

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

Support divestment

There's somethin' happenin' here, what it is, ain't exactly clear . . .

Last month, the UNC Anti-Apartheid Support Group did something that inspired some people, caused others to laugh and infuriated others still. The group built a community of hovels and plopped them right in the middle of one of UNC's busiest walkways, this one just a stone's throw from South Building and the University administration housed there.

Earlier this week, the College Republicans and Students for America built a "Berlin Wall" to protest the anti-apartheid group's protest, and also to protest communist aggression everywhere — an obvious poke at high-minded idealism. The anti-apartheid group protested the wall protest, saying it was an unjustified protest of their protest.

In the midst of all this protest and counter-protest, something unexpected happened: the University responded (in part thus far) to student wishes. The University Endowment Board decided to hold its all-important next meeting today instead of waiting until next month (when most students would conveniently be on summer hiatus and out of the administration's hair).

The meeting's purpose is to discuss the shantytown and wall demonstrations and to consider full divestment from companies with South African holdings, not the partial divestment the board opted for in February. The board is

taking steps in the right direction, but as usual it's moving at a turtle's pace.

With good reason, perhaps. Deciding what to do with \$8.8 million — the amount of University investment in firms involved in South Africa — is no easy task. But the board has had ample time to consider alternative investments for the University.

However, complete divestment from such firms is not without its consequences for the University community, as board members realize. Selling millions of dollars of stock will affect the University's endowment for better or, most likely, for worse. And selling the stock by no means guarantees that the affected companies will get the message and actively work for the abolition of apartheid.

But many students have repeatedly shown their disdain of apartheid — and their emphatic approval of divestment as a means to fight it — via referendum and protest. Also, many apparently are willing to face whatever problems divestment may bring to the University. They know that any gesture to help oppressed blacks in South Africa, no matter how small, is a step in the right direction.

No government that regularly, systematically discriminates against 80 percent of its subjects (the term "citizens" is a misnomer) deserves any kind of support. So why the delay, board members? Tell Exxon, IBM, General Motors, et al, that UNC demands a change in South Africa.

A party pooped?

Cold, sudsy brew flowing from 50, 60, maybe as many as 100 kegs, blasting rock 'n' roll and a mass of humanity basking in the late August sun. UNC's younger hell-raisers have envisioned such a scene as a kind of ceremony paying homage to those grand ol' days of legality.

But it won't happen. Is that so bad? Not really. A proposal currently before Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham III to raise the legal drinking age on campus from 19 to 21 two-and-a-half weeks before the state age hike has elicited student criticism. The most notable vocalizing came in the nearly unanimous approval of a Student Congress resolution Wednesday.

If approved (a strong possibility), there won't be the festive melee of an on-campus Prohibition Party. But take a deeper look. This small loss will actually benefit students in the long run.

This proposal is just one part of the new alcohol policy awaiting Fordham's okay. As Student Body President Bryan Hassel and Residence Hall Association President Ray Jones note, the loss of

one tremendous bash is a minor concession when considering the overall policy. Alcohol will still be allowed on campus for legal drinkers in dorm rooms and dorm television lounges. Those 21 and over will have the right to consume alcohol on Ehringhaus Field. Finally, student fees can still be used to buy alcohol served to legal drinkers.

Besides, the vast majority of the under-21 drinkers in the student body will drink a beer or two — regardless of the legal age. Beer may be a little inconvenient to acquire and drinkers will have to be more discreet, but they will drink.

The most unsettling result of this may be that there will be a Prohibition Party off campus — which will involve driving. But Hassel and Jones both said when such a party is organized, all necessary efforts to coordinate shuttle buses or get breaks with taxi companies will be pursued.

A final on-campus free-for-all was sure to be a titillating experience. But don't sweat it — just move to Franklin Street.

Tar Heel Forum

Contradictions afflict apartheid protests

Phil Skillman
 Guest Writer

The efforts of some UNC students to create a dialogue on campus concerning South African apartheid and divestment are increasingly visible to all of us. On Friday, March 21, I stopped on my way to class to listen to a demonstration at South Building. I thought that since I didn't have any concrete opinions on disinvestment, I'd listen to what was said and then maybe make up my mind on the matter.

The first and second speeches I heard seemed directed at establishing the deplorable nature of apartheid, something I already recognized for myself. But the deplorableness of apartheid does not automatically lead me to believe divestment will bring an end to it. So, I listened for something more.

I was told that the anti-apartheid leaders in South Africa want the United States to divest because it would cause an economic crisis, making it impossible for the current regime to govern. Now, I don't know if the South African anti-apartheid leaders actually feel this way, or if so, that they are right in their estimation of

the political and economic effects of American divestment. However, because these leaders are closer to the situation than I am, I was willing to accept this as a good reason to adopt divestment as a policy that might ultimately bring an end to apartheid.

Then, a third speaker rose. He began by saying he would like to express his solidarity with the Nicaraguan Sandinistas in their struggle against the Contras. I asked him if this wasn't a contradictory stand to that which he espoused concerning South Africa. Wasn't he calling for intervention against one totalitarian regime in South Africa while opposing intervention against another in Nicaragua? He and the activists called back that disinvestment was not intervention.

The speaker further explained that the Sandinistas were an elected government. And who, he asked, votes in South Africa? I had to concede that only the white minority does.

I have come away from this all-too-brief exchange still believing that there is a contradiction in the foreign policy stands of this group, as expressed at the demonstration. First, both the South African and Nicaraguan regimes are undemocratic; the first for its elitist and racist voting base, the second for its failure to hold regular elections since it betrayed its original campaign promises. Most importantly, both countries are undemocratic because of their constant and excessive violations of civil liberties and human rights. Furthermore, disinvestment most certainly is intervention, since it is designed to pressure and perhaps topple the South African government, just as aiding the Contras is hoped to do the same in Nicaragua.

Phil Skillman is a junior political science major from Asheville.

Prayer's no joke

To the editor:

I found your parody of Sen. Jesse Helms' fictitious letter to God to be highly impious and offensive ("Absurd and alone, but strong in faith." March 27). In the first place, Helms does not purport to speak for God. Certainly, the senator's views on "right to life" or "school prayer" are shared by many Christians; however, his stance on economic policies, gun control and tobacco support have little or no relation to morality. Helms' statements and actions, like those of all of us, are not beyond reproach.

It is a belittlement of the nature of God, to say that anyone can represent God consistently under all circumstances, yet I hope we still have men from both sides of the political spectrum who make this their goal. Nonetheless, as President Lincoln said, "The question is not whether God is on our side, but whether we are on His?"

My primary objection to the article, however, pertained to the manner in which prayer was made an object of mockery and derision. Most would agree that there are some things which are too special and sacred to ever become subjects of ridicule and debasement. Prayer and one's relationship to God most certainly fall within this category. Prayer involves personal and intimate contact with God and is one of the greatest privileges afforded mankind. To make light of prayer is to deny one's greatest needs — the need to worship God, to discover His will, to submit to His direction and to find help to assist in facing life's struggles and challenges.

Steve Matheny
 Second year
 Law

Franklin frolickin'

To the editor:

I hope many of you will be playing in downtown Chapel Hill today, participating in the Franklin Street Frolic. You will be taking advantage of an event that is sponsored by the Senior Class of '86.

In writing this letter, I first want to call attention to the fact that Franklin Street Frolic is not just for seniors — everyone can participate. Secondly, and more importantly, I want to use this event to call attention to, and thank, some special members of the Senior Class of '86 for all their efforts this past year.

Aside from making this year a little more memorable for all of us seniors, the Class of '86 officers, marshals and committee members have re-established the senior class



as an extremely visible and active organization.

Franklin Street Frolic is an example of how the Class of '86 has involved all of Carolina. I feel proud to be a member of the Class of '86, and to those seniors who have made this year great for our class — thanks for all your hard work.

Betsy Arledge
 Senior
 English

Kicks in the SAC

To the editor:

As a former three-year member of the New Bern Senior High Bruinettes and a three-year veteran of the UNC Flag Team, I would like to comment on the article "Drill team still kicking," March 26.

I have always hoped there would be a dance team here at Carolina, and I congratulate Kimberly Benfield and Christina Walker on having the guts to do it.

However, as a veteran of the UNC Flag Team, part of a 300-plus membership band, there is hardly room on the field as it is now. Our captain has fought many a battle with the majorettes, percussion section, sousaphone section and individual band members.

By the way, have you seen Eastern Carolina University's field at half-time? It's a mess! Although each individual performance group had a good routine, it was too much on the field.

Benfield suggested alternating half-time appearances so they would not "try to outdo each

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other's routines." 1) The issue here is not performance quality, it is field position. 2) There are only six home football games. These are the only times, with the exception of a couple of away games, that the flag team puts a whole semester's work toward performing. So, if the flag team alternates half-time with the other performing groups mentioned, they could expect to perform a maximum of three games a football season.

The flag team and majorettes, however, do not, and do not want to, perform during basketball games. I feel the "High Kicking Heels" should funnel their energies into this time.

If the dance team does two routines, it would only take about four minutes on the court — plenty of time for those other presentations to be given.

In high school, we were able to do the neater routines during basketball season, because the court is a much better dance floor.

I think the "High Kicking Heels" would be an asset to the boring half-times in the SAC. Good luck, girls! P.S. Go to hell, State!

Cindy Lackey
 Senior
 Early Childhood Education

Divest now!

To the editor:
 Racism, racial segregation and apartheid are moral crimes. So is

any support of racial segregation and apartheid. It is my sincere opinion that UNC's policy allowing investment of approximately \$5.7 million in companies which invest in South Africa demonstrates moral criminality — indeed, demonstrates nothing less than racism itself.

Bishop Desmond Tutu, an example of moral immensity, has asked for complete divestment in South Africa as long as apartheid exists. Continuation of UNC's investment policy links the University with apartheid and racism. Thus, in extension of Bishop Tutu's request, I hope and ask that all alumni and friends of UNC withhold contributions to the University until it adopts a divestment policy.

I feel that the University's investment policy tells us that UNC is a racist institution. Please prove me wrong, Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham, Chairman J. Clint Newton and UNC Board of Trustees. Please divest immediately.

Martin Warner
 Junior
 Religious Studies

Letters policy

• Each person whose name appears must include a phone number, year in school and major.
 • We maintain a limit of two signatures per letter.
 • Letters must be typed, double-spaced, on a 60-space line.

Investigators suspect Khadafy retaliation in TWA airline bombing

Airline investigators are finding incriminating evidence that links Col. Moammar Khadafy, Libya's chief bedlamite, to the in-flight bombing of a TWA jetliner Wednesday. The blast punched a hole in the fuselage of the Boeing 727 en route from Rome to Athens, killing four passengers, including three Americans. Seven other passengers were wounded.

The Arab Revolutionary Cells, yet another little-known Palestinian group involving itself in international terrorism, claimed responsibility for the attack. The Cells said the action was in retaliation for U.S. "arrogance" in last week's clash with Libya. Italian police now suspect that the mastermind behind the bombing is Abu Nidal, an internationally renowned terrorist and one of Khadafy's closest allies.

The timing of the attack — just one week after the Gulf of Sidra affair — is the clearest indication that Khadafy's retaliatory threats were more than mere tyrannical ravings. Although many young Libyans celebrated a victory over the United States, Khadafy no doubt realized he was humiliated and wanted revenge.

Nidal and Khadafy have been directly linked to numerous terrorist acts, including the Rome and Vienna airport bombings last Christmas. Khadafy termed those attacks as "heroic," but is denying any involvement with Wednesday's

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deaths. After the bombing, Khadafy said he was totally against any terrorism against a civilian target.

And if you believe that . . .

Shultz urges quiet diplomacy

Secretary of State George Shultz urged the United States and the Soviet Union to refrain from waging diplomatic relations in the press. In the past few months, there have been numerous surprise announcements from both sides and Shultz has said he wants a resumption of secret negotiations.

The message came after Mikhail Gorbachev's offer on Soviet television Saturday to meet with President Reagan anywhere in Europe to discuss banning nuclear weapons testing. Shultz says the Soviet Union started the trend toward public diplomacy, but such methods are not productive because they do not allow either side time to consider appropriate responses.

Secret contacts have been the norm in the past, often yielding good results. In the early 1970s, SALT I and the ABM Treaty were concluded through a secret channel between Soviet Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Dobrynin and Henry Kissinger, who was then President Nixon's national security advisor.

Dental records identify Mengele

With the discovery of new dental records, U.S. and Brazilian scientists have concluded that the skeleton exhumed in Brazil last year was indeed that of Josef Mengele, the Nazi war criminal.

Evidence had surfaced in recent years that Mengele was living in Brazil, where investigators discovered he had been living since 1961. The former Nazi doctor had assumed several different names and was buried as Wolfgang Gerhard.

At the Auschwitz death camp, Mengele often selected which Jews would die in the gas chambers. He also performed cruel experiments on prisoners, including inhumane testing of twins for pseudo-scientific purposes — war crimes for which he successfully eluded Nazi hunters.

The Week in Quotes

"Here on Easter Monday, University students

are demonstrating against South African oppression and oppression by Eastern-bloc countries. I think that's pretty gratifying."

— UNC Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham III on student protests in the quad. A "Berlin wall" was built Monday by members of UNC College Republicans and Students for America as a protest of the UNC Anti-Apartheid Support Group's nearby shanties, which were built earlier to protest UNC investment in companies doing business with South Africa.

"Obviously I'd give my right arm to play in the NBA, but there's not much call for a one-armed player."

— Duke cager Jay Bilas Sunday on the prospect of playing for the National Basketball Association. Bilas, along with three other Duke starters, will graduate next month. His remarks came a day before the Blue Devils lost the national championship to Louisville.

"Those five bullets gave me a thorn in the flesh as they did to the Apostle Paul. And I prayed that it should be removed, but it would not."

— Alabama Gov. George Wallace Wednesday on the attempted assassination of him during his 1972 presidential campaign, an incident which

left Wallace crippled for life. Wallace announced he will retire from politics when his current gubernatorial term expires.

"The difficulty is that a lot of times people think the best way to get from point A to point B is a straight line, and they don't step over the extra two feet to use a brick walk."

— UNC Dean of Students Frederic Schroeder on the existence of worn paths off University sidewalks. Physical Plant officials said the paths hurt campus beautification efforts. Maintenance and construction of the brick walks costs about \$100,000 a year.

"How about all this political activism on campus? We have the Johannesburg shantytown and the Berlin wall on the south lawn and the line of death — in Lenoir Hall."

— UNC graduate student Timothy McMillan during Tuesday's David Letterman contest sponsored by Student Television. McMillan, who won the contest, will host next week's Letterman show on STV.

Compiled by editorial writers Ed Brackett, a senior journalism major from Hendersonville, and Dewey Messer, a junior journalism major from Whittier.