

The Daily Tar Heel

75 Years of Editorial Freedom

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John Martin

Guns Available To Assassins

A black American Gandhi dies as a slug from a Remington 30.06 rips through his throat.
 A madman pumps three bullets into the flesh of a president, extinguishing the life of a man whose achievements and visions might have held the promise of a new image for his office.
 Two days later his assassin dies, a bullet in his stomach.

Thousands of Americans die by firearms each year, and the rate is on the rise.
 Three civil rights workers in Mississippi are among them, their bodies riddled with bullet and buckshot holes.
 New York police raid arms caches of the militant, radical, rightwing Minutemen organization, confiscating hundreds of thousands of dollars worth

of arms, ranging from cheap Italian-made .22 pistols to operable mortars and bazookas. Captured ammunition for these arms endangers the life of anyone politically left (or rumored so) of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy.
 In other words, any crackpot, madman or mental incompetent, bent on mayhem, can easily and cheaply acquire the prime instrument of death.

Why are guns such popular tools of death-dealing?
 Children in America are brought up with brothers, sisters, dogs and guns. Kids are given as playthings replicas of machines whose sole purpose is that of taking human life.
 Glorified by movies and television, guns are a romantic part of American history. They have won the west, defended freedom and protected the hearth.
 Guns are a wonderful impersonal method of killing. A man can nonchalantly lead a duck across the sky or take a bead on his enemy and squeeze the trigger without a thought. He does not sense the identification of killer with victims that might dissuade him, were he forced to feel the flesh rend as he pushes a knife between ribs.
 And guns are such a convenient way to kill. How easy, in a moment of hot-tempered debate, to grab the pistol lying on the coffee table and end the argument in a way that, like a diamond, is forever.
 The National Rifle Association and many individual sport hunters are fighting federal gun regulation, basing their arguments on the constitutional guarantee of the right to keep and bear arms.
 But it should be remembered that the Constitution was written in 1789, when the frontiersman and backwoodsman needed firearms to find and kill food, and, in lieu of police protection, to protect their lives, homes and families from Indians and bandits.
 The conditions by which the constitutional provision was framed do not exist today. Indians do not threaten the suburbanite. But he must have a gun to protect himself from the burglar or madman who, because of the absence of tight gun sales regulation, also has a weapon, and wants to use it.
 What it boils down to is this: Guns are dangerous to the stable, responsible person when they are in the hands of the psychotic, the halfwit, the alcoholic, the child.
 The gun-control law now before Congress is a step in the right direction, but it should only be considered a beginning.
 In England, only policemen are allowed to carry guns. And in England the crime rate as well as the murder rate is lower than in the United States.
 Do you remember the photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald, pistol strapped jauntily to hip, on the cover of Life magazine? In his hand rested the cheap metal and rough wood stock of a high-powered Mannlicher-Carcano rifle. The gun had been bought by mail-order.
 Would John Kennedy have died if the rifle had not been so easily available to Oswald?
 Maybe.
 And maybe not.

SL Should Reject Drug Policy Now—Not Next Fall

The recently elected Student Legislature considers a bill of procedure tonight that would formally establish a student-faculty-administration board to hear drug cases.

The bill is being introduced and supported with many reservations by Student Government leaders, including Ken Day.

In fact, they have so many reservations about the drug policy and the bill of procedures that they specify in the bill that the drug policy will be rescinded with the start of the fall semester and a new one worked out then.

We agree wholeheartedly with these leaders' opinion of the drug policy; it has turned out to be much, much less than it was blown up to be. Instead of a benefit to the students it has turned out to be an infringement on students' right to their own judiciary; it has turned out to be a means for the administration to police student actions, not rehabilitate students in need of medical help.

But we must disagree with them in asking legislature to pass this bill of procedures which would formally establish the drug policy. We think it is a mistake to do so, even if just temporarily, and urge Student Legislature to defeat this bill tonight.

Day and the introducers of the bill, want to accept the bill for the summer in order to have some procedures for handling some drug cases pending now. They are afraid to leave the students completely at the mercy of the administration, which is what will happen if the present drug policy is revoked.

Although we sympathize with their concern for the well-being of these students, we cannot see that as a good reason for accepting the drug policy.

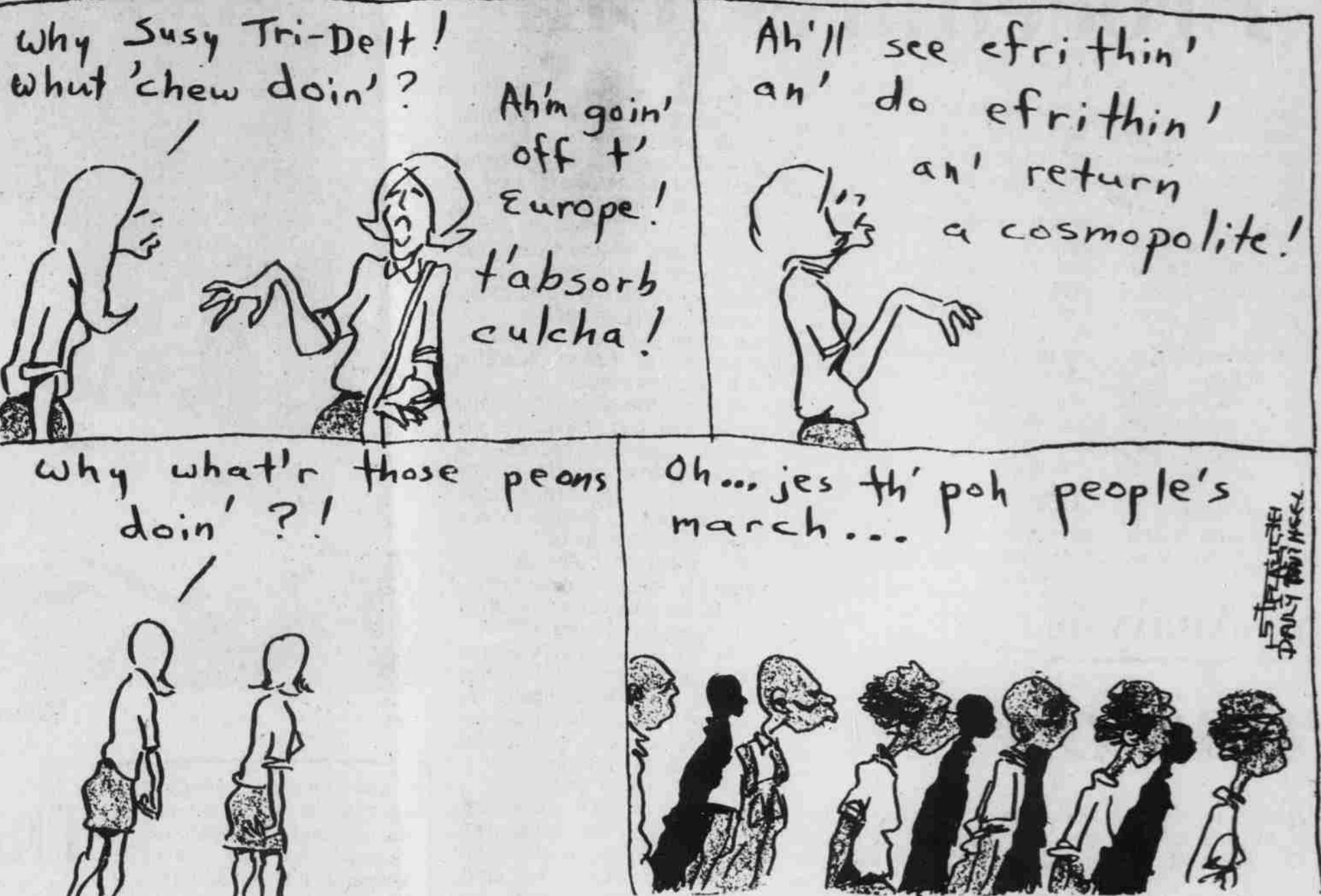
For Student Government to accept the drug policy, even while saying it is bad, is adding legitimacy to the act, legitimacy that the policy and its procedures do not deserve. It is saying that while the policy is bad, it is still tolerable. We do not think that it is tolerable.

We are afraid that after making this initial acceptance of the policy, students may come to accept it and not demand their just treatment in judicial matters.

As for the matter of the cases pending now, we don't see that as a big concern. If the procedures are accepted now, they will die in the fall, leaving no procedures for dealing with students who are caught using or possessing drugs at that time.

Judging from the fact it took several months to design the present policy, we cannot expect Student Government and the Administration to work out a policy very quickly next fall. We think it would be best to operate without a policy this summer, rather than this fall.

We don't like the idea of leaving the five students whose cases are pending at the mercy of the Administration but we think it is necessary in order to come up with a just drug policy. We think that just drug policy will come only if we make it clear to the administration right now that the current drug bill and its rules of procedure are not just bad, they are intolerable.



Bill Massey

Goodbye To Crummy Service

The surge of platitudes and eloquently garbage which traditionally surround June graduation has begun in Chapel Hill. University officials are making a final desperate attempt to convince students that they have been well taken care of for four years. Perhaps it is a little late for "official" kindness.

Good by to the professors and faculty members who worked daily to make life as miserable and complex as possible.

Good by to departmental secretaries with their arrogant "May I help you?" and self-assumed chairmanship positions.

Good by to faculty advisors who even yet don't know their advisees' names.

Goodbye to CHAPEL HILL MERCHANTS WHO HAVE ROBBED STUDENTS BLIND FOR FOUR YEARS SO THAT THEY CAN NOW OFFER A FREE DELUX Hammond World Atlas.

Good by to the everlasting busy signal one gets when calling the Graham Memorial Information Desk.

Good by to "rush typist" whose "rush" jobs usually keep students up re-typing a term paper.

Good by to Chapel Hill landlords whose high rent causes students to have to get government Food Stamps in order to afford to eat.

Good by to the friendly profit-motivated campus book store.

Good by to Herf Jones and Company, usurpers of students' limited funds for class rings and graduation announcements.

Good by, Harry's.

Goodbye to the Yack: once a yearbook now a Who's Who.

Good by to Wilson Library and its ever-changing filing and fining systems.

Good by to be allowed a car on campus, but no place to park it.

Good by to ID cards with full-color photographs of everyone's "bad side."

Good by to Danziger's food... and Danziger's food... and Danziger's food... and Danziger's food.

Good by to the DTH and four years of editorial irresponsibility.

Good by to university owned and operated utility and telephone companies, with their consistent and persistent poor service.

Good by to the Varsity Theatre,

Chapel Hill home of first-run Walt Disney movies.

Good by, Chapel Hill.

Four years of maturing and developing, thinking and questioning for nothing? A year away will surely show.

And where would you want your child to go to college, UNC Grad? Why, Chapel Hill, of course!

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Germ Warfare Intolerable

From The Greensboro Daily News

Americans who were distressed by the Skull Valley incident of early March — when nerve gas from an Army testing center in Utah accidentally killed 6,400 sheep — will be far more upset by a recent report on America's continuing preparations for deadly chemical and biological warfare.

The disturbing news comes not from indignant American investigators, and certainly not from the Pentagon, but from a reporter for a British newspaper. Cal McCrystal of the London Sunday Times has reported that the Department of Defense is sponsoring research and production of lethal chemical and biological weapons in six cities or testing centers, that the United States is stockpiling biological munitions and that this nation is in a state of readiness to launch germ warfare attacks in Vietnam.

Chemicals that can disable the enemy are fairly common in modern warfare (just as tear gas is in riot control), but lethal gasses have not been used since World War I. The United States, however, was one of the few nations which declined to ratify the Geneva Gas Protocol of 1925, and apparently some of our military leaders recognize no constraints today.

These new weapons are monstrous. A large plant in Newport, Indiana, manufactures a deadly nerve gas called sarin which is loaded into rockets, artillery shells and land mines. A U.S. Army training manual describes the chronological effects

of sarin on human beings:

Running nose, tightness of chest, dimness of vision and pinpointing of the eye pupils, difficulty in breathing, drooling and vomiting, cramps and involuntary defecation and urination, twitching, jerking and staggering, headache, confusion, drowsiness, coma, and convulsion. These symptoms are followed by cessation of breathing and death.

In addition to sarin and several similar chemical agents, the United States also is manufacturing diseases to shoot at the world. In the early 1950s, when the North Koreans repeatedly said that Americans were waging germ warfare, the charges sounded ridiculous; if made today by the North Vietnamese, could such charges really be laughed off?

Several weeks ago following rumors in Thailand and Vietnam that American biological weapons in storage were responsible for outbreaks of the plague, the Navy Department denied that germ munitions were to blame and at the same time confirmed that biological weapons are being stockpiled at special Asian bases. Apparently these weapons have not been used, but even their storage is dangerous.

Germ warfare nerve gas and military poisons are horrifying concepts which the world has hoped would not become realities. That they now exist is a threat to men everywhere; that they are being readied for use by the United States is a national disgrace. They should not be tolerated.

In Letters

Budget Shows Lack Of Understanding Of CWC

To the Editor:

A review of the proceedings of the Student Legislature concerning the budget for the coming year has been received with great approbation. The parting action on the behalf of the student body of this institution has been to deprive the university women of a vital link within and without the dormitory structure.

The totally surreptitious and un-concerned manner in which the action was carried out left the organization in question (Carolina Women's Council) with no voice either for agreement or protest in settling the matter. The stripping of a \$820.00 budget approved by the Budget Committee of that body to \$10.00 for the entire year was ridiculous.

The uninformed action of the student legislature has deprived the university community of such services as dormitory orientation breakfasts, freshman scholarship awards, the speaker's bureau for faculty, administration, and students, women's orientation handbook, awards for outstanding dormitory. Women and dormitory scholarship, and campus chest projects. It is the function of the members of the Council to initiate and coordinate all social, intellectual, and service activities within the dormitories.

Not only do we advocate the Residence College system but we also feel that it is important for all campus women to be involved in common endeavors. Thus, we instigate activities in which women's dors and sororities are able to participate outside of their Residence Collee.

Therefore we feel that the Carolina Women's Council as an organization receiving funds from the Student

Legislature must be defended. The legislature must be informed and the budget bill passed Thursday night be brought under reconsideration.

Loydette Humphries
 Past Chairman CWC
 Candy Hodges
 Past Treasurer CWC
 Mary Snow Euwer
 Chairman CWC
 Sallie Spurlock
 Secretary of the Study Body
 Gwen Hightower
 Vice Chairman of CWC

DTH Fails

To the Editor:

I have a complaint to make against the Daily Tar Heel, which has been discriminating against one of Carolina's greatest cultural contributions to the life of this University, the Carolina Playmakers. At the first of the current academic year, the Tar Heel had a reporter to review the productions of the Playmakers.

The quality of these reviews was mediocre, to say the least, in most cases being nothing more than a hasty unhashing of the plot. I didn't think it was possible that things could become worse, but I was wrong. For the last three productions, there have been no reviews at all.

This is very maddening, since the Tar Heel has been reviewing everything in sight with theatrical productions in Raleigh and Durham and Guano, New Mexico, but overlooks giving any praise to its home drama company. The

Playmaker shows take over a month in rehearsing and that calls forth a lot of good, old-fashioned "sweat."

And what do the actors receive for their pains? A 1 x 2 printed notice in the Tar Heel! I must remind the Tar Heel and its "Drama Staff" that the Playmakers are one of the Nations top organizations for the furthering of the art of creative writing and the production of dramas. It has sired many fine actors, producers and directors. It is a shame that publication of its activities should be suppressed by the Tar Heel.

If the fault lies with the drama reviewer being inactive, then perhaps a new reviewer with a keen, asthetic, yet critical eye should be assigned to the Tar Heel staff. This might increase the vital communication needed being performer and potential audience; at any rate, some change is definitely needed.

James Chandler
 322 Ehringhaus

Exams Fail

To the Editor:

I think Mr. Lacklen's thoughtful article, "Entrance Exams Don't Work," in the Tar Heel for May 9, deserves an answer, as far as UNC is concerned. The fact that entrance exams don't work has been known since the Binet tests half a century ago.

The fact that entrance exams discriminate against minority groups is an actue, controversial subject. In New

York, where I come from, the answer has been to lower the entrance standards for Negroes and Puerto Ricans. This is a dynamic, but controversial answer. I wonder if UNC will accept the challenge.

In a general sense, as you argued, entrance exams inadequately predict academic success. Since this has been known for some time, universities which limit themselves to entrance exams, and marks, are to be held accountable.

In that case the number of creative universities in America is truly microscopic. The City University of New York, for instance, the nation's largest, and one of the most prestigious, accepts students solely on the basis of grades. Even entrance exams are discounted.

When I applied to graduate school, UNC was the only one I applied to, which attempted to go beyond the usual criteria to predict my academic success. I was invited to send undergraduate papers, to visit the campus, and to send extra-curricular work I had done on the debate team.

Until some panacea is found, which is doubtful, it seems to me that UNC is not "willing to let others lead the way, to let others do the work, to settle for second best" (except in basketball).

Michael McTague