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The Daily Tar Heel

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Sex scare

Sex sells — but not in Hillsborough. Propaganda by a group that hearkens back to the Moral Majority of the 1980s seems to be the only thing that the town's board of adjustment and residents are buying.

A week ago, the Orange Coalition Against Pornography took out a full-page ad in local newspapers asking people to join in saying "No" to PHE, Inc., which runs Adam & Eve, the nation's largest mail-order business of sex materials, adult videotapes and contraceptives.

The Hillsborough Board of Adjustment caved into pressure from this group Wednesday night and failed to grant PHE a conditional use permit to move into a new building in the Meadowlands Industrial Park in northern Hillsborough.

Unfortunately, the board and activists failed to realize that PHE has as legitimate a reason as any other company to move to the industrial park. The denial of the special-use permit was based in part on PHE's failure "to protect motorists and pedestrians."

Contrary to the beliefs of some, the company's existence in the park would not harm anyone or pollute the minds of children. All of the community's

children who have to be protected from the evil that supposedly lurks behind the closed doors of PHE were conceived somehow. They haven't yet been corrupted by what goes on behind their parents' closed doors.

Local residents and out-of-town visitors coming into Carrboro on N.C. 54 only see PHE's present location as a brick building that looks like any business. And that's what it is. There are no sex toys or pornographic pictures taped to the mailbox, and there aren't any life-sized posters with sexual undertones (or overtones) up in the windows.

PHE's move would have supplied the town of Hillsborough with about 100 new jobs and an increase its tax base of \$20,000 per year. It would not make the town "The Pornography Capital of the South" nor would it "endanger public, health and general welfare." These arguments that opponents recently present are weak.

PHE Inc. is the victim of a coalition of ministers afraid to let individuals decide for themselves what "pollutes" a community. The two members of the Hillsborough Board of Adjustment who voted against the measure also fell prey to McCarthyism tactics — a trumped-up "sex scare" as effective and empty as the infamous Senator's "Red scare."

An apple for teachers

Many faculty members and teaching assistants at the University make a difference daily in the educational experiences of their students.

The Students' Undergraduate Teaching Awards offer the chance for students to say a big "thank you" to those faculty who take time to make that difference, and send a message to the administration as to what students think comprises quality teaching.

Nomination forms are available at Chase Hall and Lenoir Dining Hall, the Campus Y, Davis Library, Granville Towers, the Undergraduate Library and the Union desk. The forms are due Sunday at 5 p.m., so students have plenty of time to pick one up, fill it out and drop it off at the designated locations around campus.

This University is blessed with tenured professors, nontenured professors and teaching assistants, many of whom combine their research/publication accomplishments with the ability to teach undergraduates. More than just a handful of professors are considered the best in their fields in research, and for that the University has gained a great reputation.

But teaching is what these awards are all about, and it should be at the forefront of any educational experience.

Following the research versus teaching debates spawned by the tenure denial (and later approval) of speech communication Assistant Professor Paul Ferguson, who won the award in 1992, these awards take on even larger meaning.

Administrators and deans, some of whom think only publication and research belie excellent teaching skills, must pay attention to the names that students put forward. While tenured professors will rank high among the nominations, so will teaching assistants and nontenured professors.

If nomination forms are not available at one location, go to another and get a form. The administration surely will listen to 20,000 nominations for teaching awards.

Taking a few minutes to reward a faculty member or TA who could give present and future University students a lifetime of learning isn't too much of a sacrifice.

TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

"We just don't cancel class for snow."
Chancellor Paul Hardin, on the likelihood that the weather might interfere with education.

"The problem to me is when people say we can improve education by hammering on the teachers."
U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley in a series of discussions on President Clinton's economic and educational plans held on the UNC campus Friday.

"Hillary care will not replace health care."
House Minority Whip U.S. Rep. Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., speaking to a John Locke Foundation fund-raiser in Raleigh Monday.

"They're like the KKK and neo-Nazis."
Gaile Chaney, Hillsborough resident, on the nature of PHE Inc., a distributor of sexual material seeking to relocate from Carrboro to Hillsborough.

"The first thing we did to mock the DTH, we gave them a memo that made no sense. It was a joke and they just didn't get it."
Student Body President John Moody, about the memo on which he forged Student Body Vice President Charlie Higgins' initials.

"We cannot afford to continue the status quo. Those who want to continue business as usual will be running a failed business."
U.S. Vice President Al Gore, in an address he gave to the N.C. General Assembly last Friday.

"Not one woman who has gone through the Honor Court process or has taken a case to it has recommended (going through the student courts)."
Ruth Campbell, co-chairwoman of Women Against Rape, on the experiences of rape victims who have pressed charges in the Honor Court.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Distribution and Printing: Village Printing Company.
The Daily Tar Heel is published by the DTH Publishing Corp., a non-profit North Carolina corporation, Monday-Friday, according to the University calendar. Callers with questions about billing or display advertising should dial 912-1163 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Classified ads can be reached at 962-0252. Editorial questions should be directed to 962-0245/0246.
Office: Suite 104 Carolina Union
U.S. Mail address: P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3257
Campus mail address: CB# 5210 Box 49, Carolina Union



Secret formula for Crystal Pepsi discovered

I'm sick. In fact, I'm writing this column on a borrowed portable computer in a hospital bed at Student Health. I even have an IV stuck in my hand. Yum. Because of this, I suspect that my column will be much shorter this week, and since I've neglected to tell this to my editor, don't be too surprised if the middle part of this page is taken up with a doodle space or a word search.

I hate being sick. I hate it not so much for the physical pain, but rather for the loss of freedom that comes with having to wise up to the fact that man is, after all, matter, and needs to be taken care of. I only get sick once a year, but when I do I usually end up with an IV in me. I am especially peeved about being sick this time because I just recently purchased a copy of Gray's Anatomy. After I bought it, I thought I'd never have to worry about my body again, because now I have the manual! Sadly, I found that Gray's Anatomy, chock full of great pictures of spines and spleens and muscle tissue, is less of a repair manual and more of a parts catalog, which does me no good.

Hospitals are really boring, which is why you find so many more people in comas in hospitals than anywhere else. I guess the most exciting thing I've done today revolves around my IV. After the nurse who stuck it in me left, I pulled the tube out of my hand and tasted some of it, just out of curiosity. It tasted familiar, but I couldn't quite put my finger on it. So I tried an experiment. I took one of the carbon dioxide

cartridges from the model rocket set my mom left me to amuse myself with while bed-ridden and released it into the IV tube, carbonating the liquid within. Then I tasted it again and stumbled onto an amazing discovery: I had duplicated Crystal Pepsi.

I'm starting to shake, which means that my fever has come back. I think the theory behind fevers is kind of suspect, anyway. I had one that got up to 103 today, so, to make it more pleasant, I recalled why the body gets fevers: By increasing the body's temperature, the body is attempting to make an inhospitable environment for whatever's infecting it. I guess this is a good idea, but to me, right now, it seems like setting your house on fire because you have a burglar.

Hospitals aren't all bad, I suppose. After all, how often can you find a group of people so interested in you that they actively record every time you urinate? Also, with a little imagination, one can make a hospital visit more amusing. For example, when your nurse comes in, it's often fun to ask if you can be bumped up to first class. Or, when your IV bag is being changed, insist on getting one filled with chili. Plus, if

you've ever wanted to yell lots of meaningless phrases and even some profanity, a fever provides you with the perfect excuse. You were delirious! Nobody's going to question someone with a fever.

Having people around to wait on you is pretty nice. When I'm released, I think I might snag the nurse call-button box so I can enjoy this kind of service in my own home. Actually, maybe not. A nurse just handed me the most foul-tasting chicken broth I've ever gagged down. Oh yeah, it's up to you if you want to acknowledge the pun or not. It wasn't intentional, but, if you like that kind of thing, who am I to stop you?

I've been given a breakfast tray, populated with standard, yet bland, breakfast foodstuffs that has a tag that says "soft" on it. This makes me wonder if there's a special "hard" or a "crunchy" meal as well. I guess it would have a big stack of melba toast, some peanut brittle and a nice rock candy garnish. I should ask.

All right, I'm getting tired. I'd like to write more, but I've got white blood cells to manufacture and send out to reclaim my organs from those protein-sheathed bastards, the viruses. Then I've got to sleep and dream about Slim Goodbody giving me a stern lecture on how I need to take better care of myself. Hopefully, I'll be out of here by the time this is printed. Take care of yourselves. Plenty of liquids. Solidarity.

Jason Torchinsky is senior art history major from Greensboro.



Jason Torchinsky
Turn Your Head and Cough

READERS' FORUM

Miracles expected of STV on pennies from heaven

In deciding to defund Student Television to the point of being barely functional, Student Congress members presented the argument that STV was "a luxury" or something the campus could easily do without. Although some students may consider that true, I'd like to show that they're misguided.

STV certainly is a luxury if you just watch it while flipping around channels on week nights. It serves little purpose but to entertain watchers and sometimes it doesn't do that very well. But STV was not created for the watchers. It's a lab a test ground for any student who wants to have anything to do with television. All students, even non-radio, television and motion pictures majors can learn to work a camera, write a script or edit tape if they join STV. It gives practical experience to students interested in journalism, TV production, even comedy. STV is the only resource on this campus that offers that service, and it should be allowed to reach its full potential.

Without proper funding, STV won't get that chance. The new people, new ideas and the new space in the Union gives STV the potential to become a powerful part of the media on this campus in the next couple of years. Don't let a bad argument from a few members of Student Congress take that away.

BRYAN TUCKER
Senior Journalist

Construction on Coker-Bell Tower site ill advised

I was thankful for the letter by biology graduate students, Philip Coulling and Kathy Baker-Brosh (Coker-Bell Tower site not place for new buildings, Feb. 18), which asked that the wooded area between Coker Hall and the Bell Tower be spared from development.

I grew up in Chapel Hill, and have been dismayed at the toll taken by some of the construction here, especially what's happened on South Campus, as mentioned by Mr. Coulling and Ms. Baker-Brosh in their letter.

I pass by from time to time now, and to imagine that this wooded niche may be destroyed is awful.

It's well worth trying to meet the needs for the BCC and a possible new physical sciences building in a way that does not decimate the Coker woodland.

MARGARET HEATH
UNC Class of 1984
Chapel Hill

Waste dump sites chosen for all the wrong reasons

Editor's note: The writer is co-chairman of the Committee for Equality and Environmental Justice, a subcommittee of SEAC.

I am writing this letter to hopefully clear up some misconceptions portrayed in the editorial concerning the proposed "low-level" radioactive waste dump that appeared in the DTH on Feb. 17 titled "Wasteful activism." I would like to start by expressing that it pleases me to see this issue receiving increased attention by the DTH and the rest of the UNC community. I think it is important to have an open dialogue on such issues so that all the different sides can be understood. However, if one side is being misrepresented, then it should be defended. I think the activists addressed in the editorial have been misrepresented.

The editorial emphasized that some Triangle activists have the "not-in-my-backyard" mentality, but this is just not the case. The activists' sincere concerns go beyond their backyards, and they make it a point for this to be understood. These concerns are reflected in the groups' requests for responsible management of the waste.

The editorial is correct; the Chatham County residents are capable of protesting, and so are the residents of Richmond County. The groups NC GROUND ZERO and FORRCCE, of Chatham and Richmond counties respectively, show that. The other groups are involved, not because they see the residents of these counties as incapable. The activists understand that this issue concerns all of us, and the voice of all should be heard.

I would also like to respond to the points about the selected sites. Chatham and Richmond counties were both taken off the list of proposed sites in the original site selection process because of geologic insufficiencies. These two sites were placed back on the top of the list after a report found that these two counties were the most politically feasible counties. The site-selection process was corrupt and deserves criticism. I commend the DTH for its interest in

this issue, displayed by its printing of different cartoons and articles. I do ask, though, that we all understand other positions before we call them childish, as the editorial failed to do. I encourage all to read the different literature and listen to the different views, because this issue goes beyond someone's backyard. This affects all of us.

JOHN BRIGHT
Junior
Political Science

'Debate' on evolution exhibits faith over reason

Much has been written concerning the arrival of Duane Gish and the challenge to debate science with him. Instead of an attack on Dr. Gish's character or on any specific issue, I will let Duane Gish speak for himself as to what constitutes science.

First, Gish's basic tenet: "I have always accepted the Bible as God's unchanging and unchangeable revelation and since it described man and his universe as a special creation of God I have always been a Creationist." (1974) Gish was the founding associate director of the Institute for Creation Research in San Diego, a facility whose founding director, Henry Morris, wrote that the rings of Saturn "... reflect some kind of heavenly catastrophe associated either with Satan's primeval rebellion or his continuing battle with Michael and his angels." (1972) This is the ICR's brand of science.

Gish continues, "I have yet to find a scientific fact which contradicts the Bible, the word of God." (1978) This, of course, means that Dr. Gish believes (and would have you believe) that bats are birds rather than mammals. (Lev. 11:13-19; Deut. 14:11-18) Other examples could be cited.

Gish continues: "We do not know how the Creator created, what processes He used, for He used processes which are not now operating anywhere in the natural universe. This is why we refer to creation as special creation. We cannot discover by scientific investigations anything about the creative processes used by the Creator." (1978) Because Gish believes scientific methods are inadequate to explain the workings of the world he feels justified in rejecting any theory or fact which contradicts his conception of the universe. Of course Gish wants a debate; using his rules, there is no way that he can lose.

THOMAS J. ROSSBACH
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