic Commission on Africa and the U.N. Development Programme.)

Until very recently, all of this was rationalized away by the leading western powers as an apparently acceptable "cost" in the fight against the "Marxist" government of Mozambique. Now that Mozambique has "come around," these same powers are pretending that they have opposed South Africa's destabilization all along by extending a "helping hand" to the Mozambican government. Nothing could be further from the truth.

While the people of Mozambique, Namibia and Angola were suffering at the hands of South Africa's destabilization, the U.S. and its allies were still hiding behind the smokescreen of anti-communism to legitimize their own economic and political interests. Indeed, history will prove that they were not only witness to this "new holocaust," but that they actively and consciously supported it. All of this was done in the name of so-called "national inter-

est" and "support for democracy." Tell me, what kind of "national interest" and "democracy" helps kill over 1.5 million people? What kind of citizenry allows its government to carry on with such policies? As is most often the case, those who live in relative comfort and security far removed from things that are happening "over there," somehow forget that all of our human lives are interconnected. When we ignore and rationalize the destruction of others' humanity for self-serving reasons, then we are well on the road to losing our own humanity.

Last year I went home to Zimbabwe and was able to spend a considerable amount of time traveling throughout Southern Africa. What I witnessed in Mozambique was a level of destruction that has rendered a proud and promising nation virtually destitute. The most horrifying images that stick in my mind come from the experience of one young Mozambican who had managed to flee the terror of RENAMO. He had told of how RENAMO had come to his village, rounded up its inhabitants and then had proceeded to mutilate and/or kill all of the women and small children (RENAMO's "favorite" mutilations are cutting off the ears, noses and lips of their victims). Among those women was his mother who was in advanced pregnancy, and he was forced to watch as the RENAMO terrorists split her open.

These are the realities of this "new holocaust" that threatens to turn Southern Africa into the largest "killing ground" since World War II. Despite all the suffering, violence and despair, the people of Mozambique and the entire region continue to fight on with an incredible sense of determination and hope. We owe it both to them and to our own innate humanity, to do all we can to stop this "new holocaust" so that the people of Southern Africa can not only begin to fulfill their full potential, but also to simply live.

Dale T. McKinley is a graduate student in Political Science from Gweru, Zimbabwe.

Editor's note: This letter was sent to the DTH by Austin Stamper, a second grader at Carey Elementary and the son of Susan Stamper, a research analyst in the UNC Microbiology Department.

Austin
April 24, 1990
science #

We celebrate Earth day so we can save our world. One way we can save our world is to recycle glass, aluminum, paper etc. I think some people don't know that when they litter they're killing themselves. They're tons of ways to save the world, do you know one? The Earth is dying because we pollute. I wish that every day was Earth day.

