

Letters to the editor

Conscientious objectors are not a criminal lot

To the editor:
The recent editorial concerning draft amnesty by Keith Weatherly (October 19) was a study in overstatement and smear tactics. Though I agree with the author that McGovern and Kennedy may be using the issue to political advantage, I feel that the author is letting his political feelings interfere with his rationality and argumentative ability.

Nice try, Weatherly. Who's an opportunist?

Michael J. Dykstra
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Carrboro, N.C.

Insight wanted on drug users

To the editor:

It's rare that I see anything on the DTH editorial page as moving and as compelling as Brad Stuart's "Once a junkie, always a junkie."

It hurts to lose a friend, especially to heroin. Stuart helped convey in a way no figures can the agony and tragedy of a person hooked on junk. Lynn's case is all the more chilling since she represents a "successful" cure from the habit.

More is needed in the Tar Heel about how these drugs affect our lives. You cover the medical side of drugs, but how about an insight into the lives of drug users?

Horace Johannson

We must know who gives life

To the editor:

On Thursday, October 7, a column appeared under the heading "Profit system is basic cause." I was, shocked is not the word, disgusted beyond belief at the pseudo-moralistic tone of Mr. Richter's letter, and even more disgusted by his advocacy persuasion for a system of moral dissolution.

The man of "the double standard" — the man who lives "by force, yet counts on those who live by trade" is the man who is a "hitch-hiker of virtue."

"When (man has) made evil the means of survival, do not expect men to remain good. Do not expect them to stay moral and lose their lives for the purpose of becoming fodder of the immoral. Do not expect them to produce, when production is punished."

When the day comes that men who live by a strict moral code, men who live by the virtue of production, are forced to become the slaves of those who do not produce, we will see, not only the end of our capitalistic form of government, as some would wish, but the end of our freedoms of purchase, of livelihood, our very freedom to exist.

If the day should come when those who are the producers of wealth are forced by "laws" or guns or force of any kind, to serve those who do not produce, then the day will come when we will see the end of our civilization.

The credo of "from each according to his ability to each according to his need" is the hall mark of the moral degenerate. When any man decides to set himself as arbiter of another man's right of

production, he is a moral degenerate.

Mr. Richter attacks the process of letting "the wealthy make such important decisions (of production). Who, by God, would have a better right to make those decisions of productions than those men who produce.

"...when we'll see men dying of starvation around us, your heart won't be of any earthly use to save them. And I'm heartless enough to say that when you'll scream, 'but I didn't know it!' you will not be forgiven." This quotation from one of the writings of Ayn Rand expresses precisely what will happen if the men of mind, of intellect are forced, not to produce according to their rational thought processes for their gain but, to produce at the whim of some arbitrary "board" of would-be righteous censors for the gain of others.

The sound of a moral looter is one of disclaiming man's individual rights to his own production, placing the "need of others" above his own requirements.

The most horribly abused statement in the American language is that "All Men Are Created Equal." They are most definitely not, and no one with half a brain and the wits to use it, would ever make such an asinine statement.

We each have our limits. We may not all be able to produce a "da Vinci" masterpiece or a Wagnerian trilogy or a thermo-nuclear reactor, but we can all produce to the extent of our own capabilities and give proper credit and thanks to those to whom we are indebted for creating those things which we can not. But, we should never, under any stretch of the imagination for one moment think we have any right which entitles us to say what a man may or may not produce, or in what quantity or for whom.

If Mr. Richter is looking for a way to censor the production of American businessmen, he has a morally just way at his finger-tips, one which he so glibly tosses away — simply the power not to purchase that which he does not want.

If this, then, should restrict him to not being able to purchase something he wants, let him produce it himself — he certainly has no right to force someone else to produce it for him.

When you destroy, as would certainly happen under the plan advocated by Mr. Richter, a nation's industrial complex it takes centuries to rebuild it or to gather the economic resources to make the start. Let's face it, can you picture a "Marshall Plan" from some European, Asian, African or South American country or countries of such magnitude to re-create what could in a very short time be completely destroyed by the attempt to control the minds of the men of production in this country? Don't be absurd. There is no nation on earth remotely capable of it, and why, because we and we alone have built our nation on a basis of individual rights — rights not only of the poor but rights, too, of the rich.

The legend of Robin Hood should be completely stamped out, as philosopher Ayn Rand states — the legend of the

theiving poor stealing from the deserving productive rich.

If a man is equal to his money, then it serves him; if not, it destroys him. The same is true of any job one does or position one holds. If a man is capable of production he produces. If he is not, he either dies or lives off the production of others — a parasite.

No, Mr. Richter. What we most decidedly do not need is a "Socialistic Economic System." What we need are fewer whiners and beggars and more men of production, men of the mind.

When the day finally dawns that all men realize that you can't force a mind, that day will herald the coming of a true and workable "Utopia."

When the nation or the world sacrifices men of justice to mercy, independence to unity, reason to faith, self-esteem to self-denial, happiness to duty and wealth to need, then we can all look around us with horror at what will be left of the world. The thing that all men must understand is that these men of production are the givers of life, not the takers.

To live by the credo: "I swear by my life and my love of it that I will never live for the sake of another man, nor ask another man to live for mine" is to truly be the embodiment of the Greek philosopher's statement: A is A.

Les Wagoner II
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UNC-CH

Cartoons used as propaganda

To the editor:

There's been a lot of talk on campus lately about "consumer protection" and advertising. Ralph Nader told us nothing new — that U.S. corporations rip-off consumers in an infinite variety of ways. The Other People told us how advertising is used to manipulate the consumer by creating artificial needs in our heads. And Charles Richter noted that our whole economic system is rooted in the anarchic, irrational drive for profits by business. But the system — through its corporate elite — is striking back!

In the October 7 issue of the New York Times, buried in the second section, was a small news item. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has contracted Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc. to make cartoons "to help instill confidence in the American enterprise system." That's right — the same folks who gave us Yogi Berra and Fred Flinstone are now going to give us propaganda on behalf of the profit motive and free enterprise. The executive vice-president of the Chamber noted that the cartoons are only incidentally aimed at children. The cartoons are part of the Chamber's educational program "to get simple economic issues to the people, most of whom don't read (newspapers)." The VP's arrogance and elitist attitude

toward the American people is obvious — and repugnant.

Attempting to manipulate the mass of people through simplistic cartoons might seem funny. But this pathetic attempt to indoctrinate American working people with the capitalist ideology of our corporate ruling class isn't funny at all. Capitalism — with the exploitation and alienation it causes — is no laughing matter. So don't laugh too hard at Yogi Berra hustling for the Chamber of Commerce — the joke may be on you.

Gary Clark

Dooley reveals his true colors

To the editor:

It is in my opinion that no real support for the Concerned Athletes Committee has been voiced on this campus. It is my personal feeling that these student-athletes are deeply concerned with the present direction of college football at UNC. There is one of firsthand information concerning the brutal physical and psychological abuse directed at football players from the coaches. This depersonalization of individuals was witnessed at its finest in Wednesday's press conference when Coach Dooley and the entire football squad entered unannounced.

Dooley, who wouldn't give the CAC any recognition before, made it a point to voice his opinion through the constant interruption of Bill Richardson, chairman for the committee. The true character of Bill Dooley was blatantly obvious and his brainwashing procedures of the "men" on his football squad surely has worked wonders. I have heard some of these players voice concern towards the dehumanization of football here at UNC.

These people might be "men" on Dooley's football field because they can knock their man down or really hit the sled, but how could you call yourselves "men" when you see concerned fellow athletes attempting to help you being

abused by the main cause of your depersonalization. People who are trying to get some of the big "stench" out of football at UNC are being shafted by you, the players. Stop being puppets and call your own shots, individually. Dooley must really be scared by this opposition if he goes to their press conferences.

So why don't you players do something for yourselves and show this campus that you're more than "jocks."

Stand up for yourselves, direct your own lives, and show Bill Dooley's true colors.

Robin Hulbert
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World Series coverage unfair

To the editor:

Throughout its coverage of the World Series, the Daily Tar Heel sports staff constantly tried to berate and belittle the World Champion Bucs. Such statements as, "Making mistakes has long been a tradition in Pirate baseball" were not only unfair, but, as it turned out, quite ironic. I would like to ask the author of this journalistic swill just one question: in the words of John Lennon, "How do you sleep? How do you sleep at night?"

John R. Thornton
1714 Granville West

The Daily Tar Heel accepts letters to the editor, provided they are typed on a 60-space line and limited to a maximum of 300 words. All letters must be signed and the address and phone number of the writer must be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters for libelous statements and good taste. Address letters to Associate Editor, The Daily Tar Heel, in care of the Student Union.

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