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The Daily Tar Heel

86th year of editorial freedom

letters to the editor

Indian Circle cites Renwick's integrity

To the editor:
The Carolina Indian Circle would like to go on record as supporting Hayden B. Renwick's recent expose in the Chapel Hill Newspaper (Sept. 17) and the Daily Tar Heel (Sept. 19) of the University's failure to implement a viable affirmative action plan to recruit and admit minority students.

FULFILL THE DAILY TAR HEEL 1978

Hey Ingram... Wanna drag?



Tragic logic

Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith is in Washington this week to lobby in Congress and meet with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, hoping to win U.S. recognition of the new biracial but still white-dominated government he has formed with three of Rhodesia's black-nationalist leaders.

At a news conference before he left for the United States, Smith said he wanted to "put the record straight" for the American people. "The surest way to end the war is to give us recognition," Smith said. "It's so logical."

Smith's logic, however, is tragically typical of the thinking which led his nation to keep its black majority in second-class status for so many years: which led Smith and his political allies to declare their independence from Britain in 1965, in a move which brought U.S. sanctions and almost universal condemnation; and which now threatens to doom Rhodesia in a brutal and hopeless civil war already six years old.

In coming to the United States to "put the record straight," Smith mistakes the self-serving sympathy of a few conservative senators for the groundswell of popular support his regime never will enjoy in the United States. And in pressing for U.S. recognition of his government he mistakes as well the effect recognition would have on the nationalist guerrillas, whose war of attrition makes the possibility of a just and civil peace seem more remote with every passing day.

With a century of injustice as their inspiration, the guerillas could well be led to inflict similar injustice on the people of Rhodesia both black and white unless their demands are given fair consideration. The Anglo-American plan, calling for negotiations between all the political leaders, offers the surest and indeed the only hope for a united, democratic, and peaceful Rhodesia.

Tied hands

Myron A. Farber, the reporter the New York Times dubbed "Our Man in Jail," may be heading back to his cell in Hackensack, N.J., within the next few days. And still, the debate over whether the reporter can be compelled to surrender his confidential notes to a murder case continues unresolved.

The Supreme Court, in a characteristic Friday announcement, vacated an order by Justice Potter Stewart dated Sept. 26, 1978 that had released Farber from jail, but has yet to hear or rule on a formal appeal by Farber and the Times that contests the contempt-of-court convictions issued by N.J. judge William Arnold. Until then, the clash between two Constitutional amendments will rage on, with Farber calling on the First Amendment's guarantee of a free press and Dr. Mario Jascavich, the defendant in the murder trial, citing the Sixth Amendment's assurances of a fair and speedy trial.

As long as the high court refrains from hearing the appeal, Farber will languish in jail and the Times will continue to pay \$5,000 daily in fines. And the public will grow even more tired of what it sees as an issue of provincial concern to the press and a few odd others. So much news of newspaper battles, dating back to the Pentagon Papers case a few years back, has dulled the spirits of all but those directly affected by the countless court rulings on the rights of the press.

It is a shame. For the rights of the press are not privileges selfishly protected, maintained and enjoyed by the press. Ultimately, those rights dictate the kind of information Americans can expect to gather from their own daily sources—the newspapers and broadcast networks. When you tie the hands of the press, you tie the hands of the public.

Carolina Indian Circle Concert advisory

To the editor:
At the end of last semester a concert advisory group was formed for the purposes of surveying student opinion and preferences with regard to concerts, of learning about the music industry, and of working to establish a regular concert program of high quality. At an open meeting at 4 p.m. today in room 213 Carolina Union, we will make an announcement of the five major concerts that we have planned for the rest of the semester and will solicit more help. We

urge everyone who is interested to attend, voice his opinions and have questions answered.

Geoffrey Hoare
Carolina Union president

Who's on first?

To the editor:
In response to recent articles about the first chartered social fraternity at UNC ("DKE was first" DTH Sept. 28 and "Frat flag returns" DTH Oct. 3), I would like to set the record straight once and for

all. Acknowledging the fact that DKE's founding date was in fact April 5, 1851.

Phi Gamma Delta remains the first chartered social fraternity at UNC, chartered on March 14, 1851.

After talking with Mike Martin, University archivist, he informed me that all fraternities were prohibited by the University before Feb. 5, 1885. Because of this, fraternity meetings prior to this time were kept secret from the University, and as a result, the University has no records about them until Feb. 5, 1885. Therefore, the only other reliable source about the origins of fraternities is with each fraternity's national headquarters.

Evidently, DKE national headquarters claims that its Beta chapter at UNC was chartered on April 5, 1851. I am not disputing this in the least. However, Phi Gamma Delta national headquarters claims that its Epsilon chapter at UNC was chartered on March 14, 1851, 22 days prior to the chartering of DKE.

From this information, it should be undisputedly recognized that Phi Gamma Delta is in fact the first chartered social fraternity at UNC.

The brothers of Phi Gamma Delta
Wayne Hardee, historian

Garbage

To the editor:
In reference to last week's article by those insidious people of DETECT about the need to clean up campus, we at GARBAGE have but two words to say—DROP DEAD. We at GARBAGE are dedicated to the total trashing of America. Soon our colors the picturesque red, white and black of

littered Old Milwaukee cans will spread from sea to polluted sea.

Despite those who think our stand preposterous, the majority is with us. The same silent majority that gave us overwhelmingly, magnificent Richard Nixon (still a great man despite attacks on his name by communist subversives) supports us at GARBAGE. Just look at the UNC campus at any time and it is obvious the majority is with us. Even University policy favors garbage as shown by the almost total absence of trash cans around campus. So let's have no more of this trash about cleaning up America and get down to some serious old-fashioned littering like we, the majority, really want.

Many people have yet to realize some of the positive aspects of garbage. Fact 1: abundant garbage reflects superior partying. One readily can see this by mountains of beer cans and other trash after all good parties. Fact 2: garbage creates jobs for America. Garbagemen, trashstuffers, janitors and a pile of other jobs all rely on our garbage. Fact 3: garbage helps feed our diminishing wildlife population. Take for example the superior job New York City has done for its rats.

Lastly, in the unforgettable words of Steve Martin "Never no, always carry a litter bag in your car. If it gets full you can just toss it right out the window."

Brian Monday
Jim Edwards
David Coe
Frank Wells
Teague Dorn

P.S. Just think, this DTH you are now reading may later be strewn somewhere in support of our cause.

Grading contradiction evident

To the editor:
"Grade inflation" is admittedly a problem. However, there is another side to this coin which has not yet been considered.

According to the Undergraduate Bulletin: "...the permanent grades are A (highest level of attainment), B (high level of attainment), C (adequate level of attainment), D (minimal passing level of attainment), PS (passed on the Pass-Fail option), and F (failed unacceptable performance)." (page 128)

However, in order to graduate, "...the student must have a 2.0 (C) average on all work attempted in the University at Chapel Hill." (page 133). This means that a D grade is not considered a "minimal passing level of attainment." Indeed, a student who receives Cs in 117 hours but a D in one

three-hour course would not be eligible to graduate.

It seems to me that there is a contradiction here. Either the requirements for graduation should be changed to conform to the official designations of the meaning of the grading system, or the meanings assigned to grades should be changed to conform to the requirements for graduation.

At present, it is the official policy of the University to fail all students who are below average.

My personal feeling is that a grade should be a confidential evaluation known only to student and professor, and not a matter of public record. However, this is probably a Utopian ideal in today's world.

N.A. Coulter, Jr., M.D.
Chairman, BMME Program

UNC prof gets firsthand look at Vietnamese lifestyle

'In Quotes'

By CAM JOHNSON

Three years ago the United States withdrew the last remnants of its once-huge personal commitment to South Vietnam.

With Viet Cong forces closing in on Saigon, many Americans feared a brutal, repressive regime was about to be forced on the South Vietnamese. American officials had long warned that the Communists would stage a bloodbath if the United States were to leave.

Delegations from other countries have visited Vietnam since the U.S. departure, but it was not until this summer that the government of Vietnam allowed a mission sponsored by the United States into the country.

One of the members of the delegation was Mildred Kaufman, an associate professor of nutrition at the UNC School of Public Health. Kaufman, chairperson of the food and nutrition section of the American Public Health Association, was a member of the Study Mission of the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugees which visited Vietnam between July 31 and Aug. 7. The mission, designed to study health and refugee conditions in Vietnam, was sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

The delegation visited both South and North Vietnam, including Hanoi in the north and Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, in the south. They also visited communal farms in the countryside and a refugee camp near the Cambodian border.

Kaufman said she doesn't feel Vietnam is a police state. "We were allowed to take pictures and no one ever stopped us," she said. "When some spare minutes came, I used the opportunity to walk along the streets and look at the shops. I never had the feeling I was being followed: When we'd walk on the street, people, especially children, would mill around and gawk at us and ask, 'Russian...Russian?' In Hanoi we had very little impression of military presence. The only place we saw soldiers was near the Cambodian border."

Vietnamese and Cambodian troops have clashed along their common border for the past year. Recent reports indicate Vietnam is massing forces on the Cambodian border for a major offensive into its Communist neighbor's territory.

The mission visited an interment camp for refugees from Cambodia, where the Communist government is said to be brutally repressive. "We saw some shelling near the camp," Kaufman said. "We could see craters created by the shells less than one-half mile from the border. We were frightened because the shelling was quite random."

She said mission members talked in French to several Cambodian refugees with no interference from Vietnamese interpreters. "One was a woman whose husband had been a gynecologist in Phnom Penh. The words coming out of her mouth were so awful we couldn't believe it. She told us how she saw her husband killed right in front of her, and how she and her three little girls were taken to a collective farm. She said she had to work from before daylight to the middle of the day, when she got a little rice. Then she was brought back and had to work until after dark.

"She decided if she had to work like that with so little food, she'd die. She told how her girls and two other women and their children walked to the Vietnamese border. She thought it was a miracle she got there, and when you looked at these toddlers, you wondered how they made it."

Kaufman said the Vietnamese are feeding and caring for the refugees better than they care for their own citizens, who must live on a diet of 1,500 calories a day. She said the group visited a market in Vung Tau, near Ho Chi Minh City.

"They told us the average pay of Vietnamese workers is 60 dong a month, but 10 eggs cost 7 dong and a chicken 40 dong. A young woman told us a lot of the prices, but I couldn't believe it. It takes all their money to survive. They're basically rice eaters, but they eat sweet potatoes, corn and manioc (a plant with edible roots). A Vietnamese woman told me manioc fills the stomach, but is not particularly enjoyable."

Kaufman said the best-fed people live on the collective farms, where individuals are allowed to have private garden plots. "They're trying to get people to move back to the country. A lot of people moved to the cities for safety during the war. There is not enough work in the cities because it's not a particularly industrialized society. Vietnamese leaders are trying to relocate people back in their old villages, or send them to 'new economic zones,' which are collective farms. It didn't look like slave labor they were doing. They seemed quite proud of what they had. The farm we saw was quite

impressive, with a fish pond, squash and leafy vegetable gardens."

But Kaufman said most of the Vietnamese population is undernourished, which causes them to be susceptible to communicable diseases. "The Vietnamese minister of public health made it clear that communicable diseases we've wiped out are a major health problem there. We saw cases of tuberculosis, V.D., and cholera. We heard of leprosy cases, too.

Another health problem in Vietnam stems directly from the war. "There is an evident relationship between the use of defoliants by the U.S. in the war and the incidence of liver cancer among the Vietnamese," Kaufman said. "I was impressed when the Vietnamese doctors presented the liver cancer problem in a scientific way. They gave us case histories and we saw patients."

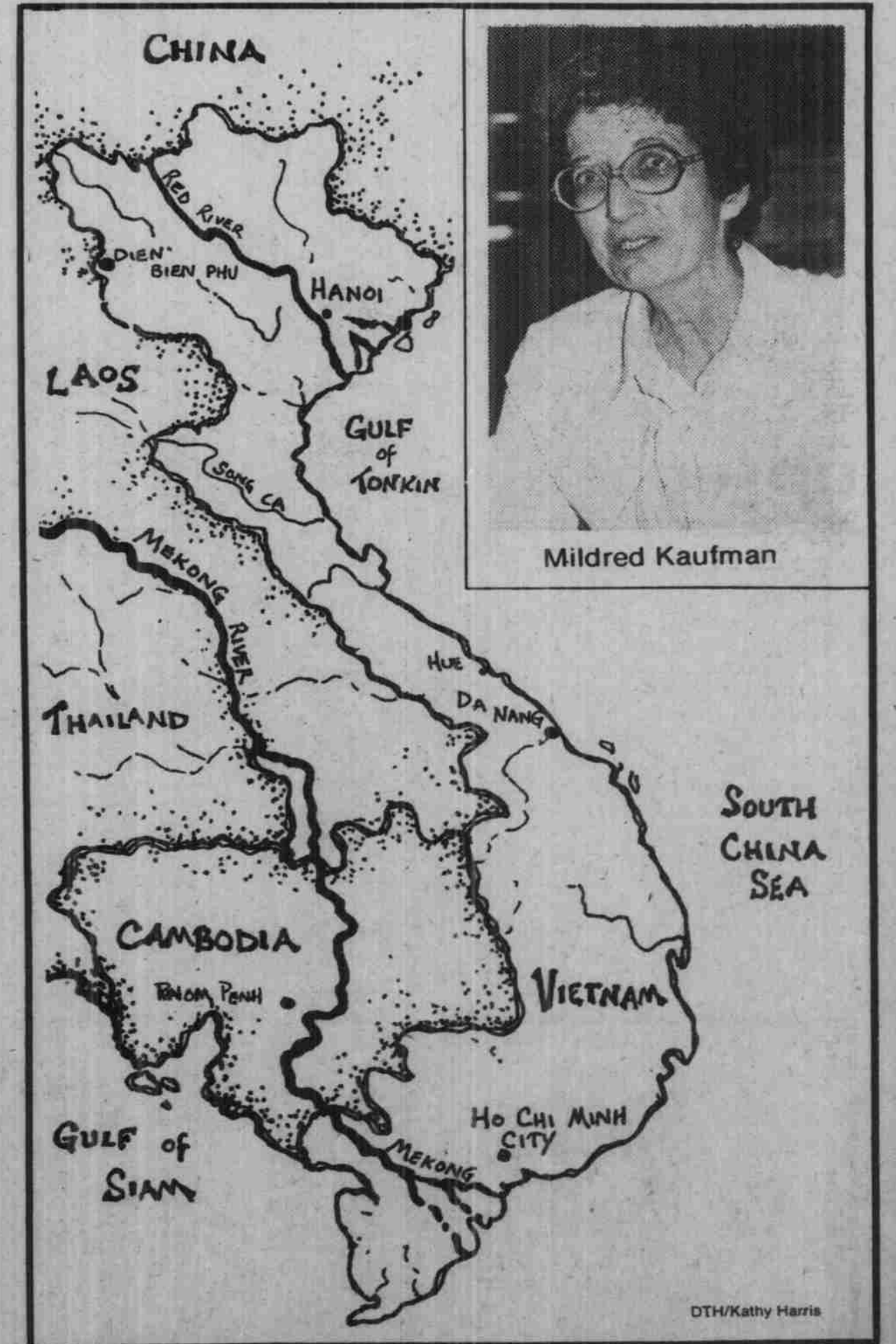
Kaufman said the doctors emphasized their lack of medical supplies and up-to-date medical manuals. She met one of Vietnam's top cancer specialists, Dr. Ton That Thong.

"It was most pathetic when he pleaded for medical texts," she said. "He said the one thing he wanted more than anything was a subscription to the New England Medical Journal. We're recommending giving them aid in food and medical supplies through our own charities and through the United Nations."

Kaufman said she felt the Vietnamese were trying to impress the mission members in the hope of receiving aid. "They were trying to put their best foot forward, trying to get messages back to the United States," she said. "I've never been in any place where I've seen such graciousness and hospitality. No doubt they were displaying the showcases. In a hospital in Ho Chi Minh City, a couple of us stuck our heads in the door of an operating room. Apparently the doctors had left a patient on the table while they conferred with us."

Kaufman said aid may help the United States influence the Vietnamese leadership. "We weren't particularly enamored of the Communist ideology, but the United States has spent so much in Vietnam trying to fight for the independence of the Vietnamese and stop their domination by the Chinese and the Russians.... By peaceful means we could influence them more favorably than we did by military might."

Cam Johnson, a senior journalism major from Aberdeen, is a staff writer for the Daily Tar Heel.



DTH/Kathy Harris