

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

Snowballing into spring

The shanties were becoming an eyesore on the quad, and students were irritated. Something had to be done, so a "Berlin Wall" was built.

It's simple. You see, it's a protest against a protest. The campus was defaced by the tin and wood shanty shacks, so the UNC College Republicans and Students for America remedied the situation by constructing a 50-foot-long wall of chicken wire and ripped bed-sheets. That's logical, of course, except for one thing.

It won't stop here. A group called Students Against the Wall (SAW) will form. They will say that oppression doesn't only exist in communist-bloc nations and South Africa. They will express their newly acquired political activism by digging a trench under the wall. The trench will symbolize that the problems of oppression go far below ground level.

Once started, the chain reaction will gain momentum. A quasi-motive-reactionary group, Students Against the Wall Against the Trench (SAWAT), will organize. They will add the unemployed and those with social diseases to the list of oppressed. To illustrate their heightened awareness, they will construct a wooden bridge over the trench, shel-

lacked with employment applications. Standing on the bridge will be drama students dressed up like prostitutes, displaying the immorality of our social practices.

Shocked that the bridge builders were so narrowly focused, the Ultimately Concerned Group of Homo sapiens (UCGHS), will extend the list of sufferers to arthritic secretaries, acne-faced teen-agers, underpaid psychiatrists and sweet-toothed models.

The dominoes will fall in this manner, you see, until every major problem in the universe has been voiced. Groups will build their mockeries of poverty and symbols of oppression until an intricate network of tunnels, bridges, moats, towers and walls metropolize in a reactionary fashion all the way to Hinton James parking lot.

But it's logically simple, you see, because each one is a protest of the former protest. The wall is a protest of the shanties. The trench is a protest of the wall. The bridge is a protest of the trench, and so on . . .

It takes a while to grasp this complex procedure of seeking political reform. This chain is no doubt confusing, seemingly far-fetched, utterly ridiculous and not much of an exaggerated description of what we have now.

Solution creates a problem

Monday's announcement by officials of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to evict all illegal aliens from federal housing sounds great initially. Americans pay for that housing, Americans build that housing — thus, Americans should live in that housing.

Deeper consideration of this decision finds it to be short-sighted and ill-conceived.

Effective July 30, this ruling requires that "the public housing authority must promptly initiate and diligently pursue action to terminate the tenancy, and to evict the tenant by judicial action pursuant to state and local law." Anybody who applies for federal housing must submit proof of citizenship with documents such as birth certificates or passports.

So what does this local housing authority do with the former tenants? Whoops, the feds forgot to mention how to handle that one. Stephen Balis, HUD's attorney, said that "no alternative housing resource" would be provided by the federal government, but that the states or local authorities might handle it.

Oh, of course. The states have millions of extra dollars laying around to support hundreds of evicted aliens (perhaps even

thousands in states such as California with high illegal-alien populations). The states have been handed so many other expenses that have been historically covered by the federal government that surely they won't mind one more little tab.

This is absurd, but what other alternatives has the federal government offered? If arrested, these aliens must be supported by society in prisons that are already overcrowded and, in some cases, dilapidated. If evicted and turned loose to fend for themselves, they bring a sharp increase to the number of the nation's homeless — a problem neither the federal nor state governments have effectively handled in the major cities. The only other alternative is deportation, returning the aliens to the despair or oppression they left behind in their native countries.

None of these choices are enjoyable. The U.S. government certainly should not provide housing for foreigners when many born-and-bred Americans have no home. But sending these aliens to join the homeless is no solution; rather, it compounds a perplexing problem. The federal government must establish some guidelines on how to handle these illegal aliens.

Tar Heel Forum

Campus protesters get what they need

Randy Farmer

Production Editor

Johnny Democracy marches by displaying banners and posters of protest. He stands in the Pit in a dogmatic, eye-catching stance as the college crowd watches — some with admiration, others with uneasiness.

Johnny hears a chorus from a Rolling Stones song in the back of his mind, singing: "You can't always get what you want, and if you try sometime, you'll find, you can get what you need." A guitar strums, with a horn playing softly in the background.

Johnny feels the flood of adrenalin pervading his muscles. With an unfamiliar vitality, he walks with a springy and strong stride across the red-brick Pit. He thinks to himself of how right his cause is. Fighting against apartheid, he's involved and concerned. Betterment of the human condition, civil rights. Who can challenge that? The crowd watches passively.

His mind flashes back to the song. "You can't always get what you want. But if you try sometimes you might find, you get what you need . . ." Tempo increases. Drums come in; piano plays.

A revelation comes to him. Protest is not enough. He needs more. Visibility. A sign. A monument. He builds a shack with rusted corrugated tin roofs and uneven wood with protest words spray painted on the side. The shantytown protests UNC's hand in South African apartheid.

Withstanding wind, cold and rain he protests — not with words, but with commitment and determination. Fellow students pass by, and he hears their comments of how ugly the shanties are or what a campus eyesore it is. He smiles, content with its visible effect. He hears their jokes about building condominiums in place of the shanties and chanting, "Invest, invest." He smiles smugly, being on the side of morality.

His mind flashes back to the song. "You can't always get what you want. But if you try

abuse. Singing words going to vent our frustration. If we don't, we're going to blow a 50-amp fuse."

The feeling of protest grows within him. He becomes stronger, more confident. He relishes in his shivers from the early morning cold, waking up with oily hair and unwashed clothes. The other students walk by squeaky clean, leaving a perfume of soap and shaving cream behind them that works its way into the shanty.

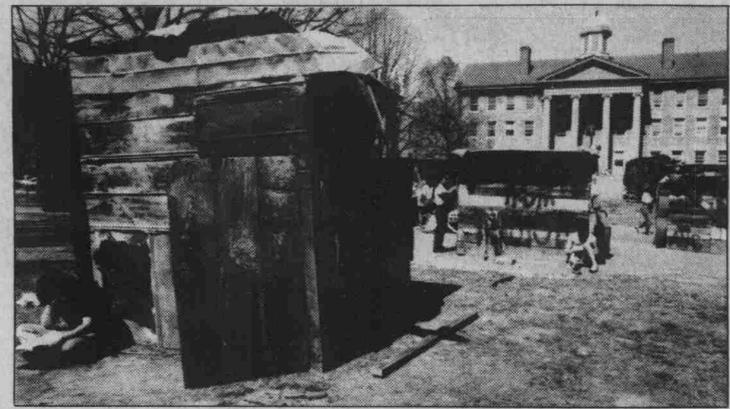
He flips on his jambbox. ". . . You can't always get what you want. But if you try sometime you just might find, you just might find, you get what

you need." This is not Johnny's first protest. He protested the ARA meal plan and Contra aid. He was there for the candlelight vigil on Franklin Street. Johnny is an old and familiar face. He sometimes wears a white-starred shirt with sweat stains on the back, a tie and a jacket flung over his shoulder; other times he wears tie-dye shirts and bell-bottomed blue jeans with holes in the knees. He does not isolate himself to campus matters either. He was in Selma in 1965; in Washington on the Capitol steps many times; sitting in post offices protesting the Vietnam war; protesting abortion in front of clinics.

Johnny is a student, a worker, a preacher and a political activist. He's exercising his rights, and standing up for what he believes.

Go, Johnny, get what you need.

Randy Farmer is a junior history major from Charlotte.



Shanties teach

To the editor:
 In a recent article concerning the UNC Anti-Apartheid Support Group and the shanties facing South building ("Shantytown to remain," March 25), Allen Taylor, former chairman of the UNC College Republicans, was quoted as saying the protests "are not to educate anyone. (but) to irritate people when they walk by." That's not completely wrong. However, it's not completely right, either.

Contrary to Taylor's sentiments, the major reason behind the construction of the shanties was education. We, of the AASG, want people to inspect the shanties, to ask questions, to judge for themselves the plight of the South African black. Our representatives who occupy the shanties 24 hours a day, seven days a week have free literature to further explain the civil, moral and economic factors behind apartheid and the U.S./UNC involvement in it. One shanty is furnished with photos taken in South Africa depicting the true home life of the blacks in the homelands. Another contains news clippings concerning the continuous struggle of the blacks in their quest for equality. All are attempts to show the resident of Chapel Hill how the resident of Soweto and other townships live. All fall short, because no matter how ugly, unfurnished or primitive our shanties are, those in South Africa are infinitely worse.

However, as I said earlier, Taylor is not completely wrong. The shanties are there to irritate people. We want people to be irritated because South African blacks are robbed of their basic human rights, forced to live in places such as these. We want people to be upset because, due to unjust laws and an oppressive way of life, blacks are doomed to perpetuate this cycle of eternal poverty, almost from birth. Most importantly, we want people to be outraged that the United States and UNC are major culprits in the support of this racist regime.

No matter how we feel, we, of the AASG, want people to make up their own minds. We encourage everyone to come by the shanties at any time and snoop around — maybe even spend the night with us. They might learn something. And if, after the tour, someone wants to make a donation, support or even join our group, well, we can hook them up, too. The important thing is that everybody gets involved, one way or another.

Eric Walker
 Junior
 Philosophy Speech
 Communications

No to negativism

To the editor:
 I am writing in response to William Peaslee's recent article "The positive points of negative campaigning" (March 18). If the title seems self-contradictory, that's because it is, and so is Peaslee's argument.

Peaslee defends the kind of negative campaigning seen in the 1984 Hunt-Helms Senate race as "one of the most efficient ways of educating the voting public about

Letters to the Editor

voting for Tip O'Neill's "big-spending budget." Brophy only voted for a Democratic budget plan (which called for a freeze in defense spending or reductions in the federal budget deficit) after all three Republican budget proposals were defeated in the House of Representatives. Most puzzling is Funderburk's charge that Brophy voted to give away the Panama Canal. Brophy served in Congress, and only the Senate votes on treaties.

Our founding fathers would not, as Peaslee suggests, approve of "negative campaigning." This public slander threatens the integrity of this nation's most basic political institution.

Sandy Rierson
 Freshman
 Public Policy/Political Science

Not us vs. them

To the editor:
 Why is it that people like Alison Malone ("Aid grants peace," March 26) see everything in terms of black and white — or is it red, white and blue these days?

Her simplistic notion of foreign policy is no longer surprising since so many today, including our benighted leader, adhere to such ideas. But why does she insist on taking the moral high road in advocating war? Her blithely tossed-off comment of "Nobody wants war, but if that is the only way to achieve peace in communist-based Nicaragua, then war it is!" reflects a shallow and dangerously careless attitude that needs serious reconsideration.

I'm desperately resisting the continuous impulse to retch everytime I read another knee-jerk conservative reaction that espouses military might as the only solution to our nation's foreign problems. But, as a wise man once said, "Disgust is a poor substitute for thought." So, I'm going to think about why young conservatives like Malone jump on the bandwagon of the "Us vs. Them" mentality that can only lead to a

terrible conflict if the very real differences between our countries are not delineated and worked out. Who knows, perhaps I can come to a better understanding of single-mindedness and begin to tolerate conservatives like Malone.

Tom Holcomb
 Graduate
 English

Silly us

To the editor:
 The article, "Annoying advertising," in March 25th's DTH was a fine example of the worthless journalism that plagues this newspaper. When I read the paper, I would like to see news, not generalizations that everybody knows and that no one would argue with. Of course, ads annoy people and of course, some are more annoying than others. Well, so what?

Juan Osuna
 Junior
 Philosophy

Expressly Laurie

To the editor:
 What's the deal on this ad for American Express appearing in recent issues of the Daily Tar Heel? Is this a Laurie Anderson look-alike or has the real Laurie given up her white violin to advertise plastic on college campuses across the United States?

Please, Laurie, don't do it.

Bob White
 Sophomore
 International Studies

Letters policy

• Letters should be typed and double-spaced, with a one-inch margin. Please turn in letters by noon the day before publication date.

• The DTH reserves the right to edit for style, taste and clarity.

The Daily Tar Heel

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