

# Mandate ignored

Of late, "misrepresentation" has become the byword of this campus. Great concern has been expressed over the responsibility of government to follow the mandates of the people. The focus, so far, has been on Student Government. But for a moment, that focus should shift up to the top of the University hierarchy.

The conflict of public opinion and governmental representation may take center stage on campus again today when the Board of Trustees meets at 9:30 a.m. They will consider approval of the sale of UNC Telephone and electric utilities to Southern Bell and Duke Power respectively.

An approval of the sale by the Trustees will constitute another obvious misrepresentation of the clearly expressed desires of the University and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro communities.

When the Utilities Study Commission, which has recommended the sale, was set up, it was charged by the General Assembly to take into consideration the interests of (1) the University; (2) the consumers; and (3) the employees.

The only interests this sale could possibly serve are the University's. And even that has not been proven.

Employees have voiced sincere doubts about the sale as they have been guaranteed no status with the union of Southern Bell. Consumers have consistently protested, forming the Orange County Citizens for Alternative Power, with hundreds visiting the state legislature for the hearings of the State Utilities Commission. The consumers have backed a non-profit citizens group, the Consumer Utility Corporation (CUC) which bid unsuccessfully for the utilities. CUC was backed by the local governments of Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Orange County. SCAU and the UNC Student Government also backed CUC.

So there has been an obvious mandate from the people. And that mandate will be ill-represented if and when the Trustees approve the sale as it stands.

The case for the sale has been embroiled in misleading facts and figures and uncertain comparisons of CUC and Duke Power and Southern Bell.

Results of any analytical comparison of the projected benefits have been vague and have received opposite interpretations from the state and the citizens. The mandate of the people on the other hand has not been vague. It has been sharp, clear — and ignored.



"NEEDLESS TO SAY, YOUR BLABBERMOUTHED MOTHER NEEDN'T HEAR ABOUT THIS!"

## Tom Boney Jr.

# Increasing natural gas supplies

At long last, the Senate seems ready to move this week to increase the supply of natural gas by deregulating the price. Despite five years of declining gas supplies, the Democratic Congress has refused to deal with the situation — even rejecting a deregulation effort two years ago by just 2 votes. Now that the problem has reached crisis proportions, however, relief may finally be granted.

The problem is one of simple economics. Interstate shipments of natural gas are regulated by the Federal Power Commission (FPC) at 52 cents per thousand cubic feet (mcf). Intrastate shipments—in which the gas is both produced and consumed in the same state—is unregulated and generally fluctuates between \$1.50-\$2.00 per mcf.

Natural gas producers have therefore become increasingly interested in drilling gas for sale to intrastate markets. These are largely the gas producing states of Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. During 1974, for instance, the gas from 97 per cent of all new gas wells drilled within the gas producing states was for distribution within those states.

It has simply become unprofitable for companies to invest in drilling operations to sell gas at 52 cents on the interstate market when they can sell it for \$1.50 to \$2 in the producing states. So no new contracts have been made with the gas pipelines, which ship the natural gas to the non-producing states. As each year's contracts expire, the amount of gas being shipped declines.

Curtailments began in 1970-71 and have become sharper by the year. For instance, this winter North Carolina is anticipating a 50-60 per cent shortage of the amount of gas the state needs.

Another problem is the allocation formula for what little gas there is. As the crunch got worse several years ago, the FPC devised an end-use allocation system with a priority rating for various uses of natural gas. The number one priority is residential and small commercial users who consume less than 50 mcf per day. Thus far, there is no

danger that these will be left without natural gas. However, failure to encourage gas production could bring about this bleak situation within several more years. Piedmont Natural Gas of North Carolina stopped adding new residential customers early this year.

Large commercial and some industrial users are the next most important. Most of this group will continue to get gas through this winter. However, these two groups comprise only about 40 per cent of the total consumption in North Carolina.

The big users are the large industries in the state, many of which cannot use alternative fuels. Many of these do not use natural gas just for heating their plants. For some, natural gas is an important ingredient in their products or is used in processing. It is anticipated that this group will get almost no natural gas this winter. For plants that cannot do without natural gas, shutdowns are inevitable. The textile industry, for example, requires natural gas for much of its processing. Areas which rely heavily on this industry—like Alamance and Gaston counties—suffered the highest unemployment last winter when many industries were forced to close.

In the North, natural gas is used primarily for home heating in contrast to the South where industrial users predominate. Under the allocation system, gas is taken from industrial users here to sent to the homeowners of the North.

This diversion of the shortage, however, is only a temporary solution. The real answer is increased supplies.

One important part of the bill which the Senate is considering is the Helms Amendment—sponsored by North Carolina's Republican senator—which allows for emergency purchase of gas at the higher intrastate prices to be shipped into states like North Carolina which have no gas production. Currently this is not allowed by FPC regulations. The Helms Amendment, however, is admittedly only a short term answer to help through the coming winter. The real solution is the gradual

deregulation of the price of natural gas. The Pearson-Bentzen bill currently before the Senate provides for the immediate deregulation of all new onshore natural gas. This will encourage production for interstate shipment and increase the mere 3 percent which went for this purpose last year.

Offshore gas will be deregulated gradually over 5 years. All offshore gas is produced for interstate shipment at 52 cents per mcf. Since this has been unprofitable for most companies, offshore drilling has come to a virtual standstill.

Gradually, as contracts run out, cheap old gas will be replaced with new, more expensive gas. It is estimated that the cycle will be complete in 10 years.

The obvious thorn in the consumer's flesh is the prospect of higher gas prices. Sen. Adlai Stevenson III (D-Ill) said earlier this year, "I don't think the public will tolerate such a quantum jump in the price of a fuel that supplies one-third of our energy." But as FPC vice-chairman Rush Moody, Jr. explained several years ago, "The choice is between paying more for less gas or paying more for more gas." Higher prices are inevitable one way or the other. If natural gas supplies are not increased, those who are turned away will have to rely on other fuels—primarily oil or coal. Both are about 2-3 times more expensive. Indeed, part of the problem is that the artificially low price mandated by the FPC has encouraged the use of natural gas. It should be noted that the natural gas shortage preceded our problems with oil. Part of our heavy dependence on Arab oil was due to many businesses and industries having to turn to oil since there was no natural gas available even then.

North Carolina's Jesse Helms has summarized the price problem succinctly. "Sure, it's great to have low prices, but I see little merit in the current situation of having low prices for a product that is simply unavailable."

Tom Boney Jr. is a senior journalism major from Graham, N.C.

## letters

# Missing: Yosemite Sam

To the editor:  
Michael McFee's heart is in the right place but his facts are a little off. As Foghorn Leghorn would say, "That boy's about as sharp as a bowling ball."  
—Ben Hardaway and Tex Avery (not Chuck Jones) created the character of Bugs Bunny.  
—Jones did not direct all ten cartoons in *Bugs Bunny Superstar*. He directed two.  
—"All the great characters are here." Not so. Conspicuously missing in action are Yosemite Sam, the Singing Frog, the Tasmanian Devil, Wile E. Coyote, the Mighty Angelo, the Roadrunner, Inki and the Mynah Bird, Pepe Le Pew...  
Are you listening, Campus Film Board?  
E. Hunt  
Box 565, Chapel Hill

## Stimulating classics

To the editor:  
This letter is in response to the article of October 7th, "Homer alive and well at UNC." I do not wish to criticize Dr. Reckford. What I would like to do is echo the praise given to Dr. Reckford, on to one of his colleagues: Dr. Philip A. Stadter. Dr. Stadter, who teaches Classics 33, is to me everything that Dr. Reckford is to his Classics 30 class. Dr. Stadter has taken a subject, which could be exceedingly boring if taught by a lesser person, and transformed it into my most stimulating and interesting class.  
I realize that in an university as prestigious as UNC it would be impossible to single out all the professors who deserve recognition. I also realize that mine is a personal observation and I am sure there are those who differ with my feelings. I felt, however, that I could not pass by this opportunity without explaining those feelings.  
If only more professors realized, as professors Reckford and Stadter apparently do, the importance of their role in class participation, education could become an enjoyable as well as rewarding experience.

*Editor's Note: We have made exception to our letters policy, which we do only on rare occasions, by withholding the signature on this letter, in order to protect the author from an association with the brown-nosing syndrome explained in an earlier letter to the editor, (DTH, Wednesday, October 7.)*

## A breath of fresh air

To the editor:  
The proposed smoking ban is (pardon the pun) like a breath of fresh air to many students. I, like many other students, am tired of inconsiderate smokers lighting up right in the middle of crowded classrooms. This, indeed, becomes not only an infringement on most students' health, but an outright defiance of the rules when it occurs where "no smoking" signs are clearly posted.

Obviously, this will not infringe on smokers' rights to smoke outside the classroom. All we are asking is that, during the educational process, smokers refrain from smoking so that the health, concentration and tempers of non-smoking students (and faculty) be protected.

I believe I also speak for many faculty members who see the disruption smoking often causes in classrooms. It becomes a sad state of affairs when discussions or lectures must be halted so that the professor (or student) must cough, sneeze, open windows or doors and cover their mouths.

Smokers, no doubt, will yell "we have the right." You most certainly have the right to your health detriment but most certainly do not have the right to force this on others inside the classroom.

It is time for the "prestige" (and yes, smokers, the "pleasure," too) to be put aside so that the "pressing" need for knowledge remains the primary concern.

M. Burdette Robinson  
207 Teague

## A reader's critique

To the editor:  
The following are some comments on the October 8 DTH.

About Reid Maness's letter: how true, save for the fact that Student Government has control over a great deal of money that comes from student fees. This mess going on in SG makes me laugh until I remembered that my money is helping to make it all possible.

About the DTH editorial about French: I think they first sentence killed the point. The DTH has taken something of worth, French—"It is a language; a culture and... an entrenched part of the educational experience at Carolina,"—and thrown it into the gutter. I think it would have impressed more people had the reference to kissing and prostitutes been left out. The connotation stuck, I'm afraid, through the whole article.

Some comments on this year: Doesn't the DTH think it's about time to start using "chairman," "salesman," etc. in the paper? I was particularly offended recently when you said Dr. Boyd was "chairperson" of the Religion Department. That, is a lie! He was no more chairperson than I was! He was chairman of the department!

Your childishness on this matter is ridiculous. I thought at first the editor, Cole Campbell, was doing a good job. I no longer feel that way, and won't until the DTH starts using "chairman," etc., once more.

Peter Byrd  
410 Mangum Hall

# Don't miss festivities

History and historical commemoration are increasingly popular as America nears her bicentennial birthday. In North Carolina, President Ford has already made a bicentennial visit in honor of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence supposedly drafted in 1775. Vice President Rockefeller has just left the state after celebrating an early Revolutionary battle at King's Mountain.

Of more immediate interest to the University has been Asheville's 75th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Wolfe, one of UNC's outstanding literary alumni. Several Carolina folks populated that festival, and two UNC professors were keynote speakers.

Carolina had its own observance of Wolfe's birthday on Tuesday. Earlier in the semester, the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies celebrated the centennial of their reopening following Reconstruction.

This Sunday the University

celebrates its own birthday, the 182nd anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of Old East, the first campus structure. The commemoration, University Day, has a bicentennial theme honoring the nation as well as the nation's first state university.

Highlights of the celebration include a choral presentation "Sound of America" under the guidance of Professors Lara Hoggard and Edgar Alden. Professor Martha Nell Hardy, widely acclaimed for her interpretations of literature, will provide a narrative examination of U.S. history, while Professor William Powell will address the history of the University and of University Day.

The UNC-Notre Dame game may be the first priority this weekend for many students, but that is on Saturday. On Sunday in Memorial Hall, another aspect of Carolina life will be on display. Shouldn't we be there too?

## Dean Gerdes

# Football's armchair tailbacks

It's Saturday, October 11, 1975. One of those beautiful days to sit in Kenan Stadium and watch Tar Heel football. The Southern sunshine is purring down and a little breeze through the pines is keeping the Southern comfort cool.

Up in the stands, sitting in the choice seats on the 10-yard line (the best of the 10-yard line seats, up where you can see over the opposing team's bench) sit a group of college students.

They're the UNC football team. "Isn't this great to be in the stands, a Monday morning quarterback on Saturday?" asks Billy Paschall, sipping on a Coke and additive.

"Just call me an armchair tailback," laughs James Betterson as he unfolds his Washington Redskins portable, bleacher armchair.

They don't pay much attention as the Notre Dame Fighting Irish march on to the field for pre-game warm-ups, but they jump up when the Tar Heels come on to the field.

Led by quarterback and team Captain, James Jones, an ex-fan and insurance man from Lumberton, the Tar Heels go through the pre-game drills.

The football team settles back down to pre-game small talk.

"Hey, Mark (Cantrell)," says tackle Dee Hardison, "where did you find a parking space?"

"We found a spot over behind the Union parking lot, back by the dumpster. I hope they don't pick up the trash and get my car by mistake," laughs Cantrell.

... and starting at left tackle, 5-10, 265 pounds, a garage owner out of Winston-Salem, ...

"Hey, did you see that guy?" asks Tommy Burkett. "What a weight program he must be on!"

"Yeah, it's his wife's cooking," says Billy Guthrie. "That and working out every day in the garage, changing all those tires!"

Carolina elects to receive and the team is on its feet with anticipation of the opening kickoff. Down on the field, Pete Downley, a

lawyer from Kannapolis who never missed a game in four years as a regular Carolina fan, drops the kick-off and finally falls on the ball.

Boom-Boom Betterson gives a loud "Ohhh, did ya see that? Did ya see that?" as the Notre Dame players unpile. "You have to have the ball before you can run with it. Ya gotta get the handle on it!"

Jones, the third-year insurance man from Raleigh, takes the first snap and rolls out. He spots a receiver downfield, Tommy Randall, an investigator for the SBI from Asheville. He floats out a pass, but Randall drops it off the end of his fingertips.

"Should have had it, should have had it — it was right there on his hands," says Mel Collins. "Could have caught that one."

Notre Dame gets the ball on a punt, and Paschall turns to Mike Voight. "How'd you get tickets for the game anyway?" Paschall asks Voight. "It was sold out weeks ago."

Voight, intent on the next play, watches, then turns and grins a little. "I'm a friend of the coach," he says.

The Tar Heels pick up a fumble and on the next play score from the two-yard line.

Up in the press box, Woody Durham is yelling "Touchdown, touchdown. The Tar Heels put six on the board. It was a great play."

Turning to Brian Smith, the Tar Heel fullback and guest commentator for the week, Woody asks, "How do you think they set it up?"

"It was the inside running game that did it, Woody," says Smith. He adds, "It reminds me of the time we scored against Ohio State. It was ..."

"The kick is up, and it's good," cries Woody. "Don Traby, a chiropractor from Kingsfield, Va., puts it through the uprights and the Heels are back in this ballgame."

"They certainly are," says Smith. "It reminds of the game up at Charlottesville against Sonny Randle and..."

In the stands, Paschall turns to Betterson. "That play reminds me of the time that we scored against Ohio State. I dropped back,



sec. and while I was looking...  
Betterson leans on his armchair, "or how about that last touchdown against Sonny Randle and..."  
Paschall's date cuts in. "That Ohio State game was way back in September. Monday morning quarterbacking, and it's not even Monday morning yet."  
That's the way it is in the stands. And on the field...?

Dean Gerdes is a senior journalism major from Carrboro, N.C.

## The Daily Tar Heel

83rd Year of Editorial Freedom

Cole C. Campbell  
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