

The East Carolinian

Serving the East Carolina campus community since 1925

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OPINION

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Vacation

Hey, Let's Be Careful Out There!

Item number one: immediately following Friday's last exam, no student is to touch, look at, or otherwise come in contact with anything remotely resembling school work; nor should students become uptight at the thought of doing so on Aug. 25.

This is the first rule to remember when embarking on that brief period of near zero brain activity called vacation.

It is a documented fact that during this period any type of brain activity above that of the average sunbather/party-goer causes hemorrhoids in laboratory animals. We wouldn't want that now, would we?

Item number two: It is important to acquire your weekly, if not daily, dose of ultraviolet rays. To go without is a mortal sin for hard core vacationers and a sure sign that you spent your time working or, God forbid, reading romance novels. We shudder at the thought.

Moreover, lightly tanning your skin does tend to lend some credibility to your tall tales of that wild and crazy time at the beach. That is, if the tales need bolstering at all. Some of us find truth stranger than fiction.

Item number three: If a party, or some other form of "good time" is

encountered, it is your duty as a student of ECU to join in.

Not to do so could mean being ostracized by your classmates, should word get out. What's worse, it could mean — dare we say it — a dull vacation.

Item number four: Alcohol, or the consumption thereof. This pertains moreso to those unfortunate students ages 19 and 20. The East Carolinian would like to extend its deepest sympathies to those students hardest hit by the change in the drinking age.

We would also like you to remember this: there are more important things in life than alcohol — like pursuing members of the opposite sex!

Item number five: Overdoing it. Yes, that dreaded disease we all seem to catch in one form or another. Whether it be the bedspins or a night in the pokey, we have all experienced this affliction at one time in our lives. Let's say we leave the instant super slowmo replay to NBC sports, shall we?

Alright, we've had our say. We've made our point. Now it's time you people showed the world we know how to relax and have a good time. But remember, be careful out there.



Tutu Says West Can Go To Hell

We are engaged in reliving the Vietnam experience. Whatever Mr. Reagan does, it is not enough. Whatever Mr. Botha does, it will not prove to be enough. The militants in South Africa will settle at this point for nothing less than The Federalist Papers, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Emancipation Proclamation, Brown vs. the Board of Education, the civil rights acts of 1964 and 1965, and the latest affirmative action decision of the Supreme Court. Otherwise?

The West can go to hell.

On The Right

By WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY

Or to quote Bishop Tutu more exactly, "(President Reagan) is the pits as far as blacks are concerned. ... He sits there like the great, big white chief of old," and "I am so angry ... I found it quite nauseating. I think the West, for my part, can go to hell."

That was after a speech in which the president of the United States four separate times condemned apartheid, condemned the emergency laws promulgated by South African President P.W. Botha, asked for a timetable for the elimination of apartheid laws, called for the release of political prisoners, for the release of Nelson Mandela, and for "unbanning" black political movements.

One concludes that only if Mr. Reagan had said that he would send the U.S. Navy to blockade South African ports unless his recommendations were acted on would Bishop Tutu's disgust with the West have mitigated.

Mr. Tutu's complement in the United States was Rep. William H. Gray III, who, representing the Democratic Party, spoke the official answer to Mr. Reagan. He was preceded by Sen. Edward Kennedy, who announced that the United States had become "the last, best hope for apartheid." Mr. Gray said that the United States must "demand" a

timetable for "full democracy, which is one person, one vote."

Mr. Gray went on to say that it hardly mattered if those South African blacks who are employed by American capital should lose their jobs, since they amount to a mere 47,000 people, or "one-tenth of 1 percent" of the work force.

So that simultaneously we are told that only sanctions will bring the white government to its knees and that sanctions can only affect one-tenth of 1 percent of the working force. If that is so, then obviously something more than mere economic sanctions is desired in order that we succeed with our "demands."

What? Well, we know that the Commonwealth nations are doing their best to change the mind of Margaret Thatcher, whose position has been exactly that of Ronald Reagan and Alan Paton — namely, that economic growth in South Africa is the surest means of effecting the lessening of controls and the granting of civil rights.

But there is even talk of the Commonwealth disintegrating if Mrs. Thatcher does not go along, and there are rumors that Queen Elizabeth has said that she had not accepted the throne of England in order to preside over the liquidation of the Commonwealth.

I swear, if we generated such pressure against the Soviet Union, Gorbachev would be sleeping in the cellar of the Kremlin.

What is clear — beyond the Vietnam syndrome, which specifies that no concession will generate anything other than the demand for more concessions — is that before we knew it, one-man one-vote, which not even the Progressive Federal Party in South Africa has traditionally favored, is suddenly the commonly accepted objective. What isn't clear but ought to be is that one-man one-vote in South Africa isn't going to happen in any meaningful sense.

Why? It is one thing to vote in order to secure one's civil rights, another to vote in order to seize one's neighbor's property. And that is what the militants

want. Mr. Mandela (whom the president wishes released) is the Ben Bella of the liberation movement in South Africa, and he is a self-proclaimed Marxist whose interest in one-man one-vote would be as transitory as the Sandinistas' proved to be.

The African National Congress, which he effectively heads, is Jacobinical in spirit, and its chosen instrument is the modern counterpart of the guillotine, the "necklace."

Well, Chief Buthelezi of the Zulus isn't going to yield to the ANC, nor will the Indians, nor will the Coloureds, nor will the Boers. No one clamoring for the collapse of the white government can cogently describe what would come after. But rather a Vietnam-type victory even if it is followed by boat people and Ho Chi Minh cities, than Botha and his grudging reforms.

So what that the Sandinistas have militarized Nicaragua, stripped the people of their civil liberties, reduced real per capita GNP by more than 40 percent? We got rid of Somoza, did we not?

Bishop Tutu's formulation was off. He said the West can go to hell. More likely, the West will simply go to hell.

Campus Spectrum Rules

In addition to the "Campus Forum" section of the Editorial Page, The East Carolinian has reestablished the "Campus Spectrum." This is an opinion column featuring guest writers from the student body and faculty. The columns printed in the "Campus Spectrum" will contain current topics of concern to the campus, community or nation.

Persons interested in participating or seeking further information may contact Daniel Maurer, managing editor of The East Carolinian at 757-6366, or stop by our offices on the second floor of the Publications Building.

History Proves The Polygraph Is Ineffective

By STEPHEN R. DUJACK

It has long been believed that there can be objective measures of innocence or guilt, veracity or deceit. During the Middle Ages there was trial by ordeal. In ancient China miscreants were forced to chew rice. If their mouths were dry afterward, they were considered guilty. Today we have the polygraph.

The idea that a physiological response — blood pressure, in this case — could be used to test for truthfulness was first advanced in 1895 by the Italian criminologist and phrenologist Cesare Lombroso. In the 1930s, William Mouton Marston added measurements of respiration, and perspiration and called his machine the polygraph.

The U.S. Court of Appeals found no scientific evidence supporting Marston's claims for the device, and he was driven out of the profession he founded. Marston went on to create the comic book character Wonder Woman.

The federal court system still refuses to enter into evidence test results from Marston's wonder machine, but nearly half of the state courts permit polygraph tests under some circumstances, and its use is on the rise among private employers and in the federal government.

Desperate to do something about the steady flow of classified information to the press and beyond our borders, the Reagan administration has repeatedly pushed the polygraph as a technological watchdog over the government's vital secrets. And private employers, facing billions of dollars worth of losses from employee theft and other misconduct, order perhaps as many as one million tests a year.

In a business world, the popularity of the polygraph means the countless Americans will be refused employment or fired for failing a test that misidentifies truthful persons as liars perhaps as

much as half the time.

In the public sector, where several agencies are relying more and more on the polygraph to guard against espionage, it means trying to ensure our national security with an electronic Maginot Line.

The polygraph, in fact, detects stress, which often occurs just because a person is being subjected to a test that could result in imprisonment or loss of a job. So shaky is the scientific grounding of polygraphy that the FBI forbids polygraph dragnets, and the American Psychological Association prohibits its members from administering tests.

Congress is now considering a bill, co-sponsored by Orrin Hatch and Edward Kennedy, forbidding polygraph testing by private employers. But sentiment in the White House and on Capitol Hill seems to favor use of the polygraph in the defense and intelligence communities, and perhaps also among the thousands of other federal employees with security clearances.

In December the administration quickly shelved a NSC directive to expand polygraph testing after Secretary of State George Shultz threatened to resign. But President Reagan revived the proposal in a January press conference, and a special security task force is supposed to be working on recommendations for presidential instructions implementing the directive.

There are, of course, important civil liberties objections to the use of the polygraph. There is the question of personal privacy and a related one of whether the government can require citizens to answer questions about criminal activity of which they are not even suspect. The specter of government thought police has brought down the wrath of conservatives from William Safire to Jeane Kirkpatrick.

Still, matters of civil liberties are debatable. The scientific validity of the polygraph is not. According to a 1983 report by the Office of Technology

Assessment, there are "no field studies on the validity of polygraph testing for pre-employment screening or periodic screening" — exactly the kind of testing the government does, and hopes to expand.

OTA notes that although there are studies that provide data on its use in another application — focused investigations of actual incidents — all "had substantial problems of research design." These studies claimed accuracies of lie detection anywhere from 50.6 to 98.6 percent, and truth detection from 12.5 to 94.1 percent.

In other words, notes Dr. David Lykken, a psychiatrist at the University of Minnesota, the polygraph is only slightly better at detecting lies than a coin flip.

The OTA report confirmed what many researchers have found. John F. Beary III, now an associate dean at Georgetown University Medical School, wrote a report critical of the polygraph while he was an acting assistant secretary of defense three years ago.

"There is no physiological response unique to lying," Beary asserts. Lykken keeps a log of people falsely implicated in wrongdoing by polygraph tests. A Los Angeles cashier was fired after a polygraph exam revealed he had given his mother a discount at the register; he was later able to show that his mother had died five years earlier.

Polygraph proponents usually claim that inaccurate results point to inadequate training or improper technique, not to the machine's inherent flaws.

Standards are obviously lax. Testers in private industry can be certified with even less training than those in the government or, in many states, none at all. The graduates of the government's polygraph training school at Fort McClellan only take a 14-week course, followed by ten weeks of practice — less training most beauticians receive.

Advocates of the polygraph, especially within the government, rely on substantial anecdotal evidence to support their case. Thousands of job applicants at the National Security Agency, for instance, when screened by agency polygraphers, have confessed to crimes. All of them had cleared the agency's traditional background checks.

This has become a favorite Reagan anecdote. What the president doesn't say is that they were not caught by the machine but confessed because they mistakenly thought it works.

The NSA experience would appear to be more? comment on the purported rigor of its background checks than on the "utility" of the polygraph. Spies are not likely to be so fooled. Intelligence and polygraph experts believe that the KGB and perhaps other foreign intelligence services train their moles in deceiving the machine.

The biggest problem with polygraph screening, however, is not with its accuracy in detecting spies or other criminals but with the large number of innocents who become wrongly accused.

Imagine that the polygraph falsely identifies a security violator one percent of the time — a rate far superior to what even polygraph advocates claim. A single screening of 10,000 employees among whom there is a single spy, then, would produce a pool of approximately 100 persons cast as spies — but the polygraph would be of no use in determining which one was the guilty party. Indeed, the offender might well not even be in the sample.

A recent study by Beary and two other physicians cited in the June issue of *Discover* magazine suggests that a more likely result of a test of 10,000 employees would be a pool of more than 3,500 potential spies — and a significant chance that the real spy had escaped detection. What would the government do with those 3,500 workers? Fire them all? Investigate them all? The polygraph, as on most questions, provides no useful answers.

Summer Theatre

'Tuna'

By JOHN SHANNON

Literary Editor

Charlie likes tuna with good taste. Starkist likes tuna that tastes good. Both would turn up their noses at Tuna, Texas, were it offered them on a plate.

That's Tuna the town, not the play. Tuna is a small town in Texas where "taste" means "eat" and where food is likely as not to be poisoned. Tasteless as it is, Tuna and its environs (known collectively as "Greater Tuna") are a melting pot of just enough flavors, given a flexible imagination, to constitute a microcosm, if not of the whole world, at least of its rotten core.

"Greater Tuna" is an amazing production by the East Carolina Summer Theatre currently running at McGinnis Theatre. Amazing in that all the citizens of this tiny world are played by just two men. Even more incredible considering that none of the twenty male or female characters look alike.

Chalk it up to the talents of

Ronn Christopher half-explains the credence of the show done. Chris about the of whom very different for a while. But Chris really in speed of the. Besides changes get in the set come each with one of. When Struvin first after who Struvin power.

Rambaldi

UPI — Carlo Rambaldi has won Academy Awards for his featured roles in three major motion pictures, but most moviegoers have never seen his face or heard his voice.

Rambaldi, 60, is the man who created and manipulated the gigantic ape, King Kong, the prowling killer aboard a space-ship in *Alien* and the lovable extraterrestrial *E.T.* Each creature netted Rambaldi an Oscar for special visual effects.

A recognized genius in his field, Rambaldi has been working with his son Allesandro, also a special effects artist, since mid-March on the figures for *King Kong Lives*, a Dino De Laurentiis sequel to the 1976 version of the giant ape's story.

"Carlo is unique in this world, with his ability to create. He is indeed an artist of vision," says Martha Shumacher, president of DEG Studios, the De Laurentiis facility on the North Carolina coast. "He is both an artist and an inventor."

Rambaldi's artistic path has taken a turn he never envisioned as a 1951 graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna, Italy, when he set out to sculpt, paint and engrave his way to fame.

"Thirty years ago, I had no idea I was going to end up in motion pictures," Rambaldi says. Speaking in a combination of halting English and flowing Italian translated by his son, Rambaldi says his cinematic career "really began as something of a joke."

A friend in the Italian cinema based in Rome asked him to sculpt a movable 40-foot dragon in a 1958 production of *Seigfried*. Rambaldi came up with a

believable other devices, a stone a material. "I had making realistic. "This is very p turned things. "Oth America films. H his wo What's wards! John H. Move Rambaldi the can bug-eyed but he s in his he King's

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Gilda Radner, Gene Wilder and Dom DeLuise, 'Moon,' which is currently playing at the Pitt. Wilder is rated PG.