

The Daily Tar Heel

95th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

Keep signals clear

At this time last year, some students and alumni were outraged because University administrators wanted to turn Old East and Old West residence halls into office space to save money on renovations.

Their fears were soon eased after the Board of Trustees voted to make the necessary changes to keep the buildings dormitories. After the board's decision, a student-faculty task force was formed to recommend uses for the halls to Wayne Kuncl, University Housing director, and Donald Boulton, vice chancellor and dean of Student Affairs.

One year later, the question of how to keep the buildings livable while preserving their historical importance remains. The task force has yet to meet this semester, supposedly waiting for architects to finish looking over plans. And last week, its existence was in question. Kuncl dissolved the group, saying it was no longer needed; Boulton affirmed it, attributing the confusion to a lack of communication between Housing and Student Affairs.

The mix-up shows a lack of coop-

eration among the two administrative divisions most vital to the preservation of these campus landmarks. By not allowing a task force to carry out its task, the University sent a disconcerting message to students. Kuncl apparently did not consider the implications of arbitrarily disbanding an organization formed to give students a voice. Boulton seemed willing to work with the task force, but his comments came as a reaction to its proposed dissolution.

Despite recent attention, the issue is no closer to being resolved. Boulton said he wants to see the dormitories changed from all-male to co-ed; Kuncl said they should stay all-male; Gillian Cell, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said one of them should house outstanding seniors. If people debate intelligently, their ideas can shape a solution, but only if they communicate.

Although the task force problem has been resolved for the moment, there is no guarantee that the issue will stay in the forefront of discussion for long. Students and administrators must find a way to preserve the traditions of Old East and Old West before signals cross again.

In the past, moderates have promoted the Contadora treaty drawn up by Mexico, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela. Its demands are similar to Arias', calling for a removal of foreign military aid from the country, a reduction of the Sandinista military forces and for democratic pluralism.

But Arias has criticized the Contadora treaty, saying that it is not firm enough in its stance against Marxism. He says that there is a loophole through which Marxism would survive and become entrenched.

In contrast, his plan would set a timetable upon implementing democratic reforms. Democracy could be further enforced in Central America by shifting U.S. contra funds to those Central American countries which promote democracy.

If the contras, with U.S. aid and guidance, are successful in their rebellion, a repressive government dressed in red will be supplanted by one dressed in red, white and blue.

Arias' plan resolves the main conflicts that haunt U.S. involvement in Central America. Sanford should be applauded for raising the most promising plan for peace in Nicaragua that the Senate has seen. — M.K.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Readers' Forum

Past time for action against AIDS

Robert Reid-Pharr
 Guest Writer

During the early '80s, the federal government, the American medical establishment and the media viewed AIDS as just a gay disease, just a case of chickens coming home to roost for a depraved subcommunity.

Things have changed somewhat. There is some federal money for AIDS education and research. A number of celebrities have devoted their time and resources to the fight against AIDS. The media has brought knowledge of the syndrome into many, if not most, American homes. Of course this is not enough, but it is a start.

Four out of every 10 Americans with AIDS is not white.

At the same time, however, an interesting phenomenon developed. AIDS was — and still is — perceived as a white, gay male disease. I argue that this is partially a function of the desire of activists to make AIDS seem like a respectable disease. That is, a disease prevalent among affluent white men. The reality is, however, that four out of every ten Americans diagnosed with AIDS are non-white. Specifically, 25 percent of people with AIDS are black and 14 percent are Latino. Remember that Afro-Americans and Latinos comprise only 11.7 percent and 6.4 percent of the population

respectively. The figures are even more stark for Afro-American women and children. At this time, 52 percent of women with AIDS are black. 59 percent of the pediatric AIDS cases are black.

So the next question is, why? Why are people of color and specifically blacks contracting AIDS at a much more accelerated rate? The most obvious answer is that black and Latino people are found in every risk group: gay and bisexual men, I.V. drug users, heterosexuals in contact with people with AIDS, hemophiliacs, babies of women with AIDS, and recipients of blood products. Also a second reason may be the long established trend for infectious diseases to lodge in poor, non-white populations — due primarily to economic and nutritional differences.

Also, let's remember that people of color have a long history of exploitation and

neglect by the American medical establishment. So the problem has been exacerbated because educational programs have been primarily directed at white communities. Current statistics reveal that AIDS is quickly becoming the leading cause of death in young men in Harlem. AIDS is also the second highest cause of death for New York women aged 30 to 34. Most of these women are non-white. Despite these facts, as of October 1986 there were no prevention and education programs in that major black and Latino neighborhood.

Using the projections of the Center for Disease and Control and the current proportions of AIDS among ethnic populations, between 300,000 and 500,000 of color may now be infected with the AIDS virus. So it is past time for action. Education and prevention programs specifically directed at people of color are needed immediately. Existing programs must be modified to be sensitive to the lifestyles of "ethnic" communities. And adequate support systems for people of color with AIDS must be developed now.

Robert Reid-Pharr is a senior political science major from Charlotte.

'Very Punny' by I.N. Spired

To the editor:

My business school education here at UNC inspired me to explore the path of the entrepreneur. So, I've started my own publishing company. Here is a partial list of titles currently in stock that I know you're going to love:

"Even Dogs Get the Blues" by Mel N. Collie
 "How to Make a Million Dollars" by Robin Banks
 "America's Worst Restaurants" by Sal Monella
 "College Level Poverty" by Grant D. Nide
 "Never Trust the Guard Rails" by Eileen Dover
 "Just a Formality" by Sara Monial
 "Building Your First Bomb Shelter" by Sybil D. Fence
 "Dentistry May Not Be For You" by Harry Knuckles
 "The Joy of Reading" by Page Turner
 "End of the Line" by Paul Bearer

For a complete list of our books please write: English Publishing Company, Alternative Avenue, Hitor, Miss.

JIM SUITER
 Senior
 Business Administration

Drug cartoon offensive

To the editor:

This letter is in response to the editorial cartoon by Trip Park in The Daily Tar Heel Feb. 12. In this cartoon there were two male figures, dressed in dirty clothes, old run-down homes in the background, a sign with welcome to Robeson County and a marijuana plant between the two males. The caption read, "Hey, Maw, here's one of them funny-looking weeds like in the neighbors' back yard."

Your portrayal concerning the residents of Robeson County and the drug problem there leaves something to be desired, and was not the least bit humorous.

The distinct impression I got from your unknowledgeable attempt was to portray the residents of Robeson County as ignorant, homely people who do not live in decent homes or own decent, clean clothes. I am a Lumbee Indian and resident of Robeson County and am speaking as a member of the majority of people living there. In dealing with prejudice and stereotypes, never before have

I been labeled as "unclean" or "country hick" by use of such vocabulary as "Maw."

As well, I am distressed to find not only are Native Americans degraded and belittled by members of our own community, but also by this University's community. Some people are simply uneducated when it comes to Native Americans, still thinking that we all live on reservations and in teepees, or even that we are extinct. When it comes to organizations and programs of the University, Native Americans are considered black because they are the largest minority on campus and asked to join Black Professional Societies simply because there are no professional organizations to meet the needs of Native Americans. Granted, the minority counseling program under the guidance of Dean Hayden Renwick does a superb job of orienting the freshmen to this campus, but there is only so much this department can do, or is responsible for.

Maybe your cartoon was a reflection of news articles about the county and its drug problems, but the fact remains your illustration was a derogatory reflection of the people of Robeson County, and the Lumbee Indians, and for that I think we as students of this University and residents of Robeson County deserve a formal apology.

KATIE LOWRY
 Freshman
 Biology/Chemistry

Protest aid cuts

To the editor:

I think Bryan Hassel's column ("Students can protest budget cuts" March 2) brought up an important point: students can protest. Legislation is often passed to our disadvantage as students because our voice is simply not heard. The proposed reductions in financial aid are so significant UNC students can't afford not to care. Faced once again with primarily a student issue, expressing ourselves is vital and easy. Five minutes to write dear Jesse (or Terry) is all it takes. To facilitate student expression, the Students for Educational Access will be in the Pit today and Thursday with stationery and pens. Stop by and write.

BETH BOORMAN
 Freshman
 Psychology

Better to burn out . . .

To the editor:

Town-gown relations in Chapel Hill have generally been characterized as pleasant, or so I thought. The recent town council efforts at thwarting Pi Kappa Phi's annual Burnout have not only strained relations, but threaten to deprive the N.C. Burn Center of necessary funds for burn victims. I feel that if the town council continues its efforts to halt this fund-raising project, the council shall greedily inflict its rather insignificant needs upon suffering burn victims.

Certainly Burnout does not demand much from Pi Kappa Phi's nearby villagers. Indeed, the noise level could become offensive to some ears and the parking shall definitely cause traffic hassles. In spite of these problems, I feel that the residents could perhaps sacrifice a few of their peaceful, sacred hours at home for the burn victims. The DTH ("Burnout plans delayed until town decides on permit," March 3) states that Pi Kappa Phi is the largest single contributor to the Burn Center and that the money received in past years has been instrumental in burn care. Yes, Burnout may cause Chapel Hill residents some hours of discomfort, yet the benefits reaped from such an event clearly outweigh the difficulties.

Students at Chapel Hill and many other large universities love to party, especially in a big way. The key to a successful party project is two-fold. First, the event should serve student interests. Second and most important, the event should benefit a needy organization. In past years Burnout has served both factors quite well and should continue to do so. Residents close to Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and the town council should stop for one minute and contemplate the consequences of perhaps their own house fire and the resulting painful burns. Once the community establishes the need to "sacrifice" a few hours of quiet, a harmonious solution for Burnout technicalities can be attained.

JACKIE CARR
 Sophomore
 Religion/Political Science

Please give back my sweatshirt

Brian McCuskey

Staff Rambler

Frisbee season is back and I'm loving it. I spent most of yesterday afternoon out in the quad flippin' disc with a few people, talking about spring break, listening to music, and "activity dropping." That's something like name dropping, but with activities. For example, your roommate staggers in at 7 a.m. on Saturday and says, "I thought she'd never let me leave." That's activity dropping. Unsolicited hints about one's drinking or sex life. Happens all the time, just listen for it. Enough said.

So, the Frisbee was floating, the sunshine was feeling good on my back, and I could almost smell the salty ocean breeze. Midterms were forgotten. Speaking of midterms, the way to deal with facing three tests in two days is to ask yourself, "Will I wake up next Saturday morning?" If you can answer that question with a "yes," you're all right.

What was I saying? Oh, yeah, Frisbee.

was stolen in mid-spin. The wallet and keys were left. For this I am thankful. But, what a cheap shot. A terrific day like yesterday and someone still has to go and steal my sweatshirt to have a good time. And hassle my good buzz in the process. I can see somebody stealing my wallet, but my sweatshirt? That's petty and malicious.

Somewhere out there someone is reading this and smirking to himself. "Yeah, I stole your sweatshirt, man. It feels great on my back, too."

I've got one thing to say to you. And I can't print it here like I'd want to say it. So, I'll refine my language.

Go perform an anatomically impossible act upon yourself.

Brian McCuskey is a sophomore beach-combing major from Los Angeles, Calif. Like, totally, dude.