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The Daily Tar Heel

88th year of editorial freedom

Kuralt—a strong, confident editor of 'DTH'

By LYNN CASEY



Charles Kuralt on the air... was Tar Heel editor 1954-1955

"I didn't care what students thought," mused the 1955 editor of *The Daily Tar Heel* Tuesday. "We thought our editorials should lead student opinion and not reflect it."

However, after leafing through old 1954-1955 editorials, one realizes this editor not only attempted to lead the students' opinions but also those of the state and nation on the issue of segregation.

A few months after the Supreme Court decision in the Brown vs. the Topeka School Board case in 1954, Charles Kuralt was writing *DTH* editorials urging the admittance of blacks into the University.

Kuralt wrote, "'Proceed calmly,' we are told. What calmer or greater procedure is there than this: to tear down barriers built on the flimsy foundation of bigotry, to do it voluntarily, to do it now?"

The paper received letters from across the state telling the Yankee editor to go home. The Wilmington-born Kuralt ignored them and continued to express his views on segregation and other matters. Even when the UNC student legislature voted to set up a six-man committee to investigate the quality and circulation problem of *The Daily Tar Heel*, he was not swayed. The legislators called the paper the second *Daily Worker* and criticized the editor for imposing his liberal beliefs on the student body and not expressing student opinion.

"If you could have taken a poll of the student opinion at that time, the majority of the students probably would have disagreed with us," Kuralt said. "But I was a bit arrogant back then and didn't care."

And he could do it as long as there were kids swinging during California summers, 78-year-old Gordon Bushnell determined to build a straight highway from Furman, Minn., or as long as there was a person who could tell about his unusual experience in America.

In a 1965 interview Kuralt said of himself, "If I do anything good it would be the same thing all journalists hope to do. And that's some good by sort of enlightening people about the times they live in."

Ironically, two years later Kuralt was traveling around in his CBS van, showing the optimistic side of American life.

Monday night, Kuralt spoke in Memorial Hall on the theme of excellence. His speech centered on one point that he believed one man or woman really can make a difference. He spoke mostly about Al Lowenstein, the former UNC graduate, civil rights leader, ambassador and legislator, who was fatally wounded last month.

"Al knew a secret which he must have learned here. And that was even in a complex society which we live in, it is still true that one man or one woman can make all the difference," Kuralt said. "People like him can never know where their influence stops—such influence does not stop."

Kuralt himself is definitely a man of influence. His homey new segments may not cover the same controversial issues as his editorials in 1955, and they may not be leading people's opinion as much as they are reflecting people's lives but his work is definitely enlightening.

Lynn Casey, a junior journalism major from Kinston, is a staff writer for *The Daily Tar Heel*.

A wrong move

It is expected that John Anderson, R-Ill., will announce today his intentions to run for president of the United States as an independent. Even in a room full of people who support Anderson's efforts—the *DTH* office—such a move is viewed with a great deal of skepticism. No one has doubted Anderson's ability, not even those people who disagree with him on various issues. Anderson has provided the little bit of eloquence and class that has been displayed during the first months of primary season, and he has spoken out on issues that many candidates have shied away from.

In fact, if Anderson had any chance at all of winning, his candidacy would be viewed with a great deal of enthusiasm. But Anderson will face numerous problems as a third party candidate that make the possibility of his winning that much more remote. He will get no matching funds from the federal government, an obvious hindrance to a campaign already beset with financial problems. Moreover, unless the Federal Elections Commission made an exception—which it did not do for Eugene McCarthy in 1976—an individual contribution to Anderson's campaign would be limited to \$1,000, while the candidates for the two major parties, would be able to take \$20,000 contributions. Because the FEC is comprised totally of Republicans and Democrats, it seems unlikely it would exempt Anderson from these financial limitations.

Many people view third party candidates as nothing more than political spoilers. Even though Anderson claims a third party candidacy a "moral imperative," he must not forget that his candidacy will enhance the chances of Ronald Reagan, who seems to espouse many views opposite those of Anderson. And while we aren't thrilled with President Jimmy Carter's performance in many areas, he seems a more acceptable alternative than Reagan.

Anderson won't be made a viable candidate by the press, which has already heaped praise upon him again and again. He might accomplish something by running for president as an independent—such as pointing out the inequities independents must endure in elections—but we aren't convinced his accomplishments would be for the best. He may make Reagan president. And he may destroy his own career in the process.

Vote, please

Students are preoccupied these days with summer jobs and vacations just a few short weeks away and with final exams beginning Monday. A lot of students probably have been getting in some last minute partying or even trying to finish off those last few papers. Students lead busy lives, so forgive us if we bother you with something we consider just as important as vacations, papers and exams—the right to vote.

On May 6, students registered Republican or Democrat will have the opportunity to vote in a primary, at which time the electorate will select the candidates who will represent their party in November's election. If you are registered in Orange County and you are not aware of all the candidates running for office or what their positions are on some important issues, then we would suggest you turn to page 5 of today's paper for an election roundup. Then, do your own research so that your vote will not be cast haphazardly for candidates who stand for principles with which you might disagree.

The right to vote is the lifeblood of any free nation. To ignore or reject that right out of ignorance or apathy undermines a process that exists only in a few fortunate nations. The excuse for not voting often cited is that one vote doesn't make any difference, and that all the candidates are the same. Such an attitude would be comical were it not so dangerous.

Take the time to study the candidates and then take 10 minutes to vote. A responsible government hinges on a vocal electorate. Your voice can be heard on May 6. It may not be a loud one, but it is an important one all the same.



Concert was for the dogs

To the editor:
 Many thanks to all who helped to make Chapel Thrill a great dog afternoon. I shook my tail to Bonnie Raitt, flapped my ears at the Atlanta Rhythm Section and had a bunch of good vibrations with the Beach Boys. It was a great afternoon for sunning in the stands, or drinking beer like most folks did, but I just played a lot of frisbee.

What really intrigued me, as a dog, was the antics of the other spectators. In fact, the shouting and jolliness seemed to me to exemplify the traditional college value of drunken camaraderie. It did my canine heart good to see humans acting like animals.

It's really a dog's life here in Chapel Hill. Between chewing frisbees and lounging in the sun, I watch the clouds go by and dream of mammoth Gaine's burgers. I hope the day never comes when I have to waddle off to class with the rest of the local populace.

However, the Beach Boys were the highlight of the afternoon for me, of course, since I'm named after two of their songs. My first name should be familiar, but I bet you can't guess which Beach Boys album my last name is taken from.

Darling Deirdre
 Cocker Spaniel
 Chapel Hill

letters to the editor

Demonstration planned for Stone tenure

To the editor:

We as concerned students wish to notify whom it may concern of our commitment in the efforts to tenure for Sonja H. Stone, assistant professor in the curriculum of Afro-American Studies. Stone's qualifications in instruction, administration and service are undeniable. Even recently she received, in addition to a 1977 Rockefeller Foundation Grant, an appointed fellowship to the Advanced Study Center of the National Research Center in Vocational Education at Ohio State University.

We have decided that a "real" show of support could be no better demonstrated than a show of faces. This exemplifies effectively our commitment to retain black faculty and staff at this university. We extend to the University community an invitation and challenge to "face" your support at 10 a.m. Friday April 25th at South Building.

Concerned Student Coalition
 Coordinating Committee
 TASK Force
 North Carolina Black Student Coalition
 BSM Central Committee

Exam breaks

To the editor:

For students who will need a break during exams the Carolina Union will sponsor a variety of activities next week.

On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, the Special Projects Committee will have study breaks with food and drinks, live music and roller skating from 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, the Film and Special Projects committees will present cartoons and comedy shorts in Great Hall from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. BYO whatever you want to sit or lie on (such as rockers, sleeping bags and four-poster beds) because there won't be many chairs in Great Hall. Food and drinks will be available, and bowling and billiards will stay open until 1 a.m.

On Friday, the Film Committee will show Woody Allen's "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex" at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. in Carroll Hall, and this is free with student identification.

There will be bowling and billiards specials in the evenings until the end of exams.

Pick up a complete schedule of activities at the end of this week at the Union Information Desk.

Marcy Dean, chairperson
 Union Special Projects Committee
 Mike Hugo
 Union Film Committee

New food, for better or for worse

To the editor:

I'm writing to tell of the experience my college, St. Andrews Presbyterian in Laurinburg had when ARA Food Service took over our cafeteria service for the school year 1977-1978.

As the fall term progressed, complaints about the poor quality and lack of variety of the food increased. First, a student food service committee met with ARA to recommend and suggest improvements. When little or no change was apparent, the students staged a protest during lunch one day in December.

We walked out of the cafeteria with our trays and met together in a nearby meeting room. About 250 students and professors were present (our total student body is only 600). Student speakers voiced grievances and a representative from ARA spoke saying they appreciated our show of concern and promised that the company would work with the students to make the improvements wanted.

It should be noted that ARA was very open to receiving student input and suggestions (for a few days they posted an employee at a cafeteria table for just that



Unbearable

To the editor:

Obviously the Undergraduate Library has devised a fool-proof method to combat overcrowding during exams. They've decided to make conditions so uncomfortable that students are forced to flee.

The students they have chosen to eliminate are those of us who have become dependent on the superfluous 20th century luxury of open ventilation.

I walked over to the library the other evening, opened the first set of doors and noticed a definite increase in temperature. This, however failed to warn me of the blast of hot dry air I was to encounter upon opening the second pair of doors. I bravely trudged onward, and carefully chose a seat as near as possible to the water fountain.

After a brief interlude of uncomfortable study, I glanced down at my watch and realized I'd spent more time at the water fountain than at my seat studying.

As a building constructed as an accessible and effective study center, I find that due to the discomfort of many students it has failed in its purpose.

I, as well as many other students, have come to the conclusion that studying at the Undergraduate Library is quite out of the question and plead with those responsible to make it a bearable place of study for students.

Kathy Jett
 303 Ruffin

'Yack' coverage disputed

To the editor:

After listening to differing arguments and reading various letters to the editor in this paper, I have found the controversy over the 1979 *Yackery Yack* is revolving around one issue: Did the editors of the *Yack* have any racist intentions when they published the book?

This in itself is not an issue. The intents of the editors, although important, are not what the controversy should be centered upon. What the *Yack* did, above anything else, was to manifest in its pictures the insensitivity and lack of understanding that exists between blacks and whites on this campus. The fact that a picture was printed of a mock lynching (p. 400) and a black Sambo (p. 425), and a section in which the name of a black cook at one of the fraternities is listed as "Lizzie" with no mention to her last name are undoubtedly a slap in the face to the black community.

In this year of 1980 it surprises me that some people think lynching is funny, it surprises me that a fraternity would have a black Sambo as its national symbol, and it surprises me that a fraternity would refer to their cook by only printing her slave name. But what surprises me even more is that the yearbook would print these pictures with the rationale of free press and presenting UNC life.

The *Yack* is not a newspaper, it is a yearbook. As a yearbook there are certain maxims which it should adhere to: One of these maxims is presenting campus life in a way that is acceptable to all elements of the community. The pictures mentioned above are not acceptable to the black community. Slave names and Sambos are bad enough, but, when I see a picture making fun of the suffering and death endured by my ancestors, I almost want to cry. I don't know much about "Southern Tradition" but I know that where I come from, people who derive pleasure from the death of others are quite often locked up.

If the *Yack* is truly a representation of this community then explain why there is no section on rape? Is it because rape is not a subject to print in a yearbook? If so then I hardly think a mock murder would be appropriate. And if the *Yack* is fair to blacks then tell me why I can't show my parents or my grandparents the yearbook of my university. You see they grew up in a period in which lynching was not only distasteful, but an all-too-real occurrence.

I also feel that much of the controversy has stemmed from a misunderstanding of the purpose of the *Yack*. Canady said that a yearbook "should present what is agreeable to all students. It (the *Yack*) did not do this so it did not fulfill its function as a yearbook."

The function of the *Yack* is not to be agreeable to everyone but to show the many aspects of a year in the life of this University. Not all facets of Carolina life are "agreeable," with racism being one of the most disagreeable of all. The *Yack* merely attempted to show Carolina as it is—not as we would like it to be.

I have seen a copy of the '79 *Yack*, and although I am black, I was not offended by any of the articles or photographs in question. The complaints and the photographs are a reflection on the people in them, not on the yearbook or the editor.

I assert that the '79 *Yackery Yack* has done a service to the students of this University by helping to bring this subject into the open, and I suggest that those with complaints read the yearbook more carefully; unfounded accusations will only breed more of the distrust and ignorance that are the basis of racism.

Mark Canady
 BSM Chairperson

To the editor:

I fail to see the reasoning behind the request by Mark Canady, Black Student Movement chairperson, that an apology be made by 1979 *Yackery Yack* editor Chrissann Ohler, as reported in the story "BSM criticizes 'Yack,'" (*DTH*, April 22).

I also feel that much of the controversy has stemmed from a misunderstanding of the purpose of the *Yack*. Canady said that a yearbook "should present what is agreeable to all students. It (the *Yack*) did not do this so it did not fulfill its function as a yearbook."

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Howard Ray
 211 Everett

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