

Chris Register

"Salt and Limes"

The University of North Carolina at Wilmington...an institution dedicated to landing you a well paying job with growth potential, to fattening your personal wallet, to providing you with the tools you need to scoring that hot model, red Ferrari, million-dollar dream home (along with vacation home built next to some popular eroding beach) and your yearly six day vacation to Italy where you spend most of your time inside the hotel watching TV. I recently opened the Student Handbook and to my surprise this was not on the inside cover! There must be an omission, thought I, so I turned to the Preamble of the Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students. I diligently searched for something pertaining to the right to a good job and money after college, but I could find nothing! Instead I saw a passage that read: "As members of the academic community, students should be encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth." My eyebrows are still furrowed. I think that the editor mistyped the word 'truth' instead of 'money'. The reason I know I am right is because my fellow college students are living testimony to what I thought was the point of college; namely the pursuit of money or a job instead of education for its own sake. What kind of hippie would do such a thing as the later anyway? Then, further adding to my dismay and confusion, I saw this: "Academic institutions exist for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students and the general well-being of society." I think this one was somehow transferred accidentally from some university in either Japan or Germany, where the combined gross national product of the two is equal to that of the US but the combined landmass is only about that of Texas. I know that over there between about 40 and 50% of the national budget is spent on education, where as here in the US the majority goes to defense. I know many more college students that chose their majors primarily for the

money making potential rather than some "general well-being of society" mumbo-jumbo. I mean, the best way I know to make the world a better place is to make my savings account a bigger place! How many times have you Environmental science, education, and philosophy majors out there been looked at sideways by an experienced adult and asked "Is there any money in that?" They know that you guys (and many others) are dodging the true reason for going to college... must have been fooled by the handbook!

Now here's an example of a student who has her priorities straight. I overheard her and another intelligent young man talking about majors, when she announced that she had changed majors, biology was just too tough. She said that she was going to move into child psychology instead. The young man said to her "yea, you can bullshit in that job" and went on to say something about there being money in it too (all sarcasm aside, I almost vomited when I heard this). She agreed wholeheartedly. I wish I had asked her name, so I could recommend her to all of you if your children ever experience psychological problems.

Easy money, folks, it's what college is all about. Can you imagine an America where everyone went to college with the idea of getting the most education they could, and when they graduated went on to further their own education as well as that of others, spreading what they know with the intent of helping all and bettering the quality of life for everyone instead of just themselves? What about one where people spent the minimal socially acceptable time working for financial gain, labored towards bettering the world 40 hours a week, sometimes even late into the evening, spent 15 minutes a day with the TV and 3 hours with their family, and worried more about the utter destruction of our beautiful coasts than the shopping cart dent in their SUV? I shudder, and choose to leave those scenarios to science fiction.

And by the way, a note to the editors of the Student Handbook: Please fix those mistakes!

Hugh Fisher

"My Way"

Rumors of 'Y2Krisis' were greatly exaggerated

The year 2000 is upon us. The new millennium has begun.

Nobody got blown up.
No cities were nuked.
God hasn't made the entire population of (Christians / Jews / Moslems / Jehovah's Witnesses) disappear from the face of the Earth.

And a lot of people out across the world, especially here in the good ol' U. S. of A, have spent a week or so looking aimlessly around, some from atop stacks of ammunition or military rations, and saying in hushed tones: "Where's the Apocalypse? I thought we were supposed to be at war by now! Or at least fighting against soldiers dispatched by newly-proclaimed Emperor Clinton in order to assure our freedom!"

Because the United States was where the biggest portion of the 'Y2K' phenomenon originated. Around the world, there were only smatterings of concern for computer systems that might fail, and the possibility of someone getting a little wasted and starting a fight somewhere. (Those fears were put to rest when Boris Yeltsin resigned on Dec. 31.)

It was only when America (still the holder of

the New World Order belt for biggest, baddest nation - no matter what the Serbs and Iraqis might say) began to be concerned about the turning of the year that the rest of the nations of the world really began muttering expletives and throwing themselves into 'Y2K frenzy,' which will surely be a big, juicy chapter in some future sociologist's textbook.

Americans were the worst of all. You didn't see pictures of people in France hoarding bottled water and generators, did you? No market owners in Italy had signs next to the batteries, wine, and pepperoni exclaiming "STOCK UP NOW! JUST IN CASE..." (Of course not! Because the signs would have been in Italian.)

Britons? All they cared about were (A) getting a bit trashed and (B) getting a bit naughty while the fireworks went off. However, a friend of mine from the marvelous country of Wales did make the observation that he really, really would have liked to be a computer analyst in America this past year.

"Anybody would think the whole Y2K problem was created by the people who got paid millions to fix it," he said. "No, that could never

Letter To The Editor

I am writing in response to an article that I read in the 1 December 1999 issue of The Seahawk about the "Uncertainties loom as Y2K approaches." The story in question unwittingly adds more misinformation about the National Rifle Association and militias, which only serves to further breed public ignorance.

The National Rifle Association is not a citizen militia. It is an organization that has many functions. Two Union war veterans, Colonel William C. Church and General George Wingate founded the NRA in 1871 for they were appalled by the lack of marksmanship of their troops at that time. Their goal was to promote rifle shooting on a scientific basis. The NRA then incorporated safety and training programs. They offer the hunting community, law enforcement and America's youth programs to safely educate and train individuals in the art of firearm usage. The NRA is also committed to preserving the Second Amendment.

When our forefathers wrote the United States Constitution to replace the Articles of Confederation, they added the Second Amendment to the Bill of Rights to preserve the power of the people in lieu of a stronger federal government.

Today, misinformed individuals have shown disdain towards the NRA. The NRA lobbies the U. S. Congress on behalf of its members against gun control. It is a contentious issue because many Americans believe that gun control is the answer to crime, instead of criminal control.

Since most early Americans were of European decent, they had plenty of experience with totalitarianism. During most of the middle ages to around the 1500's to 1600's, the rich ruling class or Nobles had arms and there were professional armies to fight any enemies. The King was the legislator and the enforcer of state law, a dictator. The rest of society was full of "commoners" who were for the most part disenfranchised from having any representation in government. When our forefathers added the Second Amendment to the Bill of Rights in the U. S. Constitution, this was

the ultimate insurance against any attempt to wrest power away from the people. Therefore, it is an elitist concept to not trust common citizens with firearms.

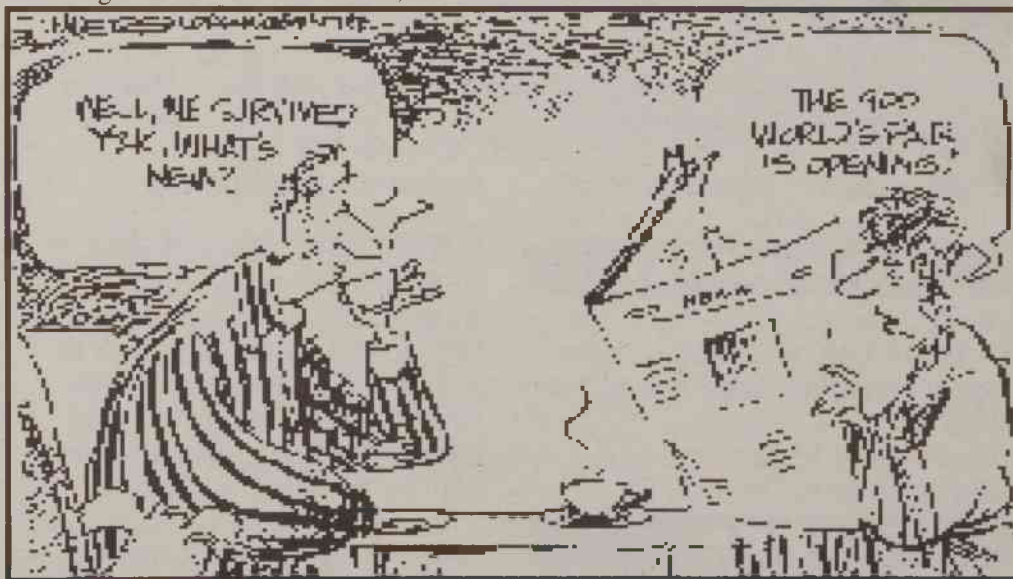
It is every citizen's civic duty to learn how to operate a firearm. This idea is in the U. S. Constitution, within the Second Amendment. A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed. In the beginning of our republic, every able bodied male from 17 to 45 years of age had to bring their own firearm to form a citizen militia. The people brought power to bear against an enemy, not the government.

"I am the NRA" and I target shoot paper targets at a gun club with my father and many citizens from Hubert, North Carolina. We are all typical God fearing, law-abiding, patriotic American citizens. I guess I am part of a militia, but it has nothing to do with either the gun club nor the NRA.

Bryan Kalfin

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Seahawk encourages all readers to submit letters to the editor for possible publication. Please limit all correspondence to 300 words. The Seahawk may edit letters for space. The Seahawk reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter. Libelous, false, and misleading material will not be considered for publication. All letters must be signed by the author. Letters to the editor are the individual opinions of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Seahawk staff or the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Letters can be submitted in person at the Seahawk office, University Union room 205E; by mail at The Seahawk Newspaper, 601 S. College Rd. Wilmington, NC 28403; or by email at shkeditor@hotmail.com



happen..."

But it's true - Americans were going nuts! Hoarding canned food. Spreading patently false rumors about martial law and bank-account freezes. Believing TV commercials that hyped up the 'danger' of another tick on the calendar. And fawning over their home computer systems as if they were first-born children about to be killed in some sort of Old Testament plague.

And now... silence.

The fireworks are naught but burnt paper casings and atmospheric particles... the empty champagne bottles are either in dump or recycling bin...

the brightly-colored packages of Norton Utilities' Y2K analysis software have probably been marked down to 99 cents. All is calm, all is bright - thanks to CP&L - so let's all breathe a collective sigh of relief.

However...well, remember the scientists and historically-accurate types who keep reminding us that, mathematically speaking, the new millennium doesn't start until 2001, since there was no 'year zero'? Shouldn't we be ready, ah... well, what if something, um...?

Never mind.