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Congress busy studying Carter's energy proposals

While Bert Lance stole the headlines this week with his wheelings and dealings, the Senate quietly started work on President Carter's energy proposals, beginning a step-by-step consideration of the mass of legislation.

Deliberation began on a variety of the package's facets, including conservation

THE WEEK

By **CHUCK ALSTON**

measures, natural gas pricing and oil taxes. Each piece of legislation approved by the Senate must be passed along to a joint Senate-House conference committee to negotiate any differences in versions.

On Tuesday the Senate overwhelmingly rejected three gas-conservation proposals introduced by Sens. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., and Lowell Weicker, R-Conn. The Bumpers legislation called for gas rationing, envisioning World War II lines and cards. Weicker proposed that drivers do without their cars one day a week and that gas stations be closed from Saturday evening until Monday morning.

The Senate Energy Committee set up specifically for the task of reviewing the Carter proposals, Wednesday sidestepped administration utility rate-reform measures by pleading ignorance. The measures, including rewards for off-peak-hour usage of electricity, an end to bargain rates for large consumers of natural gas and electricity and different rates for natural gas in the summer and winter, were put off until the committee learns more about the issues.

In the Senate Finance Committee, where the tax provisions of the energy package are expected to run into trouble, hearings began on the suggested tax on crude oil. Oklahoma Gov. David Boren, speaking for the Midwest and Southern Governors Conferences, called the crude-oil tax "tragically shortsighted" and asked that it be scrapped, citing a projected decrease in production.

And while the Senate debated the proposals, Carter announced that the new Department of Energy, the first new cabinet department in 11 years, will open its doors for business Oct. 1. In doing so, he sent the name of Federal Energy Administration Director John O'Leary to the Senate as the suggested deputy to James Schlesinger, the department head.

EXECUTION

Monday, Florida Gov. Reubin Askew signed the order for the execution of John Specklink, a California prison escapee who was convicted in 1973 of shooting a companion escapee in the head after attacking him with a hatchet.

Whether the execution will go as planned at 8:30 a.m. Monday remains to be seen, however, as Specklink's lawyers have vowed to take their appeal all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.



Florida Atty. Gen. Robert Shevin has said that he sees no basis for stopping the execution and predicted earlier in the week that the execution would go as planned.

If Specklink is executed, he would be the first victim of capital punishment in the United States since Gary Gilmore died before a Utah firing squad Jan. 17.

SHUTTLE

The space shuttle Enterprise Tuesday made its second successful free flight, gliding to a landing on a dry lake bed after saying goodbye to its 747 host.

Donald "Deke" Slayton, chief for the landing tests, called the flight "essentially perfect."

Two more test flights are planned for this year. The shuttle is scheduled to make its first voyage into outer space in March 1979 followed by round trips with men and equipment into outer space in the 1980s.

KENT STATE

While efforts to block construction of a gymnasium on the site of the May 4, 1970 massacre of four students at Kent State failed in the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of

Appeals in Cincinnati, the same court agreed Monday to reopen the shooting case.

The court ordered a new trial for the \$46 million damages suit filed by the parents of the victims against Ohio Gov. James A. Rhodes and others.

The court agreed to grant the new trial because "... the verdict was returned by a jury, at least one of whose members had been assaulted and threatened..."

Meanwhile, Kent State President Brage Golding has said he will ask the university's trustees to dedicate the gym to the victims.

The May 4th Coalition, which occupied the site earlier, has vowed to block construction by reoccupying the site on Sept. 24.

BUDGET

House and Senate conferees put the final touches this week on the fiscal 1978 budget, which goes into effect Oct. 1 this year.

The final budget was approved without a provision for a rise in social security payroll taxes. Senators had feared the increase would give rise to more inflation and lead to a business slowdown.

Other than leaving out a provision for shifting general tax revenue to social security if needed, the \$468.25 billion budget closely follows President Carter's recommendations.

KIELBASA

The world's largest Polish sausage has been missing since the World Kielbasa Festival closed out last weekend in Chicago, Mass.

The 25-foot, 107-pound kielbasa was the festival's featured attraction, but officials of the Chicopee Provisions Co., the sausage's maker, have no idea where it is.

Leon Partyka, the manager of the company, said he wouldn't pay a ransom for the return of the sausage, but allowed, "If somebody calls and says they have it, I'll send them the rye bread and horse radish to go with it."

"THE WEEK," a regular Friday feature, digests top happenings on the state, national and international scenes. Chuck Alston, a junior political science major from Greensboro, N.C., is state and national editor for the Daily Tar Heel.

WXYC needs own board

WXYC, the student radio station, and the campus Media Board are heading towards a showdown that may embroil the two in a lengthy power struggle detrimental to both and the four other organizations governed by the Media Board.

WXYC, now under Media Board control, wants to set up its own board of directors — Student Educational Broadcasting (SEB). The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which licenses the station, requires that the station have a board of directors responsible for program and editorial content. That board, by law, answers to the FCC.

Because the Media Board controls only the business aspects of its member organizations, WXYC officials think it best to establish SEB as a separate entity to observe both the business and editorial matters of the station. The arguments for such a board are compelling.

First, the Media Board, as the governing body of five organizations, does not have the time, the interest or the expertise to concern itself with the content of WXYC's broadcasts and the regulations of the FCC. Second, the radio station has little in common with the print media which make up the balance of the Media Board membership. The literary magazines *Carolina Quarterly* and *Cellar Door*, the annual *Yackety Yack* and the science magazine *Alchemist* share neither the problems, the legal status nor even the aims of WXYC. But some Media Board members still hold that the Media Board should control WXYC, or at the very least the new SEB should be responsible to the Media Board.

"SEB has got to exist, and I don't necessarily want Media Board people on it, but it's still responsible to the Media Board," said Patty Turner, Media Board chairperson. "When it comes down to the budget, when it comes down to who the next manager will be, that's up to the Media Board."

Turner makes a good point that WXYC must remain accountable to the students, but we cannot agree that the Media Board's control of the station is necessary to provide accountability. The most equitable solution to the brewing controversy is to make SEB a board parallel to the Media Board, and like the Media Board, responsible to the Campus Governing Council (CGC). WXYC and the Council should work together to found this board, just as it once founded the Media Board. SEB should have CGC — just as the Media Board does — appointees so that it will remain accountable. SEB's charter and bylaws should be established to satisfy both the CGC, which allocates the station's budget, and the FCC, which licenses the station.

To make SEB responsible to the Media Board, which is a standing sub-board of the CGC, rather than directly responsible to the CGC would merely complicate the relationship unnecessarily and stand in the way of true and direct accountability. A Student Educational Broadcasting Board parallel to the Media Board, satisfactory to the FCC and the CGC, would make things run a lot smoother for WXYC and Student Government as a whole. If such a plan is not adopted soon, the coming struggle will prove a perilous drain on the fledgling radio station and a crippling situation for four publications whose governing board will be preoccupied with its powers rather than its duties.

Thirty-nine years later

Thomas Wolfe's 'golden years' in Chapel Hill are still remembered

By **CHIP PEARSALL**

"... a stone, a leaf, an unfound door; of a stone, a leaf, a door. And of all the forgotten faces.

Naked and alone we came into exile. In her dark womb we did not know our mother's face; from the prison of her flesh we came into the unspeakable and incommunicable prison of this earth.

Which of us has known his brother? Which of us has looked into his father's heart? Which of us had not remained ever prison-pent? Which of us is not forever a stranger and alone?

O waste of loss, in the hot mazes, lost, among bright stars on this most weary unbright cinder, lost! Remembering speechlessly we seek the great forgotten language, the lost lane-end into heaven, a stone, a leaf, an unfound door. Where? When?"

A small concrete-and-bronze memorial stands inconspicuously near the back western corner of Davie Hall. Ornamental evergreen bushes carpet its base. Many students pass the monument each day, yet few notice its presence. Those who do may furrow their brows momentarily in curiosity, then pass on.

After all, the metal sculpture has an unusual shape, and green patches tarnish its front. The cryptic words across its top ring hollowly, incomprehensibly, in the mind.

But occasionally, someone passes and glances with familiarity at this moment. The eyes trace its message, and after a brief moment of reflection, the knowing observer passes also.

The monument, placed there by the class of 1966, is a shrine to Thomas Clayton Wolfe, a 1920 graduate of the University. Thirty-nine years ago yesterday — September 15, 1938 — Wolfe, one of the most well-known sons of the University, died of pneumonia in a Baltimore, Md., hospital. He was 38.

A bright star in American literature flickered out with Wolfe's death, and the unobtrusive memorial is a mute tribute to a man who once passed this way and left his indelible mark.

But Thomas Wolfe's real monuments are not weatherbeaten hulks of stone and metal. They are *Look Homeward, Angel* (from which these italicized portions are taken), *Of Time and the River*, *The Web and the Rock*, and his other fiction. Wolfe's monuments are characters like W. O. Gant, Gant's wife Eliza, and their son Ben — characters almost literally drawn from Thomas Wolfe's own family. His portrayals of

Altamont, Pulpit Hill and the State University — thinly-veiled representations of Asheville (his home town), Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina — are the real testimonies to Wolfe's genius.

Through these monuments, more lasting than stone and metal and certainly more unforgettable, Thomas Wolfe lives.

And because he spent four special years in Chapel Hill, Wolfe reserves a niche in his most literally autobiographical novel, *Look Homeward, Angel*, for describing his experiences here. They are seen through the eyes of Eugene Gant, who is Wolfe himself. And for a University student, past or present, reading Thomas Wolfe's account of Chapel Hill and his college years cannot fail to bring a lump to the throat, along with a smile of recognition.

Chapel Hill, of course, is quite a different place today than when a dark-eyed, beanpole of a 16-year-old from Asheville arrived as a freshman in September, 1916. The student body of 1,000, the overwhelmingly male enrollment and the campus bounded by South Building, Franklin Street, Swain Hall and New East gave no indication of the sprawling institution today.

But this was the environment in which Thomas Wolfe's germinal creative self began to flourish. Wolfe called his years at UNC "the golden years" in *Look Homeward, Angel*, and said they were "as close to magic as I've ever been."

A recently published account of Wolfe's undergraduate days shows that the Chapel Hill period differed from the sometimes bleak, brooding years in Pulpit Hill described in the novel. Especially after he became an upperclassman, Wolfe ran rampant on the campus, had many friends, and joined many campus organizations — from the Dialectic Society, scholastic and literary groups and the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity to the *Daily Tar Heel*, *Yackety Yack*, *Carolina Playmakers* and *Golden Fleece*.

Wolfe knew Chapel Hill and the University well. He roomed all over town while an undergraduate, beginning with a three-room boarding house on Cameron Avenue near the west entrance to campus. He later moved to a small cottage in the woods of Battle Park, roomed above a drugstore downtown and lived in one of the "new dorms" — Battle Hall — as well.

Wolfe also called his fraternity house and a hotel room his homes at one time.

And, like most students who attend the University, Thomas Wolfe enjoyed himself and "raised some hell" while here. Wolfe was a



The monument to Thomas Wolfe between Davie Hall and New East is a silent tribute to one of the University's greatest sons.

recognized campus wit and practical joker. He indulged in biscuit-throwing in the Swain Hall cafeteria and often joined his classmates in pelting unsuspecting innocents with peanuts in Pickwick Theater.

Wolfe also experienced the other end of joking, and took part in several "snipe hunts" as a freshman before realizing what was going on.

Along with his other activities, Wolfe also found time for classes. Though not a brilliant student, he performed well in the subjects that interested him. And many of his classmates and instructors remember the perpetually late Wolfe, entering classrooms on the run, shabbily clad and needing a bath, with his assignment perhaps

scrawled ten minutes earlier on the back of a handbill, matchbook, or even on a roll of toilet paper.

Through academics, Wolfe met several professors whom he later used in his novels. Among them were William Stanley "Bully" Bernard, professor of Greek, who expanded Wolfe's love of the classics. Professor Edwin Greenlaw of the English Department was also a favorite of Wolfe's.

But two professors above the others stood out — Frederick H. "Profi" Koch of the drama department and Horace Williams, professor of philosophy. It was Koch who once instructed Wolfe's class in folk drama to "Look homeward,

and there you will find your play."

And Williams, a controversial figure in North Carolina at the time, is disguised as Dr. Vergil Weldon in *Look Homeward, Angel*. Eugene Gant's last meeting with Weldon before Gant left Chapel Hill parallels a similar meeting between Wolfe and Williams, and both scenes are moving, memorable ones.

But along with the happiness Wolfe experienced in Chapel Hill, his life was tinged with sadness also. The deaths of his college roommate and President Edward Kidder Graham hurt Wolfe deeply. Wolfe's brother Ben died while Thomas was a student, and the scene is chronicled in *Look Homeward, Angel*. Friends have recalled the despair and brooding Wolfe underwent because of the tragedy. Shadows passed over the "golden years" at times, as they sometimes do today.

Nevertheless, Wolfe's years in Chapel Hill stimulated his great writing talent, and opened his mind to the future's possibilities. And Wolfe was grateful. In his final editorial as editor of the *Daily Tar Heel* on June 5, 1920, Wolfe called attention to the seniors' debt:

"... the senior approaches graduation with no such feeling (of confidence) today. He is usually appalled at his own colossal ignorance and knows that he has just started his education. Instead of believing that he has definitely settled all the problems that may come to him, he recognizes his own limitations, and that his education is a lifelong process. And the University that can give this kind of stimulus justifies, once and for all, the worth of a university training."

Wolfe was graduated on a sultry summer day later that month. As class poet, Wolfe read a moving poem called "1920 Says a Few Words to Carolina." In it, Wolfe captures the feeling of every senior which accompanies the joy and sadness of graduation and leaving Chapel Hill, and the golden years.

"... think ahead of this night here
And of these old brown walls,
Of white old well and of old South
With bell's deep booming tone,
They'll think again of Chapel Hill and —
Thinking — come back home."

"O lost, and by the wind grieved, ghost, come back again."

Chip Pearsall, a senior journalism major from Rocky Mount, N.C., is a staff writer for the *Daily Tar Heel*. He credits Richard Walser's *Thomas Wolfe Undergraduate* (Duke University Press, 1977) for some information in this column.