

The Daily Tar Heel

81 Years Of Editorial Freedom

Opinions of The Daily Tar Heel are expressed on its editorial page. All unsigned editorials are the opinion of the editor. Letters and columns represent only the opinions of the individual contributors.

Susan Miller, Editor

September 28, 1973

Council must amend budget so groups can spend funds

The Student Government budget doesn't look like much more than a fairly innocuous document full of lots of tiny, little details and complicated prose.

From the information on the top of the first page of the budget, you can't tell that it is actually the source of a great deal of controversy every spring and is the prime source of problems this fall. After all, it was reported out of the Finance Committee favorably, 4-0. Controversy? The Campus Governing Council passed it 16-1-1. Controversy?

The one significant piece of information contained in the "vital statistics" at the top of the page is the date the budget bill was passed — April 24, 1973.

April 24, 1973, is the day that the Campus Governing Council passed in the budget a stipulation that would make the budget a political tool and freeze funds for 12 student organizations.

The organizations' funds have been frozen because of a clause that stipulates that certain organizations cannot receive their Student Government funds until first receiving a specified amount from the University.

The Special Revenue Sharing part of the budget is one of those brilliant ideas that should have stayed an idea, at least for this year's budget. The idea was transformed into a part of the working budget — not through research, planning or negotiation with the

University and the groups included in the clause — but by simply placing it in the budget.

But, meanwhile, the 12 organizations have no money to spend.

The principle behind the clause is basically admirable, because the University should bear some of the burden of the costs of such groups as the Debate Team and the UNC Concert Band. Sports-related clubs should be getting money from the wealthy Athletic Association.

But the University is not convinced that it should be funding these groups, now will it be through this unethical method of coercion. The Campus Governing Council did nothing last spring while preparing the budget convincing the University to give money to these groups.

The council has left the negotiating up to the individual organizations. This transference of responsibility is improper, considering the fact that the goal of financial support from the University is a goal set by CGC, not by these organizations.

All these organizations want is their money to perform their activities. They deserve to have it. The CGC should amend the budget so that it is no longer a political bouncing ball but a bill for the disbursement of funds.

Ervin lacks down home touch

The highest points of Sen. Sam Ervin's speech here Wednesday night were his entry into Carmichael Auditorium and his closing quote.

"As long as I have a mind to think, a tongue to speak and a heart to love my country," the country's most recently acclaimed folk hero concluded, "I shall deny that our Constitution grants the President any right to convert George Washington's America to Caesar's Rome."

The students loved it. Unfortunately, the material between the standing ovation greeting his appearance on stage and his rousing conclusion was a rehash of things he's been saying throughout the long Watergate proceedings.

But it was an experience to hear



Sen. Sam Ervin

them from the horse's mouth, as it were.

Ervin was not paid for his speech but the Carolina Forum did charter an airplane to get the senator here in time for his 8 p.m. speech, after Ervin spent all afternoon presiding over the Senate Watergate committee in Washington.

It is unfortunate, also, that Sen. Ervin read his speech, most of which recounted the events leading up to and including the Watergate committee's probing. We would have liked to hear more of the old country stories, literary and Biblical quotations that give Sen. Ervin much of his charm.

UNC should be flattered that Sen. Ervin was generous enough with his time to visit, but we wish he had felt a little more at home in his own state and alma mater.



Seth Effron

Helms keeps big boys honest?

Isn't it great to know your senator is against waste in government spending?

Our senator, Jesse Helms, was just praised by the Senate Appropriations Committee for his initiative in bringing to light extensive personal use of government-owned vehicles.

Several months ago the junior senator from North Carolina asked the General Accounting Office to supply him with a list of every limousine owned or leased by the federal government and every chauffeur on the payroll.

Helms said he made the request for the information last week after seeing "big, sleek automobiles lined up on both sides of the street with their motors running waiting for the federal bureaucrats attending a party to come out."

In an inspired economy move Helms joined with Sen. William Pastore, D-R.I., head of a subcommittee on vehicle use, in pushing through an amendment to eliminate 16 government-owned limousines in nine government agencies under the jurisdiction of Sen. Pastore's committee.

Helms has called this callous misuse of taxpayer funds a "pompous raid on their pocketbooks." It is nice to know Sen. Helms can spot such minute fiscal waste. But it seems the good senator needs glasses, for he can't see the gold for the glitter.

The senator is against misuse of funds for

some petty bureaucrats, but what about waste on anti-ballistic missile systems that will be outdated before they are built, or plans for submarines that will never work. Millions or even billions are being wasted on these foolish programs and where is our watchdog senator?

Old Jesse backs up the ABM (better known as Another Big Mistake), foreign aid to democratically bankrupt nations (South Vietnam) and various other big business schemes to rip off the taxpayers in the name of "national interest."

Jesse Helms is attacking what he calls "a chronic affliction in the executive branch of government" but fails to see that even if all these comparatively small (but nevertheless bad and blatant) resource wastes were eliminated the savings would be nothing compared to the amount of money wasted by the Pentagon every year.

Helms was asked by a reporter if his stand on the automobile use would not infuriate the bureaucrats, and make him unpopular. He responded: "I didn't come here to win a popularity contest with the bureaucrats. Let them drive their own cars—just like the hardworking taxpayers back home do."

Well thanks a lot Jesse. It's always good to know you have our best interests at heart.

Next time you ride on the subway between the Senate Office Building and the Capitol, I think about all the hardworking taxpayers back home who may not have cars, and can't

get around because they also live in towns with no mass transportation because the Defense Department is using up billions, along with all the other miscellaneous governmental waste.

Sen Helms may feel he is doing the taxpayers a great service by exposing this outlandish and ghoulish waste of tax dollars. In reality he is just wasting valuable time that could be better spent serving the needs of North Carolina citizens he should concentrate on the problems of the state rather than the abusive actions of a few bureaucrats.

Many Americans have come to view governmental waste as just another evil of government that they have to put up with. Jesse Helms' actions just reaffirm this feeling. Helms ran for the Senate on a platform that said the people of North Carolina wanted a real change in their representative. Well, they haven't gotten it.

North Carolinians have a senator just like all the rest. One who picks up on petty issues and makes mountains out of molehills.

Sen Helms, there are bigger issues to attack with the might and force of a seat in the United States Senate than some bureaucrats misusing 16 cars.

The committee letter commending Sen. Helms was signed by the Chairman of the committee, Sen. Pastore, and Senators McGee, D-Wyo., Proxmire, D-Wis., Hollings, D-S.C., Brooke, R-Mass., Mathias, R-Md., and Bellmon, R-Okla.

Letters to the editor

Mad Magazine, UNC Service Plant good match

To the editor:

Why subscribe to Mad? My initiation to the American way of life was through Mad Magazine. Later, I was told that Mad was just one way of looking at things and not necessarily correct. I decided to keep this in mind and read Mad more critically in the future or perhaps not read it at all. Thus, I missed the last issue of Mad. Instead, I received an electricity bill from the University Service Plants and went to their local office to pay the bill. When I took a closer look at the bill, I saw — to my surprise — that there were three different account numbers on the bill. This aroused my curiosity and I inquired about it over the telephone. After awhile the lady agreed to come upstairs to explain the bill to me. The first

account number was for my previous address in Chapel Hill, the third number was for my current address, but when I asked about the second number, she replied, "Oh! That one is for our own purposes."

Then I inquired about the amount charged to each account and I told her that I had moved to my present address on Sept. 12 but that the date on the bill was Sept. 11. To which she replied: "Oh! That date on the statement is for our own purposes."

Looking sad and feeling down, I reckoned, "I am expected to pay the bill, anyhow." However, before doing so, I thought, I must also understand the nature of the telephone bills.

I called the number for telephone service and I found out that my name was not

recorded anywhere. The clerk on the phone asked, "Could the telephone be listed under the previous tenant's name?"

I replied that it might be so and gave her name. In fact, that was the case.

I told the clerk that she had moved out and that I wanted the telephone listed in my name. She said, "There is nothing we can do because she hasn't filed a disconnection notice." She added, "Under these circumstances it is wiser for you to charge the telephone bills to her name."

I asked, "Will my name appear in the directory?"

She answered, "I don't know." I was about to ask her what would happen if the previous tenant refused to pay the bills, but I remembered that they have "for our own

purposes" account numbers.

As I was about to leave the office, one of the customers waiting in the lobby commented, "You got a good deal on the telephone bill." I left the office saying to myself, "Why subscribe to Mad? Why ..."

Ibrahim Kurtulus
11-A Yum Yum Apts.
Carrboro, N.C.

Public ignores pinball addicts

To the editor:

Much attention has been given to the population's addiction to various things. Doctors and psychologists spend long hours devoted to finding ways to helping addicts of heroin, nicotine, alcohol, sleeping pills, Howard Cosell and other dangerous substances.

But I would like to point out that a major group of addicts are being ignored by the public. These addicts are not addicted to a drug, but to an evil machine created by man. They are the pinball machine addicts.

Most people go through a couple of days of pinball addiction. We have a little change in our pockets and eventually empty our wallets. For most, this is enough to make us totally abstain or at least go into social pinning, the righteousness of which is still being debated by ministers.

Some people, however, become permanent addicts, unable to control their urge to play the heathen machine. Permanent addicts will stand for hours before machine, racking up points and raking out money. Chronic pinballers are easy to spot in a crowd.

They are the ones who clasp the sides of their desk and shake it back and forth. Whenever the belltower sounds or a class bell rings, their eyes light up and their wrists go into convulsions.

Whenever a hardened addict is denied his or her machine, the withdrawal symptoms become pronounced. The flipper fingers twitch nervously and at odd angles, always seeking light.

In advanced stages of withdrawal the addict develops an unusual craving for dimes.

And where do pinball machines come from? While they look innocent they are in reality beings from another planet who plan to addict the whole world and then flash "tilt" and take over in the resulting chaos.

(As evidence, have you ever seen a pinball machine emptied? Of course not. These beings feed on Metal!)

Doctors have already related pinball playing to fingertip cancer, and our streets are covered with people robbing change machines and girls selling their bodies for dimes.

So let us stop the spread of pinball machines here and around the world. It will put a jingle in our pockets, joy in our hearts and win the war for the allies.

Bob Morrill
1031 James

Hardy's review betrays conceit

To the editor:

Before seeing the movie "Siddhartha" I was quite skeptical that any commercial movie could ever approach the emotional and intellectual depths which were conveyed in Hesse's book. Upon seeing it I was both surprised and delighted to find my reservations completely unfounded.

Consequently, I find Mr. Hardy's critique very upsetting. The intellectual presumptuousness which he displays in characterizing the film as "slow and stupid" is nothing short of incredible.

Since the movie follows the book nearly exactly, it seems his criticism of it as "stupid" is really a criticism of the book itself and of Eastern religion.

That Mr. Hardy considers himself qualified to characterize a book by a Nobel prize winner as "stupid" betrays an unduly high degree of conceit. And he as much as admits his lack of qualification for criticizing Eastern religion when he says: "how much it (popular Eastern religiosity) has to do with actual Eastern religions I can't say."

In regard to the movie itself, I suggest that the fact that Mr. Hardy finds it "sluggish" is due to his boredom, which in turn is due to an insensitivity on his part to any concepts or feelings even mildly remote from those supplied by his sensory surfaces. This is supported by the fact that the only positive elements he seemed to find were "a couple of nice erotic sequences."

I suggest that Mr. Hardy stick to criticizing the standard Hollywood type films which have plenty of action and basic animal emotion, that way he will avoid the mistake of unknowingly misevaluating films which have any depth.

Barry Branham
University Gardens Apts.
Chapel Hill, N.C.

The Daily Tar Heel
Susan Miller
Editor

Winston Cavin, Managing Editor
David Eskridge, News Editor
Mary Newsom, Associate Editor
Seth Effron, Associate Editor
Adrian Scott, Features Editor
Elliott Warnock, Sports Editor
Ted Stewart, Photo Editor
Ken Allen, Night Editor

