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The Daily Tar Heel

85th year of editorial freedom

Troubles in Midwest Coal strike continues; power supply threatened

The nation's coal operators bowed to President Carter's wishes Wednesday after a short-lived refusal and agreed to bargain at the White House with miners, whose 72-day strike is causing massive problems.

White House press secretary Jody Powell announced the Bituminous Coal Operators Association had agreed to resume negotiations just three hours after the group had publicly declined to go along with Carter's request for renewed bargaining.

The United Mine Workers' 160,000 members have been on their record-long strike since Dec. 6, when their previous three-year contract expired.

The coal strike combined with heavy snows to throw industrial production into its largest slump in nearly three years, the government reported Wednesday.

Major utilities in Ohio and Indiana have announced they will reduce power next week — a step that would lead to cutbacks in commercial and industrial operations and possibly mass layoffs.

If the coal strike continues, Gov. Jim Hunt may ask North Carolinians to start conserving energy. If no new contract is reached soon, he said he will take stronger actions.

seat in the House of Representatives, despite what UPI sent across its wires.

In her bid to serve the remaining ten months of Edward Koch's term as U.S. representative from Manhattan's 18th Congressional District, all Bella Abzug crushed was a victory speech in her hand.

Abzug, who received 48 percent of the vote, said she was waiting to see the results of the routine canvass of votes by the city Board of Elections today before deciding whether to seek a formal recount.

The New Mexico Supreme Court Wednesday reversed a Court of Appeals ruling that sexual intercourse between a 23-year-old woman and a 15-year-old male was permissible and essential to the male's education.

The court issued a unanimous decision without elaboration, but a formal opinion will follow soon.

Ernestine Favela of Clovis, N.M., is charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor by having sexual intercourse with the youth.

The associate judge of New Mexico Court of Appeals had ruled that Favela contributed to the youth's worldly education, not to his delinquency.

"A consensual act of sexual intercourse engaged in by a young man is nothing more than sex education essential and necessary in his growth toward maturity and subsequent domestic family life," the judge said.

DID YOU REALLY HAVE TO OPEN THAT SCHLITZ MALT LIQUOR?



Federal meddling robbed Charlotte 3 of justice

Most North Carolinians probably are getting tired of mounting attacks on the state's judicial system. Ever-present, ever-vocal protesters have ruthlessly ridiculed the Tar Heel state, and even some of its most patient citizens are saying, "Enough is enough."

But the good people of North Carolina should not be too hasty in dismissing all the cries of injustice as unwarranted. In North Carolina and the other 49 states, there exists a certain number of injustices. Our court systems are not perfect. We must be uncompromising in our efforts to weed out instances of wrongdoing in our court system.

Strong evidence suggests that three black men in Charlotte are victims of one of those wrongdoings. James Earl Grant, T. J. Reddy and Charles Parker were convicted in 1972 of arson in the mysterious destruction of the Lazy B Stable in Charlotte. Grant, a chemist and writer, was sentenced to 25 years; Reddy, a poet and a sculptor, 20 years; and Parker, an anti-poverty worker, 10 years. Parker has been released on parole, and Grant and Reddy are free on bail while the U.S. Supreme Court considers an appeal to review their case. Meanwhile, the Charlotte 3 are spending their days of freedom by fighting to prove their innocence.

The Charlotte 3 were largely convicted on the testimony of two men — Walter David Washington and Theodore Alfred Hood — who claimed they were eyewitnesses to the alleged firebombing of the riding stables. The testimony of the two prosecuting witnesses was confusing and marked with conflicting accounts of the same event. Washington and Hood disagreed on who made the firebombs. When asked who threw the firebombs, Hood testified, "Well I the side that I was on was closed off... I could not see inside the barn." Washington, who testified that he was standing only a few feet from Hood, told the court, "Both doors to the barn were open... I had a pretty good view of the inside of the barn."

In exchange for their testimony, Washington and Hood were granted immunity from prosecution for their involvement in the firebombing and charges of violating federal gun control laws. Washington was also granted immunity from prosecution for violating parole. He was a prime suspect in connection with several Mecklenburg County murders at the time of the Charlotte 3 trial, but charges were never brought against him.

In addition, the two key prosecution witnesses received \$4,000 each in "relocation payments" from the U.S. Justice Department in exchange for their testimony in the Lazy B trial and another federal case. The Treasury Department listed the payments as "funds for the purchase of evidence." One of the defendants testified during the trial that he had received no money from the government in exchange for his testimony, though Washington and Hood were given \$1,000 each before the trial began. The federal payments were not disclosed to the judge, the defense attorneys or, most important of all, the jury.

Why was the U.S. government meddling in a seemingly local case? Why was the conviction of the Charlotte 3 worth \$8,000 in money incentive grants for the prosecution's star witnesses?

The defense's contention that the Charlotte 3 were prosecuted for their involvement in the civil rights movement certainly hasn't been refuted by any of the evidence disclosed since their trial. Grant, Reddy and Parker were involved in anti-draft counseling in 1968 in response to plans of the U.S. Army to make the black community of Charlotte a prime area for recruiting. They were organizers of the black community — an activity that was not appreciated by white-dominated government agencies in the late '60s.

The innocence of the Charlotte 3 has not been proved. Grant's contention that he was not in Charlotte at the time of the Lazy B fire was discredited by a clerk who testified that Grant opened a checking account at a Charlotte bank the day of the fire. If the Charlotte 3 can be proved guilty in a proper court proceeding, they should be returned to jail with stiff sentences.

However, the credibility of the prosecution's case against the Charlotte 3 has been shot full of holes. The jury that convicted the Charlotte 3 in 1972 was not working with all the facts. It should have been able to weigh the credibility of the government's witnesses in the case. The jury was kept unaware of the payoffs and the prosecution's wide-ranging promises of immunity.

The Charlotte 3 deserve another trial. Whether he likes it or not, there is another criminal case in North Carolina that merits the attention of Gov. Jim Hunt. Readers are urged to write the governor and express their opinions concerning the case, either pro or con.

We must state emphatically that justice can not be bought in North Carolina.

THE WEEK

By BETSY FLAGLER

Hunt said Wednesday he is prepared to announce power cuts by utilities or even order mandatory cutbacks in the state if the strike by miners continues to drag on.

President Carter has decided to sell jet fighters to Egypt for the first time in history while denying Israel about half the war planes it wanted.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said U.S. commitment to Israel remains firm, but he added, "Egypt, too, must have a reasonable assurance of its ability to defend itself if it is to continue the peace negotiations with confidence."

Officials said Carter feels the time is now right to shift into a more even-handed Middle East arms policy. Israel continues to get more than \$1 billion worth of U.S. arms every year. The sale of fighters to Egypt would mark the first time the U.S. ever has sold Egypt any kind of offensive weapon at all.

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin said Wednesday the sale is a threat to peace. "It should be forbidden to supply them with aggressive weaponry because such a supply will be an obstacle to conducting the peace talks between Egypt and Israel," said Begin, who accepted an invitation to visit Washington in March for a "frank airing of differences."

Cairo Egyptian officials, although disappointed their country did not get all it asked, said Wednesday that Carter's decision to sell 50 war planes to Cairo represented a U.S. policy shift in Egypt's favor.

They also said they viewed the U.S. package of weaponry as a form of indirect pressure on Israel by proposing to give it only half the number of warplanes it had requested.

United Press International spoke too soon Tuesday, and the Daily Tar Heel listened.

Democrat Bella Abzug of New York did not crush her Republican opponent William S. Green to take a

The beginning of a Russian influenza epidemic among young people is underway in the United States, a federal health official said Tuesday.

The highly contagious strain has zeroed in on those persons under 25 because young people have no natural antibody protection against the Russian strain of flu, which caused epidemics around the world from 1947 through 1957.

The generally mild illness has attacked thousands of college students and military personnel, because they are usually in close surroundings.

Outbreaks reported at colleges in Illinois and California have hit up to 75 percent of the student population.

The American Cancer Society's X-ray screening of young women for breast cancer may cause in 15 to 20 years the worst epidemic of the disease in medical history, a research scientist told Congress Tuesday.

A quarter of a million women recently have been "marched through the radiation fields" used in the mass screening process, according to the researcher, Dr. Irwin Bross of the Roswell Park Memorial Institute in Buffalo, N.Y.

There is no longer any question that radiologists who describe X-rays as harmless "are killing their patients," Bross said.

At least six months of psychiatric treatment has been ordered for former Durham school principal Clarence Blanton, who took his faculty hostage at gunpoint last November when school officials decided to replace him.

Young lovers in Vernon County, Wis. took

advantage Tuesday of County Clerk Roger Novy's special Valentine's Day half-price sale on marriage licenses. Any other day, it costs \$5 to tie the knot in Vernon County, but for Valentine's Day the rate was \$2.50.

A couple who walked into Novy's office between 8:30 and 9 a.m. got his "door-buster special," a license for \$1.50 and a mystery gift.

A man who showed up later was not lucky enough to get the "door-buster special," — or even a license at all. His fiancée didn't show up.

White House press secretary Jody Powell was not very lucky either on Valentine's Day. He lamented at a news briefing, "There's nothing more discouraging than to come in on Monday morning, see this whole stack of Valentine cards on your desk, open them up and find out people are telling you what you can do with yourself."

A 60-year-old man had a bigger problem on his hands Tuesday when his prize bull broke loose from the tree it was tied to and sauntered through Zamora, a province in northwest Spain.

The bull terrified police officers, firefighters and marketgoers before winning a bullfight with a car and ending up in a vacant third-floor apartment.

A 1,540 pound, horns-bucking five-year old — that's a lot of bull.

Betsy Flagler, a junior journalism major from Winston-Salem, is a staff writer for the Daily Tar Heel.

letters to the editor Reverse discrimination bad approach

To the editor: UNC system unequal Before having read the DTH article Wednesday concerning Dean Renwick's recent report, I was pleased to know that his work as special assistant to the chancellor might assure black students of adequate representation in the administration of the University. Race relations difficulties, unfortunately, still exist on this campus and our funding solutions to these problems must be considered high-priority business. It is my hope that, sometime in the future, Dean Renwick will not only strive for, but achieve racial parity on this campus.

However, from his report, I now realize that it is not racial parity for which he strives, but it is "justified discrimination." He wants to establish a special reception for academically successful minority students. He also wants to gain automatic undergraduate acceptance for black applicants meeting only the minimum requirements.

I am deeply distressed, now, to realize that high in our school's administration is a man who supports reverse discrimination. I feel that any action taken on these grounds of "more than equal" policy is unfair and unconstitutional.

Finally, let it be known that racial equality is of utmost importance to me. I will not be totally content with any institution until genuine racial equality is finally achieved within that institution. However, "more than equal" doctrine is not sound. It serves only to stir racial unrest and to perpetuate the racial discrimination which has existed in this country for some 200 years. I hope that Dean Renwick will soon agree.

Paul Vizer 232 Avery

Nyle Frank Chapel Hill

Take posters down

To the editor: It's about time something was done about the pollution of our walls and bulletin boards by thousands of campaign posters. While there may be a reason to have them up before the election, I can't see any reason to keep them up after the election. The removal

and disposal of this trash makes a good deal of extra work for the custodial staff; Physical Plant has to send over painters to repair the damage done by taping posters to the walls. I propose, in this era of post-Watergate morality, that each candidate be held personally responsible for the removal of all posters within 24 hours following the election. For any poster remaining up beyond this time, there should be a fine levied directly on the candidate and an extra punitive fine for the taping of posters to any painted wall. Maybe this system will inject a small sense of responsibility into our candidates and their campaign organizations.

Doug Richards 8D University Gardens

Sage advice

To the editor: The discussion that goes on and on in the Middle East reminds me of the sage advice given me by an American official in Jerusalem: who, in 16 years, had absorbed some of the desert philosophy which is so akin to manana. I was working in Gaza with UNRRA, and he urged me not to take my work too seriously, quoting from Kipling who wrote from many years experience in the Middle East.

This philosophy of laissez faire affects us in tune to the tinkling of the camel bells — but not to reason!

It is not good for the Christian health To hustle the Aryan brown For the Christian riles And the Arab smiles And it weareth the Christian down.

At the end of the fight is a tombstone white With the name of the late deceased, And the epitaph drear — 'A fool lies here Who tried to hustle the East.'

Frances Berkeley Floore 738 E. Franklin St.

Letters should not run over 50 lines (300 words) and should be mailed to the Daily Tar Heel, Carolina Union. Unsigned or initialed columns on this page represent the opinion of the Daily Tar Heel. Signed columns or cartoons represent the opinion of the individual contributor only.

