

Controversy arises

Calculators: just or unjust?

by Bella English
Feature Writer

Calculators are great; a real lifesaver for homework and tests. Calculators are bad; they give some students an unfair advantage over others.

Calculated warfare? Not quite, but there does seem to be a verbal battle on campus over the use of electronic calculators during exams. Some UNC professors and students like them; some don't.

Steve Jolley, a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Business Administration, doesn't think the price of calculators is a barrier to students.

Several years ago calculators weren't permitted because their minimum cost was approximately \$200, but now they're available for as low as \$40, Jolley said.

Calculators allow the students to spend more time on the actual accounting problem than on the mathematical part of the exam, he added.

"It's stupid to spend 20 per cent of the exam period doing fifth grade arithmetic," Jolley said in defense of the machines.

He estimates that about 80 per cent of his accounting class bring calculators to exams.

and many share them with those who don't have ones. So far, he has received no complaints from students.

Dr. Samuel Knight, chemistry professor, said, however, that less than 20 per cent of his students owned calculators last year. This figure contributed to his decision to ban the machines from lower-level courses.

"With 180 kids, most of them freshmen, the sharing and rental systems just aren't feasible. I'd prefer they learn to use calculators," he said. "But my primary reason for prohibiting them is just plain fairness."

The cost of mini-computers is a source of controversy among UNC students.

"If you're lucky enough, or rather rich enough to own a calculator, you definitely have an advantage over others," Larry Gage, a sophomore physics major said.

Amy Stephenson, a junior accounting major, has a different view.

"Calculators are cheap enough to rent or they can be shared so that it's no hardship on anyone who doesn't own one."

Like most professors, Dr. Harold Langenderfer, accounting department coordinator, agrees that arithmetic is secondary

to concept. Tests should be designed accordingly, he said.

"Calculators make the professor think more seriously about the type of exams he'll make out," Grade-wise, the actual calculation process should not be greatly weighed, he said.

"If students use calculators in class and on homework, why shouldn't they be able to use them during exams?" he asked.

"Calculators segregate the haves from the have-nots," Bob Bienemann, sophomore business major, said. The latter lag way behind the others, he added.

Rather than understanding math, many students just push buttons, Bienemann said. He labels calculators crutches instead of tools.

Dr. Lawrence Rowan, associate physics professor, agrees that students with calculators tend to depend too much on the machines.

"They get so used to pushing buttons that they never sit down and really work problems out," Rowan said. He told of an incident where a student, asked what two plus two was, automatically added it on his calculator, even to his own amazement.

Rowan gears tests so that those with

calculators will not have a decided advantage. He does this by minimizing the arithmetic difficulty of the problems and by not counting off many points for math errors.

Larry Reeves, junior business major, owns a calculator, and says it helps his speed considerably.

"But there is sufficient time for tests regardless of whether you use a calculator," he said, disagreeing with Bienemann's complaint about time allotment. Reeves feels that most of his professors design tests so that it is not necessary to have a calculator.

Many professors think that the controversy over calculators has subsided somewhat, due to recent price drops and easier accessibility of the machines.

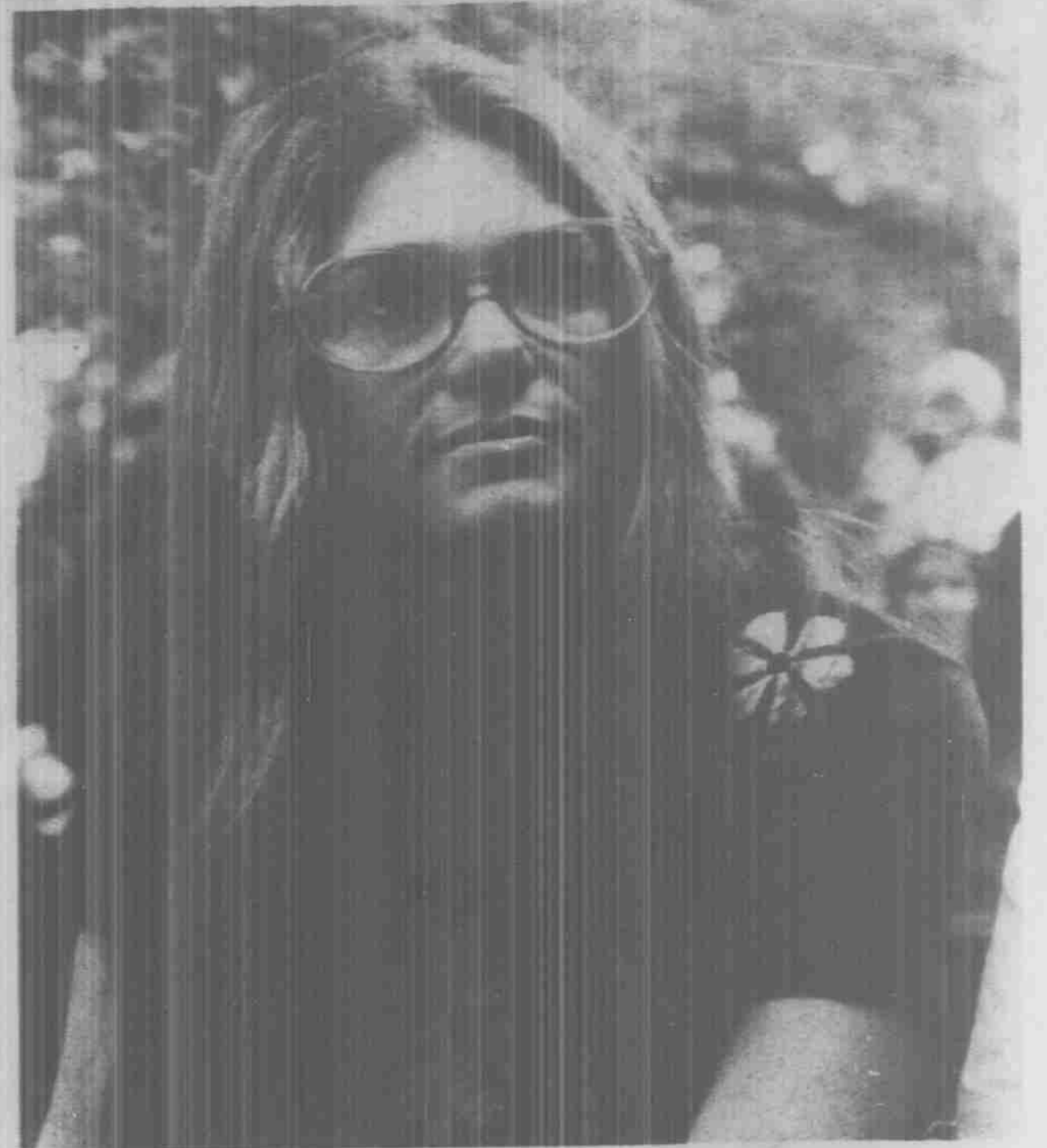
"The business about not being able to afford a calculator is not as strong an argument as it used to be," Rowan said, referring to lower prices and the rental service offered to students.

The Student Services rental system enables a student to rent a calculator by the week, month or semester at a fairly low cost. The system currently rents 115 calculators. Nevertheless, Student Services Director Mickey Clark said there is often a waiting list for rental.

There is no uniform policy concerning the use of the machines now.

Dr. Langenderfer suggests that perhaps students without calculators should be compensated with extra time on exams.

But until someone comes up with a better solution, it will be share and share alike.



Gloria Steinem

Gloria Steinem, feminist, journalist and founder of "Ms." magazine, will speak at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7 in Memorial Hall. Tickets, \$1, and applications for her reception are available at the Union desk. Steinem appears under the joint sponsorship of the Carolina Forum and AWS.

Entertainment Calendar

Cinema

"Westworld," Carolina Theatre. Robots in a resort go berserk. The central idea is good, as is some of the writing. But the direction is crude, and when the machines fall apart, so does the movie. 2:20, 4, 5:40, 7:20 & 9. Ends Thursday. Late Show: "Three in the Attic." Friday and Saturday at 11:15. \$1.50.

"The Laughing Policeman," Varsity Theatre. Critics say it's pretty bad. 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9. \$2. Ends Thursday. Late show: "Legend of Hell House." Friday and Saturday at 11:15. \$1.50.

"The New Land," Plaza I. Jan Troell's beautiful sequel to "The Emigrants" is even better, and together they form a great American story. The theatre has promised a subtitled print. Make sure before you go. 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30. \$2. Ends Thursday.

"The Paper Chase," Plaza II. Highly satisfying film of life in law school that is really outstanding in its examination of a student-

teacher relationship. Good performances, with a brilliant, truly great one from John Houseman. 2:45, 4:50, 7:05 & 9:15. \$2. Ends Thursday.

"Sleeper," Plaza III. Woody Allen's latest, set 200 years in the future. Very funny, and though it lacks some of the delicious brilliance of "Sex," it is his smoothest, best paced film. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 & 9:30. \$2. Ends Thursday.

Chapel Hill Film Friends: "Yo-Yo." Comedy by French clown Pierre Etaix. Considered a masterpiece of delicate comedy. Friday at 9:30, Saturday at 11:30 in Carroll Hall. \$1.50. "Here's Your Life" has been postponed.

Alternative Cinema: "L.F. Stone's Weekly." Film about crusading journalist I.F. Stone. Very funny and even inspiring. A most enjoyable as well as informative piece of literature. Friday at 7. Saturday at 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 in Carroll Hall. \$1.50.

Free Flicks: Friday, "Of Human Bondage." Adaptation of the Maugham novel with a performance by Bette Davis that is considered one of her finest. Saturday, "Mad Dogs and Englishmen." Documentary on Joe Cocker with irritating split-screen. Cheap, imitation Woodstock. Sunday, "La Dolce Vita." Fellini's view of modern Rome as the inferno. A very great film. All films at 6:30 & 9 in the Great Hall.

"For Whom the Bells Toll." Thursday at 7 in Great Hall. The second in a series of free films sponsored by the Curriculum in Peace, War and Defense.

Speakers

Gloria Steinem, Thursday, Feb. 7 at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Tickets on sale for \$1 at the Union Desk. Sales are closed to UNC students only this week. Applications for reception available at Union desk and due Friday.

Special Events

India Night, including dinner and variety entertainment, will be held Saturday, Feb. 2 at 6:30 at the Presbyterian Student Center on Henderson Street. Tickets on sale for \$3 at the Union Desk. The annual event, sponsored by the India Association, is open to the public.

Nightlife

Town Hall. Thursday, Arrogance. Friday and Saturday, Glass Moon.

Cat's Cradle. Tonight, Arrogance. Thursday, Wooden Circle. Friday and Saturday, Red Clay Ramblers.

Frog and Nightgown in Raleigh. Jazz festival. Thursday: Dick Gable's Dixieland Band and the UNC Jazz Lab Band. Friday: Duke University Jazz Ensemble, Ray Codrington Quartet, Morris Morgan Trio and Kathy Montgomery. Saturday: Jazz Journeymen, John Harding Quintet and Carol Sloan. Music from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. \$5 for each night. For reservations call 829-9799.

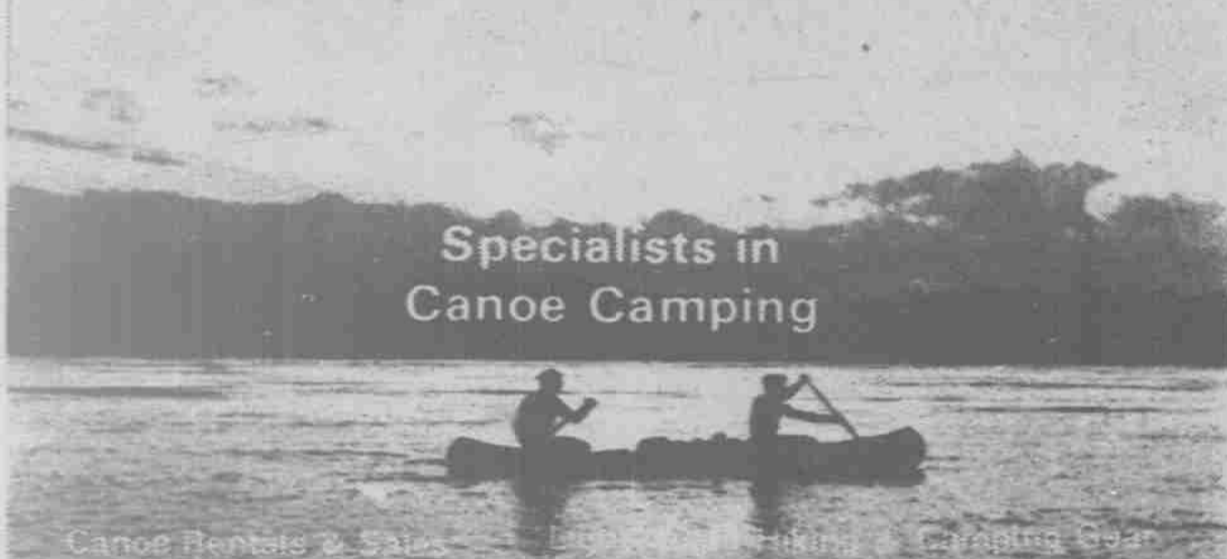
Theatre

Carolina Playmakers presents "Shay," by Anne Commire. Selected from the Eugene O'Neill Memorial Theatre. Directed by Tony Giordana. Tuesday, Feb. 12—Sunday, Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. in the Playmakers Theatre. Sunday matinee at 2:30. Season ticket holders may purchase tickets starting Monday, Feb. 4. General ticket sales will begin Thursday, Feb. 7. Tickets may be purchased in 102 Graham Memorial or at Ledbetter Pickard's on Franklin Street. All seats reserved for \$2.50.

"Hello Out There," by William Saroyan. Directed by Christopher Adler. UNC Laboratory Theatre. Thursday at 4, Friday at 4 and 8 in 06 Graham Memorial. Free tickets available in Lab Theatre Office in Graham Memorial.

There is still a world left that cares.

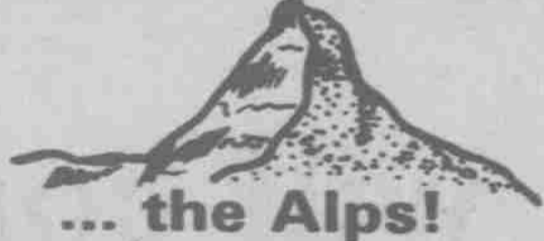
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What's doin' at Duke?

What's at Duke University in February? The Paul Taylor Dance Company at 8:15 p.m. Friday in Page Auditorium. Tickets \$5, \$4.50 and \$4 are available at Page office and at the door.

Grease, Broadway musical that looks at the teenage world of the late '50's. 4 and 8:30

p.m. Friday, Feb. 15 in Page Auditorium. Tickets \$5, \$6 and \$7 for the evening show, \$4 for the matinee. Available at Page box office.

Seals and Croft. 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17 in Cameron Indoor Stadium. Tickets on sale at the Record Bar for \$4.50 and \$5.50.

THE COMPLETE ARTIST



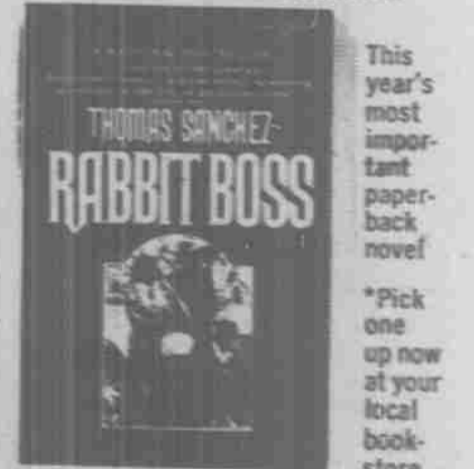
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Second class postage paid at U.S. Post Office in Chapel Hill, N.C.

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