

The Daily Tar Heel

90th year of editorial freedom

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Dear Mr. and Mrs. . . .

Pregnant teenagers are admitted to hospitals around the country each day and alarming numbers of children barely out of elementary school are transformed into parents. One of every six babies, more than 600,000, is now born out of wedlock, up 50 percent since 1970. A Johns Hopkins University study reveals the root of the problem: only 14 percent of teenagers seek birth control advice before their first sexual encounter.

That percentage could drop even further if the Department of Health and Human Services goes through with a proposal that seems designed to hinder the efforts of family planning centers. The rule, which could take effect in six weeks, was originally introduced last year by former HHS Secretary Richard Schweiker. It requires that parents of teenagers under 18 who receive prescription contraceptives from federally supported clinics be notified within 10 days after their children receive such birth control devices. The notification requirement would only be waived when children face physical harm at home. An estimated \$1.5 million teenagers go to family planning centers each year, and 530,000 choose the birth control products that fall under the HHS proposal.

The decision to implement the rule came despite negative public response. The Planned Parenthood Federation of America sought to block the rule in U.S. District Court on the grounds that it invades privacy and is a violation of the confidentiality of the doctor-patient relationship. Other groups have cited a national survey in which 25 percent of the young women attending clinic programs said they would stop attending if the regulation went into effect. Only 2 percent said they would refrain from having sex.

The parental notification rule tiptoes around the real issue: the lack of communication between parents and kids. Sending a note home will foster alienation and animosity rather than a closer relationship. It will certainly not prevent teenagers from having sex. Schweiker reasons the rule would enhance family communication and that contraceptives constitute a health risk parents should know about. He is wrong on both counts. Family conflict is one probable result. And no contraceptive affects a teenager's health as much as pregnancy.

Medical organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, also have attacked the HHS proposal. Margaret M. Heckler, HHS secretary-designate who opposed the regulation as a member of Congress, should take immediate steps to prevent its enactment.

The ultimate effect of parental notification will be an increase in the number of teenage pregnancies. Parents and children cannot be coerced by the government into talking more openly. Family communication cannot be mandated by legislation. Parents are still uncomfortable discussing sex, and their children, convinced of their own invulnerability, often don't want to listen. Since sex education is not taking place in the home, teenagers need the option of confidential counseling that the federal clinics now provide.

BEAT DOOK

From all we can tell, the last time *The Daily Tar Heel* published on a Saturday was for the Duke football game of 1976. Obviously inspired by the Saturday publication of the *DTH*, the Heels went on to crush the Dookies, 39-38. Though this year's basketball team probably won't need it, we decided to publish a special paper Saturday in an attempt to give them more inspiration for the game in Carmichael.

Years ago, the *DTH* published Monday through Saturday and the paper always printed big "BEAT DOOK" issues when the Devils pulled into town. In the long-haired days of 1968, the *DTH* even editorialized that Duke deserved to lose because Duke invested in Dow Chemical Co. and many of the students "are the sons and daughters of Northern capitalists... who exploit the poor."

Well, we won't go that far, but we are actively supporting a win over Duke Saturday. So look for S.L. Price and the sports gang in Saturday's "BEAT DOOK" issue, to be distributed at Carmichael and dorms across campus.

THE Daily Crossword

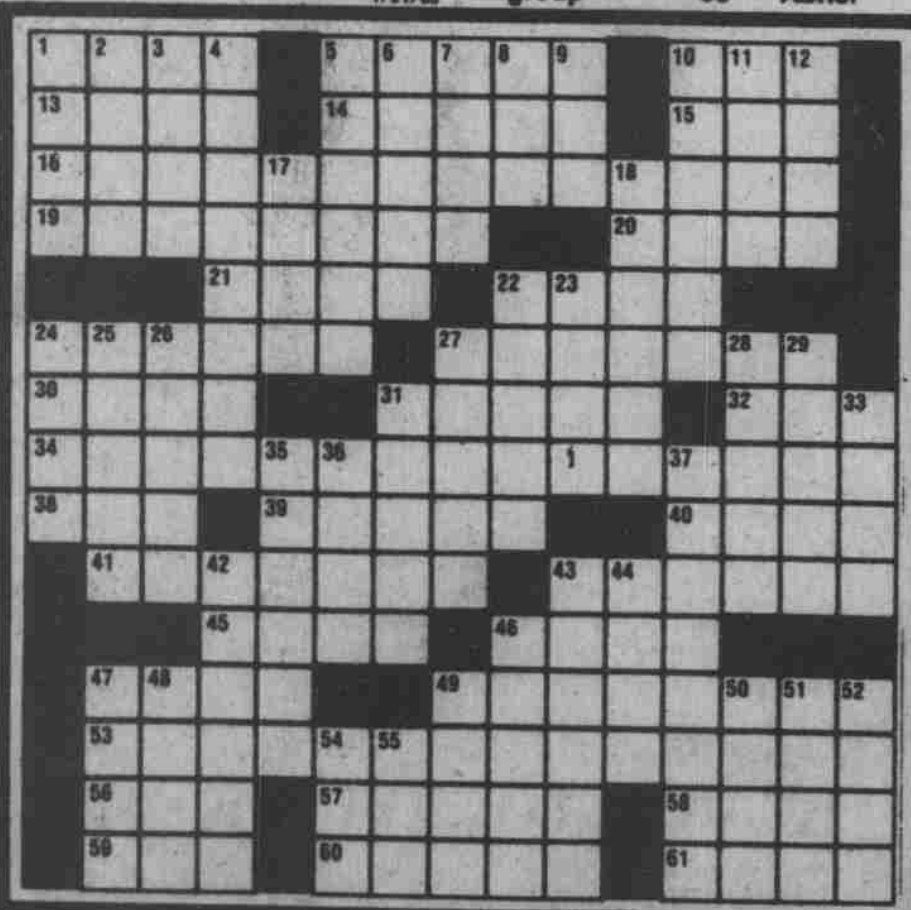
by Ruth N. Schultz

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



1/21/83



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1/21/83

Hunt thaws pay freeze

By ALAN CHAPPLE

Gov. Jim Hunt made his State of the State address this week and, to no one's surprise, announced his objective of restoring the salary increases of teachers and other state workers.

Sure, we all expected that; he promised that the freeze would last only one year. But now, it seems, some North Carolina lawmakers doubt the state budget can afford the pay raises.

Democratic Sen. Harold Hardison asked, "Where are we going to get the money?" (He's only the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.) Then there's the GOP view of Sen. Don Kincaid, who warned that "we will find ourselves in trouble again" by listening to Hunt's projections.

It would require about \$100 million to support the salary hike for 1983-84, based on Hunt's projected 8.8 percent revenue growth. However, his figure may have been in the wrong ballpark.

On Wednesday, a legislative fiscal analyst, David Crofts, told a Senate committee that "it is my suggestion that a rate of 7 percent be used." If Crofts is right, then that'll mean a shortfall of some \$92.7 million — just about what is needed for the state employees.

It'll be interesting to see how the state finds the money for the employees. There's no question that they should have the raise; it's just a question of whether the economy will allow it.

GNP hits a low

More great economic news: the 1982 GNP fell to its lowest point since 1946.

If adjusted for inflation, the American Gross National Product fell 1.8 percent last year. That's compared to a 1.9 percent increase in 1981.

But Commerce Department officials in Washington say there's nothing to fear; this was the last gasp for the recession. (Heard that before?) For the record, officials said the GNP drop resulted from a general clearing of inventories and a sharp downturn in export sales, mostly during the fourth quarter of the year.

Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said the recovery would begin during the first quarter of 1983, citing such indicators as increased auto sales, home starts and lower interest rates.

Even one longtime recovery skeptic, Michael K. Evans, chief economist for McMahan, Braffman, Morgan & Co., said: "It looks like we are very near the turning point, after all."

Made in Japan

Where compromise may have worked in Social Security, it may have failed in improving U.S.-Japanese relations. This week's meeting between President Reagan and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone produced little more than traditional friendship gestures.

Upset with Japan's trade restrictions, which largely contribute to a yearly \$20 billion trade imbalance, and the island nation's very limited defense expenditures, Reagan had hoped to gain Japanese concessions.

Instead, Nakasone expressed sympathy for the effects of advanced Japanese technology on American industries. He also cautioned the United States against protectionist countermeasures, saying, "I suggest that more positive, constructive efforts like encouraging Japanese industries to locate in the United States would be much wiser."

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Damn, I sure wish things would bounce back soon. I had planned on graduating and getting a job sometime.

A Social Security solution?

The federal government may have finally devised a plan to take care of its elderly.

After nearly a million tries, someone came up with a decent compromise to keep Social Security afloat. To fund the program, the National Commission on Social Security Reform proposed an increase in payroll taxes in 1984 and a delay in cost-of-living benefits for current program recipients.

So after plodding through the diplomatic rhetoric and camera-ready smiles and handshakes, it is apparent that few changes will result from the Reagan-Nakasone meetings. Rather, the meeting should reinforce the idea that America will have to look inward to solve its economic woes.

A thrilling proposal

And the show will go on. Tuesday night the UNC Campus Governing Council approved the funding of the \$100,000 Chapel Thrill benefit.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't tell mothers what to do

To the editor:

In regard to Phillip Parkerson's letter "A modest proposal" (*DTH*, Jan. 20) for abortion, I am stunned by the lack of sensitivity and concern his letter relays. Just because he holds a meager view of the need for abortion, he deems it acceptable to forbid the woman in need the right to choose the course of her life.

In a society which frowns upon contraception, what right do we have (especially we men), to tell the mothers what to do? While I do respect Parkerson's opinion, I would respect it a great deal more if he would refrain from such base and distasteful tactics as sour humor and sarcasm.

Tim Harper
Chapel Hill

Books unchecked

To the editor:

After facing the long lines at Hanes Hall, the necessary evil of drop/add, and spending several frantic afternoons searching for the right textbooks, I found myself ready to settle down for some serious studying. Thinking that I could get a good start this semester, I began reading my

History 11 assignment. After reading for only a few minutes, it did not take long to realize that something was wrong. Glancing at the page number, I found myself on page 26 and I had not even turned page one! Upon further inspection it was discovered that the whole first chapter of the book was missing.

The next day I took the text back to the Student Stores to exchange it. After conferring with one of the employees, I was told that I could exchange the book for another used book or I could pay the difference and purchase a new one. I soon discovered that there were no more used books and was left with the "choice" of obtaining a new book. While waiting in the cashier's line, a fellow classmate was also returning a faulty History 11 text. Was it too missing a chapter? Or was the binding coming off?

All students at UNC realize that by purchasing a used book they are taking a chance. Pages are written on and covers are bent, but that is a small price to pay considering the money saved. However, when whole chapters are missing that is going a little too far.

Under the present buy-back system at the UNC Student Stores, a student may sell back the books he no longer needs at either wholesale prices or half price.

When inspecting the books to be bought back, little else is done to the merchandise other than a quick flip of the pages. This type of "inspection" hardly reveals the books with pages missing. Whether obtained through wholesale or half prices, the store is going to make a profit when the books are resold. For this reason and out of respect for the students, the store management should take more time to look at the books before they are put on the shelf to be re-sold.

Either changes should be made in the present buy back system to insure against this kind of thing happening or students should not be required to pay for other people's negligence.

Dawn Haddock
Lorry Williams
Morrison dorm

Vote to divest

To the editor:

Most students are aware of the campus elections on Feb. 8. There should appear at that time a student referendum calling for UNC to divest in certain companies operating in South Africa. The University currently has about \$2 million invested in

these companies—IBM, General Motors, Control Data and ITT to name a few—who are providing technology and resources which guarantee and propagate the virtual slavery of blacks under the oppressive apartheid system.

Several other universities, cities, and towns have sold their stocks in these companies, an action which demonstrates growing public outrage over American multinational corporations which allow and promote apartheid.

I urge students to vote FOR divestment on the Feb. 8 ballot.

Marion Blackburn
Carrboro

Dunbar commended

To the editor:

I wish to compliment Leila Dunbar on her article about the Ku Klux Klan, "Racism still thrives in N.C." (*DTH*, Nov. 10). It was a well-written and much needed article.

We must be reminded that such barbarism still exists in our nation and state, and it is painful to acknowledge the facts. It is my hope that we can live to see the day when all signs of racism and sexism have vanished.

Jerry Harper
Durham

From worn Nikes to new pumps

By ANN PETERS

I walked through the malls in Miami during break, eyeing the racks of young professionals' clothing—sophisticated, tailored suits; slick, pressed shirts; simple, delicate dresses. I considered turning in my sneakers and tube socks for pumps and stockings.

I cringed. Was I growing up? I gently touched the soft material of a silk blouse, checked the price, glanced down at my worn Nikes and trotted out the door.

I'd escaped, but barely. I knew the real world was creeping closer toward me. In just a matter of months, I would be out of Carolina Heaven and into Economic Hell. Preparation for my new life already had begun. My resume was typeset. My interview technique was polished: right hand outstretched, shoulders back, a confident smile.

But my anxiety increased. Was I allergic to a real job? If lucky, I'd have a nine-to-five, or, more likely, a two-to-10 reporter's job, with life insurance payments and a microwave oven (the ultimate in suburban living) awaiting me after graduation. I had spent four years of my life looking forward to graduation only to realize now that I was not eager to leave Carolina.

For months, friends and I had toasted to our remaining days at UNC. We wanted out. But we knew time remained in our collegiate meter. As the days dwindle down, we now consider delay tactics.

We're not sure that life exists after graduation. I wonder if I can survive; and if I have time to cancel relatives' plans to come to my graduation. Maybe I can triple major in finance, Russian and physics, and avoid graduation for at least another year.

In just a matter of months, I would be out of Carolina Heaven and into Economic Hell. Preparation for my new life had begun. My resume was typeset. My interview technique was polished....

Relax, think rationally, I say to myself. I should avoid being rash. Others are in the same bind. My mind, like the minds of other seniors these months before graduation, is filled with unmade decisions. At this stage, I feel like a puzzle. Scattered pieces with rough, jagged edges just lying thrown on a kitchen table. And when the pieces don't fit together easily, I want to avoid the puzzle. Like most seniors, I want to avoid decisions before I graduate.

But I know I can't leave the pieces jumbled in front of me. I have to put them together as best I can.

It's like my torn Nikes. I'm torn between throwing out those old weathered sneakers that helped me escape the silk blouse or bronzing them as a tribute to my years at Carolina. With great reluctance, I know I'll eventually accept my graduation.

One day I'll have to make a choice and leave my indecisiveness behind. The mailman will arrive. He'll nod and hand me a thin, legal-sized envelope. A nine-to-five job is mine in Podunk, Iowa. It's paradise with a half-hour lunch break.

with head bowed, I'll catch the first Greyhound to Podunk after graduation. Before I begin work, I'll rush out to acquire those pumps and suits of a young professional. My closet will be filled quickly. But I won't—I can't—exchange my worn jeans, Carolina T-shirts or Nikes for any stylish threads. The Greyhound bus that brings me to Podunk will travel back to Chapel Hill, eventually. And so will I.

I'll have left Carolina miles behind, but only by the distance on the speedometer.

Ann Peters, a senior journalism and political science major from Miami, Fla., is managing editor of *The Daily Tar Heel*.