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The Daily Tar Heel

88th year of editorial freedom

Race relations

Today it's called a quiet and subtle racism. However, such adjectives only obscure the issue, only enable people to push it into the backs of their minds until they almost forget it exists. Yet, everyday racism manifests itself in frightening ways for different people: the fervor of the revival of the Ku Klux Klan, the undeniable resurgence of a conservative faction that promises to renew resistance to busing and affirmative action, and the increase in race-related deaths that take vicious shape in Miami, and in Greensboro, and in cities all over this country.

A dago, a wop, a nigger, a honky, a spic, a polock, a canuck—these are the words that blind us, that make it easy to disregard the needs, aspirations, pains and struggles of other human beings. Treating people "not be the color of their skin," as Martin Luther King Jr. said, "but by the content of their character," hardly seems a revolutionary idea. But even in 1980, after *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, after four young black men quietly walked into a Greensboro lunch counter in 1960, after the 1964 Civil Rights Act, after the murders of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., after the Black Panthers and Eldridge Cleaver, after all of these struggles, equality based on individual character remains anathema to the ignorant and the afraid and the evil.

Racism at times may be quiet and subtle, but obviously it exists. And it threatens to explode in our faces as long as it overwhelms reason and compassion and common sense.

Thus, people's minds must be probed, gently and sometimes not so gently, in order that the magnitude and influence of such a negative emotion can be ascertained, for it must be understood before it can be defused.

Today a five-part series on race relations that we hope will touch on some of these attitudes and fears begins on our front page. We consider the racial problem on campus and nationwide acute enough to warrant this kind of scrutiny. It is our hope that this series will probe minds, gently or not, and will bring into the open the problems and questions that all too often are conveniently pushed aside, and labeled quiet and subtle, until they do in fact ferment and explode.

Partial eclipse

Last week approximately 2,500 people were able to view pictures of Saturn in Chapel Hill as they were transmitted to Earth by Voyager I. The showings were free of charge, courtesy of the Morehead Planetarium and special microwave receiving equipment.

That was only one of the unique services the planetarium has offered the public since it opened in 1949. In the '60s and early '70s, it was used to teach astronauts how to navigate to the moon, and every year it teaches thousands of school children about the solar system. But the planetarium soon may have to reduce its services. Plagued by inflation, it has incurred a \$175,000 deficit since 1973, a deficit that will continue to mount unless the planetarium receives more money.

Planetarium director Anthony Jenzano blames the problem on inflation. Although the University does give the facility state funds to cover its building maintenance, the planetarium must pay for its operations and exhibits through ticket and gift sales. It does not make a separate budget request to the UNC Board of Governors. Because ticket prices already have been increased once this year, Jenzano doesn't see how he can increase them again without losing customers.

Ideally, the planetarium needs about \$40,000 more a year to pay off its debts and build a reserve for emergencies, he says.

UNC Vice Chancellor for University Relations Rollie Tillman has said the University will evaluate the planetarium's financial plight this year and decide what action to take on its operations. He doesn't rule out cutting its hours to save money. Tillman says he understands the planetarium's problems, but admits it isn't high on the University's list of priorities.

It is clear that the Morehead Planetarium cannot continue to operate with its present funding system. The University should consider allowing the facility to make a separate funding request to the Board of Governors. But even if those budget request procedures were changed, they could not be implemented at least until 1984, because the University's budget requests to the N.C. General Assembly for 1981-'83 have already been made. Until then, perhaps UNC should re-evaluate its priorities. The Morehead Planetarium, one of the largest planetariums in the southeastern United States, educates and entertains 100,000 people each year. It deserves better.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Wilson Library: uncomfortably silent

By DAVID POOLE

I call it "the uncomfortable silence." There I sat in the Humanities Room of Wilson Library. Before me waited the 400-page textbook, the one I was supposed to have been reading since the first week of the semester. The discount order form for magazines was still inside.

I guess I'd expected to be able to work in this cavern, but I was dead wrong. I spent too much time listening for something to interrupt the uncomfortable silence.

I was sure someone was on the verge of dropping his or her pencil. Or sneezing. Or coughing. Or anything. I was ready for them. In fact, I was so ready, I didn't get anything done.

Libraries are just one of the many frustrating aspects of campus life. But libraries are especially bad.

Hundreds of years from now, when archaeologists and anthropologists want to find out how our civilization tortured its people, they won't have much trouble figuring out how men and women from 18 to 25 were persecuted. Just as soon as some of the scientists find the ruins of a library on the remains of a college campus, they'll know.

The most maddening things in the world happen in the libraries on this campus. Every time I go into a library, I feel like I'm walking into some great void from which only the irate can return.

Last week, I went to Wilson to look at some old newspapers on microfilm. After getting down to the 36th subbasement where the room was, I found the papers and attempted to make them appear properly on the screen.

This, of course, was impossible. Every roll I looked at was on the reel in a different way. This meant I had to thread the machine (no simple task) about 15 times so I could look at three rolls.

Another favorite is the periodicals room. Every magazine in the known world is in that room, except for the one absolutely crucial to your term paper. Sometimes the magazine itself is there, but the pages you need are torn out.

Then there are the stacks. Aside from the reality that the first floor of the library is the fifth floor of the stacks, and disregarding the fact that anyone above 6-foot-3 has to stoop to get into the stacks, and ignoring the observation that there is no logic or pattern to the way books are arranged there, this place isn't so bad.



There was, of course, the time when I was a freshman and spent two hours trying to find my way out of the stacks. I spent a similar amount of time searching for a book; and, when I found the place it should have been, there was a note saying those books had been shipped off so the pages could be renumbered. Then there was the day a friend and I spent an hour looking for another book, found that it was gone, checked at the front desk and learned it was on loan to someone in Durham.

There are people who actually go to the library and do their studying there. I wonder about these people.

I once went to the Undergrad Library to study and had a wonderful time listening to the guys at the table behind me talk about the loose morals of a certain young lady. I read about 20 words in three hours. I even tried to study in the Wilson stacks, but that proved useless because I kept hoping someone from the outside world would walk by, just so I'd know it still existed.

Then I tried the Humanities Room of Wilson, a huge, cavernous place where everybody sits around waiting for somebody else to make a noise. I call it the uncomfortable silence. You just know somebody's about to drop a pencil or scoot back in his chair and you don't want to be startled, so you think of nothing else and get absolutely zero work done.

My frustration with libraries on campus is deeply rooted, because I have never been able to look for something there and find it without having to go on safari. And I've been here more than three years.

When you think about it, I guess, future archaeologists and anthropologists probably won't be able to find out anything about our civilization when they uncover library remains. They'll probably find a book that could unlock the secrets of 20th Century America, and all the key pages will be torn out.

David Poole, a senior journalism major from Gastonia, is assistant sports editor and columnist for The Daily Tar Heel.

Letters to the editor

Union clarifies guidelines for Cube use

To the editor:

The Carolina Union regrets the problems experienced by the UNC Reader's Theater and many other campus organizations that have had their notices "amended" on the Cube. Yet we must also maintain our current position of refusing to schedule and police the Cube and would like to clarify the reasoning behind it.

Several years ago the Union bought the Cube for the purpose of publicizing programs sponsored by the Union. Subsequently, we relinquished sides that weren't being used by the Union to other campus organizations. There are eight sides on the Cube, and the Union currently uses only two of them. It must be asserted that the use of the Cube is a privilege, since theoretically there are now enough Union programs that need publicizing to fill up all eight spaces.

In early October of this year, in response to a request by the Di and Phi society, guidelines were drawn up concerning Cube etiquette; a copy of these guidelines has been available at the Union Information Desk for more than a month.

There are two major reasons for not establishing a reservations policy. First, neither the Carolina Union Activities Board nor the administrative secretary in charge of reservations for obtaining meeting rooms and lecture halls has time to grapple with allocating Cube space. This may sound like an age-old excuse, but I assure you it's veritable. Second, even if a sign-up policy were implemented, what would prevent someone from painting over another's officially registered space? It is certainly not the Union's responsibility to chase down and spank the offenders.

Cooperation and consideration are the key components of functional Cube operations. If organizations would observe the "guidelines of courtesy," the Cube privilege should benefit all.

Bill Ragland
Chairman, Publicity Committee
Carolina Union Activities Board

Carolina slides

To the editor:

I thoroughly enjoyed David Poole's humorous, yet revealing, expose "Preregistration: sliding through Carolina." (DTH, Nov. 10).

At the risk of sounding like a "master of the obvious," I must comment that Poole addressed a problem prevalent in higher education. Too often a student takes too many "gut" courses outside his or her major without seeking those courses that provide knowledge and additional skills. Whether a student can accept it or not, skills are the name of the game in the job market.

Certainly, a meaningful summer internship, a conversation with someone currently employed in a field of interest or a course with substance—before declaring a major—will provide a student with the kind of information necessary to make sound career decisions. These decisions, in conjunction with the proper course work, will lead to a job—one a person can legitimately enjoy, not hate. While Introduction to so-and-so may complement a good liberal arts education, it may provide nothing more than interesting nighttime reading.

I hope Poole is able to slide out of Carolina and right into a job because food stamps are going to be tough to come by over the next four years.

Tom Lutyn
Associate Director
University Placement Service

P.S. The Counseling Center and University Placement Services provide career-related counseling and employment information. P.P.S. Interviewers do request transcripts and do notice the titles of courses, Mr. Poole.



More on slides

To the editor:

In recent years there has been much talk of the decline of higher education. Students claim there has been a decline in the quality of instruction. Educators complain about the decline in quality of students. And administrators, I sometimes feel, aren't sure whom to believe. Most of us attempt to place the blame for the decline on others, when, in fact, it's everybody's fault.

In "Preregistration: sliding through Carolina." (DTH, Nov. 10), David Poole exposed the student contribution to this problem at Carolina. Too often the student body manages to slide through Carolina. More effort is directed toward avoiding challenging work than would be spent actually trying to broaden horizons.

I find it disgusting to think that this University condones such academic sliding. What is the value of education if it cannot help us solve the problems we will soon face in the real world? Academic sliding will only progenerate real-life sliding.

Therefore, if this present student body allows itself to slide through Carolina, I hate to think what the state of this country is going to be when we're out there in the real world making decisions. As they say, "As goes Chapel Hill, so goes the nation."

Frank Waugh
204-F Bolinwood Apartments

Majority?

To the editor:

The recent rash of conservatives elected to office assisted by the so-called "Moral Majority" and National Conservative Political Action Committee should offer a learning experience to us. Unfortunately, these lunatics—who call George Bush a liberal—have a lot of media savvy that we must pick up on.

The Moral Majority commands the minds of about 21 million people by their estimate. Out of the 220 million people in this country, that 10 percent can hardly be called a majority. Those 21 million people voting in one block, however, can be a formidable power.

If the enlightened could generate enough support Jerry Falwell and his cronies would be unable to take away our freedoms as they seem so anxious to do.

Regarding the targeting of television ("Ooh! They said 'damn!'"), an anti-boycott of people dedicated to buying any product boycotted by the "majority" would cause advertisers to welcome the heat.

Anyway, this television targeting has been tried before and it doesn't work. People say they are disgusted or offended by some shows, but they still sneak views of Suzanne Somers to see if she'll flop out this week (she never does...or ever will).

I don't think the people will allow Jerry Falwell and Terry Dolan to tell them that they can't watch this, or they can't do that. Pre-Nazi Germany was as concerned with morality, religion and nationalism as these guys are, and the results of that experiment were tragic.

A bright note arises from this, however. Dolan, Paul Weyrich, et al are very cocky right now, threatening Reagan and the new Congress that they will "...pay the political price" if they don't behave. George Bush and others have already told them to go to hell in not so many words.

If these moralist fanatics continue their nasty post-election rhetoric, everyone except the true-believing cows will tell them the same thing. I have always thought that Reagan was not to be feared as much as the Moral Majority if they ever got in his ear. Perhaps they will neutralize themselves with their foul meanness as, unfortunately, Carter did this year.

I anxiously await the day when after another foolish threat to Reagan, he will tell the Moral Majority: "Look. You didn't elect me, the people did. So get off my back, will ya?"

Maybe this will happen. Maybe I'm fantasizing.

John MacKee
Carboro

"Being There"

To the editor:

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Carolina Union Film Committee for its excellent and timely choice of movies Nov. 6. Not only did *Being There* keep me thoroughly entertained, it also helped clear up some of my questions about the outcome of the presidential election.

Vickie Mull
228 Cobb

Clarifying

To the editor:

Thank you for the story covering my resignation from the Student Educational Broadcasting Board.

Elizabeth Shiner Creech
Associate Professor
RTVMP Department