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The Daily Tar Heel

87th year of editorial freedom

On town bonds

Chapel Hill voters will decide on three bond issues when they go to the polls on Tuesday. Two of the bond issues, which would pay for parking facilities and a new fire station in the rapidly growing area to the north of town, deserve the support of the voters. But while we agree with the idea behind the third bond issue—the purchase of land by the town to be used as an open space area—we believe a far better alternative can be found to accomplish that aim.

The open space bond referendum on the municipal ballot would provide \$300,000 which the town could use to buy 70 acres of land in the Ridgefield area near Bolin and Booker Creeks. The land, most of which is in a floodplain, would remain undeveloped, and would be used only as open green space for "passive" recreational facilities such as bike paths or walking trails. Since new construction would be severely restricted or prohibited in the area anyway, the idea of using it for open space seems appealing—particularly in light of the rapid growth Chapel Hill will experience over the next several decades.

Upon closer inspection, however, the Ridgefield land-acquisition bond loses its attractiveness. The land purchase would be worth the penny it would add to the tax rate only to the small minority of Chapel Hill residents who would benefit from it. For the rest, there are open space sites that would be not only more suitable, but less tied to political maneuvering and self interest.

The land acquisition bond that will be on Tuesday's ballot originated months ago with the desire of residents of the Ridgefield area to prevent a planned subdivision on 10 acres of land in what would be part of the open-space area. Six months and several conflicting votes later, the Town Council had acted on a task force recommendation to purchase not 10 but 70 acres of land in the area.

Ironically, the council's final vote to put the Ridgefield bond issue on the ballot came only nine days after it had decided to begin a long-range study of open space for the town. Even the preliminary findings of that study show there are several excellent potential sites in the Chapel Hill planning area that are much better suited for a wider range of recreational uses such as tennis courts, in addition to "greenway" uses. The study is scheduled to be completed by the end of January, in plenty of time for a carefully considered open-space policy to be adopted. Open space will be a valuable commodity for Chapel Hill in the future, but we believe any decision on buying open-space land should wait until better sites are found—and those sites are available. The Ridgefield purchase would be poor planning and a costly mistake.

The other two bonds on the ballot, in contrast, would pay for badly needed services. Most of the \$2.6 million parking bond would be used for a four-level deck for short term parking by visitors to the downtown business district. The deck's design is compatible with the downtown atmosphere, and its badly needed additional parking spaces would not even be visible from Franklin Street. The deck actually would pay for itself through parking fees.

The \$450,000 bond for construction of a fire station at the intersection of N.C. 86 and Weaver Dairy Road also is badly needed. The northern area of Chapel Hill is growing rapidly, and another fire station there eventually would be required by state law anyway.

We believe the bond referendum choices for Chapel Hill's future are clear.

On county bonds

Orange County voters will vote next Tuesday on four bond issues in referendums totaling \$20.4 million, the largest and one of the most ambitious bond packages in the history of the county. If approved, the bonds would provide needed capital improvement moneys for local school systems, health care facilities, public building projects and electronic voting equipment.

We hope voters will approve these four bond measures. All are products of sound fiscal planning, and all are justified by the needs each would address.

The largest chunk of the bond package—\$17.8 million—would help finance one of the most far-reaching services that local governments provide: public schools. In the Orange County school system, money is needed to pay for a new elementary school, a vocational education building, energy-conservation modifications, additional space for the handicapped and other vital needs. County bond moneys would be used in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools for construction of new classrooms or additions to school buildings to reduce overcrowding. Particularly in the city system, state officials' order to decrease the student ratio has created a need for more classrooms. Site improvements, library additions and other important city schools projects would be funded by the bonds.

Human services programs also would benefit from approval of the bond package. For example, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Multipurpose Building, which houses programs for handicapped and senior citizens, is in need of money for extensive renovation. In addition, the bond package would finance a sheltered workshop, providing jobs and training for handicapped adults. And public building projects such as refurbishing facilities for library, criminal justice and recreation agencies would be paid for with bond money. Approval of the bond package would set aside funds to finance improvements in the county jail, which has been cited as physically inadequate by state prison examiners.

Of particular importance to voters and taxpayers is the matter of what approval of the bonds would do to the county tax rate. Property owners now pay 90 cents per \$100 property valuation, a figure which would increase to 94 cents by fiscal year 1985-86 if the bond package is approved. If voters reject the package, however, the tax rate could jump to even higher than 94 cents. State officials have ordered the county to begin modernizing the jail, a project that can be financed by either a relatively inexpensive bond issue or a more immediate tax-rate hike. And school officials would have to find another way to pay for construction to alleviate classroom overcrowding; a tax hike steeper than 4 cents could be the only alternative.

In light of the sweeping benefits that would come from approval of the county package, it seems doubtful that California tax revolt leader Howard Jarvis will have much to say against the Orange County referendums when he speaks in Hillsborough today on property taxes and bond issues. That leaders of the Orange Farm and Landowners Association invited him just before the referendums next week hopefully is just coincidental.

A Halloween Course Selection Grab Bag

By BUDDY BURNISKE

"Trick or treat, smell my feet, give me something good to eat."

Remember it? Well, maybe not. But in my youthful neighborhood that phrase was commonplace at Halloween. Kids didn't mean it in a particularly nasty way; they just used the lyrics to assert their power on this day. Because Halloween, or All Saint's Day as the ironic surname calls it, is the day when kids get what they want, or at least what parents tell them they should want, or else. Somehow it's appropriate that Halloween comes along at this time in the academic year. The "kids" are still trying to get their way and the adults are still pacifying them. Aside from it being a time when people are haunted by homework, exams and papers, it's also the "trick or treat" phase of fall semester as students begin agonizing over course pre-registration for spring.

There is, however, a difference between trick or treaters of college age and hyperactive candy-mongers. We have more choice in this ritual. We're still gathering choice treats—and a few lesser morsels of the curriculum—despite the fact that the days when filling a UNICEF box or making the rounds before the neighborhood candy supply ran low are gone.

Two problems arise from trick or treating at a collegiate institution. First, it's difficult to play tricks on the people who spoil treats, or refuse to give. (What are you going to do? Soap the windows of 64 people around campus who closed you out of a course because their I.D. number was closer to THE NUMBER than yours?)

Second, you never can tell if your treat's a good one until it's nearly gone. There's no handbook available which gives the inside dope on course offerings. You skim the University record or the Phi Eta Sigma Course Description to read summaries and study details—which instructors, requirements and prerequisites are attached to what particular sections. But do they say anything about "allowable" class cuts, time allotted for napping in lectures or the instructor's susceptibility to bribery at the semester's end? No. But it's time someone did. Someone with either a sweet tooth or numb mind.

letters to the editor

Rape incident prompts appeal for security

To the editor:

May I voice a fear which is coming closer and closer to home? Sunday night a girl in my dorm was attacked and almost shot under my window. Similar attempted rapes have occurred too often. Our families and lifestyles have protected us so much that most of us did not even recognize the gunshots or realize that the scream was for help and not just for kicks. Luckily, the girl was physically unharmed and the police apprehended the man.

My point is that these instances are not publicized so that women are aware. I don't think it is necessary to alarm anyone, but I do think it's imperative that not only the girls in my dorm but all the women on campus realize that these nightmares are happening to their friends and classmates. Apparently it never occurred to us that we could be victims and should be on guard at all times, since alarm systems are supposedly in order. Several of the door alarms are broken or the locks are taped and IDs are never checked after hours. We are deceived by these security devices—many of them are defective or useless.

After the man who attacked the girl in my dorm on Sunday night was identified and described I had no doubt that he was the same man that had followed me home that same evening. I had bad vibes then, and I will continue to have them until the University provides security and allows the paper to make these incidents known. Rape is getting too close to home.

Michele Musgrove
Cobb Dorm

'Big-money' sports

To the editor:

Carolina Football Weekend! Could there be anything finer? Could there be anything finer than to have two football machines financed with a million dollars plus, going at it in front of thousands of fans? Could there be anything finer, in these times of gasoline shortages, than lines of motor homes and gas guzzlers, clogging Chapel Hill's roads for a whole day? Could there be anything finer than the trash that tailgaters leave in the parking lots? Could there be anything finer than being nearly run over by an intoxicated driver behind the wheel of a monolithic car? Could there be anything finer than having to pay \$12 each fall semester for these grand contests? Could there be anything finer than, as a student at the University, being shut out of a parking lot because it is reserved for the financial heavies of the Rams Club?

I confess that people tell me nothing could be finer than the money that the alumni donate to the University because of our fine football and basketball teams. But couldn't there be something finer than the gymnasiums, sports equipment and athletic "scholarships" that all this money seems to go to? (Is not athletic "scholarship" really a contradiction?)

All in all, I think that nothing could be finer than no big-money sports here at Carolina.

Norman H. Barth
120 Purefoy Road

Apathy

To the editor:

This letter is in response to the 'Domain of the Dirt' article (DTH, Oct. 26) written by George Shadrovi and Michael Wade. The article itself fascinated and reassured me; now I know



I'll accept the nomination, on the latter count, but by-pass the trick-playing problem (leaving that for my roommate, the famed writer of practical jokes), choosing instead to assist those now judging the true content of prospective courses.

I now introduce the first edition of the Halloween Course Selection Grab Bag—a guide to scholarly enlightenment. Take a look at the following excerpt from this handbook—which doesn't cite trivial details but does describe the telltale signs of specific course types—and see if it doesn't list a few of the treats people have fed you during Halloweens past...

- Reeses' Cups—Actually two courses, selected unwittingly for the same semester. As people taking Psych. 10 and Soc. 51 find, Reeses' cup courses spill into each other causing confused students to wonder how they got Course A on Course B and how Course B fell into Course A.

- Three Musketeers bars—MMMMhhmm. A good find. They say they're 'fluffy, not stuffy,' because they fit perfectly into that imaginary 'perfect schedule.' Chosen because of time slot offerings, not educational merit.

- M&M's—More and More. A fact-feeding

course that crams trivia into the memory pores from day one. You'll know it when you see it, just remember: what's gained here will "melt in your notebook, not in your head."

- Candy Corn—all too common. Everywhere you turn you'll be finding it. These are required courses. If you like 'em, you're a business major, if you detest them, you're not here for a training.

- Hash Brownies—a treat from one of the houses your mother told you not to stop at. Probably an independent study.

- Cracker Jacks—a rare gem, each with a prize inside. These get better and better, and you find that "the more you eat, the more you want" of them.

- Nestle's Crunch bars—kink your grades, hair and sex life. It's the old 8 a.m. class taken to meet major requirements—there's nothing you can do except bite down hard and hope it doesn't leave an aftertaste.

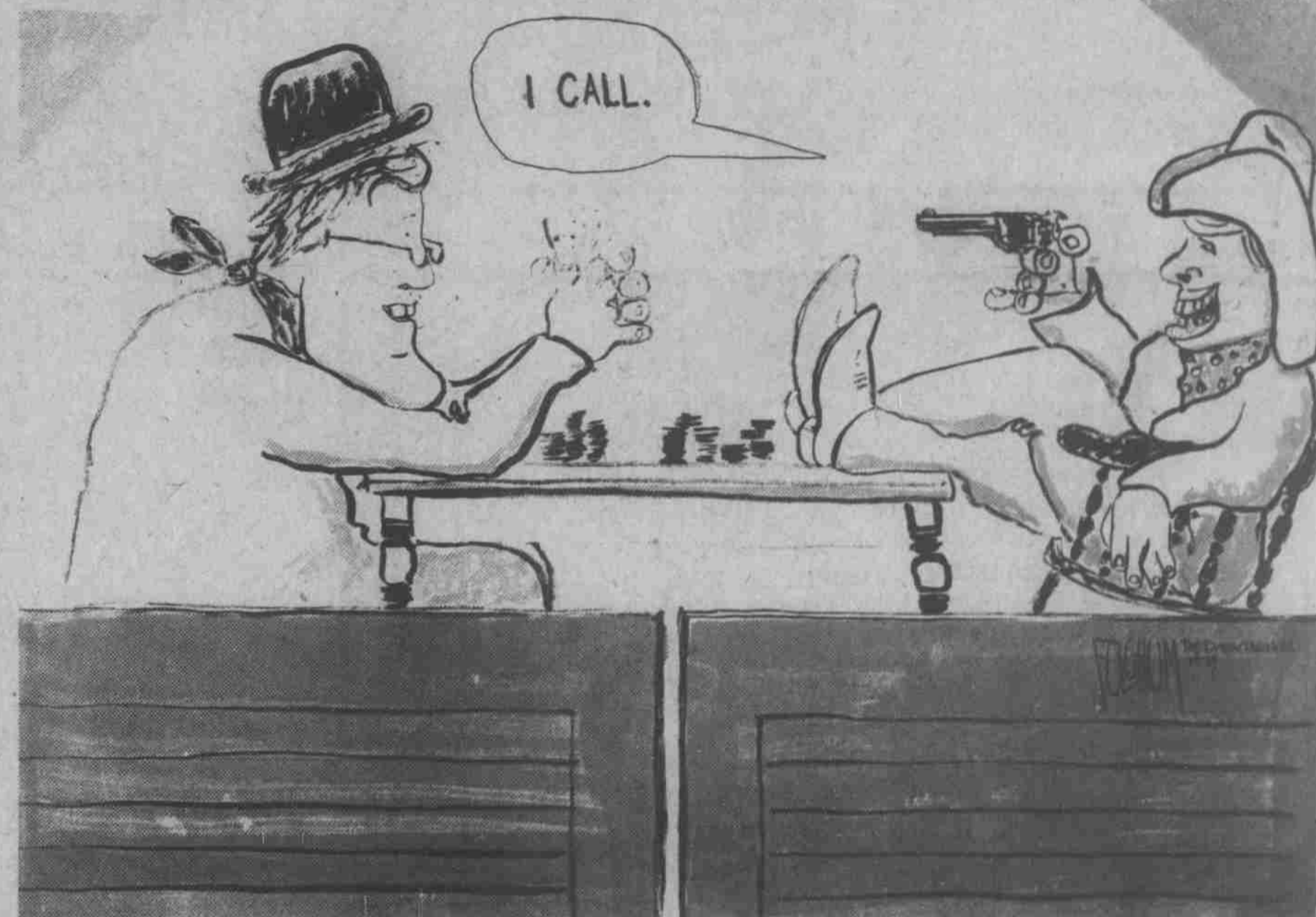
- Marshmallows—a favorite for those majoring in horizontal recreation or seeking a buffer in a tough schedule. They're the softies.

- Smartees/Sweetarts—one big roll of uncertainty. These can start off well, but meander through hills and valleys of intellectual taste. A key sign that you've matriculated one of this type is when the prof declares "Ambiguity is perfectly precise." Smartees always make you ill before you're halfway through the wrapper.

- Apples—your mother wouldn't let you take them, but you like to anyway. A course in existentialism, decrying God's death, sex education or similar blasphemy fits this category. They're risky. Remember to cut into apples before you bite—watch out for razor blades—and take the pass/fail option....

The Halloween Course Selection Grab Bag isn't a cure-all for every pre-registration need. It is merely a supplement. For those displeased with their Halloween gains, there's always the Confectioners Spring Barter which officially opens Jan 8, 1980. Most candy won't keep for that long, though, so it's best to do well on the first go round. But when the time comes, just let me know if you want to grade any Cracker Jacks for Candy Corn.

Buddy Burniske, a sophomore RTVMP and English major from Hatfield, Mass., is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.



that I am not the only student who opposes the construction of the new library.

However, I do object to one part of this generally enlightening piece of writing.

Although many students do not care, as the authors blandly state, I do care about such things as disillusionment with academic institutions. I, too, am disillusioned, perhaps for vastly different reasons, but the solution to this problem is not a return to childhood—as symbolized by the 'Dirt'—as a large number of UNC students seem to believe. Instead of trying to obliterate school's reality by drinking into a virtual coma, or by feigning total uninvolvedness in their own academic performance, students have the option of working toward changes that they think would improve the University.

The authors have taken action, through the medium of print, by protesting the University's heartless planning. They are setting an active example for us and not merely exercising their wit. There are many other ways to participate in working for improvement of the campus environment, both physical and social, but the first step is always the hardest. One has to admit that there are problems that can be solved, or at least reduced, by one's actions, no matter how small. In addition, people

have to care enough to want to make life better for others as well as themselves. Maybe we won't stop the onslaught of new buildings and bricks, but we can let the University know how we feel. So get involved in making life better, instead of being part of the problem—rampaging apathy.

Judy Goldberg
1206 Hillview Road

Card section suggestions

To the editor:

After seeing the University of Southern California card section on TV and having sat in section 17 for all of our home games, I feel comment is due concerning the UNC card section.

I have had friends sitting on the opposite side of the stadium for each game and they can usually only distinguish one or two of the five stunts displayed. This past week, many people told me that the "EZU" stunt was the only one readable. If only a few more minutes were used for organization before half time, the card section could be improved.

First, everyone should have cards. Almost half of our row did not have cards at the ECU game. Next, everyone should be told at what height they should hold their cards. Some people have them fully

extended above their heads, others at eye level, etc. Most of this problem is due to the fact that the people in the card section are trying to read the master card down front which tells them what they're spelling. Therefore, they have to stand up to see over the people holding cards up in front of them. This problem can be alleviated by showing the card section what they're going to display before they hold up the cards. Finally, take a few moments between each stunt so people can get the right card. The stunts went so rapidly at the Cincinnati game, people were still looking for the card for Stunt 3 while others were on Stunt 5. Of course, part of the problem is due to bootleg liquor affecting our coordination.

If these steps were taken, the card section would be greatly improved, and we would have a chance for redeeming ourselves at the homecoming game with Clemson.

Mike Pandich
525 Ehringhaus

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes contributions and letters to the editor. Letters must be signed, typed on a 60-space line, double-spaced and accompanied by a return address. Letters chosen for publication are subject to editing.

Reader laments length of hot dog

To the editor:

Why is my Servomation, Inc. foot long dog only nine inches long? Perhaps I ate it too fast, and relativistic effects must be taken into account.

Roy D. Rocklin

