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The Daily Tar Heel

85th year of editorial freedom

NCSU plan may be answer

The telephone crisis is not limited to Chapel Hill, and UNC students aren't the only ones complaining about Southern Bell's service and business practices. Students at North Carolina State University also have to cope with the prospect of sky rocketing installation fees, as well as soaring monthly service charges.

And, as in Chapel Hill, State students are disturbed over the realization that increased phone costs hit the naturally transient student the hardest. To deal with the problem, an associate dean of Student Affairs, the director of Residence Facilities and the student body president at State are working on a plan to include telephone costs in each student's dorm room rent.

The idea, which has also been kicked around at this University, is a good one. As we understand the plan, State's first step would be to assure that each dorm room has a phone with a permanent number, thereby easing the problem, common at the beginning of a school year, of finding someone's telephone number. While we at Carolina already have permanent dorm room phone numbers, the concept could be extended in Chapel Hill to apartment complexes as well, facilitating the search for an individual's number in the fall while no phone book exists.

Part two of the State plan would include the costs of the dorm room phone in the room rent. Such action would make sure that phones are available for use on the first day the dorms open, and that students know their telephone numbers when they learn of their room assignment. The benefits of such a system are obvious — unnecessary hassles and long waits can be avoided.

But an additional benefit — and one of perhaps greater importance — would come in savings. Installation charges would be curbed, as a one-time bill of approximately \$20,000, according to the *Technician*, the State student newspaper, would be levied for hook-up of all the dorm room phones.

A plan to finance the installation charge with the proceeds from dorm laundromats is under consideration by State officials, along with the possibility of an on-going subsidy of the phone costs in the same manner.

While the fate of State's plan is still in doubt, it, nevertheless, serves as a model for study here at UNC. As long as increasing costs are brought to bear on the student body — the people least able to carry the burden — some program to curb the costs is needed. "Socializing" dorm room phones just may be the answer.

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Facts and myths surrounding marijuana debated

To the editor:
Congratulations to D. C. Malle ("Get Straight," Letters, Sept. 28) for setting our campus "straight" with the "strong opinion" that it needs. After reading the letter, I immediately discarded my copies of *Consumer Reports* (March 1975) and *Psychology Today* (which only contains trashy little experimental studies on marijuana) in favor of authoritative literature on the subject. Not just any *World Book Encyclopedia* would do; I needed my *Daily Mail* or *National Enquirer's* column on "The Killer Herb" in order to separate the myths from the "facts."

Myth: Marijuana does not harm the body.
Fact: Marijuana leaves millions of fatal overdoses in its wake.

Myth: Marijuana does not damage chromosomes.
Fact: Marijuana produces thousands of armadillo babies.

Myth: Marijuana does not stunt growth.
Fact: Marijuana smokers need elevator shoes to reach *Reader's Digest* in Wilson Library.

Myth: Marijuana does not harm "Johnny's brain."
Fact: Marijuana turns Johnny's brain into a cabbage head.

Now that the truth be known, listen to a bit of advice:

1) Since marijuana is not "a weed similar to tobacco," smoke tobacco; after all, tobacco only kills a mere 500,000 people per year (*The Washington Monthly*, February 1976, p. 9).

2) "Five to ten in the pen"
Leaves no room for other men.

Marijuana smokers do a great disservice to the public by not leaving enough room in our prisons for robbers, rapists and murderers.

3) Give your policeman a holiday. At the present rate of arrests of only 450,000 per year (*Human Behavior*, May 1976, pp. 58-59), your neighborhood policeman will not catch all 30 million marijuana users (*The Washington Post*, Feb. 13, 1976, p. A-22) before 2044 A.D.

4) Give yourself a tax break by discontinuing abuse; if the police did not need to enforce this law, they could save \$600 million a year (*Human Behavior*, May 1975, p. 59).

5) Rush down to Wilson Library for your "straight A's" but beware lest you stumble upon any questionable literature that will give both sides of the issue.

In closing, we did not notice the name D. C. Malle upon the Phi Beta Kappa roster. Better luck next time.

David Bodenheimer
4 Old East



To the editor:

D. C. Malle should be commended for his bold letter in which he explained the effects of marijuana to the members of the High Noon Society and gave his admonition concerning its use. I also found extremely valuable his reference to the recently published treatise on the subject entitled, "I am Johnny's Brain," in the August issue of *Reader's Digest* (a periodical which prints articles on topical subjects as well as condensations of popular novels). The article is well worth reading by those people who want to learn all that there is to know about this substance.

Malle proceeds to explode several myths about marijuana — or "Mary Jane" as it is known to the drug culture. He explains that contrary to popular belief, smoking marijuana is not pleasant and relaxing, but rather causes headaches, fatigue, nerve deadening and what scientists refer to as "the jitters." I wish to add that it has also been reported that marijuana causes a reduction in the body's resistance to infection plus impotency in men. This has yet to be accepted by the medical community, however, because of technicalities regarding false and inaccurate data.

"Hard vs. soft"

To the editor:

I had mixed emotions reading three articles dealing with America's future energy policy ("America, is there an energy option?," Sept. 27-29).

The authors pondered on two options: "hard" — nuclear energy development, and "soft" — the alternatives:

"Alcohol-based fuels for transportation." Imagine the whole new industry built for the country's transportation needs over the dead body of the EPA. What are they going to use for fuel to keep this industry going?

"Wind-generated electricity." Picture ten thousand windmills as a substitute for one compact nuclear power plant.

"Chicken droppings." A new profession (CD-collector) with its own union. Though "this represents no significant threat to present lifestyles."

Are you for "hard" or "soft"? I asked my wife's opinion on the subject. Her choice dissipated all my doubts.

Igor Pavlov
105 Buena Vista

enough to become a physician. Indeed, a lot of technical biological and chemical knowledge is not even necessary: 49 per cent of philosophy majors applying to medical school are accepted, as opposed to 17 per cent of biology and chemistry majors.

What we really need to do about the health care crisis in the U.S. is to immediately expand medical education, quadruple the number of medical schools, and then offer public employment to the resulting surfeit of physicians at a wage about that paid to public school teachers.

We must stop being taken in by physicians' absurd propaganda, to the effect that "academic integrity" and "standards" are somehow involved in the current medical school squeeze.

R. K. Hsueh
Fellow in applied logic

Minority opportunity doctrine

To the editor:
I am responding to the letter by Dwight Ferguson in the Sept. 23 *DTH* which you happily titled "Argument illogical."

Ferguson says that both UNC and the North Carolina Student Legislature (NCSL) benefit a minority at the expense of a majority but that both are developing future leaders for the state. Now the only reason I can guess for making this statement is that the majority which supports them ultimately benefits from the exchanges. Whether the majority actually does benefit from either is a question incapable of proof that can be answered only by considering each situation individually.

In contrast, the last part of the letter states that students at UNC and NCSL have taken an "opportunity to better themselves." "Without even considering the indirect benefits to the majority made possible by the existence of minority interest-gated organizations, justification for taxing the majority for them can be found in the existence of these opportunities open to all." It states that lack of benefits to the student body is not an argument for opposing a student fees increase.

In order to give a concrete demonstration of this last idea, I suggest that the 50 or 60 members of Ferguson's hardy band in NCSL (a majority) send me \$1000 for an "opportunity which would not otherwise exist" to "better myself" on the Florida beaches. They may make this opportunity open to all if they like. As I lounge in the sun, I will sing the praises of the "minority opportunity" doctrine! Please send the amount in cash to:

Dave Abernethy
343 Craige

letters to the editor

Finally, Malle proves fallacious the myth that marijuana is a weed like tobacco, rather than a drug like heroin. He writes, "the law states that marijuana is a drug. Five to ten in the pen will support that fact." Q.E.D. This is non-Euclidian reasoning at its zenith.

D. C. Malle is himself living testimony to the virtues of a brain which is filled with fresh air instead of chemicals. Surely, a drug user could never have developed arguments such as his. Therefore, let me add my voice in support. It is time to "turn off" to drugs and "turn on" to the real reason we are all in Chapel Hill, namely to get straight A's. After all, that is what life is for!

Robert S. Caine
Massachusetts Institute
of Rhode Island

To the editor:

Why waste valuable printing space on the High Nooners? Let's talk about something meaningful, like the impact of the Student Government constitution on the students here at the University.

James Thaddeus White III
639 Grimes

Errors in logic

To the editor:

Your editorial ("Amendment may end unfair foreign med student quotas," Sept. 28) attacking the HEW quotas on medical school admission of foreign was well-intentioned, but the reasoning was based on a number of serious errors.

Error 1: The reason that U.S. students go to foreign medical schools is not, as you state, that they lack the "proper credentials" to get into a U.S. medical school. It is that there are very few places in U.S. medical schools to begin with. Medical schools in the U.S. only have room for 10 per cent of those applicants who are well-qualified. The number of medical school places is deliberately kept small by physicians themselves, in order to keep down the number in their profession.

Error 2: "Academic integrity" has nothing to do with keeping down the number of medical school places. The number of physicians is kept low by physicians themselves in order to preserve the archaic "fee for service" system of medical care, preserve outrageous fees and prevent a system of public medical care as now exists in more civilized countries. Anyone who can get through UNC with a B average is smart

Cruise director on the 'Titanic'

Columnist Art Buchwald finds it hard to be funnier than the front page

GREENSBORO — "I have great respect for Jimmy Carter," Art Buchwald said. "I worship the very quicksand he walks on."

Art Buchwald owes a lot to Jimmy Carter. The President provides much of the material that goes into Buchwald's syndicated column, one of the funniest items to be found in more than 500 newspapers worldwide.

Buchwald is not just another Washington columnist, however. Buchwald is master of his profession: political satire.

Speaking to an almost capacity crowd at UNC-G's Aycock Auditorium recently, Buchwald gave some insight into how he writes his column.

"I don't talk to anyone," he said. "This way, facts don't get in my way."

Buchwald's main competition, he said, is the front page of daily newspapers. As an example, he cites Jimmy Carter's revelation last year that he lusts after women. "I couldn't just make that up," he said.

"He is the first president who doesn't do it but thinks about it a lot."

Buchwald is known as an astute observer of the political scene. "I believe President Ford would still be in the White House if he hadn't freed the Polish people prematurely," he said.

He also understands the election process. Many persons, he said, ask him why a country of 210 million doesn't have better presidents.

"Only 99 million people are registered to

vote," he explained. "Of this number, 38 million are under 35, the minimum age eligible to be president."

"Of the remaining 61 million, one million are aliens. Thirty million are women, and this country is not ready for a woman president for at least three years."

"This leaves 30 million. But four million are afraid to fly. We cannot have a president who is afraid to fly."

IN QUOTES

By TONY GUNN

"Two million have wives who don't want to live in Washington. Two million have been audited by the IRS. And 12 million were mentioned in Elizabeth Ray's book."

"This leaves seven million. Of this, 6,999,998 have had psychiatric treatment. The country will never accept a president who has had mental problems."

"This left us with a peanut farmer from Georgia and a guy who played football without a helmet."

Buchwald finds the Carter family fascinating. "Suppose I went to a TV producer with the following idea for a series:

"A family from Georgia moves into the White House. The central character used to sell peanuts

and used to be the captain of a nuclear submarine."

"He has a redneck brother who drinks 10 six-packs a day; a 78-year-old mother who used to work for the Peace Corps; a nine-year-old daughter who lives in a treehouse; one sister who rides a motorcycle, another who is a faith healer. "What would the TV producer say? 'Get rid of the faith healer.'"

Jimmy Carter was not the first president to give a fireside chat, Buchwald said. "Gerry Ford once tried it, but the fire went out."

Buchwald also proposed a search committee to find a replacement for Bert Lance, Carter's director of the Office of Management and Budget. "Carter needs a new best friend," he said.

A poll taken before Lance resigned, Buchwald pointed out, showed that 38 per cent of the U.S. people wanted Lance to resign; 33 per cent did not.

"The others couldn't answer because Lance owed them money," Buchwald said.

Although Buchwald has put together many of his columns into books, he said he has always wanted to author a pornographic book. "But I get so excited doing the research that I never get around to writing the book."

Buchwald blamed the energy crisis on the Harvard Business School. "If Harvard had not taught the sons of those Arab sheiks, barrels of oil would cost \$3."

He also predicted that by 1980, the post office would deliver mail only one day a year. "It will be

called 'Mail Day,' and it will be just like Christmas," he said. "People will decorate their mailboxes, and when the mailbag comes, they will open up their bills together."

Buchwald also said he favors gun registration. "My neighbor has a gun, and he can't even water his lawn straight."

In addition to pointing out the shortcomings of government and society in his column, Buchwald also proposes solutions.

Buchwald has noticed that, due to the amount of mail he receives after he writes a column favoring gun registration, everyone who owns a gun also owns a typewriter. Instead of registering guns, he said, "Make everyone register their typewriters."

Buchwald also has a solution to the problem of the supersonic transport Concorde. "Let it land but do not let it take off."

Many would consider the 52-year-old columnist's job difficult. But he doesn't.

"I just look at things and see how ridiculous life is," he said. "People pay me large sums of money to do this."

"I consider myself the cruise director on the 'Titanic.' We may not get there, but I'm going first-class."

Sometimes, Buchwald admitted, his column gets him in trouble. "What really scares you is when you make something up and it really happens," he said.

"I once wrote about a top-secret plane that could fly so slow that nothing could shoot it



Photo courtesy of UNC-G News Bureau
Art Buchwald

down. Two days later I got a call from the Pentagon saying I had violated security."

Tony Gunn, a senior journalism major from Reidsville, N.C., is assistant news editor for the *Daily Tar Heel*.