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The Daily Tar Heel

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Oh, when the Heels go marching in

In its 75-68 overtime victory Sunday against the Cincinnati Bearcats, the UNC men's basketball team stopped our hearts. Twice.

The first time was at the end of regulation with a dunk gone awry by junior forward Brian Reese. Not only did our hearts stop, but UNC assistant coach Phil Ford flipped out. He did a back flip — unbeknownst to him — in his suit and tie when the dunk bounced high off the back of the rim, and he nearly tripped over the scorer's table.

Sophomore guard Donald Williams rendered the second heart-stopping moment when he made the second of his two three-pointers in overtime — the only two field goals in what seemed an eternal five minutes. He dribbled around the screen, squared up to the basket and ... *swish*.

Bedlam broke loose in bars, residence halls, apartments and fraternity houses.

At the end of the overtime period, the jubilant fans spilled onto Franklin Street. There was lots of hugging, bonfire-building, beer-swilling and pointing of index fingers into the air with the customary cry of

"Number One!" interspersed with a few "Go to hell, Dook!" chants.

The team returned Sunday night to hundreds more elated fans — adults and children alike — at Raleigh-Durham International Airport and, later, to about 3,000 students at the Smith Center. All were excited, some still were drunk from the Franklin Street celebration, and no one was questioning the Heels' chances to win it all in New Orleans.

The glory doesn't just belong to the five starters and to Dean Smith. It belongs to those who don't get as much playing time but contribute their skills in practice every day. It belongs to the assistant coaches, managers and everyone involved in the program.

But glory also belongs to the fans — those that never gave up despite a 21-point deficit in a game versus Florida State, those that stayed in their upper-level seats in the Smith Center and made some noise despite the relative silence of the lower level and those that have kept faith through the rare but unimpressive losses as well as the magnificent wins.

Next Monday night, the party will be even bigger.

Free your mind

The Pit, we hope, never will be the same.

In an effort to dispel all-too-frequent stereotypes, Bisexuals, Gay men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity is sponsoring Lesbian and Gay Awareness Week. The week's events are designed to promote community awareness and provide homosexuals a safe, open environment.

B-GLAD's slate of eye-opening programs will give community members the opportunity to broaden their minds. The weeklong variety of speakers, radio programming and Pit performances are guaranteed to raise awareness — and some eyebrows. Although some of the activities might seem risqué to some cloistered heterosexuals, B-GLAD is counting on a crowd.

And just so a few members of our dear Student Congress can get a better night's sleep, Lesbian and Gay Awareness Week is *not* intended to "convert" anyone to another lifestyle. But the event is designed to get people talking, and a few raving Pit preachers should stop trying to steal the spotlight they regularly enjoy and try to monopolize.

One of the key speakers for the week will be Crae Pridgen, a Wilmington victim of gay-bashing by Marines. Pridgen is scheduled to speak at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Hanes Auditorium. While all homo-

sexuals carry emotional scars from their battles with an intolerance, the physical atrocities that Pridgen underwent in Wilmington at the hands of "America's finest" are proof that awareness and respect sadly still are lacking and must be nurtured in our society.

During past awareness weeks, B-GLAD sponsored Blue Jeans Day, one day of the week that homosexuals and their allies wore jeans to support gay rights. B-GLAD members chose to delete the annual Blue Jeans Day from this year's schedule, opting instead for pink and lavender armbands.

In the past, many students would forget on which day of the week Blue Jeans Day fell, and they would arrive on campus wearing their everyday attire. These students then would go through the rest of the day feeling embarrassed and self-conscious if they didn't intend to support homosexuality.

Welcome to the real world. This one day of heterosexual hell can't compare to the everyday encounters homosexuals face from self-righteous homophobes. But this year, B-GLAD decided that open and honest support — instead of accidental wardrobe choices — would better serve the week's purpose. The armbands, which are available in the Pit, will function as a true symbol of allied support.

So grab an armband, and open your mind.

Suite C scores big

Anyone who missed historian Arthur Schlesinger's speech on campus Monday night already has missed one quarter of the most exciting and impressive project to come out of the executive branch of student government this year.

The four-day lecture series is noteworthy not just because of its timely topics or because of the nationally known speakers it is bringing to this campus, but because of the way that student government has gone about organizing and funding the project.

All this week, students have the chance to listen to debates and lectures from people such as Dinesh D'Souza, whose book "Illiberal Education" ignited the multiculturalism controversy last year, and Molefi Kete Asante, the leading Afrocentrist in the nation. The two represent the balance of conservative and liberal ideas that organizers have managed to create with the seven men and women they've invited.

The mix of speakers probably is part of the reason that Student Congress members readily agreed to donate \$15,000 from their coffers to help pay for the event. But there's an even better reason. And it's called initiative.

Before they even made their request to congress, organizers sent out literally hundreds of letters to individuals, foundations and corporations asking them to help fund the project, which is costing about \$50,000. They received \$10,000 from the Carolina Union Activities Board, and they raised about \$20,000 from other sources. According to Donna Ramaswamy, the program organizer, that's the most money ever raised by students.

Lobbying foundations and private sources for student projects isn't a new idea. It's been met with great enthusiasm when mentioned by student body presidents and other campus politicians in the past. But this is the first time that it's been used to raise a substantial amount of money for such a project. Other student groups should follow the executive branch's lead. And when they do, they should be rewarded for their efforts through help from Student Congress.

Students should take advantage of the executive branch's hard work and attend at least one of the events this week. The debate and lectures promise to be lively and thought-provoking. And you'll certainly get your money's worth.



Foreign-aid pennies return dressed as nickels

Senator Jesse Helms told me once that, as a matter of principle, he opposes any sort of American foreign aid. That, according to him, the United States had too many hungry mouths to feed at home. With a budget deficit, high taxes, homelessness, unemployment and until recently the recession, the United States could not afford to send any money abroad.

He isn't the only Republican so critically concerned with effects of foreign aid programs on homelessness and unemployment. Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas, currently the highest-ranking Republican in government, wrote a few years ago in a New York Times editorial that the current foreign-aid levels to the top five recipient countries should be cut back by 5 percent.

David Obey, the Democrat who chairs the House committee that is responsible for appropriating and approving foreign-aid programs, recently announced that because of America's aforementioned economic ills, foreign-aid programs will have to be reduced and restructured altogether.

Foreign aid is apparently so unpopular with the voters that former President Richard Nixon had to publicly embarrass former President George Bush to coerce the latter to provide Russia with vital economic assistance.

Foreign aid is much less popular with some voters than others. A group calling itself the Liberation Army Fifth Battalion (!!) wrote to the New York Times that it bombed New York's World Trade Center to protest American foreign aid to Israel.

The Liberation Army Fifth Battalion (where are the other four?) has its own reasons for opposing foreign aid, but what about our senior legislators? At

current levels, foreign aid represents only 0.9 percent of the budget and only 0.27 percent of the gross national product; in fact, the Red Cross, CARE and Jewish Joint Distribution Committee distribute more foreign aid per year than does the United States. So why all the fuss from the elected officials?

It's easy to attack foreign aid when there's little else to do. Congress is under pressure from the voters to resolve the various economic ills and to cut spending. Reluctant to eliminate any of their pork-barrel projects and scared of cutting funding to popular but inefficient programs like Social Security, legislators would rather cut programs whose constituencies are small or nonexistent.

They might be on to something. If foreign aid only helps non-Americans in Third World countries, there shouldn't be much opposition to cutting the assistance. But, of course, it's not that easy. What legislators don't tell their voters is that the benefits of foreign-aid programs are enjoyed primarily by Americans, not Third Worlders or Russians.

It's particularly amusing that traditional, pro-business Republicans oppose foreign aid — it, after all, helps their constituents. Seventy-five percent of all foreign aid distributed by the United States is spent right back in the United States. Foreign governments buy tech-

nical products and agricultural goods from American businesses and farmers, Republican voters all.

A recent Pentagon study concluded that the \$6 billion of foreign aid given to allies to purchase military goods from American defense contractors actually injects \$20 to \$30 billion annually into the American economy. After all of the fancy calculations are computed by policy wonks, this translated to about 200,000 American jobs created.

Foreign aid also helps open up new markets for American exports by stabilizing the economies of the recipient countries. Today, 43 of the 50 largest markets for American farm goods have been recipients of U.S. foreign aid at some time. Due in large part to foreign-aid programs like the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, U.S. exports to foreign aid recipients grew by 70 percent between 1986 and 1990.

Last year, 40 percent, nearly \$146 billion worth, of all U.S. exports went to developing nations, virtually all of which receive U.S. foreign aid. This export level supports 1 million American jobs.

By the year 2000, four out of five consumers will live in the developing countries. American industry and workers have an interest in these countries' economic welfare. Republicans and Democrats alike should not use foreign aid as a scapegoat for their own unwillingness to cut the fat.

With foreign aid representing less than 1 percent of the United States' budget, we cannot afford to not have it.

Eric Wagner, a senior political science major from Jerusalem, receives foreign aid from his parents, who aren't Republicans.



Eric Wagner
Mind's Eye

Convicted rapists have no place in co-ed UNC

It's easy to come up with some fairly convincing arguments for why Chancellor Hardin needs to adopt a policy of expulsion for UNC students convicted of rape or sexual assault. Most reasonable people agree, after all, that rape is an atrocity. And the absence of a policy for the automatic expulsion of convicted rapists is based on some contradictions that are indefensible and absurd.

Consider: This university will not admit someone who has been convicted of rape or sexual assault unless he (or she) can show clear evidence of rehabilitation. Yet if that same person was convicted after he'd been admitted, while he was a student on your hall and in your classes, then he could be back in school immediately and with this university's blessing.

Consider: This university is concerned enough about rape to keep all the residence halls on campus locked to the outside 24 hours per day. Yet as they lock out potential rapists, they are locking in known, convicted rapists.

Consider: This university expels those convicted of hazing or drug offenses automatically. Can anyone seriously suggest that if you make a drunken freshman do naked jumping jacks you are more of a threat to this community than if you rape a woman?

If you're a man, just take a moment to think about how you would have felt if, two months into your freshman year, you found out that your roommate had been convicted of rape his sophomore year. Your mom would have been bawling out an administrator within the hour.

Matt Stiegler
Guest Columnist

Now, convicted rapists and their allies probably will be unconvinced by this reasoning. Rapists are people who have committed a despicable crime, they will admit, but they are people. If they were convicted, their supporters will claim, then they paid. If we think they haven't paid enough, they will say, then our gripe is with the courts or the laws. To impose justice through the University, the rapist will say, seems arbitrary. To deny them the opportunity for an education and everything that means for their future seems mean-spirited.

And, in a sense, they are right. They are right that policies that shape people's lives need ultimately answer not to symbolism, but to people. But to conclude from that that UNC should not expel convicted rapists is moronic. Because when push comes to shove, we're not fighting for this change because I don't want to room with rapists or because this university needs to say that rape is at least as serious as hazing. We're not doing this to ruin rapists' lives like they've ruined their victims'.

We're doing it because convicted rapists are three to four times more likely than the general population to rape again. We're doing it because UNC is a co-ed university, with co-ed dormitories and co-ed floors. We're doing it because when a woman asks a man to walk her home from the library at night, she should be able to assume he didn't

rape someone as a sophomore. We're doing it because women shouldn't have to ask if the guy in her small group project has any sexual-assault convictions. We're doing it because a woman has a right to go to class and go home to her dormitory and go to a party without daily facing the man convicted of raping her.

We're doing it because we know that if our best friends or our girlfriends or our sisters or our suitmates got raped by a student who this administration knew was a convicted rapist, but who they blithely decided wasn't a "real threat to the community," then we would have some questions to ask of Chancellor Hardin that he could not answer.

We are the Rape Action Project, the Women's Forum, the Feminist's Alliance, Women Against Rape, Students for the Advancement of Race Relations, Bisexuals, Gay men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity, the Political Action Committee for Equal Rights and the Student Organized Movement Against Discrimination. We are the office of the student body president-elect and the Campus Y. We are hundreds of petition-signing students. And we are committed to this simple act of justice, this simple act of sanity.

This isn't a difficult issue. This doesn't have to be a shouting match in the local media for the next month. Chancellor Hardin, it is time for this policy.

Matt Stiegler, a junior history major from Hatfield, Pa., is coordinator of SO MAD.

READERS' FORUM

Parking signs stolen to relieve ticket trauma

To the editor:
Being the recipient of several parking tickets at our fine University, I believe I have a better idea of the reason parking signs are disappearing. It isn't because they look cool in your room; it's because they are the only visible thing to strike out at after receiving a \$25.00 parking ticket.

After getting a ticket for parking in front of my residence hall for 10 minutes to unload groceries at 7:30 p.m., the first thought that came to my mind was, "I am going to get a hacksaw and cut that damn sign into 10 separate little

pieces." My attitude was not helped much by a parking official's helpful reminder that this would not have happened if someone had been sitting with the car. Honestly, who is going to ask their roommate to go watch their car while they are putting up groceries? Perhaps if the fines weren't so high, they would not prompt such irrational acts as stealing or bashing signs.

Another idea that deserves consideration is installing one or two metered spaces in front of the dormitories. They could be set to expire in 15 minutes so that students would not have to worry about their car being ticketed while they unload their car. Finally, I wonder if any of the money from those tickets is helping to pay for all those poles that are

being used to close off Ramshead lot (the last refuge for students who need to park on campus before 9:30 p.m.).

CHAD HOOPER
Sophomore
Pharmacy

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■ If you want your letter published, sign and date it. No more than two signatures.
■ The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity.

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