

Bicentennial Director Finds Years of Work Worthwhile on Oct. 12

BY ROBIN RODES
STAFF WRITER

At the exact moment President Clinton looked Steve Tepper in the eye Oct. 12, every marathon work session and pounding headache during the past 4 1/2 years became worth the effort.

The opening of the oldest state university's Bicentennial Observance was a success. He had done it.

As the 26-year-old executive director of UNC's Bicentennial Observance Office stood shaking hands with the president, surrounded by gawking people in the back stage area of Kenan Stadium — his mobile telephone, walkie-talkie and beeper set aside for the moment — Tepper absorbed the moment.

"(Clinton's) got very big hands and warm eyes," he said. "He's very engaging. He didn't seem overwhelmed. He kept his attention on everyone he met."

Although Tepper believes Clinton had no idea who he was, the boyish-looking professional still prizes the memory. "That was the highlight of my whole five years here (in the Bicentennial Observance Office)," he declared.

But the opening ceremonies were only the beginning of the Bicentennial Observance. Tepper still must plan a huge number of events before his office shuts down in May after commencement exercises.

But this UNC alumnus can handle the pressure. Sitting in his spacious office in Alumni House, Tepper exudes professionalism. His dark brown hair is carefully groomed, and his suit is neatly pressed. Intelligent dark eyes peer through wire-rimmed glasses.

Friends and colleagues use words such as diligent, conscientious and talented to describe Tepper. Many cited these qualities as the reason for his success as well as their involvement with the Bicentennial Observance.

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RICHARD RICHARDSON
Faculty chairman
of the Bicentennial Observance

Richard Richardson, faculty chairman of the Bicentennial Observance, said: "The reason I came onto the (faculty Bicentennial) committee in the first place was because of Steve I have more confidence in that young man than anyone I know."

"This job is much bigger than something given to most 26-year-olds," said Richardson, a political science professor. "He's a list maker ... and when he doesn't get everything on the list done, he gets uncomfortable."

Tepper's co-worker, Communications Director Scott Dupree, agreed with Richardson's assessment. "(Tepper) puts in long hours to make sure that everything is done right."

Tepper said he worked so hard because he loved UNC and wanted to create a balanced celebration involving everyone. During the past four years, this has meant working with student, faculty and other outside groups to focus their event proposals to the Bicentennial policy board.

"We didn't want to superimpose the Bicentennial on the campus.... We really wanted to make this a campus celebration — that the campus felt ownership," Tepper said. "Trying to meet all of those needs is very tough."

Tepper's involvement in UNC affairs began long before he officially became the executive director of the Bicentennial Observance Office in January 1993.



DTH/JILL KAUFMAN

Steve Tepper joined the Bicentennial Observance Office upon graduation in 1989 and has tried to involve the entire UNC community in the celebration.

As a sophomore and junior, Tepper participated in student government, leading the job-creation committee and acting as delegate to the Association of Student Government.

By his senior year, Tepper held elective office as the 1989 senior class president and engaged in one of the first Bicentennial events — bringing the University's 1789 charter back to campus from the office of the secretary of state in Raleigh.

Upon graduating with a degree in international studies concentrating in Latin America, Tepper took the job of assistant general secretary in the Bicentennial Observance Office instead of attending graduate school.

One of Tepper's former professors, classics Professor George Kennedy, said he had urged the indecisive senior to go for

the University's job offer. "I thought that Steve would make a good University administrator of sorts," he said.

Two years later, the University chose Tepper to take over for outgoing Executive Director Bill Massey as acting director of the Bicentennial Observance Office.

"I've been real happy with the choices I've made," Tepper said.

His colleagues think Tepper has made the right choices, too. "I think the University is very fortunate to have him," Richardson said. "He has a deep sense of feeling for this institution. He cares very deeply."

Kennedy said of Tepper, "He's bright and articulate and handsome, and he has a very bright future."

Richardson agreed. "He's going to be very successful — a smashing success."

Concern Grows About Violence on Television

BY NAM VO
STAFF WRITER

"We live in a sea of violence," said UNC Journalism Professor Chuck Stone. There has been a loud public outcry recently denouncing the pervasiveness of violence shown on television.

It is certainly more compelling to see violence rather than just to read about it, said Jane Brown, professor of journalism. But there has been mixed feelings about how violence on television affects viewers, especially children. Some say violence on television has no direct effect on people's behavior. Others strongly believe it does.

Brown's studies during the past 20 years indicate that children watching violence on television are more aggressive.

"Every kid who watches violence on TV does not become violent; but the probability is there," she said. "It's all a perfect setup for learning aggressive behavior."

Violence on television is glamorized and goes unpunished, and children overexposed to it learn to solve problems using aggression instead of communication, she said.

Despite Brown's research, Stone is reluctant to correlate television violence with the rise in crime on America's streets. Critics should not single out television, Stone said. Books, magazines, newspapers and rap lyrics are just as violent.

"TV violence is a factor in the changing mores of our lives — but it's not the only factor," he said.

UNC sophomore Stuart Albert also does not believe television violence has a direct correlation with the crime in real life. People blame television for the rise in crime because "it is something tangible they can lash out against," he said.

"I have seen so much growing up that I have become numb to it," Albert said.

Charles Frink of the Society for the Eradication of Television said, "You cannot prove the cause-and-effect of TV violence in a lab."

Although people disagree on the true effect of television violence, most do agree that exposure to it desensitizes viewers

toward violence. "It raises the decibels of (your) tolerance," Stone said.

He insisted that people inherently are not violent. "We are models of civility."

He suggested that people liked violence because it allowed them to act out their anger and frustration through the imagines. "It makes you feel good (when the good guy kills the bad guy)," Stone said.

Brown agreed. "(There) is something inherent in it." Violent shows give us an adrenaline rush, she said.

Albert said he thought violence appealed to people's fascination with pain and death. "TV synthesizes it for us. We don't have to undergo it ourselves," he said.

If most people want to watch Shakespeare on television, then that's what they'll get, but in reality, most people want violence. "It is very sad that (violence) is what many people want to watch," Frink said.

The pervasiveness of violent shows suggests that this is what the American public wants. The public's very interest in violence sustains the whole television and film industries. The networks and their sponsors will show anything that attracts large audiences.

However, neither Stone nor Frink believe the television industry should be regulated. "Freedom of speech is the imperative," Stone said.

Frink added that the networks were not to blame and should not be penalized. "I am totally opposed to government censorship. No one forces us to watch it. It's our own choice."

As a mother, Brown has changed her views on the interpretation of the First Amendment.

The amendment was not originally intended to provide the right to show violence to children, so producers must try to minimize the amount of violence, she said. Also, Brown believes it is very important to get across to children that violence has its consequences and that it is not glamorous. Stone suggested that for the nature of television to change, the American public must be willing to change their tastes. "Let the public decide."

1930 Daily Tar Heel Survey Revealed Students in Favor Of Repealing Prohibition Laws

Editor's note: This article originally ran in The Daily Tar Heel on April 3, 1930.

Evidently the students at the University are either uninterested in the prohibition law or they are satisfied with conditions just as they are, for out of a student body of more than 2,000, less than half voted in the three-day poll conducted by The Daily Tar Heel. However, of 944 who voted, 658

The poll was started last Sunday by the Daily Tar Heel in an effort to determine among students here as to modification, repeal or enforcement of the 18th amendment and other prohibition laws passed in pursuance of the amendment.

Although the vote was light the first two days of the poll, yesterday a flood of votes cast by the campus "wets" indicated that sentiment here was for repeal of the prohibition laws.

Even those who professed not to drink desired some change in the laws, with a third favoring enforcement, more than 80 favoring repeal and 44 desiring modification.

The heavy voting for repeal came among those who drank frequently, with almost half favoring absolute repeal and none desiring enforcement. The count among the occasional drinkers favored repeal or modification, with less than one-fifth voting for enforcement.



Lebanese Troops Engage in Paint-Splattering Wars

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIRUT, Lebanon — Former militiamen are digging their camouflage fatigues out of the closet, and bullets are whizzing again in the hills overlooking Beirut.

Yes, Lebanon's civil war is over. This time around, the Lebanese are only playing at war, using phony guns with exploding pellets filled with pink and orange paint. "One gets the same sensation of war, the same adrenaline rush. The only difference is you don't die," said George Abboud, a 31-year-old former militiaman.

Abboud owns the Dbaye Country Club, where he introduced the U.S.-invented game a month ago. He plans to seek government approval to stage an international paintball tournament in downtown Beirut, a war-shattered setting that would add a touch of reality to the game.

"I'm sure our team will win. It's the only sport that the Lebanese can compete

internationally and win," said Abboud, a Maronite Christian who was 13 when he began fighting with real guns.

"I wish we had paintball before the war. We wouldn't have destroyed this country."

In paintball, the players use carbon dioxide-powered guns that fire marble-size balls that explode on impact, splattering victims with paint.

Paintball started in the United States in 1981, but Abboud said he waited for the war to end before introducing the game to Lebanon.

The 15-year civil war, which ended in October 1990, killed 150,000 people, displaced 500,000 others and caused at least \$25 billion worth of destruction.

The Lebanese, even those who did not fight in the war, have brought their expertise to the game. They duck, curse and take aim like true professionals.

Some refuse to wear the olive-green uniforms provided by the club, preferring

their own authentic camouflage outfits.

For some of the players, paintball kindles dark memories of the battles they once fought and their hair-raising brushes with death.

But it also provides comic relief.

"In real war you don't laugh. You kill and you can get killed," said Marwan Dinard, 28, a mechanic who was a gunner with the Lebanese Forces, a Christian militia.

Pierre Gemayel, 22, son of former President Amin Gemayel whose 1982-88 term saw Lebanon slide into one of its worst eras of anarchy, said paintball is "good training for people who want to learn how to fight."

The players quickly learn that while paintball is child's play compared to what they've survived, the paint-filled "bullets" can leave bruises.

"We all played Rambo until we got hit," Abboud said.

The country club is 8 miles northeast of

Beirut in the Christian heartland. So far, most players have been Christians, but Muslims are starting to join the fun as the word spreads.

The club has five paintball "combat zones" — two wooded ravines, a mock desert, an empty building and a rocky slope. The game and 80 "bullets" costs \$30. If an exploding paintball hits you, you're out of action. The winner is the "militia" with the most survivors.

The excitement is palpable as the teams don their fatigues and divide themselves into "militias."

Even though most players are Christians, they do include former enemies.

During Lebanon's tangled civil war, Christians often fought one another as well as Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese Muslims. But the paintball warriors say they've put their pasts behind them.

The games usually begin at 2:30 p.m. and last about three hours until sundown.

Healthy Living Not a Fact of Life for Health-Care Workers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
ATLANTA — Some of the 30,000 doctors, nurses and researchers at the American Heart Association's annual meeting talk healthy diets out of one side of their mouth and put burgers and fries in the other.

At lunch Tuesday, they clogged their arteries with meals high in cholesterol, fat and sodium, all of which contribute to heart disease.

"It was convenient and quick," Dr. Paul Colavita said as he gulped down a Big Bacon Classic burger and Biggie Fries at a Wendy's near the convention site — the Georgia World Congress Center.

Before lunch, some health-care workers enjoyed cigarettes outside the smoke-free building, while others sipped cocktails from a bar set up outside the convention hall (although a bartender said business was

slower than usual). Colavita, a cardiologist from Charlotte, said fatty meals were OK every now and then because he monitored his diet.

But doesn't it set a bad example for doctors to be seen eating such fatty meals? "Not me, because I took my name tag off," Colavita said.

Tacos, hamburgers and roast beef sandwiches were favorites for some of the scientists.

Fast food is just as popular among those at the heart association meeting as it is with people at other conventions, said Jane Jaeger, director of sales and marketing for MGR food services, the convention hall caterer.

MGR set up several "heart-healthy" buffets of fruits, vegetables and fish for the meeting, but many doctors chose greasier

fare. Dr. Howard Gutgesell of Charlottesville, Va., knows fast food is a poor choice but just can't help himself.

"Food with a lot of fat in it just plain tastes good," Gutgesell said as he slurped his Wendy's Frosty, a chocolate ice-cream desert with 400 calories, 260 milligrams of sodium and 13 grams of fat, including 7 grams of saturated fat.

Gutgesell, a pediatric cardiologist, also had a taco salad, but skipped the sour-cream topping.

"I think the key is moderation," he said. His entree contained 580 calories, 1,060 milligrams of sodium and 30 grams fat, including 11 grams of saturated fat.

Federal guidelines recommend that a daily diet of 2,000 calories contain no more than 65 grams of fat, including 20

grams of saturated fat, and 2,400 to 3,000 milligrams of sodium.

William Golden, manager of the Wendy's at CNN Center, said the most popular items during the meeting had been double cheeseburgers, grilled chicken sandwiches and large fries.

Convention-goers generally buy more food than the regular lunchtime crowd, and those at the heart meeting were no different, he said.

Dr. Rehan Mahmud, a cardiologist from Greenville, said doctors were no different than their patients — they don't want to take the time or effort to eat healthy.

"I think we just feel more guilty than everyone else," he said, deciding against a fried chicken sandwich in favor of a grilled one that had 290 calories, 720 milligrams of sodium and 7 grams of fat.

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