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# The Daily Tar Heel

85th year of editorial freedom

## Hunt should fight Bell's regressive rate structure

"We have got to have a Utilities Commission that will look out for the consumer," candidate Jim Hunt said last year. "The Commission has to make sure the consumer is not paying one cent more than he should be." And in other campaign literature, Hunt said. "The state needs a governor who will appoint commissioners who will be fair to the consumer."

Now, Jim Hunt is governor and he has appointed the majority of the Utilities Commission. And although he was unable to institute a public advocacy staff in his executive branch as he wished, such staff has been assembled to work under the auspices of the commission. This apparent progress will soon be tested. Southern Bell has asked the Commission to nearly triple its installation rates and up monthly service charges. Atty. Gen. Rufus Edmisten has already said the proposed hikes border on "extortion" and pledged to fight against them.

For Chapel Hillians, the situation seems dire. Because local phone installation rates have just spiraled from \$7.50 to \$20.00, the proposed climb looks all the more steep. Any serious protest of the initial increase in Chapel Hill would seem to be hopeless in the wake of the proposed statewide increase. But it should not, because questions raised with the Chapel Hill increase are just as valid in the case of the statewide increase: Why are installation rates being increased drastically and monthly service rates only slightly? Such valid questions hinge on a key consumer concern: do installation charges fairly reflect installation costs? It is hard to believe that the cost of installation has tripled. It seems more likely that Southern Bell has, as always, padded its installation rates to cover other costs and foot a disproportionate share of the utility bill. This is unfair to all students and transient persons because they end up paying for other people's services. If the Utilities Commission has the concern for the consumer it is touted to have, then Southern Bell will be forced to justify its entire rate structure as well as its extravagant increases.

So far, the governor has been silent on this crucial issue. If Governor Hunt is willing to deliver on the promises of candidate Hunt, he will use his clout to spare the public Southern Bell's regressive rate structure and increases. Consumer advocacy has received a great deal of lip service in this state, but very little real assistance from politicians or their agencies. Hunt can change that if he and his appointees act now.

## School busing

### The concerns are emotional

Angry parents have stormed the streets. Neighborhoods have united in reaction, forming activist groups whose sole intent is revolution. The young and the old together have taken to violent protest.

The scenario is a modern one; cities like Boston and Louisville have witnessed a wholesale uprising over school busing dating as far back as the fall of 1974.

Just this week, a suspicion shared by many an observer of the busing controversy was verified. Two Duke University professors released an in-depth study of public opposition to court-ordered busing, concluding that antibusing sentiment is indeed grounded in racial attitudes—not the concern for the education which opponents publicly maintain.

In the paper, which will be presented to the American Psychological Association, John B. McConahay and Willis D. Hawley, affiliated with the Institute of Policy Sciences and Public Affairs at Duke, termed opposition to school busing "symbolic racism." According to the professors, "Parties to the debate argue as if they were concerned with harm to children or the family or the community ... (but) the debate is really over whose values will dominate public life."

McConahay and Hawley reached their conclusions after studying the Louisville, Ky. busing controversy—one of the most heated in the nation. They surveyed over 1,000 residents in the Louisville area as part of their study.

Certainly, this is no news to those who have tried to listen to the violent overtures in protest of school busing. Perhaps, though, a more generally accepted understanding of the true reasons behind public dismay with court-ordered desegregation will end once and for all the disruption of an entire generation's education. The real problem has been identified. It is emotion—not behavioral symptoms—which must be confronted.

# Women must break cultural role of passivity to fulfill sports potential

By DR. KENNETH F. DYER AND BARRY R. THOMS

In 1976, the American woman, Miki Gorman, ran a marathon in two hours, 39 minutes and 11 seconds—fast enough to have won the men's Olympic gold medal in 1896, 1900, 1908 or 1924.

Fifty years ago, a woman became the first person ever to swim the English Channel and today the fastest times for the channel crossing—in both directions—are still held by women.

And in shorter events female swimmers from East Germany, the U.S., and Australia regularly run in faster times than male swimmers from many other countries.

All of these add up to a convincing rebuttal to the old "self-evident" truth that biological reasons alone prevent women from equalling men in sports.

Women may never hit a baseball as far as Mickey Mantle or serve a tennis ball as hard as Jimmy Connors but in other sporting events they may be biologically superior to men.

Long-distance running and swimming provide a case in point. Dr. Joan Ulyot, a doctor of sports medicine and a runner herself, says women have more body fat than men, so even after men have used up their source of energy (carbohydrates), women can keep going on their body fat. This lets them run or swim farther than men, if not necessarily faster, she says, and it may explain the female dominance of English Channel swimming.

In shorter running races as well as the long-distance

events, women's times are progressively catching up with men's; the women's 100-meter world record was first recognized in 1934 at 11.7 seconds and for the same year, the men's record was 10.3 seconds, a superiority of 13.6 per cent. But by 1954, the difference in the two records had declined to 11.8 per cent, and in 1974 to 9.1 per cent. Also between 1934 and 1974, the difference between men's and women's 800-meter records dropped steadily—from 24.6 per cent to 11.4 per cent.

More than in running, women's swimming performances are on the average closer to those of men. And the women's rate of improvement in times has been even greater than the men's. For example, the average difference between the 15 recognized male and female world records in 1976 stood at 9.2 per cent. For seven of these events in which both male and female records were recognized in 1956, the average difference stood at 12.2 per cent.

Predicting the future is always a risky business, but all the figures available indicate that average performance in speed and endurance events for women could eventually equal that of men.

While women may be improving their performance compared with men, they've been sadly neglected in the U.S., according to *Womensports* magazine, which reports that American universities spend little more than two per cent of their total athletic budget on women's sports.

"Money is a big part of making a program go, and men's sports have tremendous control over it," says women's coach Kathy Scott. Enthusiasm is fine, she

says, but you can't really do a good job without money.

Another problem is the lack of facilities and coaches. Many women's coaches don't put all their efforts into their jobs because they feel they are not getting any help from school administrators and others, according to one coach. "After a while, they throw up their hands and say 'What's the use?'" she says.

U.S. women athletes also face outmoded training methods. For example, the conventional wisdom is that women cannot lift weights without developing bulging muscles. But Dr. Jack Wilmore, head of physical education at the University of Arizona, says weight training will produce great improvement in strength with a negligible increase in muscle mass. In the same weight program, he argues, women will develop only one-tenth the muscle mass of men.

Another coach adds that it's the male hormone testosterone that produces big muscles, and that women have only very small amounts of it in their bodies.

While U.S. women athletes operate under these handicaps, conditions are different in other countries. And the statistics indicate sociocultural factors, such as money and motivation, may be far more important than biology.

Eastern European countries encourage their female athletes more than Western countries do, and the small gap between men's and women's performances reflects this.

For example, the average difference between men's



## U.S. cannot renege on promise to go metric

By ED RANKIN

State and local governments are having problems getting any leadership from the federal government on the subject of conversion to the metric system. It's obvious that federal officials are content to cling to pints and pounds and watch as the United States becomes the only major nation in the world not to use the metric system.

Federal agencies are floundering in confusion and stubbornness over the switch to metric measurements—a move that was supposed to be complete by 1980. In June 1977 the federal highway administration decided to abandon its plan to begin converting all road signs to metric measurements. And the National Weather Service announced this month that the bureau had indefinitely delayed its proposal to begin reporting temperatures, wind speeds, rainfall and other

meteorological information only in metric units.

At least some state governments and industry have not fallen into this horse-and-buggy mentality. General Motors announced a few weeks ago that with the 1978 GM cars on the market next month that company will pass the halfway point in changing to metric standards.

So why the snail's pace by the federal government? Perhaps the major problem is the absence of a U.S. Metric Board, which was authorized by Congress in the Metric Conversion Act of 1975. It was to have full responsibility to coordinate the changeover in the United States. President Ford didn't name members of the board in time for the Senate to confirm them in 1976 and President Carter apparently has no desire to name any this year, either.

The lack of a Metric Board has led to chain reactions within the Washington

bureaucracy—no one wants to make the first move. The weather service's decision to postpone its metric plan is a good example. An official for the bureau said simply, "We're looking for guidance."

Beginning next June, the weather service has planned to supply Celsius and Fahrenheit temperature readings for two months. After that initial period, only Celsius readings would be supplied. It's clear that if the U.S. is to follow other major nations—like Australia and Canada—in the shift to metric, a metric board must be formed and a staff hired. States and industries can only do so much to keep the U.S. from falling farther behind the pack. President Carter should name members to the board so our country will not renege on its promise to go metric.

Ed Rankin, a senior history major from Concord, N.C., is associate editor for the *Daily Tar Heel*.

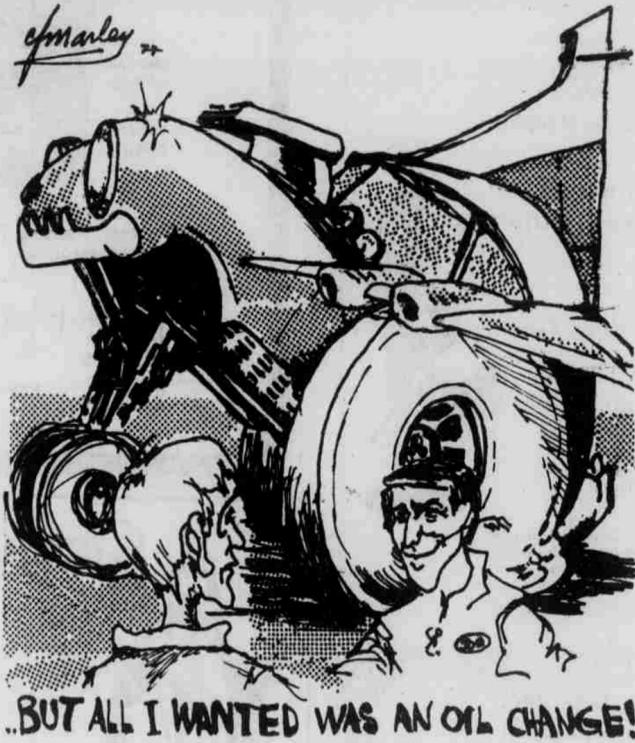
## Check price quotes before allowing repairs

Editor's Note: This advice is prepared by Student Legal Services, which maintains an office in Suite C of the Carolina Union. All UNC students may obtain free legal advice at this office.

Student consumers are frequently unhappy with the services performed by area mechanics. The typical case involves unauthorized repairs, with the student requesting a tune-up and receiving an enormous bill instead. The mechanic defends his service by saying the work was needed and tells the student that he cannot have his car until he pays the bill.

Although under North Carolina law he is entitled to assert a mechanic's lien for the bill, the student does have a remedy. He may file suit to recover possession of the car by paying the amount of the disputed bill to the clerk of court or posting bond for twice that amount. The student is then entitled to his car until the dispute is settled in court. The student then has the opportunity to prove to the judge that the charges for the services rendered were not mentioned to him when he got the price quotation and that it was deceptive to add it later.

Advice for the day: 1) Students should go over the repair list and price quotes with the mechanic before allowing the job to be done. 2) All proposed repair work should be in writing for proof later as to what was actually authorized.



## letters

### Old East claim disputed

To the editor:  
As a recent arrival to UNC, I am quite distressed by a glaring inaccuracy published in your orientation issue (Aug. 25). I have come to your campus as a graduate student in history and thus feel it is my duty to offer a correction. The oldest college building in continuous use not only in the United States, but in all of English-speaking America, is the Wren Building at the College of William and Mary located in Williamsburg, Va.

The cornerstone of this historic edifice, once the sole classroom of the College, and now the home of the Department of English, was laid in 1695, nearly a century before the construction date of Old East, which the article states. Although fires have damaged the Wren Building, and there has been much restoration, it still maintains its claim to priority.

Nor, can semantics be used to justify your article's claim. William and Mary takes "College" as its title rather than "University," for historic reasons. It is, in fact, not a college, but a state university.

In closing, I ask that you not take this as a criticism of the pride you ask Carolina students to feel in Old East. An academic edifice which has withstood the test of nearly two centuries is, at least in this country, justifiably a source of pride. My main concern is, as always, to encourage the maintenance of historical accuracy.

Diana B. Powell  
312 Craige

Editor's Note: Though the Wren Building may be the oldest college building in use, the fact remains that William and Mary is a college. UNC is the first state university and thus Old East, as our article says and North Carolina historian William S. Powell confirms, "is the oldest building in use on any university campus in the United States."

### Clean it up

To the editor:  
I have lived in Chapel Hill my entire life, and have watched it grow from a village of 12,000 into the town it is today. Even while attending Chapel Hill High School, I never saw as much trash lying on the ground from a group of students as I did last week during registration.

You're welcome in our town to go to school, to party, and to enjoy the hospitality. But if you're going to litter the streets and grounds of "the Southern Part of Heaven," as they say, you can go home and do it there.

Ada Boone  
Chapel Hill

### Counting bombs, not sheep

To the editor:  
I was glad to learn that the neutron bomb will only kill humans and other living things and will not damage tanks, bombs and other useful devices. I also see that it will only be dropped on our country or our allies' territory. That certainly puts my mind at rest. I guess a war with neutron bombs would be only a little worse than World War II or the Vietnam War, except for people dying of cancer for 20 years afterward.

Yes, I can sleep soundly tonight, knowing that yet another nuclear deterrent is out there, ready to be used the moment the war that will never happen breaks out.

John W. Roberts  
233-D Jackson Circle

## Columns

The *Daily Tar Heel* welcomes contributions and letters to the editor. Letters must be signed, typed on a 60-space line, double-spaced and must be accompanied by a return address. Letters chosen for publication are subject to editing.



American women are often taught not to be competitive in sports.

and women's track records in nine events was 12 per cent in East Germany in 1974. In Russia, it was 12.6 per cent and in Hungary, 13.4 per cent. But the difference in France was 15.6 per cent, in South Africa, 16.8 per cent and in Belgium, 17.6 per cent.

"Considering the handicaps U.S. women athletes have—lack of money, lack of facilities, cultural biases against women's sports—I'd say U.S. women are doing well," says Dr. Leroy Walker, track coach at North Carolina Central University.

But the biggest barrier to U.S. women's sports performance may be psychological.

"Success in sports is 90 per cent motivation," says Walker. And here, he says, U.S. women are at a tremendous disadvantage because they aren't raised to be competitive.

American women who are competitive and successful are taunted about their loss of "femininity," says Dr. Thomas Boslooper and Marcia Hayes in their book *The Femininity Game*.

Worrying about their femininity, they lose the will to win and, adds one coach, "If you don't believe in yourself, you won't beat anybody."

Ultimately, women's success in sports will depend on their own heads, says Dr. Boslooper.

If they can break out of their traditional role of passivity and non-competitiveness, he says, they can begin to fulfill their potential in sports.

This column was provided by the courtesy of the Pacific News Service.