

# THE TWIG

meredith college

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27611

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The TWIG welcomes comment and will give prompt consideration to any criticisms submitted in writing and signed by the writer.

EDITOR'S

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## Reagan's Economics

The Reagan Administration's economic program consists of a fine balance between 3 different goals: first - increasing the rate of real economic growth, 2nd - lowering the inflation rate as fast as possible, and 3rd - Reagan's campaign promise of establishing a balanced budget by 1984.

A great deal has been made in the press of the alleged inconsistencies among these goals. Speaker of the House Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill shared this view with the press - "why fight a popular President if his program is going to self destruct?"

It is unclear why the President's opponents are so convinced of the incapacitability among the three viewpoints. First of all, the supply-siders fully support a policy of moderate and predictable growth in the monetary aggregates and they strongly support OMB's efforts to reduce the growth of spending.

The Administration's monetarist's fight against inflation is aided by a higher saving rate and a larger supply of incentives - tax breaks, less government interference etc. - that encourage production and raise productivity. It is easier to bring down prices if better incentives and higher tax rate returns are aiding production.

The Republican traditionalists who believe that a balanced budget is the prerequisite for a stable economy, are pleased with the supply-side and monetarist policies that provide for lowering expenditure growth. Real economic growth reduces budget expenditures and helps balance the budget. If better incentives mean more jobs, then expenditures for support programs will be lower.

The Reagan Administration has a coherent view of the mistake, of previous administrations and a positive view of what needs to be done to remedy the nation's economic problems. The Administration's program, however, can only succeed if it adheres to its original balance of goals. One cannot override the other.

Kathy Hoffarth

### LETTERS?

The Twig welcomes letters to the editor and contributions of columns to the editorial pages.

All contributions should be typed, double spaced and are subject to editing.

Column writers should include their majors and hometowns; each letter should include the writer's name, address and telephone number.

Unsigned letters will not be printed.

## Open season on turkeys

by Kathleen McKeel

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. Mainly for the time I can spend visiting with relatives and relaxing before finals as well as the food. Thanksgiving is the one time my family has a turkey with all the trimmings. This year, however, the joyful association between Thanksgiving and turkey has been dulled. Diminished by the sheer fact that one day soon, before Thanksgiving festivities begin, from the turkeys in Raleigh, I must choose one. A date for the Christmas Dance.

The more fortunate among us do not need to worry about this dilemma for they have already found someone

who is neither beast nor fowl. As for the rest of us, let's face it, it's open season on turkeys.

Hunting is a very serious sport and one should proceed with due caution. Upon my decision to write this article I spoke with a few leading experts to get their professional advice.

(1) Find the local gathering places: If you don't know the area, secure a reputable guide. Go frequently and familiarize yourself with the area.

(2) Know your turkey calls. The difference between success and failure is often the ability to talk turkey. The higher your proficiency level, the better your chances are of bagging a prime turkey. So

practice.

(3) Once you have sighted your prey, nail him. Remember you are working against a time deadline, and if you miss this one, you will have to start at the beginning.

(4) Hunt in small groups. It is less obvious to the prey that they are being lured in for the kill.

(5) Safety: This point cannot be stressed enough. Wear the proper clothing, follow the sportsman's rules of conduct, and remember one catch per woman.

If you follow these tips, you should have a successful hunting season. Otherwise, you could find yourself spending the evening with an unexpected catch instead of a turkey.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In recent weeks, security has received wide campus attention. The TWIG has played an important role in focusing this attention by publishing a letter to the editor and an article on security. Thank you for this work.

In her recent article, Ms. Stringfield challenged the Meredith community to decide how effective we want the security force at Meredith to be. As a student, my reply is "VERY effective."

Meredith has been fortunate to escape practically unscathed in the rash of violent crimes against women that have occurred in Raleigh in the last year. Certainly this is, in part, the result of our security force. The other part, quite frankly, I attribute to luck.

Let's face it. Meredith is in a very vulnerable location. First, easy access to the campus is available from Hillsborough Street, Faircloth Street, and from the footpath adjoining Ridge Road. Secondly, our beautiful, big campus has plenty of hiding spots that even the largest security force could not monitor.

Thirdly, lighting on campus is inadequate in places, to say the least. Remote areas such as the gym, Cate Center, and certain parking lots do not have well-lighted routes back to the more trafficked sections of the campus. Who dares walk along the sidewalk between Joyner and the Alumnae House after 6:00 p.m.? But what if you need to get to the Alumnae House for a meeting?

Fourthly, what happens when our security guards, who often work two jobs, need to take a coffee break? The choice is between leaving the campus virtually unguarded or having exhausted men on duty. On occasion, the decision has been to leave the campus almost unguarded while the guards run over to Mister Donut some time between 10:00 and 12:00 p.m. to grab a quick cup of coffee. Further, the fact is advertised to the public because the Meredith security car is parked in front of Mister Donut. I advocate the right of our security force to take a break; however, maintaining a high level of security on campus means having more than one guard

on the premises with a more adequate vehicle than a little blue scooter.

Finally, Meredith is a women's college. Though obvious, this makes us even more vulnerable to violent crimes. And unfortunately, the irresponsible acts of some otherwise responsible students create greater hazards for themselves. Please do not jog alone at night. Please lock your car and room doors. Please do not prop the residence hall doors open. Please help the guards at night perform their duties more efficiently and effectively by waiting patiently upon arrival after closing hours and by kindly asking them to make sure they see you safely from your car into the dorm. Certainly we have a responsibility to ensure the safety of ourselves and our fellow students. By doing our part, maybe our actions will encourage administrators to act to adjust inadequate lighting and to enlarge our security force. We have been lucky so far, but now's the time to make improvements that will afford greater protection.

Sincerely yours,  
Lisa Ponder

## Mexico under pressure

by Jack D. Crouch II  
Mr. Crouch is a Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations at the University of southern California. He was a 1981 Fellow in Public Research, Syndicated's Publius Fellows Program. (c) Public Research, Syndicated, 1981

During the first fifteen years of Castro's regime, Cuba had little success exporting its revolution to other nations in the Caribbean. This lack of success was due in no small measure to the political and military influence of the U.S. in the region. During the middle and late seventies, however, the world-wide "correlation of forces" changed to Cuba's advantage and Castro began to succeed in his effort to foment and support revolution throughout Central America and the Caribbean.

One of the principal objectives of Cuban, and by extension Soviet, Central American policy has been to demonstrate to Mexico that it can and will be threatened by guerilla forces supported by the socialist bloc if it does not adopt a more acquiescent view toward Cuban and Soviet

activity in the region. This threat is driven home to Mexico by the existence of left-wing "revolutionary" movements fostered by Havana in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, and especially by Cuban success in "regime conversion" in Nicaragua and Grenada.

The message to Mexico is clear: Support Cuban-Soviet policies or suffer the same fate as your neighbors to the south. It may be true that the United States is more agreeable to Mexico's moral and political worldview than is the Soviet bloc, but there is evidence that this consideration is overborne by Mexico's desire to side with the winner of the East-West struggle.

As a result, Mexico has grown increasingly supportive of Cuban activity in Central America.

Prior to the recent Cancun summit, Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo and Castro met to consider how "Mexico will represent the interests of the non-aligned movement during the upcoming North-South meeting." This preparatory meeting takes on added significance when it is

recalled that following a similar meeting between the two heads of state in 1979, a shift in Mexico's Latin American policy occurred.

Two days after the 1979 Castro-Portillo summit, Mexico announced that it would break diplomatic relations with the besieged Somoza government in Nicaragua. The next day the new Mexican Foreign Minister, Jorge Castaneda, asked that the U.S. "join in isolating the authoritarian government of Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza." As is known, the Somoza government fell to Sandinista guerillas in July of 1979.

Since the installation of the new regime in Nicaragua, Mexico has given more than just tacit support to the revolution. Although careful not to identify itself with Cuban support for FNLA, Mexico has maintained close ties with the Sandinista leaders and has been supportive of the new government both morally and materially. Mexico has provided the Nicaraguan government with helicopters

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