

The Daily Tar Heel
84th Year of Editorial Freedom

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Thank you for a real 'Festival of the Arts'

To the editor:
This week marks the beginning of the biennial FINE ARTS FESTIVAL. This year the responsibility for financing, programming and presentation was assumed by students in the arts. They have invited the community and the campus to partake in a continuous and joyous celebration of music, drama, art, poetry and dance.
There are many who deserve thanks: Robin Hanes and Bruce Curran; Michele Patterson, Dawn Aberg and John Stover will have to represent everyone involved. You have done a remarkable job. This year it is truly a Festival of the Arts.

Marvin Saltzman, Chairman
Division of Fine Arts
Professor of Art

On Monday morning after the heavy rain of the day before this place was quite soggy, and when I saw a person mire up almost to shoe tops in the mud, I was struck with how appropriate a sign with the letters SOG might have been: Save Our Grass.

William S. Powell
Professor of History

Face the Facts

To the editor:
An Open Letter to all Faculty Members:
This letter is written to respectfully demand that a practice engaged in by some of you be terminated. The practice to which I refer is the giving of examinations without any or with inadequate proctoring.
Face facts. With the present emphasis on academic records in employment, graduate and professional schools, it is inevitable that cheating will occur. By not doing everything in your power to prevent this, you are doing a great disservice to honest students and ultimately to the stature of the University.

Robert Allen
Grad Student in Slavic Languages

Masterpiece of conceptual art

To the editor:
Scenario: First artist creates large, uninteresting wood sculpture in public place. A few days later, accomplice artist destroys

Save our grass

To the editor:
I heartily endorse Maury York's plea that we all use the walks and give the newly planted grass an opportunity to get established. The campus then will look more like a university campus inhabited by appreciative and responsible adults than like the elementary school playground that much of it has come to resemble recently.
Each individual must assume responsibility for his or her own action in this matter, of course, but if faculty and staff set an example it might help. It is disheartening to witness, as I have from my office window or on the way to class or the library during the past few days, an assistant dean of the graduate school, assorted professors of varying ranks, a librarian, a campus policeman, a U.S. postman, half a dozen electricians and countless janitors crossing the freshly plowed and planted area between Lenoir and Hamilton halls.

letters to the editor

wood sculpture. Result: What starts as utterly lackluster sculpture ends as a masterpiece of conceptual art. People get interested, people get excited, they write letters to the editor. Hundreds of people are caught up in the aftershocks of the process. A brilliant piece. Bravo.

Thomas W. Graham

Vann McGee
Logic Laboratory

A No Vote and a Cadillac

To the editor:
I read Dr. Rodman's letter with dismay. If North Carolina does give tax breaks for big expensive cars, we should approach our state legislators about repealing this gross indiscretion. Of course, as Dr. Rodman implied, this would meet with the same fate as the Equal Rights Amendment. You know,

Short drop period a failure

When the Faculty Council decided last spring semester to shorten the course drop period to four weeks, the rationale was that such a move would decrease the number of drops, particularly what administrators call "frivolous" drops.

In the fall semester, the Administration got what they wanted. Total drops for the fall '76 semester were only 50 per cent as great as those for the fall '75 semester, falling from 14,951 to 7,686.

At the time, administrators felt the figures had proven their point—that students had been dropping too many courses.

"We've had a lot of frivolousness in the past," Peter McNamara, assistant dean of Arts and Sciences, told the *Daily Tar Heel*. "This is not to say that students are the only frivolous people on campus, but I think some change in the drop policy was in order."

But the latest statistics released by the Records Office indicate that the new drop policy may not be as effective as it might have seemed. Drops for the present spring semester have returned to the levels that were normal before the new policy was instituted.

There were 18,580 drops this semester compared to 19,002 drops in the 1976 spring semester.

It seems most likely, in view of the return to the old drop levels, that the decrease in drops in the fall of 1976 was a temporary change caused by students' lack of familiarity with the new system. Now that students are accustomed to the new policy, they are dropping the same number of courses that they were before.

This trend back to a constant drop level seems to indicate that students are not so frivolous as they were once thought. At the very least, the figures prove that the four week drop period is not doing what it was instituted to do—hold down the number of unnecessary drops.

And not only is the shorter drop period failing to accomplish its mission, but it is also causing needless negative side effects.

First, students are forced to make important academic decisions based upon incomplete, insufficient information. Second, a decision to drop a course becomes a conspicuous—and indelible—black mark of "withdrawal" on the transcript. And third, after the four week period is up, the student must forfeit all academic freedom, leaving the fate of his drop proposal in the hands of a committee before which he cannot appear to state his case.

Such a policy is hardly in keeping with the traditions of an enlightened, progressive University. Now that the latest drop figures have blown away the smokescreen of the short drop period as a "deterrent," these injustices should be corrected and some real progress made.

Team picks up for a victim

Last June, Don Bolles, an investigative reporter for the *Arizona Republic*, was blown up by a bomb when he turned his car's ignition. He had spent most of his career investigating the invasion of Arizona by organized crime, concentrating on the state's politicians and public officials.

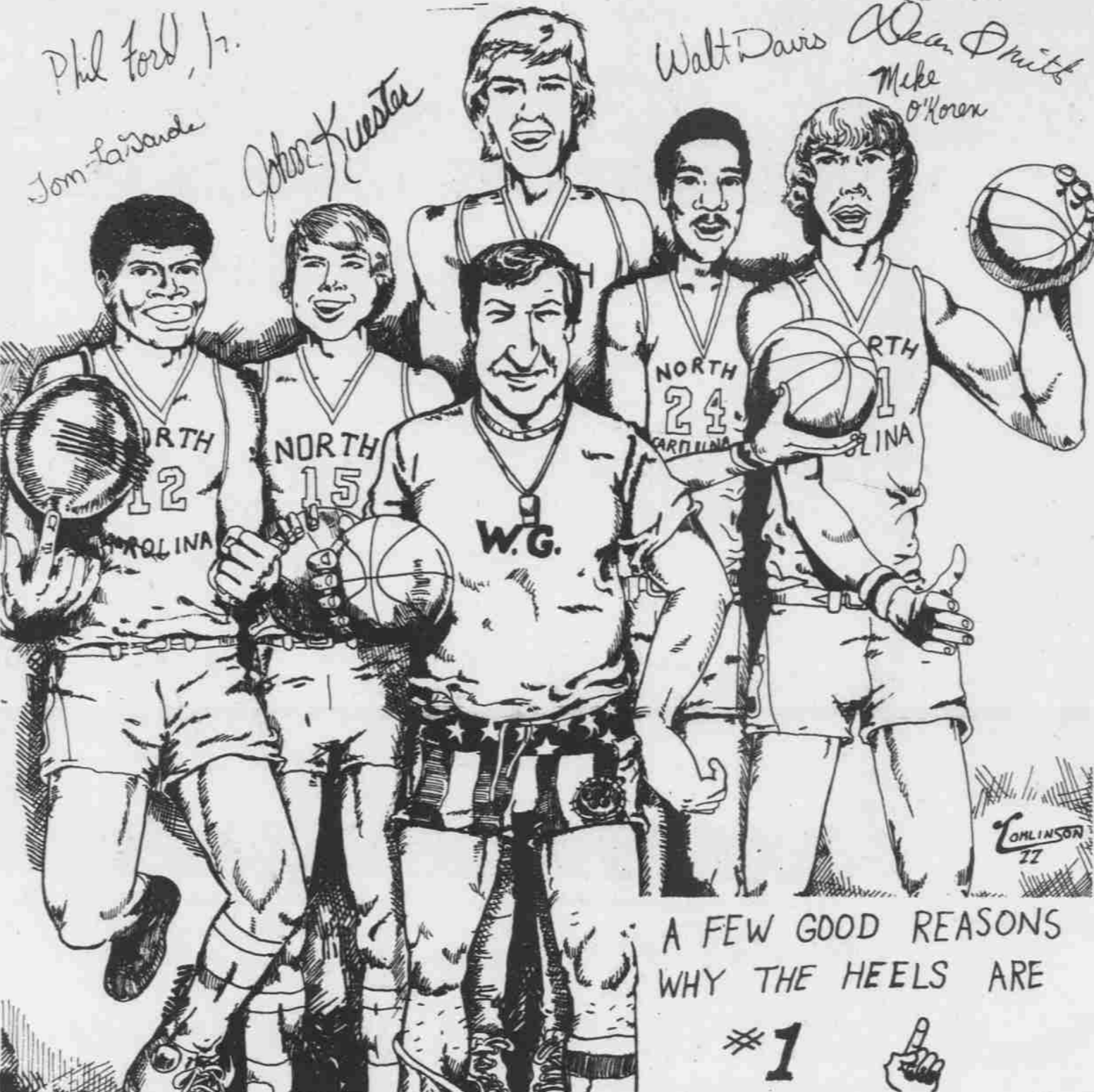
Apparently, he had come too close to breaking a story and had to be eliminated.

The hoodlums and swindlers thought they had rid themselves of anyone who could finger them when they killed Bolles. But that isn't the case. A team of 36 reporters representing 23 American papers, television and radio stations responded to Bolles' murder by coming to Arizona to carry on his work.

The team, Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc. (IRE), released its first in a series of articles Monday dealing with crime in Arizona. The findings are shocking. According to IRE, "Arizona is a land of promise...but some of that promise is being siphoned away by organized crime, corrupt political structures and a justice system often crippled by evils ranging from cronyism to flat-out dishonesty."

The conclusion is stark—Arizona is in trouble.

Though one reporter was silenced, the press could not be. The response to Bolles' murder is commendable, and the work of the IRE speaks highly of the principles which the American press can, if it wishes, uphold.



With prices climbing

Caffeine fiends arise—deny the daily cup urge

By ZESELEY B. HAISLIP, JR.

Men are sitting on the most effective weapon in the world, and women keep the same device in their pocketbooks.

Money.
It is time consumers developed a little more care and efficiency in their spending habits, and the coffee-producing nations, particularly Brazil, are offering all of us the chance to see just how powerful those dollar bills can be. Stop buying coffee.

The enormous increases in the price of coffee during the last year are partially due to a legitimate shortage of coffee beans. A severe frost in July 1975 destroyed almost 75 per cent of the Brazilian coffee trees and it takes four years for newly planted trees to begin producing marketable quantities. It will be 1980 before the effects of this freeze are eliminated—provided Brazil is not battered again by cold weather. Bad weather is also responsible for reduced harvests in Colombia and East Africa, and Angolan production of coffee beans has fallen off sharply since the 1975 civil war.

Brazil, on the other hand, raised its export tax on coffee 55 cents per pound in January. Although exports increased only 7 per cent in 1976, export revenues more than doubled. According to an article in the *Wall Street Journal*, Brazilian officials are trying "to bolster their scant stocks by deterring demand through higher prices. Their aim, they say, is to make their stocks last." Recently, however, Brazil has bought up coffee supplies in Angola and El Salvador.

It seems more likely that the export tax has been raised to improve a balance of payments deficit estimated at 6.3 billion dollars in 1976.

Obviously, the shortage and the

higher export taxes have begun to affect the coffee processing industry in the United States. Folger Coffee Company raised its wholesale price for ground coffee Monday to \$4.18 a pound, a move which will raise retail prices in April. Industry analysts have predicted that a pound of coffee will cost the consumer at least \$5 a pound by the end of 1977.

"People are grumbling and even threatening consumer boycotts," according to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). "Yet to date there is no clear indication that they are drinking less coffee."

The time for a clear indication is now. Boycott efforts have been advocated by Elinor Guggenheimer, consumer affairs commissioner for New York City, the Consumer Federation of America and other consumer groups across the

coffee—no real shortage."

In response to threats of a consumer boycott, the president of Colombia said, "If this boycott is somehow successful, it would represent a serious blow for the policy of accord sponsored by your government and mine," and one Brazilian official threatened a Coca-Cola boycott if U.S. consumers refuse to buy coffee. A less antagonistic point of view was stated by the president of the Brazilian Coffee Institute in a *Wall Street Journal* interview. He suggested that a boycott would be "good for Brazil" because at the present export rate, his nation's coffee stocks would be quickly exhausted.

We believe the American consumer should come to the aid of Brazil. If they are concerned about depleting their stocks, we should altruistically deny ourselves our daily cups of java and

"If the Brazilians refuse to drink Coke, we can consume the surplus and satisfy our

country. These groups suggest that individuals reduce their coffee consumption by 30 per cent, and in North Carolina, at least one convenience store chain has decided not to restock coffee supplies until prices go down.

Zip Mart Food Stores, Inc., headquartered in New Bern, marked its coffee stocks down to July 1976 prices in February. Company president Robert Beck said that sales were halted "because coffee exporters and processors have given confusing and illogical explanations for the price hikes." After consulting with grocery associations and wholesalers, and examining articles in the *New York Times* and various magazines, the company concluded, "Everything we could find indicated ample stocks of

drink tea instead. If they believe U.S. caffeine fiends will turn to burglary and purse-snatching to support their habit and help the Brazilian government erase its trade deficit in the bargain, we should all learn to enjoy hot chocolate and marshmallow creme. If the Brazilians refuse to drink Coke, we can consume the surplus and satisfy our caffeine desire that way. Admittedly, cola is not as good hot as coffee, but there definitely was no shortage of ice this winter.

And if you feel your determination is weakening, sit down.

Zesley B. Haislip is a senior English and economics major from Winston-Salem, N.C.

The Rubbish Bin

By ROBIN McWILLIAM

The Japanese are challenging Scotland's traditional role as the main supplier of good scotch, according to *The New York Times* (Feb. 20, 1977), but Scotland still provides the peat, which gives the whisky its special flavor, and the malt whiskies, which are blended to make scotch. At present the Japanese use Scottish-sounding names for their products, such as Robert Brown and Dunbar. I can foresee the day, however, when we'll be buying Chivas Imperial, Tokyo Sark, and Johnnie Hiraki, and reading "Fuji's Profiles."

"More men than women are convicted of shoplifting, and the majority of women shoplifters are aged between 25 and 35. But one old lady collapsed in a supermarket, and when an ambulance was called, was found to be suffering from hyperthermia—caused by a frozen chicken under her hat" (*The Scotsman*).

My old prep school, which in the British meaning is a private school for boys aged 8 to 13, lies in the heart of Midlothian country, 8 miles southwest of Edinburgh. During the season, Scotland's oldest county hunt rides through the grounds, disrupting classes with the sound of the horn, the yapping of the hounds and the pounding of the culture horses' hooves. This is the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire Hunt, founded a little over two centuries ago. Unfortunately, the survival of this historical gathering is threatened by motorways, Turnhouse airport, Livingston new town and the growing conurbation of East Edinburgh. To all the avid readers of the *Daily Tar Heel* in Scotland's oldest county hunt, therefore: I wish you the best of British luck in your request for an extended boundary.

Robin McWilliam is an interdisciplinary major from Edinburgh, Scotland.



Staff photo by Rouse Wilson
Coffee prices are soaring to new heights.

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