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**The Daily Tar Heel**

85th year of editorial freedom

## Hunt's bureaucracy Streamlining government?

"Streamlining the bureaucracy" is a phrase in vogue these days, but all too often it seems that the preachers are not the practitioners.

Gov. Jim Hunt was one of those preachers. During his years as lieutenant governor, and throughout his long gubernatorial campaign, he maintained the posture of a new populist, pledging a commitment to smaller and more efficient government.

Last spring, the outward signs indicated that Hunt was streamlining North Carolina's governmental bureaucracy, as he cut 880 state jobs. The governor claimed that the cuts were saving North Carolina's taxpayers \$10 million.

Maybe so. But, as the *Charlotte Observer* reported yesterday, more than 780 of those 880 jobs, which were eliminated were vacant positions. Even more startling is the revelation that, while 880 positions were cut for streamlining purposes, the Hunt administration has added some 3,250 new state jobs to become more effective over the next two years.

Consequently, the cost of state government is spiralling — hardly the goal of a new populist who pledged less government. And while budget spokespeople will maintain that the increased costs (\$18 million this year, \$21 million next year) can be absorbed by efficiency savings, we are inclined to suspect that this state's taxpayers will eventually pay the price.

The new jobs were approved by the General Assembly during the last session, and include 731 new positions in the Department of Corrections, 488 in the Department of Human Resources, and even 15 in the Governor's Office, costing an additional \$280,000.

The increased costs of government do not even take into consideration boosted budgets for the state's public schools. By the end of next year, 9,200 new jobs will be filled, mostly related to the governor's new reading program. A hefty \$47 million will support the new positions.

The bottom line, then, is a blossoming bureaucracy. We have no doubt that some of the new state positions created since Hunt's residency in the Governor's Mansion began will be of great service to the people of North Carolina. But we do question the governor's definition of "streamlining." If he is to be a preacher, then let him practice as well. If he is to promise a more efficient — and smaller — government, then let him take the steps to assure that the promise is fulfilled. If, however, Hunt prefers to saddle the taxpayers of North Carolina with a burgeoning budget reflecting bigger government, then let him drop his populist guise and admit the truth.

## Ingram's criticism off-base

If Insurance Commissioner John Ingram follows past form, this state's insurance industry can expect another court battle with the quarrelsome commissioner over a new plan of classifying drivers.

The industry announced last Thursday a classifying method that would mean much lower insurance rates for single men under 25 and much higher rates for females under 18. Rates would remain unchanged for most adult drivers with clean records but rates would rise significantly for many drivers who have been convicted of moving violations or who have been involved in accidents within the last three years.

The new plan is the first tangible result of a sweeping insurance measure passed by the 1977 legislature that went into effect Thursday. Under the new law, Ingram can rule against the changes, but the insurance companies could challenge his ruling through the courts and use the new rates until the matter is resolved by the courts. Under the old law, the industry had to ask Ingram for permission to change rates. In almost every case, Ingram denied the change and put the burden on the insurance companies to take the matter to court.

Ingram issued fighting words again Thursday and, once more he appears to be off-base. "The insurance industry has done exactly what we predicted they would do," he said. The insurance companies are charging people with safe driving records more and still not properly surcharging bad drivers enough." But he is only partially right. Most of the drivers under the proposed plan, except for single men under 25, who have been convicted of moving violations or have been involved in accidents would pay higher rates for both collision and liability insurance than they do now.

In some cases, it is true that the reduction of base rates coupled with lower surcharge penalties could result in a net decrease for single men under 25, even if they had multiple convictions. But it's ironic that Ingram would complain about a plan that generally gives the young, single male — long a victim of insurance discrimination — a break on insurance rates. The new proposals are similar to what Ingram himself suggested during the 1975 legislative battle to ban age and sex discrimination in automobile insurance.

The new classification plan is one proposal by the insurance industry against which Ingram need not apply his quick-draw veto.

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## Theorists claim mystical forces Twentieth century cashes in on pyramids at Giza

By DAVID CRAFT

The Egyptian pharaoh, Cheops, may have had more than just a tomb in mind when he designed the Great Pyramids at Giza. Recent theorists credit the pyramids with a mystical force capable of everything from preserving meat to improving sex.

"Pyramid power" has long puzzled scientists and scholars. Because no written records exist from the period during which the pyramids were constructed, they can only guess at the origin and meaning of the structures.

Shelia Ostrander and Lynn Schroeder coined the term "pyramid power" in their book, "Psychic Discoveries Behind the Iron Curtain," published in 1970.

The book explains that pyramid power was discovered in the 1930s by a Frenchman named Monsieur Bovis. He supposedly visited the Egyptian pyramids and noticed two things: that the air inside was humid, and that a barrel of dead animals had no stench. Bovis questioned one of the custodians and learned that the animals had made their way into the pyramid and died. They had been gathered up and placed in a barrel several weeks before. Despite the humidity, the animals had not begun to decay.

Bovis returned to France and built a scaled-down pyramid of his own. He put a dead cat inside and ended up with a feline mummy, perfectly preserved.

Karel Drbal, a Czech radio engineer, heard of Bovis' discovery and made some tests of his own, according to the book. He found that razor blades

remained sharp far beyond their normal expectancy. Drbal applied for a patent, but was refused at first. Only after a chief scientist from the patent office obtained similar results was he granted a patent on his "Cheops Pyramid Razor Blade Sharpener."

Actors, physicians and other curious people are now getting in on the act. Actor James Coburn takes his daily medication under a pyramid-shaped tent. He puts his cat and kittens to sleep on a pillow atop many tiny pyramids, hoping they will grow up in a special way.

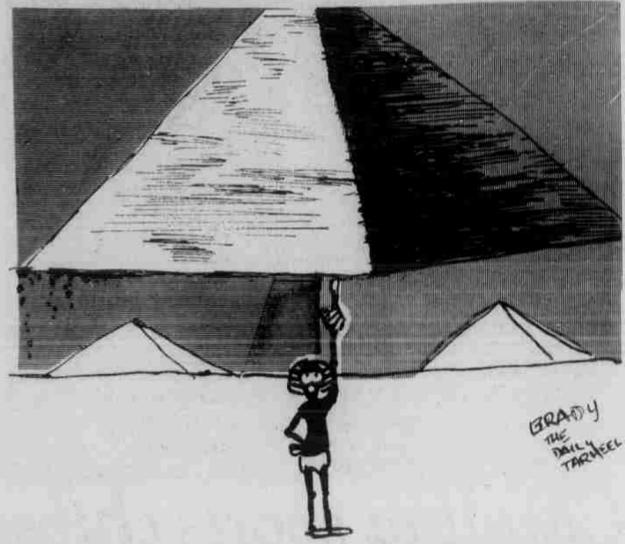
A Houston doctor has found that microbes kept under a pyramid live an average of 64 days longer than microbes not kept under a pyramid.

People who have built pyramids report that pyramid power has healed abscessed teeth, increased productivity of seeds and plants, raised the quality of wine and even increased virility.

A leading dairy company in Europe packages milk in pyramid-shaped cartons, claiming that the milk stays fresh longer and requires less refrigeration.

Skeptics abound. Many scientists attribute pyramid power to superstition. But according to G. Patrick Flanagan, a noted physics professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the power is based on a common scientific occurrence. The key to pyramid power, Flanagan says, lies in microwaves and the shape of the pyramid. The microwaves form bands of electromagnetic power in a cone shape around the pyramid, which deflect many of the sun's rays.

Whether pyramid power is fact or fiction, a lively commerce has developed



in "pyramidabilia."

Edmund Scientific Supply markets two pyramids: a \$4 cardboard model and a clear plastic one, which sells for \$20.

Flanagan reports selling over 30,000 copies of his book, "Pyramid Power," at \$6.96 apiece.

*Science Digest* reports that there are many experiments for pyramid power buffs. After building a pyramid, simply align the structure on a north-south, east-west axis.

One experiment involves cutting a banana into three pieces. Place one piece under a sealed dish, the second on an uncovered dish and the third under a

pyramid. After two weeks, only the banana under the pyramid will be fresh enough to eat. The other two will be black and mushy.

Another test consists of suspending a pendulum over a pyramid. The pendulum will begin to spin in a circle above the pyramid.

Napoleon did some experimenting of his own, according to Ostrander and Schroeder. He spent a night in the Great Pyramid of Cheops, but refused to discuss his experience, fearing that others would think him insane.

David Craft, a junior, is a journalism major from Winston-Salem, N.C.



## Laetrile lure gives dying cancer patients false hope

By PETER HAPKE

Sometime in the future, being in "the pits" may not be so bad — if those pits happen to be from apricots. The controversial cancer drug Laetrile, derived from apricot pits, can now be imported by a cancer patient if he obtains an affidavit from a physician certifying that he is terminally ill. Conceivably, as the ground swell in support of Laetrile grows, the Federal government could be forced to loosen its ban, thus allowing the manufacture of mass quantities of the drug in the United States.

That dim prospect is brought closer by the fact that an estimated 50,000 Americans have taken the drug and seven states — Alaska, Florida, Indiana, Washington, Nevada, Texas and Arizona — have legalized it, while many others are considering legalization.

Indeed, many prominent doctors and newspapers, including the *New York Times*, have voiced support of Laetrile because it may ease the pain of dying patients. Yet, Laetrile has failed to impress physicians who specialize in cancer therapy. Data submitted by Laetrile proponents to cancer researchers usually omits the proof that the patient even had cancer. And according to Dr. Daniel S. Martin of Columbia University's Institute of Cancer Research, "The critical piece is missing — the pathology report." Because Laetrile has been proven conclusively ineffective in animal experiments, the U.S. medical profession views the drug as ineffective in the treatment of human cancer.

Moreover, as a palliative for dying patients, the medical profession says that there is no way to provide proof that Laetrile is actually easing the pain. Doctors argue that Laetrile acts only as a placebo for the patient, thus uplifting his psychological state. For a terminally-ill patient, Dr. Martin

maintains, "the regimen of rest, vitamins and tender loving care could well accomplish what Laetrile is supposed to do."

And what "effect" Laetrile is having can be seen on the death certificates of the thousands of terminal and non-terminal cancer patients who have died after switching from conventional cancer treatment — surgery, radiation and chemotherapy — to Laetrile. By taking Laetrile, terminal and non-terminal patients are depriving themselves of any hope of recovery or prolonged life from conventional cancer therapy.

For many proponents, the issue of Laetrile is largely the right of the individual versus the right of the government in drug regulation. In this age of kudzu-like government regulation in which the individual's rights are increasingly restricted to protect his health and his environment,

Laetrile proponents, including the John Birch Society, are shouting for the right of the cancer patient to choose his treatment without the interference of the medical profession or Federal bureaucracy.

In addition, the crusade is fueled by the average American's innate fear of cancer and the often traumatic effects of conventional treatment — mutilation from surgery, burns from radiation and hair loss and vomiting from chemotherapy. Also, Americans are discouraged with a revered scientific and medical establishment which has failed to find a cure for our No. 1 Killer and ease the painful treatment after decades of expensive research. Thus, it is not surprising that many Americans have embraced the lowly apricot pit, at a time when natural foods and products or just "naturalness" is held sacred, as a panacea for cancer.

However, on the basis of all available

## letters Permits

To the editor:  
Please inform me why the Traffic Office had a sign at its desk stating that, as of Aug. 17, 127 S-5 permits for parking existed. On or about that date (at most one day after), I cancelled my move to a place on the bus line and applied for an S-5 sticker. I was issued an "S-4A." I commute 14 miles one way to campus and feel that I have had much less than fair treatment based on the Traffic Office's information.

Charles Tweed  
Rt. 1, Box 143

Editor's Note: A spokesman at the Traffic Office said it is possible you saw a poster announcing available permits that had not been brought up-to-date. He said it is impossible to keep such information up-to-date because of the flood of requests every day.

evidence, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and the medical establishment should be commended for banning Laetrile. As stated in its charter, the FDA is obligated to regulate the quality of drugs that may be marketed. And the Federal government has traditionally protected the health and well-being of all Americans; hence, it has not overstepped its bounds in this specific case.

Therefore, it can only be hoped that the loss of confidence in cancer research and the medical profession in general can be restored. If so, cancer, which continues to grow at an alarming rate, may not claim another victim seduced away from conventional treatment by the promise of a longer and painless life with Laetrile.

Peter Hapke, a senior ecology and English major from Asheville, N.C., is a staff writer for the *Daily Tar Heel*.

