

Christmas break-1

UNC and grassroots

Classes are almost over. In two short weeks, exams and papers will be finished (or incomplete). Students will return to their home towns, while faculty and staff members journey for brief stays with relatives and friends.

Christmas break represents a time when members of this University community stretch across the state in holiday pursuits. It is a valuable opportunity for us to begin to build statewide support for this University, support which will be of critical importance later this academic year.

In the spring semester, a bond referendum authorizing indebtedness for the University system will be voted on, and the state legislature will reconvene to consider budgetary matters, including measures to grant pay raises to state employees. As we travel to our home counties or to visit friends and relatives across North Carolina, we should begin to foster statewide support for the University's position on these important financial matters.

The need for the bond referendum's passage has been all too vividly dramatized in the accidental injury of Joan Leggett in Carolina's Women's Gym. The women's basketball team was forced to practice there because of a wrestling tournament and a men's basketball team practice, and Leggett crashed into an unpadding wall 58 inches from the playing floor end line. Her injury is a stark reminder of the inadequacies of a facility built 33 years ago to serve 532 women, 6 per cent of the current enrollment of 8,497 women.

The proposed statewide bond package includes \$5.8 million for a new physical education-intramurals complex to supplement current facilities. Woolen Gym and the Women's Gym together can serve only 37 per cent of the student body at any time, so physical education classes, the intramural program and individual pick-up athletic events would benefit from the referendum.

By registering to vote in home counties and by influencing friends and families to vote for passage of the referendum in March, we can

help increase the chances of gaining voter approval of the bond issues. Those chances are not overwhelmingly good now, as over 90 per cent of bond issues put before voters across the country in November met defeat.

The voters are not the only group which can help or hurt the University. When the legislature reconvenes this spring, it will tackle various budgetary matters and reassess the financial posture of the state. Among items reconsidered will be a pay raise for state employees, including employees of the state higher education system. The pay raise is important to the economic position of faculty, staff and administrators, who face the same inflationary pinch those of us without loftier degrees or contracts must confront. It is also important for recruitment of the best available teachers and researchers, who might hesitate to come to a University system in which pay raises were political issues and who can get better pay in other systems.

The pay raise has a fairly optimistic future: 1976 is election year, and key members of the legislature are eyeing higher office. It is hard to run against the ire of the state's employees who organize to protect their interests, especially those employees in public education. The state's economic posture has recently shown signs of strengthening, which should also improve the chances of the pay hike's passage.

But mobilization of support across the state can only help any efforts to protect the interests of the University.

So when we are in our home counties, we should go to the county seat and register to vote (or be sure to register in Orange County by February if you consider this your residence). We should prod our relatives and acquaintances to do the same in support of the bond referendum. And we should build support for the passage of the pay raise to bolster the chances of success for that necessary action. And then we can settle back and enjoy our friends, our presents and our distance from the books.



Greg Nye

Fueling the political bonfire

In view of recent events, particularly in the *Daily Tar Heel*, I feel compelled to break the silence and scream...Ahhhhhhh!

In past weeks, months and years, Mike O'Neal and Bill Bates have been busy digging up inconsequential tidbits which they knew would make headlines on the front page of the *DTH*. In the course of that research, O'Neal and Bates have become the Betty Ford and Jacqueline Onassis of your campus newspaper. Their headlines have raised serious questions—about the habits of UNC students who continue to pick up newspapers at local depositories.

A quick review of the front page headlines of the *DTH* over the past two months reveals the insatiable desire for inane newsbits which possess both *DTH* writers and their readers.

As you read, remember that (as Mr. O'Neal once was quoted as saying), "It is not now, nor has it ever been, our intention to mislead or deceive." It just works out that way.

It all began with the headline "O'Neal Withholds Funds." Then headlines like "Bates Dissatisfied With O'Neal," "O'Neal Never

Liked Bates" and "Bates-O'Neal Out to Get DTH." And the fire began to fuel itself.

"Bates Wants Funds Released"—"Bates Shocked By O'Neal"—"Bates Shocks O'Neal"—"Bates Locks O'Neal Out Of Office/O'Neal Climbs Through Window." "Supremest Court Gets Into Act," headlines were soon declaring. "Court Tell O'Neal/Hit the Road"—"Bates Hires New Sidekick, Says Show Must Go On"—"O'Neal Never Wanted Treasurer's Job (exclusive interview)."

Then O'Neal called out the heavy artillery, and not only the *DTH* but other campus media played up the hot story, "Did Bates Have to Cheat to Win the Election?" papers across campus asked. And students, mesmerized by the reams of publicity descending upon them, actually wondered!

Of course the editorial page of the *DTH*—always searching for the most consequential issues of the day—gave top billing for several weeks to the Bates-O'Neal follies.

Meanwhile, both Bates and O'Neal, and any other campus politico worth his or her salt, was swelling with self-importance at the press coverage.

Even Bates and his arch-nemesis O'Neal were left to wonder what new angle the press would take next. And students all across campus wondered also. Which leads to the questions:

How much influence did the press have in continuing and prolonging the affair? Was it really important to devote so much coverage to the Bates-O'Neal escapades? Could it be that the actors involved felt they had to top each other—react to each other—on the front pages of the campus newspapers? Is the Bates-O'Neal conflict only a soap opera diversion for newspaper readers, or is it really the Watergate of Chapel Hill?

If we listen to the actors involved, they sanctimoniously tell us that it is the right of the student body to know all of the information involved.

If such rights are foisted upon people when they become students, then may I suggest that the press deny the public certain "rights"...in their own best interests.

Greg Nye is a junior journalism/political science major from Alexandria, Va.

letters

The Northern part of Hell

To the editor:

I came to this campus four years ago as a freshman, proud to be a part of the Carolina tradition. I was always boastful and enthusiastic in my conversations regarding this institution. Now I prepare to leave UNC, but the enthusiasm and boastfulness are gone. I was once a believer that UNC was the Southern Part of Heaven, but I am now convinced that UNC has become the Northern Part of Hell.

This great institution has been the breeding grounds of many great scholars in the past. The *DTH* has devoted a great deal of space this semester to remind us of some of the great ones that got their start here—like Thomas Wolfe. It is all too obvious that the *DTH* has to dwell on the accomplishments of those that were here such a long time ago, while little is said about the more recent graduates. UNC no longer has the distinction of sending scholars into society. This great school now has to hold its head down, reminded of the many alcoholics that are bred here, and sent into society.

Consuming alcohol has become "the" way of life here. Once limited to one or two days of the weekend, the deplorable act has increased to practically every day of the week (Sunday included). We attend football games not for the enjoyment of the sport, but to see who will get the drunkest. We have projects not really to clean up Chapel Hill and the University, but to see which fraternity or sorority or dormitory can drink the most Miller beer and turn in the most empty cans and bottles. We can't even protest anymore without drinking. I am reminded of the flyer circulated on campus that encouraged white students to go to a Campus Governing Council meeting in retaliation of the BSM, "and bring your coolers." Never will I be proud to have been a part of the new Carolina tradition.

Richard Williams
422 Ehringhaus

The nerve of natural gas

To the editor:

Many thanks to Bill Sutherland for his fine article on the natural gas supply picture in North Carolina (*DTH*, Dec. 3). Earlier articles and columns in the *DTH* on the same subject by Merton Vance (Nov. 2) and Tom Boney, Jr. (Oct. 10) were equally accurate and concise.

Maybe they can explain how in the world our local gas company has the nerve to place a one-sixth page ad in the *Durham Morning Herald* (Dec. 2) suggesting that people buy additional gas-using appliances. True, the ad is soft-sell and full of clichés on saving energy, but the suggestion is there nevertheless.

John L.S. Hickey
2456 Sedgfield Drive

ERA-consciousness

To the editor:

A group of students at Oberlin College organized in 1974 to work for the ratification

of the Equal Rights Amendment. We are now in our second year and we plan to continue working until the E.R.A. is ratified. Our efforts have centered around letter writing, publicizing the meaning of and need for the E.R.A., and fund raising. However we are somewhat limited in what we can do since Ohio has already ratified the E.R.A. We feel that students who are in states that have not ratified the E.R.A. are in particularly fertile ground as far as the E.R.A. is concerned. We encourage you to organize and help us all.

Here are the specifics of what we have done. Oberlin College draws students from every state. Last year we located all of the students here from the states which have not ratified the E.R.A. and supplied them with E.R.A. literature, stamped envelopes addressed to their particular state senators and representatives, and a sample letter to a congressperson. We tried to raise the E.R.A.-consciousness of the campus and encourage students to act. This was a large task for a small group and it took all of our time.

This year the state legislatures are not voting so our efforts are primarily in the area of fund raising. The funds we raise will go to the National Organization for Women Equal Rights Amendment Emergency Fund. This fund pays for the activities of N.O.W. political organizers in the states which have not ratified the E.R.A. Money contributed to this fund may be specified for use in a particular state, in particular states, or you may let N.O.W. decide which states need it the most. We feel that contributing to this fund is the most effective action that we can take at this time. We are also talking with alumni and alumnae of Oberlin College through their magazine and through personal contact and encouraging them to act. Most people do not realize that the E.R.A. is well on the way to imminent failure if people in support of it do not become active. Conveying this fact is the most important step.

We encourage any individual or group to write to us both to ask us for help and advice and to give us help and advice. Please write to:

Grey Larsen
Box 1528, Oberlin College
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

Reactionary cackling, intellectual stench

To the editor:

Any evidence that tends to support the conclusion that the ranks of the Ku Klux Klan sympathizers are increasing their numbers is a pitiful indictment of the social state of affairs in America.

This country is presently in a situation of moral, ideological, political and economic disarray. Countless Americans are finally realizing the realities of the "American Dream" and are suffering its peculiarities. The "Dream" is a vision that only appears when this country is at some sort of balance. A dismal thought it is indeed that "equality,"

"justice," "respect," "tolerance" and all the other codewords for democracy ride the coattails of "normalcy." Citizens of this country react to the helplessness of their lot by retreating into fragmentary niches, each opposed to, and intolerant of the other, searching for their spot, their movement, their "leader."

Truly frightening are the lessons of history which describe the type of "leader" that may arise from the midst of this confusion... e.g. Adolf Hitler, Richard Nixon, Benito Mussolini, Franco, etc. In the meantime we must suffer the mindless, reactionary cackling of minor idiots like David Duke, Jesse Helms and other generators of "intellectual" stench.

Wayne B. McLurkin
Q-3 Old Well Apts.

Girlfriend's picture

To the editor:

On the night of November 15, a personal disaster occurred. Before one's imaginations wander to lurid tales of perversion, I must (regrettably) confess that this was not the case. I merely lost my wallet in the vicinity of Franklin Street.

To some this may seem insignificant. I mean, heck, I only lost my student ID, athletic pass, draft card, social security card, and even my Iowa driver's license (For those of you not familiar with national geography, I assure you that such a state does exist. And it grows corn and soybeans, not potatoes). Worst of all, I cannot blame my wallet's disappearance on being drunk, simply because I rarely drink.

When I discovered my loss the next morning, panic understandably set in. I dashed from place to place, retracing my previous night's footsteps in hopes of making a lucky find. But to no avail. I placed signs in the student union and the undergraduate library—but to no avail. I've checked every lost and found that ever existed on the Carolina campus. Again, to no avail.

So, since the fifteenth I have essentially been a non-person. I can't cash checks (Where's your ID?), get into UNC basketball games (Can I see some student identification?), I even have trouble getting my gym basket.

Well, I've got a temporary student ID now, and am in the lengthy process of replacing most everything else. But some things in my wallet are irreplaceable: My girlfriend's picture, for instance. For those reasons, I'd still like to recover part of my wallet.

So, whoever you are, could you please place my ID, etc., in an envelope and mail it to me at my campus address? Keep the money and the wallet—I don't care about them. A few minutes of effort and a ten cent stamp could save me hours of anxiety and maintain your anonymity all at the same time. Please?

Craig Brown
12 Old West

Steve Dennis

Quinlan: Death not the enemy

Although it is a situation that none of us relish, there has come a time in which we, as a people, a society and moreover as thinking and compassionate human beings, must consider that quality deemed "a right to die." Specifically I am considering the case of Karen Quinlan, the depressing situation about that once young and healthy girl who has been in a coma for over seven months due to a combination of drugs and alcohol. Since that day in question she has never regained consciousness, never talked, never smiled, never seen the light of day and only through the respirator, which is attached directly through the throat, has she been kept alive, or should I say breathing. The more that I consider this situation the more depressed I get; a once active lady slowly deteriorating physically, for she has been long from this world mentally, without hope of recovery. But maybe this case is a necessary situation.

Considering all the aspects I have gathered from the news media, current magazines, and medical people I know, I would, under these circumstances, turn off the machine; I would allow this girl to die. It is a harsh reality and an extremely difficult decision, one that I am glad I am not making, for we all must realize that this decision will eventually have more impact than can be appreciated in our lifetimes. Since it is very obvious that this young lady will never again experience the feelings, events, thoughts, love, hate or any other qualities that she once entertained in the past, due to the fact that she has little or no capable brain functions anymore, I would consider her, in this vegetable state, already dead. She has been likened to a child born without any forebrain; in other words she has none of the qualities we commonly associate with life, and barring some sort of vision or miracle from God (which needless to say is a probability not reasonable to consider in the medical sense, due to the numbers of miracles that would have been or will need to be appropriate in other cases) she will never return to normal. No recuperation of the brain has ever taken place to my knowledge and in attempting to be realistic, I do not expect anything short of the Lord to be of any use to Karen Quinlan. This is not to say however, that I myself wouldn't wish for Him to lend a helping hand.

My reasoning rests on the fact that a complete medical staff has discussed and made recommendations on the case; however, the problem is that although all physicians have agreed that she will never again have the qualities termed "meaningful humanhood," and that she only exists as a machine-assisted object, there is still some low-level brain activity, which eliminates the possibility of "brain death" as a deciding factor and has caused the physicians to refuse from turning off the machine for possible legal and malpractice complications. In actuality, the physicians can do nothing more to help remedy the situation. All that is left is to watch for any change in vital signs and continue the machines in question. Karen Quinlan has deteriorated from the once active 21-year-old girl to approximately 65 pounds, has returned to modified fetal position, has numerous tubes inserted which are sustaining this life and cannot communicate, move, feel or live; she merely exists to be monitored.

Although we all hear of amazing recoveries and returns from death, there will always be an infinite amount of cases we do not hear about which end in death. From these personal opinions and noted facts, I myself cannot have any feelings for this human object and can only look to the family and friends. It is now they who are suffering at the expense of nothing except a life which has already left the living realm, the wishes of the courts and the fears of the physicians. A medical decision, yes, it truly is, but the courts are the guardians; the physicians should not be blamed for the views of indecisive barristers. However, now the decision is wrought and perhaps an appeal, but can her parents, friends or the world tolerate any more? The case here is no longer whether she will recover, but whether she will die. We should all consider a concept from Nancy L. Caroline, M.D., "Death is not the enemy, inhumanity is."

Steven Dennis is a junior chemistry major from Colonia, N.Y.

The *Daily Tar Heel* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, on a 60-space line and are subject to condensation or editing for libelous content, bad taste or wordiness. Letters must be signed with the address of the letter writer.

The Daily Tar Heel

83rd Year of Editorial Freedom

Cole C. Campbell
Editor

Jim Grimsley
Managing Editor

Greg Porter
Associate Editor

Jim Roberts
News Editor

Robin Clark
Features Editor

Susan Shackelford
Sports Editor

Barnie Day
Projects Editor

Joyce Fitzpatrick
Graphic Arts Editor

News: Lynn Medford, assistant news editor. Art Eisenstadt, associate news editor. Writers: Sue Cobb, Miriam Feldman, Dwight Ferguson, Dan Fesperman, Chris Fuller, Sam Fulwood, Bruce Henderson, Jan Hodges, Polly Howes, Bob King, Vernon Loeb, Nancy Mattox, Vernon Mays, Jane Mosher, Tim Pittman, Laura Scism, Merton Vance and Richard Whittle.

News Desk: George Bacso, assistant managing editor. Copy editors: Janet Creswell, Ben Dobson, Clay Howard, Todd Hughes, Malia Stinson and Betsy Stuart.

Features: Linda Lowe, assistant features editor. Critics: Rick Sebak, drama; Michael McFee, Laurence Toppman, Hank Baker, film. Writers: Alison Canoles, Susan Datz, Neva Dennis, Fred Michael, Liz Skillen, Tim Smith and Bill Sutherland.

Sports: Jim Thomas, assistant editor. Gene Upchurch, desk assistant. Writers: Jane Albright, Kevin Barris, Brad Bauler, Doug Clark, Chip Ensslin, Alan Ford, Jim Gentry, John Hopkins, Pete Mitchell, Lee Pace, Ed Rankin, Grant Vosburgh, Tom Ward and Ford Worthy.

Graphic Arts: Martha Stevens, head photographer. Staff photographers: Steve Causey, Charles Hardy, Margaret Kirk and Howard Shepherd. Cartoonists: John Branch, Stan Coss and Nan Parati.

Business: Reynolds Bailey, business manager. Elizabeth Bailey, advertising manager. Staff: Henry Birdsong, Elisabeth Corley, Steve Crowell, Jay Curlee, Mark Dubowski, Ellen Horowitz, Larry Kulbeck, Mark Lanzey and Linda Livengood.

Composition editor: Mike Leccese. Editorial assistant: Gloria Saigo.

Student Graphics, Inc.: Dean Gerdes, shop foreman. Typesetters: Stan Beaty, Henry Lee and Chiquetta Shackelford. Ad Composition: Judy Dunn, Carolyn Kuhn and Steve Quakenbush. News Composition: Dave Gentry, Brenda Marlow and Joni Peters.

Printed by Hinton Enterprises in Mebane, N.C., the *Daily Tar Heel* publishes weekdays during the regular academic year.