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The Daily Tar Heel

86th year of editorial freedom

letters to the editor

Healthy Pine Roomer forever grateful

To the editor:
Once upon a time, I was a struggling, lost student at UNC. My views on life had not yet been formed, and I wandered about aimlessly, searching, seeking. Then, Sept. 27, a day I'll never forget, came. I picked up a copy of the DTH and turned to the back page. It was truly a stroke of fate. The first thing my eyes met was the editorial by Don Woodard ("Starvation or Servomation: take your pick"). Little had I previously realized how knowledgeable and practical was the associate editor.

Thank you, Don, for changing my life! I am one who believed (please forgive me) in the old premise that "you eat to live, you don't live to eat." How could I have been so foolish? Instead of eating vegetables and meats and other nutritious foods from the Pine Room, why did I not go to the ice cream shoppes and candy stores? Were my trim waist line and good health actually something to be proud of?

Also, thank you for setting me straight on a few things. I did not know I was in "prison." I thought I was free to eat as I pleased. I thought (how naive of me) that the "guy walking around in a tie" (that's a dangling modifier, but I know you know that, Don) actually had a job to do; I didn't know he was just interested in ice bin levels. "Nobody else will" eat at Chase. Those long lines and full tables, now that you have set me straight, are just figments of my imagination. The people behind the serving counters with whom I have spoken frequently are "dead." I have just been informed. I must admit that one darling of a lady serving breakfast in the Pine Room, a lady who has a quick smile and a quick wit, really had me fooled. I also thought that the meal plan cards were a convenience to the bearers, something to help the lines move faster.

I, who was once lost, have found new meaning in life. Based on my awakening, I nominate Don Woodard, the man who has shown us the true and noble way, to be the next manager of the Pine Room. As he has clearly shown, he knows it all.

Barry Goodson
413 Manly

Absolute and unequivocal

To the editor:
The rallying cry of "thoughtful" opponents of the Equal Rights Amendment seems to become the claim of "uncertainty." ERA is undesirable, argue opponents, because no one can predict exactly how the courts will interpret it.

There is some truth in this claim. It is never possible to predict exactly how all courts will interpret any piece of legislation or Constitutional amendment. That does not seem to me to be a sufficient reason to refrain from legislating, when there is a real problem to be addressed.

Dan Besse
601-D Hibbard Drive



The First Amendment to the Constitution contains broad protections of the freedoms of speech, press, and religion. Some of the judicial interpretations of these freedoms, in the nearly 200 years that they have been guaranteed, might well have surprised the original framers of the amendment, but I see no rush to repeal these sweeping freedoms. In fact, less broad language would have proved much less effective: "freedom of speech except when there is good reason to deny it" or "freedom of religion for the following list of churches" would not have become the same shining legal lights which now guide our nation.

The same reasoning applies to the Equal Rights Amendment. Its wording is absolute and unequivocal, banning governmental discrimination by sex. Only such a strongly phrased Constitutional amendment has the legal and symbolic power to firmly enshrine equality between the sexes as an unassailable American principle.

Most of the remaining barriers to equality between women and men in our society today are economic and social. They cannot be removed by narrow revisions of obscure statutes. Only the declaration of equality between the sexes as a major American ideal can begin to remove those barriers. The Equal Rights Amendment is that declaration.

The Great Ginkgo

To the editor:
Autumn is nearly upon us. In the waning months of the year, thoughts turn to football, good bourbon, tricks, treats, long dark nights under the sheets and falling leaves. It is to the latter that we of the Order of the Ginkgo wish to direct your attention.

Nature begins to slow down; the exuberant growth of summer starts to fade and die. However, in its own way, this is a time of unparalleled beauty as if the flora of the earth was being compensated for its enforced hibernation. With the first brisk nights of September and October, the hues of red, orange and yellow give the hills of our area a dazzling, albeit brief, brilliance. Then, one by one, the leaves of the trees fall to the forest floor. This is an immutable law of nature for all deciduous trees save one; the noble Ginkgo.

The leaves of the Ginkgo, a tree rich in Chinese heritage, turn a burnished gold through late October and early November. A select few fall to the ground gradually. Then, in a single night, all the remaining leaves fall to the ground, forming a spectacular golden carpet. This is the phenomenon which our order seeks to glorify.

The Order of the Ginkgo is an active, viable organization. For example, late last semester our order heroically

defended the Ginkgo tree. A marvelously executed counterattack lead by our military genius (me), removed the rubbish of occupation left by a renegade band of art students. In commemoration of this lustrous battle, the Four Tops, O.G., have decreed that there will be a Second Annual Ginkgo Tree Day.

What does all this mean to you? Celebrate the fall! It is a time of glory for the land. Nature is preparing for a time of rest and rejuvenation and we should bid her a grand farewell. Later this fall, when you hear of Ginkgo Tree Day, heed the call and raise a stein to the glory of the Ginkgo in front of New West.

All queries, opinions, or rebuttals should be written on a three-by-five note card addressed to the Order of the Ginkgo, c/o the Grand Bushy-Tailed Ground Squirrel and placed under a small rock in the lowest fork of the Ginkgo tree. Ground Squirrels will check the mail daily.

Joel Dunn,
Extra Extreme Grandest
Mulch Excelsior (Four Top)
with aid and consultation from:
The Grand Imperial
Chainsaw Interceptor
and the other three Four Tops

P.S. We cordially invite the Carolina Circle of Druids to celebrate the coming of fall.

A matter of time

The byword among the national press this week is that President Carter's administration has been "born again." But in their never-ending quest for the catchy lead, the national press may have overemphasized the revelatory qualities of the President's upswing, while ignoring some of the factors that might have led us to expect this turn of fortunes for Jimmy Carter all along.

There is no doubt that something new and exciting is going on at the White House. The President's achievement at Camp David last week was of course stunning. And Carter's announcement yesterday that no substantial issues bar the quick conclusion of an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty goes a long way toward showing that the promise of Camp David is not an empty one.

On the domestic front, Carter has won important victories in Congress on civil-service reform and natural gas pricing. He contributed further to his new public image as a forceful leader with his exercise Thursday of the presidential emergency powers in ending the national rail strike.

And there are a number of less tangible, but even more important, indications of the Carter surge. According to the national press there is a new and tough-minded confidence about the President, and a new respect for his abilities in Congress. International reaction to Camp David has been very good; and even the Russians are starting to talk nice again, while the SALT II negotiations have improved dramatically.

But the number one intangible in the White House power game is public opinion, and Carter has apparently scored his biggest hit here, if the polls are any indication. What they indicate, of course, is a remarkable leap in public approval for Carter, from around 40 percent last month to about 55 percent last week.

The immediate implication of Carter's successes, then, is clear. What it points to, of course, is the coming realization of his administration's promise as an active, progressive political force to be reckoned with. Never mind for the moment what exactly that promise is—after all, no one has ever been quite sure of that, even during the campaign, when Carter was making his promises openly; but the inescapable fact is that Carter has come into his own at last.

What has been missing from much of the current analysis, though, is that the long period of waiting for Carter might have been anticipated even before he was elected. The larger implication of Carter's recent successes is that he and his organization have overcome at last the two most crippling of the many disadvantages they were burdened with from the outset; namely, their inexperience with the ins and outs of Washington and international politics, and their almost total lack of a firm national constituency.

The problems are by no means over for the boys from Georgia, who no doubt will continue to surprise everyone with their occasional gaffes and confusion. But they have finally learned a method of translating their wishes into effective political action, and they have learned that method without sacrificing many of their major political ends. Having learned the hard way, but having learned at last, the Carter people now face the much more agreeable task of putting their lessons to work for themselves. It was only a matter of time.

Air disaster claims 150 lives; railroads strike

The Week

By JIM HUMMEL

The worst air disaster in U.S. history took place in San Diego on Monday. The incident involved a Boeing 727 jet that collided with a small plane driven by a student pilot.

Flaming fragments from the Pacific Southwest Airlines plane ignited nearby houses and businesses. Area residents desperately tried to douse flames with garden hoses, causing a cloud of black smoke to cover the neighborhood.

John O'Donnell, president of the Airline Pilots Association has criticized the Federal Aviation Administration for not backing development of special warning equipment. The equipment is specifically designed to aid in the prevention of aerial collisions.

O'Donnell has been pushing for a device that would be installed in aircrafts to give a pilot immediate knowledge of any possible threat.

"The FAA, on the other hand, has favored a system that would rely on computers on the ground to detect a possible collision and transmit a warning to the aircraft," O'Donnell said.

Recent experience of airline pilots has shown that the danger of aerial collision is greatest near airports where there is a mix of airline transports flying under control from the ground and others frequently flying without such control.

O'Donnell said during approach and takeoff time the flight crew is at its peak workload. Pilots have little time to be looking out the window and would be better off having equipment within easy access.

Both opponents and proponents of the Equal Rights Amendment this week asked Sen. Robert Morgan and Sen. Jesse Helms to expedite action on the ERA deadline extension issue.

Mrs. John Matthews of Rocky Mount, a member of North Carolinians Against ERA, said, "We urge both Helms and Morgan to vote against all maneuvers and tactics designed to tear down the Constitution and extend the ERA."

As the proposed amendment stands, ERA itself will fail if 38 states have not ratified by March 22, 1979. A version of the bill, approved by the House of Representatives last month, would extend the deadline another 39 months.

Earlier this week, Egypt began efforts to gain Arab support for the Camp David agreement with Israel, telling Arab ambassadors in Cairo that the accords are only the first step in achieving a comprehensive Mideast settlement.

Meanwhile in Jerusalem, the Israeli Cabinet gave Prime Minister Menachem Begin a strong show of support for the agreements he brought back from the Maryland mountain resort.

Reports state that Begin argued "forcefully" in favor of the "framework" agreements and as a result gained a sizable majority of 11 ministers to back him.

Others were not as supportive of Begin's actions. A caravan of demonstrators in cars and tractors drove through downtown Jerusalem in protest. The majority of those involved in the demonstration were from Israel's Sinai settlements, which are to be dismantled under the proposed agreement.

Most Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia and Jordan, have shown reluctance to support the proposals, specifically objecting to East Jerusalem not being returned to the Arabs.

Almost two-thirds of the nation's major railroads were shut down Tuesday due to a strike by the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks. Three hundred thirty thousand of a total half-million railroad workers honored picket lines, causing service to stop in every part of the nation except the heavily traveled Northeast. The strike left

100,000 morning commuters stranded and halted the transportation of millions of tons in freight.

Amtrak reported service along its Boston to Washington line to be running normally, but was forced to cancel other morning service.

PCB dumpings in North Carolina continued to be in the news. The three men charged with dumping the toxic chemical were freed on Wednesday after spending nearly a month in jail.

Robert J. Burns, president of Transformer Sales Co. of Allegheny, N.Y., and his sons Timothy and Randall, posted \$5,000 each and were released. Difficulties in gaining release resulted because the three were indicted on both state and federal counts. Federal information charged the Burnses with "knowingly and willfully" disposing of PCB in a total of 10 North Carolina counties. The three face up to \$25,000 and a year in jail on each misdemeanor count. Burns and his two sons will appear in federal court on Oct. 6 to defend themselves against the charges.

The United States and Soviet Union began strategic arms limitations talks on Wednesday, but failed to outline prospects for agreement by the end of the year.

"As soon as we can reach an agreement we'll sign a treaty," said Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, after meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

Vance, however, declined comment about any possible progress. "I don't want to comment about being encouraged or discouraged at this point," Vance said.

This Saturday the talks will be moved from the United Nations to Washington with President Carter taking charge of the American team.

Spokespersons are reluctant to project any optimism, as has been done in the past, fearing the forecasts will not materialize. Such was the case last year when Carter predicted a treaty framework within several weeks that never formed. Gromyko also



DTH/Jocelyn Pettibone

refused to express his feelings by declining to participate in the news conference that followed the two and a half hour meeting with Vance.

The major issue to be worked out is a treaty for "modernization." It would determine how many new missiles the two sides would be permitted to build during the life of the treaty and how many existing systems could be improved.

The House Ethics Committee voted unanimously this week to recommend that the House censure Rep. Edward Roybal, a Democrat from California, for his part in the South Korean influence-buying scandal.

The recommendation stems from findings that Roybal failed to report properly his acceptance of \$1,000 from South Korean rice dealer Tongsun Park.

Censure is stronger than a reprimand, which is the weakest form of punishment for violations of the House. It requires a representative to stand in front of the full House while findings against him are read. The last House censure to take place was in 1921 against Rep. Thomas Blanton of Texas, accused of introducing an obscene resolution.

A six-foot alligator in Wilmington, N.C., that started wandering from his home will soon find itself in a new place altogether.

The alligator, who usually stays in the drainage pond of a country club, last week decided to venture out and get a taste of the real world, not realizing the crowd he would draw. Thirty very surprised people followed the alligator down the street as he took in the local scenery.

But, alas, his freedom was short-lived. The local sheriff's department hastened to the scene and promptly escorted the alligator back to his watery residence. Needless to say, area residents expressed a certain degree of concern. Fear of little children being transformed into appetizers caused noticeable apprehension from conscientious parents.

"He's gotten to the size where he's frightening," said one parent. A crack team of experts in alligator removal has been called in to aid in the situation. The alligator's destination is still uncertain.

"We didn't mind having it there because it wasn't bothering anybody," said the president of the country club. "People would come by and feed it chicken and hot dogs. But now it's gotten too large for around here."

Meanwhile, no report to date regarding the gator and the experts as to who's removing whom or what.

Jim Hummel, a freshman journalism major from Grafton, Mass., is a staff writer for the Daily Tar Heel.