

Pass the cool whip, please

Senator William Proxmire gave this month's "Golden Fleece" award to the Presidential Inaugural Committee for spending \$1.8 million of taxpayer's money to supply President Reagan's guests with 1,120 military chauffeurs, aides and escorts. More hidden costs to the taxpayer, in addition to the use of military personnel, included \$1.3 million appropriated to the District of Columbia for general support; \$463,000 to the Joint Congressional Inaugural Committee for expenses of the swearing-in ceremony; and \$661,000 to the General Services Administration for office space and furnishings.

Hmmmmmmmmmm.

Just last week Reagan asked Congress for budget cuts totaling \$41.4 billion next fiscal year as part of an economic package that will include the largest tax cut in history. After talking "across the board" cuts since his campaign harangues, the Reagan motorized machete was gearing up. Having reached its zenith, the ax was on the downswing.

Not being masochists, but realists, the nation knew something had to be done soon about U.S. overspending and was readying an accomodating wince and biting of the lip as the blade sliced.

But now, I don't know. Over \$4 million to say a couple of speeches and dance around for a night? We, who flip a coin over whether to eat or be cold, are beginning to have our doubts about a president who spends over \$4 million to inaugurate himself but considers \$1.5 million to help supplement funds for the Atlanta child killer case too accomodating.

The idea of eliminating people and programs who don't deserve funds is justifiable. None can deny that "waste" is not exclusive to the sewers. But how is one to determine who is going to college and who is going to hang out on the block? Which family is to eat and which is to go hungry? Who is to have a job and who will hang out on the block with the student who couldn't get to school? Is there some omnipotent eye that will look into hearts and homes to see who is lying and who really does have five kids and no job?

If Reagan's budget-cutting program fails to meet the essential test of fairness and equity or flops altogether, more than just mere politicians will be affected. We all will get the shaft. In this high stakes gamble that will cost the economy at least a million jobs, the big guy in the White House should remember the squalor of the 18th century and Marie Antoinette. When there is no opportunity for education, jobs or food, people do have a tendency to rise up in revolt and riot.

Mr. President, I hope you're not telling us to eat cake.

Teresa A. Burke

Lets make a deal

"The road to hell
is paved with good intentions."

Last week I waited 20 minutes in the cafeteria during the dinner hour for a fork. I was becoming irritated along with the other students who were waiting. Finally I said, "It takes them too long to wash silverware." The cashier seated at the end of the line replied, "If you would bring back the silverware you have in your room, we would have more to wash."

Her point struck home. At that moment I remembered the two knives, one spoon and a fork I have been meaning to return.

I guess there are a lot of people on campus like me whose intentions are good but memories are short. What we have failed to realize is that we have "unintentionally" lifted over 2,400 peices of silverware this year. This staggering figure does not include missing trays or wasted napkins.

Well, since I've started writing this I feel pretty guilty. First thing tomorrow I'm going to return the silver. Since I have such a short memory, if you see me on campus, remind me. I'll be more than happy to do the same for you.

Winfred Cross

Letters to the Editor

Reagan cutback

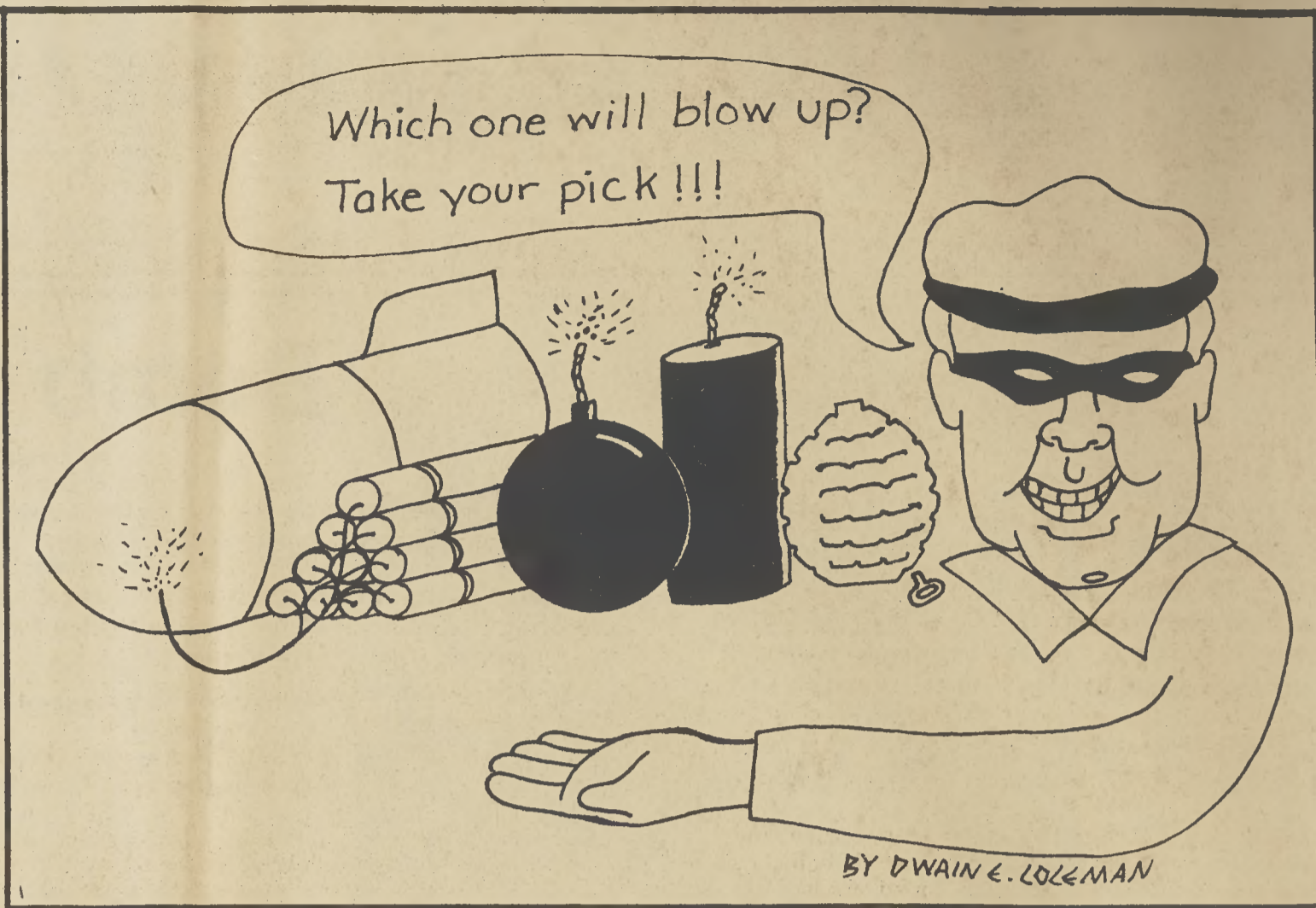
While watching Reagen's announcement concerning his new economic policies, a stab of fear shot through me when it was mentioned that the BEOG funds are on the hit list after August.

Do you realize a large majority of our student body depends on these funds to continue their education?

Without these funds many many students will be unable to complete their education, and where will NCCU and other small universities go? That's Right! No where, we will no longer exist! No students, no university.

Don't sit idly by and let this happen to our school. Black universities have had an uphill fight for several years, now's the time we must make a decision and protect this institution which has mothered us.

Elberta Jenkins
Junior



Winner of Union essay contest

Black History: A Role Model For Youth

A role model is defined as, "an expected social behavior of an individual that serves as the plan from which a finished work will be produced." Black History Month serves as a role model, but only recently has it begun to receive the recognition it deserves. The Afro-American youth has been chosen as the beneficiary to reap the rewards of such an important month. Black History month offers to the youth information, events, projects, seminars, and other activities. Since young Afro-Americans have constantly been subjected to misinterpretations from books and other materials, Black History Month has been designated to fill the void created, and alleviate those aspects that have depicted the Afro-American as being of insignificant value. Identification, awareness, and education are three key concepts that evolve. Black History Month urges Afro-Americans to take pride in being black, while subsequently taking an obligation to reach out to inform those Afro-Americans who would otherwise continue to go misinformed.

The first role model is evaluation of the black identity to fully understand that Black History month is celebrated for a purpose. Essentially black history informs Afro-Americans where they have come from, where they presently stand, and where they will ultimately be in the future. Being ignored is a tragedy in itself, but to take away from the colossal feats and achievements Afro-Americans have contributed is an unfair representation. Since accurate records of certain time periods are so misrepresented and distorted, acquiring all of the essential facts to bring about a fair representation has all but become a forgotten practice in regards to Afro-Americans. Identifying with black history month enhances this aspect and lays the foundation for social visibility and assimilation. Even though Afro-Americans are black, the general trend is to judge by criteria of color rather than significance of contribution. Western society has the uncanny tendency to strip Afro-Americans of both materialistic gains and equality in an attempt to disassociate them from the American mainstream of life. Afro-Americans have done more than enough to become visible in this society, but due to unjust accusations, anti-black material, institutions of inequali-

ty, and other demeaning literature, Afro-Americans remain in relative obscurity.

Combating this identity crisis on a one-to-one basis while simultaneously instituting a true black identity is why Black History Month plays a significant role in helping to form the role model for today's youth.

A second role model is being aware of black history. Awareness involves expanding and exposing the mind to new resources that will benefit tomorrow's youth in an advantageous manner. Consequently awareness could be symbolized as the fine line separating worthlessness and usefulness. To this statement I pose the question: Are all Afro-Americans aware that Afro-Americans who have made significant contributions should in essence be regarded as pioneers? Yes, pioneers in the sense that in every endeavor challenged by Afro-Americans, a pioneering effort was demonstrated. No, Afro-Americans were not brought to America to be educators, professionals, or athletes, but to work the fields as slaves. From this degrading position Afro-Americans have fought hard against insurmountable odds to ascend the socio-economic ladder, which continues to make each step harder to achieve. The process started well over 200 years ago and still continues today as Afro-Americans realize they can contribute more than just physical labor as an ethnic group. Afro-Americans are in a precarious position and can expect an extremely slow revelation in reference to the importance of black history. The American system continues the futile effort to push Afro-Americans further away from black history in an attempt to prove its insignificant value. Once again black history plays an instrumental role in coercing Afro-Americans to stand up and be accounted for, as being apart of the populous that is becoming increasingly aware of aspects that have a bearing on where Afro-Americans stand today.

Black History Month also serves as an educational experience for the Afro-American youth. The experience is a growing process that urges the Afro-American youth into new areas and provide for continued social mobility. Afro-American youths can add an additional page to the growth

See **ROLE MODEL**, page 6

Is anybody going to McDonald's?

There have been numerous complaints over the meal plan at the cafeteria here at North Carolina Central University.

Often the cafeteria runs out of spoons, forks, cups and plates before many students have been served. Even the choice of food becomes limited and sometimes it runs out entirely and the student has to suffer. The rule seems to be, get there on time or go hungry. And if you're hungry, where can you turn to? No where. Saturdays and Sundays are severely restricted. What's wrong with establishing late hours on weekends and giving students a chance to have a late evening snack? Now, it is inconvenient if not impossible or dangerous, for students to go downtown after dark in search of food. No wheels, long distances, muggers out and potential rapists lurking about - What's a coed to do?

Another problem could be settled if the administration would change the old procedure of giving out meal cards, and let the student use his I.D. card instead. Better yet, give the student a smaller card that could be punched whenever he entered the cafeteria. Let's have a buffet style cafeteria where one can eat as much as he wants, whenever he wants it, like they do at UNC-G.

The administration should change its methods, so that students can eat three meals a day and not be penalized if he misses one. If we are unable to suggest a good workable plan, the university ought to propose a better one, after consultation with students who use the cafeteria. After all, students are paying for their meals. They're the ones to satisfy not some procedure. Many students do not have the extra money to go to Hardee's, McDonald's or Churches when they get hungry and find the cafeteria closed, or unappetizing.

Catherine Moses
Junior

Lack of Communication

There is a great lack of communication between students and some of our administration and staff members.

I can personally say that the majority of the students here at North Carolina Central University are poorly informed on some things that they need to know. It seems we're always the last to know.

A good example of this is paying your housing deposit for

the next academic school year. The time schedule to pay your deposit is usually slightly different each year. Whenever a student goes to pay his or her deposit, the situation is usually, "It's too early," or "We're not accepting any money now." If you return with the same money two or three weeks later, the reply is usually, "You're too late," or "All the rooms have been taken." I realize that it may be our responsibility to check periodically in the Housing Department for information. But everywhere I look on campus the students are advertising their different functions. Is it too much to ask for a little publicity from the Housing Department?

I don't understand why money cannot be accepted when a student has it to give. How does a student who receives money from his parents explain to them that he or she does not have a room because the money wouldn't be taken when you offered it to the proper authorities?

Veronica Monta Cogdell
Sophomore

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