

The Daily Tar Heel

96th year of editorial freedom

JEAN LUTES, Editor

KAREN BELL, News Editor
 MATT BIVENS, Associate Editor
 KIMBERLY EDENS, University Editor
 JON K. RUST, Managing Editor
 WILL LINGO, City Editor
 KELLY RHODES, Arts Editor
 CATHY McHUGH, Omnibus Editor

KAARIN TISUE, News Editor
 LAURA PEARLMAN, Associate Editor
 KRISTEN GARDNER, University Editor
 SHARON KEBSCHULL, State and National Editor
 MIKE BERARDINO, Sports Editor
 LEIGH ANN McDONALD, Features Editor
 KIM DONEHOWER, Design Editor

DAVID MINTON, Photography Editor

Watch for outside interference

Rarely has a group managed to make so many mistakes in so little time.

Campus Watch, a citizens group established in August to oppose "campus radicalism," has called for legislative action to force the University to defund the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association. Led by Durham resident Edward Cottingham, the group has disregarded the University's long-standing tradition of student self-governance, published misleading literature and threatened UNC's legally protected autonomy.

Allocating student activities fees is Student Congress's most important task. In trying to take that responsibility away, Campus Watch has conveniently ignored the legacy of UNC's strong tradition of student government.

The group has also misrepresented the CGLA and the actions of UNC's student government. Its printed account of the CGLA funding controversy describes the CGLA as a "militantly aggressive political lobby" that "is able to dominate campus politics because it constantly lobbies and campaigns while most students are busy studying." To insinuate that CGLA members run around screaming while heterosexual students are home studying is absurd.

In addition, Campus Watch states that Student Congress members

bowed to "intense pressure from politically aggressive homosexual activists" when they allocated money to the CGLA last semester. Almost every Student Congress member would agree that this assertion is misleading and unfounded.

To aid its misguided cause, Campus Watch has reprinted an article from this newspaper using the logo of The Daily Tar Heel, without bothering to ask for permission. It's disturbing that a reader could be led to believe that the DTH supports the stands of Campus Watch.

Even worse, the group is advocating outside control of University affairs.

State legislators are not elected to run the Chapel Hill campus, and although they control the funds allocated to the University, they cannot meddle in internal University affairs.

In 1963, legislators were reminded of that fact when they passed a law requiring legislative approval of all speakers invited to speak on campus. The law was declared unconstitutional, but not until the University nearly lost its accreditation.

Cottingham, who founded Campus Watch, is a graduate of this University. It's unfortunate that during his time as a UNC student he did not learn to appreciate the importance of open debate and the danger of closed minds.

— Jean Lutes

New hope for the Motherland

"We are going slowly, we are losing time, and this means we are losing the game." — Mikhail Gorbachev, Sept. 26, 1988.

This prophetic quote, delivered less than a week before an extraordinary session of the Central Committee, the Communist Party's governing apparatus, also was a telling statement about the condition of affairs in the Soviet Union. The surprise meeting announced last week was an effort to remove the major obstacles to change.

The essential structure of the Russian political system has changed little since the days of Lenin. The bureaucracy now is an inefficient monster, rife with corruption and ineptitude.

This past week, Gorbachev announced his plan for restructuring the Soviet system. It includes a major shift in policy-making authority from the ruling party to the government. The Central Committee, the party's ruling body, will be reduced by half and formed into six advisory commissions. The management of the state will be left mainly to the newly-strengthened government.

However, Gorbachev's most important move was his sly demotion of

Yegor Ligachev, his reactionary second-in-command, to the unenviable position of head of agriculture. This clever move was accompanied by the removal of four other conservative Politburo members.

Ligachev's humbling was not entirely unexpected; he was openly critical of Gorbachev's progressive plans. Ligachev was replaced with Anatoly Luykyov, who is young and progressive.

Though some Sovietologists feel that Ligachev will attempt to hamper the much-needed agricultural reforms, it is more likely that Gorbachev is setting him up for eventual dismissal. The Soviet harvests are notoriously poor, and if there is any sign of a bad harvest, Gorbachev will likely use that opportunity to oust Ligachev.

Gorbachev has proved himself a wily politician. While Ligachev was on vacation, Gorbachev was able to both consolidate his power and to quicken the pace of reform.

If ever there were an optimal time for a purge, it had come. By acting quickly and discreetly, Gorbachev put *perestroika* on the right path. — Dave Hall

Students not safely covered

The good folks who stock the shelves of the Country Stores on South Campus and the Circus Room on North Campus are a prudent bunch.

We're college students here, and sex is not exactly unheard of. If we're going to do it, we may as well do it as safely and responsibly as possible, which today means using a condom. So all the fortunate souls who find themselves in the vicinity of the Circus Room or a South Campus snack shop are protected from pregnancy and plague.

But what about students who are too embarrassed to add a package of condoms to their purchase of Pop Tarts and Mountain Dew? If condom machines were installed in the residence halls, the University would be doing its part to help students engage in responsible interaction.

Ironically, having a condom machine on a hall could actually prevent some sexual encounters. If a student finds herself in a roommateless room one night with the man of her dreams and things are getting heated, she will know that the condom machine is but a few short steps away.

All she would need to do is dash down the hall, laundry quarters in pocket, and seek the services of the conveniently located machine. But, what if halfway down the hall the girl gets second thoughts about what's about to happen? It occurs to her that the guy is a creep for sending her out for the items and expecting her to use her laundry quarters. She returns to the den of iniquity and ends the flesh-fest before it begins.

And if a couple has a chance to back off a bit before things get too involved, rational thought could take over and each person could consider if what is about to happen should happen.

In its first meeting of the year, North Carolina Student Legislature debated the topic of installation of condom machines in residence halls, and the resolution was approved by a majority vote. Although this resolution is only symbolic, UNC's student government should take note. The Residence Hall Association and Student Congress should follow the lead of the NCSL and contemplate condoms. Besides, they make great party favors. — Laura Pearlman

Next president inherits black hole debt

I'm going to vote for Mike Dukakis this November, but I'm not entirely sure I want him to win. Mike has the makings of an adequate leader, and there is no doubt in my mind that he would do a good job as president; the question is, does anyone stand a chance of succeeding in cleaning up the mess that Reagan has left behind? My suspicion is that fixing the broken stuff in America is going to be one hell of a task.

Please don't take this the wrong way. I am not advocating that Democrats enter into some conspiracy to elect George Bush. Neither am I encouraging people to vote anything other than their conscience.

What I am saying is that a George Bush presidency might just serve the cause of justice by making the Republicans take the blame for their own mistakes. That hasn't happened since Watergate.

Reagan did some good things during his term of office, and, if the event was good and he didn't do it, he took credit for it. Whoever wins this election will be compared to the myth of Reagan by a nation grown accustomed to his telegenic presence. This is not something that either Bush or Dukakis look forward to, but it is a problem which could be particularly dangerous for the Democratic Party.

The Democrats looked very near death just four years ago when the Reagan landslide tore the party to shreds. Their comeback in 1986 was remarkable, and their confidence in Atlanta was a welcome change. But rhetoric aside, the Democratic party is not yet healed. Consider them the walking wounded. They can move, and they're on the road to recovery, but they are nowhere near 100 percent.

If the Democrats return to the White House in January, they, and Dukakis, face one of the worst prospects in the history of American politics. Here comes the Duke, a competent, thorough, honest, boring man, fresh from his crisp inaugural walk down Pennsylvania Avenue. He

Daniel Conover
 Staff Writer

doffs his coat, kisses Kitty, opens the door to the Oval Office and drops straight into the fiscal equivalent of the Black Hole of Calcutta.

When Reagan ran for office in 1980, the federal deficit was something like an eyesore in the neighborhood. He promised he could clean it up without it costing anything, and he got elected. In 1988, that neighborhood eyesore is now a slum. A deficit ghetto. Reagan learned early on in his first term that the project was more than he could handle, and he spent the rest of his presidency avoiding it. He was smart to avoid the deficit ghetto. Anyone who walks in there is going to get mugged.

Dukakis, if he's sane, dreams secret dreams of finding a few trillion dollars of buried treasure, thereby allowing he and his party to solve the problem without having to raise taxes. That possibility aside, raising taxes looks to be one of the only responsible ways to deal with the deficit.

And if Dukakis raises taxes, the Democratic Party is in big trouble.

Bush is going to raise taxes if he gets elected, too, because he just doesn't have much of an alternative. The next president is not going to have the luxury of ignoring the problem and replacing leadership with photo opportunities. The deficit is an interest rate time bomb; what makes it so particularly tricky is that the unprecedented amounts make predictions difficult. No one has ever owed this much money before. It could blow up tomorrow, it could blow up in 25 years. Economists just don't know.

The option for the next president is a binary choice. He will either raise taxes, thereby pissing off the entire country, or he will pull a Nero and fiddle around with

the American flag while our economy burns to the ground.

Isn't it strange that people volunteer to be put in that position?

I don't expect the next four years to be particularly pleasant ones, but I don't blame the future president. I blame the current one.

Unfortunately, the teflon coating still encases Reagan and probably will until his death. If the economy dips, it will be Bush or Dukakis who take the heat. Since I find this likely, and since the American voter has been particularly vindictive of late, it is also likely that the person we elect in November 1988 will not be re-elected in 1992.

If that person is Bush, the people might just wake up and ask the Republican party exactly what the hell it has been doing since 1980. It won't be an entirely fair question (Democrats controlled the Congress during most of those years), but it is one we should ask. Bush may not survive the criticism, but the Republicans will.

But if Dukakis takes the blame, the party takes it too. If the Democrats have another unsuccessful one-term presidency, the damage may completely reshape the American political landscape. Call it unfair, call it being at the wrong place at the wrong time, call it whatever you like, but in the age of immediate gratification, piranha media and complete lack of long-term-memory beyond the last sound-bite, that's reality.

Let's just hope I'm being paranoid. I'd hate to think my vote for Dukakis was only throwing him a little closer to the lions.

Daniel Conover is a junior journalism major from Carrboro.

Editor's note: Ian William's column, "Wednesday's Child," will reappear next Wednesday in its regular space. Check local listings for times.

Readers' Forum

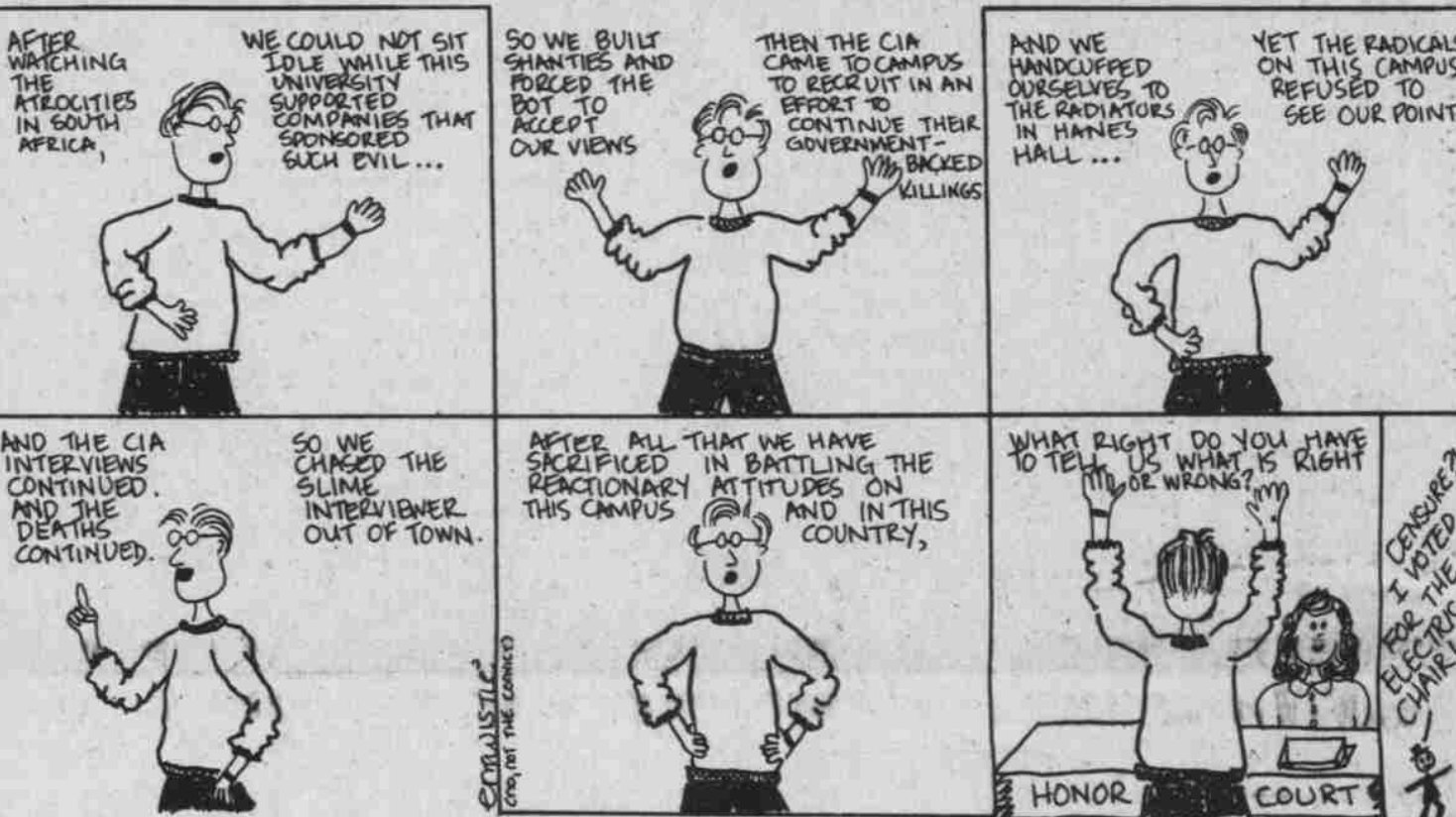
Accept the consequences

To the editor:

My response to Matt Bivens' question ("Setting a bad precedent for student activism") as to whether or not I believe the five protesters willfully obstructed university activities is yes. I attended the trial hoping to find out what the protesters had to say about it, and this convinced me that they knew there was the possibility of the protest being disruptive and continued with their protest despite this fact, taking the responsibility for it upon their shoulders. Now is the time for them to accept the consequences.

In the protesters' own words, the demonstration was planned around noon so the it would be the least disruptive possible, and inconvenience the least number of people. The key word in this is "least." Notice that it is not synonymous with the word "none." During the trial, one of the protesters, Steve Sullivan, testified that he understood that protesting in that office "is not something that happens everyday" and it could be intimidating to the people who work there or use the office's resources. These statements by the protesters made it clear to me that they were aware of the possibility of disruption of the workings of the office. Bivens is right when he says that "peaceful protest does not imply compliance or obedience." As he states, this is the nature of civil disobedience. That is fine. But when one engages in civil disobedience, one accepts the responsibility of disobeying the law with all of its consequences. In this case, a censure on the protesters' records.

And yes, the CIAAC's demonstration was peaceful if you are saying that they didn't physically abuse anyone. But if you mean they did not break any rules, then you are wrong. In response to those cries of foul play by people who say this is an attempt to crush student protest and activism, I would



reply that they are false. Protest and student activism are not dead or quashed. The University has a tradition of being an open forum for the exchange of ideas. It remains that way. This honor court decision clarifies just what constitutes an "educational and symbolic protest" and where the line is between protest and a breach of the Student Code of Conduct.

RICHARD PASCHALL
 Sophomore
 International Studies

Your right to vote

To the editor:

Fellow students, this is it. If you have not registered to vote by the time you leave for Fall Break, you will not cast a ballot on Nov. 8. All indicators predict that this presidential election will be the most hotly contested race in decades. The Fourth District Congressional race, pitting incumbent Democrat David Price against Jesse Helms' ally Tom Fetzer, has also been pinpointed as a critical contest. Candidates for state offices are running neck-and-neck in the polls. Every vote will count.

I have no sympathy for people who denigrate politicians, find fault with everything

from foreign policy to a drinking age of 21, and then cannot find 15 minutes in the day to select the very people who are making these decisions. I complain about a lot of men and women in the government, but I can honestly (and emphatically) say that these people are there through no fault of mine.

Registering to vote is a painless and simple process. You only need to present a picture I.D. and something bearing your Orange County address (i.e., a check or a stamped piece of mail). Registrars will be in the Pit from 10-3, and you can also register to vote at the public library on Franklin Street. Don't waste an opportunity others are dying to have.

SANDY RIERSON
 Senior
 Political Science

Vote 'yes' to stability

To the editor:

On Wednesday, Oct. 5, the Chileans will once again go to the polls. They must decide if they want Pinochet for eight more years or free elections next year. A majority in the yes or no votes will determine if the present ruler continues.

A dictatorship is not the best form of government. However, there are differences among dictators. Rulers like Somoza or Marcos use their country only for personal benefit. While their people live in poverty, they enjoy a billionaire's fortune.

In Pinochet's case, we have a country that has the highest GNP growth in Latin America. Its national industry is stronger than ever. Its foreign debt has been considerably reduced. Its people enjoy one of the highest standards of living in South America. Consequently, Chile is the economic envy of its neighbors.

Democracy is probably closer to an ideal government, but in the present situation, the opposition does not clearly show a strong leader. In the past they have shown that even though all the opposition unite against a common cause, they are a heterogeneous coalition. Once in government this will only lead to anarchy. Pinochet is not a saint, but if for the sake of government, stability and a strong economy, some social freedom must be sacrificed, I believe it is worth it.

Let us give a "yes" to Pinochet.

BRUCE JIMINEZ
 Graduate
 Math

Protesters exercised right to free speech

Editor's Note: The author is a CIA Action Committee member who testified in the Honor Court trial.

To the editor:

Speaking as someone who was present at both the April 15 CIA Action Committee demonstration and the demonstrators' Honor Court hearing, I am compelled to take issue with Laura Pearlman's somewhat unenlightened editorial.

Ms. Pearlman suggests that the protesters failed to consider their actions at the University Career Planning and Placement Service office on April 15 and will consider future actions far more carefully following "official" censure from the University. I find this assumption both presumptuous and patronizing. The CIAAC are well-informed, autonomous adults who realize far better than Ms. Pearlman the results of their protests on this campus. What's more, they understand the more serious

implications of not protesting.

The severity of the punishment is not in question. These five students did, after all, endure arrest and civil court for their actions. Ms. Pearlman states that "Students cheat or lie everyday and end up in the honor court..." These students did not cheat; they did not lie. These students are guilty of a far greater offense. They stated the truth with clarity and without compromise. The CIA lies and cheats. They murder civilians, assassinate heads of state, traffic narcotics and support bloody wars in countless Third World nations. Aside from seeking to employ stellar Carolina graduates, the CIA has employed the likes of Klaus Barbie, the Nazi "Butcher of Lyon."

We are aware that the Pit is the "proper forum" for student protest. But do you really think that the originators of our First Amendment right to freedom of speech meant for us to designate free speech areas?

The CIAAC did not randomly target UCPPS. This office deals directly with the CIA by inviting them to return to recruit at this university. Recruiting at UNC is not a right, it is a privilege. The CIAAC directed their protest at those who most directly control the University's relationship with the CIA. The University reserves the right to ban any organization from recruiting through its UCPPS office. In my opinion, allowing the CIA to recruit at our school is an insult to both our intelligence and our integrity.

Perhaps Ms. Pearlman could take a few hours to glance at the information available on the illegal actions of the CIA. Then maybe she will "think twice" before condemning those who exercise their right to know and make known.

LAURA FISHER
 Senior
 English