

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

A protest loses its force

Concerned students, tolerant administrators and three eight-foot cubed shanties combined to produce an outdoor drama in front of South Building Tuesday, and the curtain isn't expected to fall for weeks.

The shanties, meant to represent the way oppressed South Africans are forced to live under the apartheid system enforced by the minority white government, were erected by UNC students early Monday morning. They were torn down soon thereafter and replaced after a conference with Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham III. By engaging in such a conference with the chancellor, however, the students actively seeking a change in UNC's investment policy so that it will no longer prop up apartheid may have damaged their own credibility.

The effort of the students in demonstrating their concern by building the shanties is indeed admirable, an active and welcome relief from the hot air sometimes blown in Pit protests. But such actions should achieve two goals. First, advocates of divestment should demonstrate, through their energy and commitment by enduring long nights in cramped rooms, the strength of the anti-apartheid movement at UNC. Hopefully, this would show trustees who control University investment funds that students are serious about the need to divest.

Second, the shanties should generate strong student solidarity for the divestment movement. Confronted every day with the harsh realities of apartheid,

students should better appreciate the struggle. It is impossible for most students to visit South Africa, so conditions in South Africa should be replicated in great detail for the students' benefit.

The three shanties on the UNC campus do not totally fulfill these goals. The shanties project an image not of oppression and institutionalized racism, but of poverty. A cursory glance by students whose only knowledge of South Africa came from these shanties might elicit pity for the economic plight of the black South Africans; however, they would have no greater understanding of their political and social plight.

More important, by negotiating with Fordham, the students have adopted a form of constructive engagement — the United States' policy towards South Africa that the protesters themselves are denouncing. To demonstrate the need for change, anti-apartheid leaders should be willing to engage in stronger actions. There is the popular backing to do so; the student body has twice resoundingly passed resolutions calling for the University to divest and last month elected a student body president who was actively in favor of total divestment.

Meanwhile, the administration will continue to react to students distributing petitions and building shanties with meaningless, time-buying measures. Supporters of divestment should be as sincere in their actions as they are in their words.

Based in and on ethics

More than 10,000 American families are faced with the most gut-wrenching, emotionally difficult decision possible — whether to end the life of a relative trapped in an irreversible coma. Fearing legal reprisal, doctors of such patients have understandably been very reluctant to consent to pulling the plug. This doesn't even consider the ethical dilemma and the personal anguish a doctor must handle.

However, the American Medical Association's judicial council announced Saturday a unanimous decision that may alleviate the legal burden on doctors, will provide some professional support for these families and promote more sensible health care policy.

Restriction of "all means of life-prolonging medical treatment," including food and water, from patients in irreversible comas should be considered an ethical practice, the council ruled, including cases where death is not impending. The statement is non-binding for the association's 271,000 members, but it can be strong support in a courtroom as justification for stopping treatment.

The phrasing in the opinion and the

specific definition of "life-prolonging medical treatment" (medication, respiratory aids, food and water) substantiate the statement made by council Chairwoman Nancy W. Dickey: "This is not a decision lightly entered into." A move to stop treatment would consider only the facts of an individual case and would only be made after in-depth consultation with the family.

Dickey properly differentiated this move from killing the patient. These moves are not measures that would kill the patient, but rather bring an end to treatment to sustain life.

The council's decision shows sensitivity for the families of irreversibly comatose patients. The toughest thing for these families to handle is what appears to be placing a monetary value on the victim's life. Expenses to maintain doctors' services, medication, hospitalization and other related costs can be handled only so long. However, while the council realizes this will never be an easy decision for families, it has realized that the moral backing of the medical profession can provide a much-needed support base for those who have already suffered.

Tar Heel Forum

SDI adherents make false assumptions

Mitchell Pote
 Guest Writer

David Hood ("Public perceptions of Star Wars inaccurate," Feb. 26) rounds up the usual suspects — the Soviets and a biased media — to help make his case for ballistic missile defense (BMD, aka SDI, aka Star Wars). Hood claims that media coverage of SDI has been biased and misleading. First, I don't know what newspaper Hood reads, but the Siberian phased-array radar is common knowledge, and the issue of whether it is actually a violation of the ABM treaty has yet to be resolved. However, this is an insignificant point compared to Hood's deception with regard to the capability and cost of SDI.

Hood claims that Star Wars could protect our cities, even with a five to ten percent leakage rate. That leakage rate translates to between 450 and 900 Soviet nuclear warheads actually reaching their targets. Moreover, this number optimistically assumes that the defensive screen will work as well against cruise missiles, bombers and submarine-launched missiles as it will against ICBMs.

Hood's explanation for how our cities will survive the penetration of 450-900 warheads is even more amazing. He defuses the problem by claiming that the Soviets "would be attacking our missile silos and bomber fields," not our cities. This is an astounding assumption, since it presumes intimate knowledge of Soviet targeting plans. In addition, it presumes that the Soviets will not adjust their targeting to orient

more warheads toward cities in the face of point defenses installed to protect our military sites and command centers.

Hood is also misleading when discussing the cost of SDI. He dismisses the figures of \$100 billion to \$500 billion as "grossly overstated," and instead settles upon a range of \$15 billion to \$50 billion. Obviously, this estimate does not include proposed SDI research and development costs for fiscal years 1984-1989, which are projected at \$25 billion. Hood admits that there would be additional expenses of \$5 billion to \$7 billion in annual upkeep. But the tenfold disparity between Hood's figures and the "grossly overstated" estimates is explained when you compare the types of SDI systems that are proposed for purchase. Hood's estimated cost is for an SDI system using "conventional or kinetic-energy mechanisms" — in other words, a system that would not include exotic (and expensive) technologies such as laser or particle-beam weapons. It is the cost of developing, building and deploying such exotic technology weapons that drives up the price of the "grossly

overstated" estimates.

The inclusion of beam technology in SDI is believed to be necessary in order to achieve a high effectiveness rate, one along the lines of the 90 to 95 percent figure used by Hood. It is doubtful that conventional, kinetic-energy BMD could achieve a comparable success rate because it is too slow to achieve boost phase interception. One physicist, Kosta Tsipis, estimates that in order to achieve boost phase interception, conventional interceptors would have to be launched almost a minute before the attacking Soviet missiles were themselves launched!

Boost phase interception is very important because it involves the destruction of missiles before they have released their multiple warheads. Thus, the targets for interception are fewer in number, larger in size and slower, so high success rates are easier to achieve. The misleading statements on SDI have not come from the media; they have come from SDI advocates, particularly the Reagan administration. They claim that SDI is designed to protect the American public, when its true function is to protect military targets such as silos, bomber or sub bases and command centers, with the taxpayers picking up the multi-billion dollar tab.

Mitchell Pote is a graduate student in political science from Chapel Hill.

Woollen rules

To the editor:
 Recent misunderstandings/difficulties with the department of physical education and intramural-recreational sports' policy of requiring IDs for the use of indoor recreational facilities, including participation in scheduled intramural contests, indicates a need for clarification on that policy.

In order to use the indoor recreational facilities in the Woollen-Fetzer complex, including participation in scheduled intramural contests, a student must present a picture ID (UNC student ID or driver's license) and a current registration card, athletic pass or class schedule card. Faculty/staff members must present a current Faculty/Staff Privilege Card (purchased from the cashier's office in Bynum Hall). Students, please note that you can get replacements for lost or stolen IDs. Temporary replacements good for seven days can be obtained in Hanes Hall between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. each weekday.

This ID policy is intended to prevent illegitimate individuals from using the facilities or participating in intramural contests, concurrently ensuring that legitimate students, faculty and staff, who have properly paid fees for such use, have maximum access to both facilities and programs. Another purpose of this policy centers around past and current instances of vandalism and theft. According to UNC Campus Police, the vandalism and theft rate in the Woollen-Fetzer complex has decreased significantly since the ID policy was put into effect.

Adhering to and supporting this ID policy is one way each legitimate student and faculty/staff members can have the facilities and programs of the Woollen-Fetzer complex available for themselves to the maximum degree possible. In order to be fair and consistent, this policy must be equally enforced for all. Every attempt will be made to examine IDs closely, and if it is inappropriate, admission will be denied. If someone presents an ID other than their own, attempting to gain admission with that ID, it is subject to confiscation and all individuals involved will be subject



to disciplinary action. Facility monitors are explicitly instructed not to admit anyone without the proper ID materials, even if they know that individual. In order to be fair and consistent, everyone must have the proper ID for admission to the Woollen-Fetzer recreational areas and programs.

Ed Shields
 Intramural Director
 Physical Education

Broyhill's budget

To the editor:
 This letter is in regard to Keith Poston's letter supporting David Funderburk's campaign tactics (Feb. 27). Funderburk's (and Poston's) gross misrepresentation of Jim Broyhill's congressional record is exactly the kind of dirty politics that has become synonymous with Jesse Helms' N.C. Republican core.

Poston mentions that Broyhill voted for the vague "Tip O'Neill big-spending budget." The budget has nearly doubled under the leadership of Funderburk-Helms ally Ronald Reagan. Of course, Poston must certainly blame this on Broyhill and the Democratic House, not Reagan and the Republican Senate.

Poston mentions that Broyhill voted for abortion, the Equal

Letters to the Editor

Rights Amendment, gun control and the "\$5.2 billion Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday." He fails to mention Broyhill's record of voting for a big defense budget. Pell Grants are a "big spending" waste, while \$500 army screws are not? It seems to me that someone's conception of wasteful spending is out of line.

And is gun control a bad issue to support? If Poston thinks about it, he might agree that increasing gun control would decrease crime, in turn lowering government money spent on crime control and lowering the budget. Not to mention the simple fact that guns should not be so available in the first place.

What about the "\$5.2 billion MLK holiday?" Somehow I find it hard to put a monetary value on commemorating a man who showed the world the plight of black Americans. Without MLK's peaceful resistance, America would have likely turned into a battleground not unlike some of the riots in South Africa today. Think of the cost of all that damage, Poston. King might have saved us money, if that is all you are worried about.

The primaries are still a couple of months away, and Broyhill is

obviously trying to establish himself as a respectable candidate rather than slander his opponent. The only image that I have of Funderburk is that he is anti-Broyhill. Is Funderburk scared to show his own face on his commercials, Poston? Maybe he looks as bad as the pathetic pictures of Broyhill that he puts on the air. Funderburk's most recent "issue-oriented" commercials fails to mention his own name!

There is no denying that Funderburk is running the same kind of obscene negative campaign that Helms and John East have used in the past. To say otherwise is to disregard the facts. I hope the Republicans nominate Broyhill and give this state's Republicans a little respect. Yes, I am a "knee-jerk liberal," Poston. But, regardless, the Congressional Club of Jesse Helms is a trashy outfit that needs to be stopped. Hopefully, the conservative alternative, Jim Broyhill, will do the Republicans (and everyone) of North Carolina that service.

David Beck
 Sophomore
 Journalism/Political Science

The gruesome facts behind a trip to Washington

For most students, spring break was packed with sun and suds, long lazy days and wild partying nights. Relaxation and closed books provided a majority of UNC students with a week of luxury. This is the story of one spring break that broke away from the conventional norms into a dimension somewhere between reality and disbelief. A comedy of errors, as Shakespeare once wrote, best describes the woes of several DTH'ers adventures during spring break.

The School of Journalism sponsored five students to attend an investigative journalism conference in Washington, D.C. The conference itself was a journalist's treat. From Sam Donaldson's discussion of television's role in society to Ralph Nader's berating of Reaganomics, we were enlightened to a degree. These hours of enlightenment, however, were not worth the package deal that came with this trip.

Like diligent newspaper soldiers, we were all anxious to return to The Daily Tar Heel. We enjoyed our parting glimpses of the Washington skyline while feeling our way back to Interstate 95. But one fleeting moment, a panicky reaction behind the wheel that could rival the Blues Brothers, altered those plans. A mad dash on the interstate from the middle lane to the exit ramp — via a dirt path chock full of potholes — did not agree with the weighted-down Volkswagens.

Wounded, the gutsy car trudged forward. Unfortunately, the distracting clinking and clanking of the muffler, broken exhaust pipe and flying sparks aroused the attention of other motorists. In utter disgrace, the Volkswagen excused itself from the road.

You know, the service entrance to Arlington

Kerstin Coyle
 City Editor

National Cemetery is beautiful this time of year. Cab drivers are especially responsive to North Carolinians who jump up and down and wave furiously at them from the middle of the freeway. And if you believe that, you probably think Dean Smith is secretly pulling for Louisville Thursday night. An agonizingly eternal wait climaxed with an editor, clad in trenchcoat and slacks, impersonating Bruce Jenner on the freeway. A mad uphill dash to flag a cab provided our escape.

We all bid farewell to the sick car and trekked to Georgetown, where a true blue friend of the stranded Tar Heels took the frazzled foursome under her wing. A couple of phone calls and a few charitable friends provided us all with roofs for the night.

Starving and freezing, we lugged our luggage across campus. Twelve blocks later, suffering from frostbite and arthritic shoulders, we checked into our different shelters for the night. Let it not be said that journalistic types cannot make the best of a nasty situation. We officially declared it Miller Time in hopes of obliterating the day from memory and chose a Georgetown rathskeller called The Tombs to accomplish this mission. After the last brain cell signed off and the waiter brought our check, we rudely discovered how the bar got its name. They make a killing off wealthy Georgetown kids willing to

pay \$8.50 for a pitcher of Miller Lite. But, what the hell — it's only money.

Speaking of money, the service station wanted more than twice as much cash as the four of us had combined, triggering a bout of domestic squabbling. After somebody's checking account took a beating, the bill was paid and we once again hit the endless stretch of gray known as Interstate 95.

From here the story transcends from the sublime to the ridiculous. Our state and national editor, Jill Gerber, stayed in Washington to cover a rally on Capitol Hill. This rally promised to be the first Washington political event to be covered in a couple of years by yes, your student newspaper. Dan Charlson, our photography editor, ventured into the wee-morning hours to drive to Washington shoot this momentous occasion. The one problem, however, was that this so-called rally was as happening as your local garden club. Instead of an insightful piece on national student interests, two wary editors wasted gasoline and hours of valuable time without a single word or photo to show for it.

The road to Carrboro became long and tedious for all the unfortunate souls who ventured on this ill-fated journey. The anticipation of getting home gave us renewed appreciation for our humble little town. The mere thought of seeing that tacky green OWASA maintenance building warmed my heart. After all this, Carrboro Community Park rivals a day at Disney and University Lake beats the hell out of Fort Lauderdale.

Kerstin Coyle is a senior journalism major from Charlotte.

The Daily Tar Heel

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