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The Daily Tar Heel

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Murphy's revenge

Dan Quayle would have a field day. Chapel Hill resident LaVonda Burnette announced Saturday that she would run this fall for a seat on the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education.

Burnette is a one-woman dynamo. In addition to being the vice president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Burnette takes evening classes at the University in pursuit of a bachelor of arts in English.

While these attributes already signify Burnette's dedication to education, she possesses two qualities that completely separate her from other candidates — her age and her family status. She is the 22-year-old single mother of a 5-year-old daughter.

While stereotypes and insensitive remarks from doubting politicians depict single mothers as second-rate citizens, Burnette is proof that members of this class can become valuable community assets.

As a single mother, Burnette understands complete responsibility, and this quality will carry over into her school-board endeavors. If she wins, Burnette will be the youngest person elected to serve on the seven-member board.

Fortunately, Burnette is not a stranger to the local school system. The current school board does not have a member who graduated from the Chapel Hill-

Carrboro system. As a graduate of Chapel Hill High School, Burnette has experienced first-hand the system's positive and negative aspects. She possesses an insider characteristic that other board members can't attain — loyalty to her local alma mater.

Since her daughter also attends a system elementary school, Burnette has a personal stake in every school-board decision. This relationship ensures the community that Burnette will put children first.

Although Burnette has said she will work to provide every child a first-rate education, she hopes to drastically improve opportunities for African Americans. The school board has taken strides to provide quality programs for minority students by establishing a blue ribbon task force on the education of African-American children. As a member of this task force, Burnette and other community members outlined a resolution to create a better learning environment for minority students.

Burnette's age, family status and other experiences undoubtedly will bring a welcomed new light to the board. Burnette told The Daily Tar Heel, "Because I am a product of the schools, a mother, and an African American, I think I can bring a fresh perspective to the board."

Murphy Brown couldn't have said it better.

No 'ifs,' 'ands' or 'butts'

The sinners are about to pay dearly — not with fire and brimstone, but out of their wallets.

President Clinton has proposed a \$2-per-pack tax increase on cigarettes, which is being called unfair by the tobacco industry and being hailed as the beginning of sweeping health reform by proponents of the plan.

But Clinton's proposal places too heavy a burden on one industry. An additional tax on cigarettes is a superb idea to pay for health care costs, and one can follow the rationale behind taxing them: Smoking causes many health problems prevalent in our society, so those who light up their cigarettes should be forced to pay for their habit. If the tax is not put into place, taxpayers — smokers or nonsmokers — will continue footing the bill.

But the tobacco industry should not be forced to bear the costs alone. Cigarettes aren't the only "sin" to which a tax could be applied.

Consumption of alcohol is another "sin" that causes a myriad of health problems. But no one has jumped on the bandwagon in Washington to slap a tax on that industry. A social drink seems to be much more

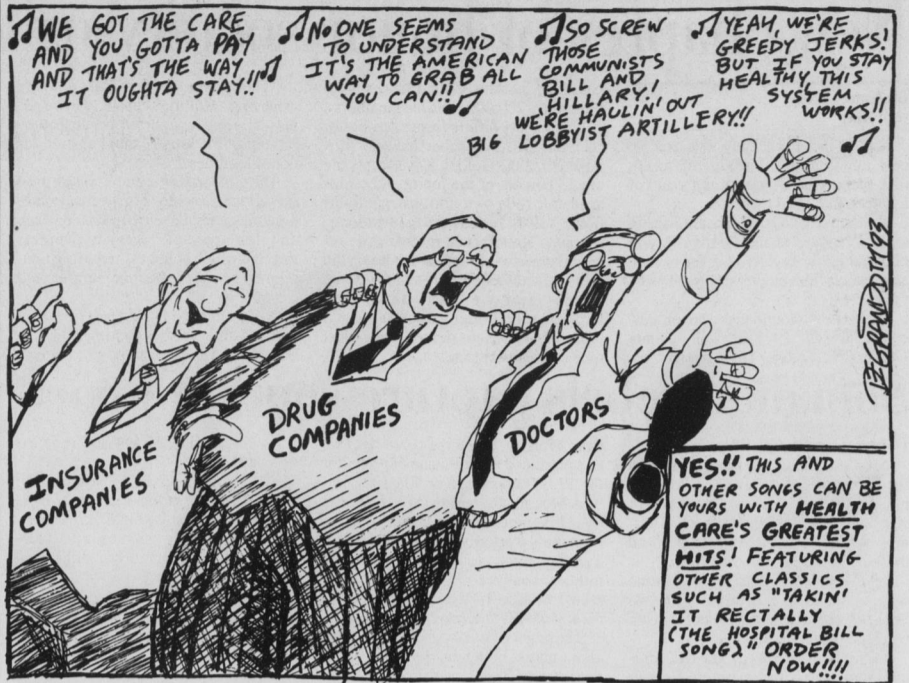
acceptable than a "social smoke" in today's society.

The tobacco industry, which makes up a large part of North Carolina's economy, has been dragged enough through the bureaucratic and political structures in government.

They can't advertise on television, and in recent years, there have been calls for the ban of all advertisements of tobacco products. The Surgeon General's warning that smoking is hazardous to health also prominently is displayed in advertisements and on packs of cigarettes.

An alternative plan proposed by U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley and U.S. Rep. Mike Andrews is better. In two separate bills, they propose a \$1 tax per pack of cigarettes, with 80 percent of the generated revenue (about \$10 billion) going toward paying the health-care costs of uninsured American citizens. The other 20 percent would be used in an anti-smoking education program.

Health-care reform has taken its place as one of Clinton's top priorities, but smokers should not be the lone group of "sinners" shouldering the costs of such widespread change.



Closed borders necessary in terrorized world

The cover of Time magazine's latest issue juxtaposed the electronically disfigured faces of David Koresh, leader of the Waco, Texas, cult now in an armed standoff with police, and of Sheik Omar Abdul Rahman, an Islamic religious leader implicated by circumstance and suspicion with the bombing of the New York World Trade Center.

A frightening analogy, to be sure. But inappropriate and misleading. Koresh and his followers are not terrorists, but murderers.

The standoff is not Texan jihad, but a confrontation gone terribly wrong, its fury fed by the cult's complex paranoia and the relative abundance of firearms in Texas.

Were it not for publication deadlines, Time should have replaced David Koresh's grimace with a picture of Michael Griffin, the anti-abortion protester who last week assassinated Dr. David Gunn outside of his abortion clinic.

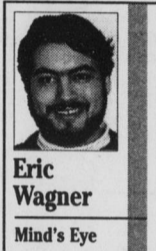
By experience and by television, Americans associate deadly violence with the random mania of the street, with the greed and compulsiveness of the drug trade and with the occasional marital crack-up. But that familiar construct fails to explain the violence of the last two weeks.

Many well-meaning people become confused and agitated when the subject of terrorism comes up. Mention the word "terrorist," and your otherwise rational friends are seized by the need to deconstruct vigorously. Suddenly, my terrorist is your freedom fighter, motivated not by hate but by oppression, different cultural standards, tribal values, "state terrorism," etc.

Wanting to be fair, aspiring to sophistication, but blinded by the moral numbness that is the inevitable conclusion of their breezy relativism, our friends cannot bring themselves to decide, judge, condemn.

So they inquire: Who are we to say what is a terrorist, biased as we are by our particular set of values, trapped there in the prison of our unique cultural vocabulary? If only we understood

where the terrorist was coming from, his childhood, his life, we wouldn't feel so bad about cleaning up the bloody mess he left behind during the latest expression of his resentment.



Eric Wagner
Mind's Eye

Terrorism is not murder. Its purpose is not to kill, but to frighten. Its victims are not those crushed in the rubble, but their neighbors and their nation, most recently the Americans who watch Tom Brokaw during dinner and read the paper during breakfast.

Terrorism is most effective when it is unexpected and unpredictable. The occupants of any skyscraper in any big American city can consider themselves potential targets; doctors at abortion clinics anywhere are at risk (as are anti-abortion leaders).

The abortion-related terrorism is easily contained because it has existed in America for years — abortion clinics are regularly bombed and their occupants sprayed with acid. Law enforcement officials are familiar with both the terrorists and their specific group of victims. The means of preventing the terrorism are available; but the public's will has been weak.

America deals regularly with terrorism, but rarely within its borders. The government demonstrated that it retaliates harshly to terrorism against Americans when it bombed Libya after a bombing in Paris. Assuming that the current and future administrations will continue this proper policy, the government must now move to secure the country's borders.

Europe, the Middle East and Africa regularly are seized by terrorism because of the relative ease with which terrorists slip in and out of these areas. Long histories of nomadism, colonial interchanges, occupations, smuggling and official corruption make land bor-

ders obsolete.

America has, until now, been free of international terrorism because of the relative tightness of its borders, its geographic isolation and its perceived military might. But that trend is changing.

The State Department official responsible for America's consulates around the world testified on Monday to a congressional committee that his consular workers in north Africa and elsewhere were simply unable to accurately and safely process the thousands of entry visa applications they receive every year.

Sen. Alfonso D'Amato of New York testified recently on the Senate floor that the Immigration and Naturalization Services office at New York's John F. Kennedy airport was unable to detain and properly process the 1,800 people who seek political asylum there every month, up from 600 a month four years ago.

The United States must accelerate and expand its infant "pre-inspection" program, which conducts not only the obvious security checks, but also immigration background checks on passengers before they depart to the United States. Pre-inspection, which exists now at only a few airports in Europe, must be worldwide.

The sophisticated "lookout" system, the State Department's computerized directory of known terrorists and their affiliates, automatically checks for aliases and variations in spellings. But the sophisticated system is not available at all airports and consulates where entry visas are issued.

The consulate in the Sudan still uses an antiquated fiche system that fails without its operator's patience and attention. Mistakes happen frequently:

One of the men implicated in the World Trade Center bombing entered the United States with an illegal visa issued in the Sudan, where 7,000 applications a year are processed by two staffers.

Eric Wagner is a senior political science major from Jerusalem who only terrorizes his younger sister, who deserves it.



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 962-1163 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.

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READERS' FORUM

Editorial cast negative light on University Police

To the editor:
In reference to our recent telephone conversation, I remain distressed that the students went home on Spring Break fearing, as a consequence of your editorial ("Student rights take a Spring Break," Mar. 5), that their Fourth Amendment rights would be violated by the University Police during their absence. While the article was factual, the headline gave the impression that the University Police had a systematic plan to search students' rooms for illegal drugs.

Your editorial was not just misleading, but was an irresponsible piece of journalism. We at the University Police Department have worked hard to establish a good relationship with the students and to create a partnership to ensure a safer campus community. Your editorial set up barriers to this trust. In addition, since it was published the first day of Spring Break, I could not respond before the students left.

I am asking that you set the record straight by publishing an apology and correction prominently displayed in the Daily Tar Heel. This correction should include that there have been no plans on the part of the University Police to search the rooms of any students without probable cause. The University Police respond to calls by either a student or a resident assistant for service within the residence halls. We do not conduct searches without probable cause. In fact, all but one of our drug arrests last year were on view arrests, and the majority of these were in the parking lots at concerts and other special events.

We are a law enforcement agency, and our mission is to enforce local, state and federal laws. We also are sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States, of which the Fourth Amendment is a part. Our officers respect the rights of our community members whether they are students, faculty or staff. I hope

your correction reflects this fact.

ALANA M. ENNIS
Chief of Police
University Police

Applications available for housing Diversity Program

(Editor's note: Charles Streeter is president of the Residence Hall Association. The deadline for applications for the Diversity Program is Friday.)

For the past two years, the RHA has been engaged in a bold new plan to increase the presence of African-American students in the residence halls on North and Mid campuses.

Historically, many African-American residents have chosen to live on South Campus because of an established sense of community. The Diversity Program is aimed at bringing this community spirit and support to other regions of campus.

Spaces again have been designated for African-American students who currently reside on South and Mid campuses who wish to participate in the program. The program does not dislocate students currently living on North and Mid campuses. Information about the application process is available from the housing or RHA offices.

The success of the Diversity Program depends on both the African-American students participating in it and residents living on the Mid and North campuses.

The Department of University Housing and RHA want to make sure that each individual living in the residence halls feels that he or she can live anywhere on campus and be part of any community.

We would like to extend a challenge to African-American students who are to consider moving to the North and Mid campuses and help in making the campus more culturally diverse.

CHARLES STREETER
Senior

Campus Y remains true to mission and agenda

Editor's note: The authors are co-presidents of the Campus Y.

To the editor:
To say that the "Campus Y screams foul whenever its mission is opposed," ("Color inside the lines," Mar. 3) is a very true statement. We actively uphold the ideals of pluralism and the pursuit of social justice. If this activism is to be considered as "holier than thou," then so be it. Playing the role of educator is part of the purpose of the Campus Y, and it is a position that we take very seriously. We strive, as in the case of the information distributed on the Rape-Free Zone, to present a full picture of an issue or story because we want to give people the opportunity to make their own decision, but we do not consider one-sided, half-truth journalism to be providing complete education.

We are not going to attempt to form a "pointing the finger" defense on behalf of the Campus Y because we do not need to nor want to. We are acutely aware of our mission and our purpose, and we wholeheartedly will do everything in our power to uphold our beliefs. Yes, Student Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Bibbs did properly remove himself from the case, but the facts and information concerning how he became situated in this position are very shady.

As representatives of the Campus Y, we hold ourselves accountable to the Campus Y and its members. We therefore feel that placing blame and entering into the tactics of name-calling takes the emphasis away from what we are fighting for — EDUCATION, PLURALISM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

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