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# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Visiting hours

At Carlton College in Minnesota, there is no policy governing when men and women can visit in the residence halls. All suites in all dormitories are co-ed.

At Rice University in Texas, male and female students in the residence halls share co-ed bathrooms.

The same is true for Columbia University in New York City.

But at UNC, a Department of University Housing policy regulates when men and women can visit. Currently, students may have guests of the opposite sex from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. on weekends. The policy is archaic and should be revoked.

And if housing department officials approve a proposal in May, the UNC policy could change.

After two years of debate about an appropriate visitation policy for UNC residence halls, housing department officials and members of a housing advisory board have come up with a way for residents to vote on a policy for individual dormitories.

According to the proposal, each dormitory would have a chance to vote on one of three options: to keep the present policy, to keep the present policy on

weekdays but have unlimited visitation on weekends or to implement a policy that would allow completely unlimited visitation.

The housing department should be congratulated for finally coming up with a workable proposal that would allow students to decide how they want to live.

But the proposal still is not satisfactory. Any student who does not vote automatically casts a ballot in favor of the present policy.

If the proposal is implemented, students should be informed well in advance of the day the residents will vote. In the midst of beginning-of-the-year confusion, students often miss dormitory meetings. It is imperative that students show up to vote. If they don't vote, they might unknowingly cast their ballot for a policy they don't favor.

In addition, the idea of having a policy is old-fashioned. Visitation policies exist primarily for parents who want to make sure their children will be watched over for another four years.

The housing department needs to come into the 20th century and realize that the present policy already is defunct. Students are legally adults and do not need to be watched over by a University-run bed patrol.

## A legislative low blow

N.C. legislators quickly shoved a bill to legalize sodomy and oral sex back into the proverbial closet last week, and in doing so, they continued the long-held N.C. tradition of violating every citizen's right to privacy in his or her own bedroom.

The bill, which was proposed by N.C. Rep. Marie Colton, D-Buncombe, was defeated in committee despite rational, convincing opinions presented by the N.C. Civil Liberties Union and the N.C. Council of Churches.

The thrust of their argument was that the present law is used to keep gays and lesbians silenced, further exacerbating the problems of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in this state. It is used selectively to intimidate homosexuals by demanding their equal rights, and it even has been used on this campus as an argument for defunding groups like Bisexuals, Gay men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity.

But the law should be a concern to every N.C. citizen — homosexual, bisexual, heterosexual or otherwise — because it represents an attempt by our government to legislate morality and to dictate what one group deems "appropriate" sexual behavior. What happens between two (or more) consenting adults in the privacy of their own home obviously

should be of no concern to the N.C. General Assembly.

The clearly defined arguments of proponents of the bill were a sharp contrast to the attitude of legislators, who bent over backward *not* to talk about the issue. Rep. Colton couldn't even find a colleague courageous enough to co-sponsor the bill.

The unwillingness of legislators to consider the bill was not only political cowardice, it was hypocritical.

A recent study published by the Guttmacher Institute showed that 79 percent of white males had performed oral sex, and 81 percent said they had received it. That unsurprisingly high statistic has to cause one to reflect on whether our own N.C. legislators are guilty of violating a law that they have been so eager to protect.

Legislators might have thought they were taking the moral high ground by defeating Colton's bill, but their refusal to allow the legislation to make it to the House floor is a pathetic attempt to save their own political skin.

Proponents of the right to privacy should continue to bring bills like Colton's back out of the closet and into the light, for the sake of every N.C. citizen who values his or her own privacy.

## Getting the job done

It seemed an impossible case to crack.

The story? A 22-year-old man hit by a car amidst throngs of people and left in the street; a driver who realized the accident but fled the scene anyway.

But, with leads taking them as far away as Illinois and Florida, Chapel Hill police officials made an arrest in a chilling crime — the April 5 hit-and-run that occurred after the UNC men's basketball team won the NCAA Championship.

With the arrest of Theodore Edward Mosier, a 45-year-old Durham resident, police officers demonstrated what good detective work is all about.

Authorities had little to go on. Several witnesses identified a zero on the car's out-of-state license plate.

Then the Florida Highway Patrol determined that the zero in fact was a "D" and found a car matching

the description given to Chapel Hill police.

But the owner of the white 1992 Chevrolet Lumina, an Illinois resident, informed police that the car had been sold to Mosier.

Thanks to impressive work by the Chapel Hill Police Department and cooperation with colleagues in other states, friends and family of Navdeep Singh Dhesi, a Greensboro resident, can rest easier. But these same friends and families, as well as others who have heard about Dhesi's situation, must continue to endure the pain as Dhesi recuperates. He remains in a coma at UNC Hospitals.

The hit-and-run injected some bad news in what was supposed to be a happy night in Chapel Hill. But, if the arrest proves justified, the quick action of the Chapel Hill police has provided a silver lining in an unsettling story.



## Correct balancing reveals strong leader, editor

Dear Peter,  
I wrote my first column on this page as a guest. The column was an angry 1,000-word response to the incorrect position that The Daily Tar Heel's editors had taken on Bradley Smith's Holocaust denial advertisement in the Duke University Chronicle.

I stayed up all night writing that one; I felt sick when I gave Doug Ferguson, who was then the editorial page editor, those few pages. But I also felt relieved. If my words made an impact on a few readers or on a few stubborn student journalists, then the effort was worth it. Not the effort of writing, but of recollection and pain.

I supported you in the DTH editor election last spring because I knew that your opponents defended the Chronicle Holocaust denial ad and that you didn't. Your position was brave, and among journalists it was unpopular. But you were right. And your opponents, who supported Bradley Smith's hate and racism, were wrong and hardheaded and stupid. In any case, I'm glad you won.

Of course it's difficult on a college campus, in the environment of intellectual inquiry and philosophical ferment, to establish clearly what is right and wrong. Scholarship is, after all, the constant tugging and picking at the established. By nature, the work that goes on at the academy is revolutionary, it is anti-establishment.

Smart people used to believe firmly that the entire human potential was carried in a sperm and that the womb was simply a vessel in which that sperm developed into a baby. Can you imagine how shocking our discovery that the sperm and egg contribute equal amounts of genetic information to the offspring might seem to scientists of a few hundred years ago? The Catholic Church regularly locked up any scientist whose views did not conform to religious dogma. If it could, would it do so today?

Truth is a tenuous thing, then, Peter. But it must count for something. When William F. Buckley Jr., the founder of National Review, was here for the first time, in December of 1962, he gave what was then a very provocative speech

on conservatism and America's role in the Cold War. In response to the lecture, a member of the audience sent a note to the stage that mockingly asked, "What is absolute truth?"

Buckley paused and answered, "Eight dollars a year." The subscription price to National Review.

Sometimes it is easier to laugh than to argue. And in the skeptical intellectual environment on the campus, it is easier to argue that all truths are relative, temporary and certainly products of the prejudices of the age. End an argument not by resolving its points of contention, but by stating that the participants' opinions are limited by the boundaries of their race, class and gender. Kill a healthy debate by proclaiming that the very ground on which the debaters are standing is weak and paper-thin.

As you know by now, I disagree. I reject trite relativism and the scholarship of self-esteem. I think it's all right to be insensitive and offensive if the pursuit of truth is our goal. The truth is not \$8 a year, nor can it be simply another expression of our cultural bias.

No, wait. I take that back. The truth is, in fact, another expression of our cultural bias. Of course it is! It is the primary expression of our bias. And so what?

If a biologist chooses to study the developmental functions of the *wingless* gene on the *Drosophila* fruit fly, he recreates the proper conditions in his laboratory. Even though millions of flies are buzzing about outside, even though their genome is the result of a long and steady evolution, the biologist will test his hypothesis by mapping the *wingless* gene, by "chromosome walking" in his lab.

What's the point of the biology lesson? The biologist must recreate reality

in his laboratory. He must reinvent truth to fit within the walls of his office. Everything must be sterile, every specimen free from contamination. The fly food must contain a precise level of sugars. I know you're merely a political science major, Peter, but even you could guess that in the environment, nothing is sterile or precise.

But again, so what? Are the results of the said biologist's studies legitimate? Even though the experiment took place in a unique environment — in an cool laboratory — we can draw conclusions from the results of the studies that apply easily to the outdoors.

The same is true for our social experiments. Your opponents were wrong about the Holocaust denial ad because they reversed our biologist's experiment. Rather than recreating the environment in the lab to reach their conclusions, those stubborn journalism students tried to recreate the lab in the environment.

Peter, I know it's hard for you with all of these metaphors. The lab the stubborn journalism students tried to recreate in the real world is their self-assumed stewardship of the First Amendment. Damn it, we can print whatever we want — it says right there, in the Constitution.

It doesn't work that way. Your paper, like most other papers, does not print the names of rape victims in order to protect their identity. So the First Amendment neither requires that everything be printed, nor is it too stiff to bend occasionally.

Everything bends. Even the truth. But that the truth is subject to occasional manipulations should not prevent us from seeking it. That we are susceptible to occasional failings should not slow our search for what is wrong and right. If we cannot master the truth, shall we not at least befriend it?

Thanks for the memories, Peter; you are a terrific editor and a great friend. Love, Eric

Eric Wagner is a senior political science major from Jerusalem.



Eric Wagner  
Mind's Eye

## READERS' FORUM

### UNC's other minorities overlooked in BCC fight

To the editor:  
To quote Dennis Miller, "If you think you've got an ax to grind, I'm Paul f—kin' Bunyan over here!" As a Jewish student on a campus that is struggling to achieve peace amidst extreme cultural tension, my concerns are invariably overlooked.

When William F. Buckley Jr. spoke last Tuesday night, his mention of Auschwitz evoked a chuckle from the substantial portion of an audience full of educated people. Those who found humor in Mr. Buckley's quip might accuse me of being defensive, but a Nazi death camp is never a laughing matter, regardless of the context. I am sure I was not alone in my disgust.

Then Saturday night, Hillel, the Jewish student union, held a vigil for Yom Ha Shoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), where candles and prayer sheets were left in the Pit overnight to call attention to victims of the Holocaust. The next day, most of the sheets were burned or gone, and the candles had been rearranged to spell "DUKE."

Also, in Thursday's Reader's Forum, a letter from Tarrus Carr ("Christ, prayer will help improve race relations") explained that the only way to achieve peace and an appreciation for UNC's diversity is through Jesus Christ.

I am aware that this letter was well-intentioned, and I am not offended. But saying "No Jesus, no peace" kind of leaves me out of the harmony Carr envisions, unless I relinquish my identity as a Jew, which would be similar to a devout Southerner reaching out to the Black Student Movement by donating a portrait of Jefferson Davis. I only make this somewhat harsh analogy to point out that there are several minorities on this campus with different identities, and room must be made for all of them.

My concerns are particularly relevant in the wake of the struggle for a free-standing black cultural center, which I support wholeheartedly. Many BCC

advocates contend that the building will serve to reduce a vast amount of the ignorance of African-American culture that exists here.

Well, a Jewish cultural center *does* stand on Cameron Avenue in the form of the B'Nai B'rith Hillel House, and ignorance and insensitivity toward Jewish students still runs rampant. So I encourage readers of this letter who feel unsatisfied with their understanding of the Jewish people to stop by Hillel. I further hope that when the BCC finally is erected that the University will take advantage of its resources and stamp out the disease of ignorance that is plaguing our campus.

BRIAN SHUMAN  
Sophomore  
Undecided

### Multicultural center best for diverse University

To the editor:  
The African-American groups on this campus deserve to be recognized for their many important contributions to the state and to the nation.

They do not, however, deserve a free-standing black cultural center. As a minority, I understand the Black Student Movement's complaint that black culture has been suppressed and that an outlet should exist for the celebration of this culture. But I believe that more recognition for African-American culture can be gained by changing the character of the campus than by merely changing the appearance of the campus.

In order to change the character of campus, it is necessary to educate those unfamiliar and even uncomfortable with black culture about this culture; in order to educate those who deem black culture foreign, it is necessary to provide an environment that does not seem foreign.

Sadly, a Black Cultural Center, because of its very name, would alienate a large proportion of the nonblack UNC population.

A solution to this problem exists in calling the building a multicultural center. Although this proposal vehemently has been opposed by both the Black Student Movement and the politically astute student government, perhaps now — before controversy precludes academic achievement — we should consider a compromise: a multicultural center on the Wilson-Dey site.

Such a structure, if constructed properly, would provide a space for persons of all cultures to interact, "hang out" and learn.

And though most of this space will and should be occupied by celebrations of black culture, other minorities — such as Asian Americans whose college enrollments since 1976 have grown at a rate 27 times that of African Americans — also will be represented, thereby discouraging the false notion that racial issues in America are just black and white.

Granted, this compromise might appear to represent acquiescence by the Black Student Movement to the "evil, white master." In truth, however, such a move represents a step forward by the Black Student Movement toward a world in which the specter of the "evil, white master" is removed not only from the landscape of the campus, but also from the minds of the students of this campus.

Furthermore, such a move would increase the amount of space available to all groups on campus, win the gratitude and support of the minority organizations at Carolina, perhaps appease the faculty and administration and place Chapel Hill on the forefront of modern race relations.

Despite our different colors, backgrounds and cultures, we must remember that we are all, first and foremost, Americans — and Tar Heels. As such, let us work to help not only our specific special interest groups, but the University and nation as a whole

DAVID W. LIU  
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