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The Daily Tar Heel

89th year of editorial freedom

Poor politicking

The race for the Campus Governing Council District 1 seat between law students Ray Warren and Anderson Harkov produced unexpectedly high voter turnout last Tuesday. While it would be a healthy sign for future campus elections to produce such voter participation, it would not be wise for future candidates to follow the campaign tactics used in the District 1 race.

Harkov, a write-in candidate, saw the primary issue as Warren's belief that campus organizations that receive student funding should not be permitted to take political stands. Harkov disagreed with Warren on that issue. Since the CGC allocates student funds, the question appeared to be the major issue in the campaign.

But in his campaign flier, Warren ignored the issue by not mentioning it. Because he was the only candidate, it appeared Warren would be elected, even though many students probably would have disagreed with him on the issue of campus groups taking political stands if they knew Warren's position.

On the Friday before the election, Harkov entered the picture when he decided to run. He was supported by the Coalition for Better Campus Government. The situation was ripe for active discussion of the issue — the primary purpose of any political campaign. But instead of challenging Warren and producing healthy political debate, Harkov failed to publicize the issue until the morning of the election, when he distributed fliers stating both his and Warren's opinion on the issue of campus organizations taking political stands. Harkov succeeded in getting law students to the polls and won in a landslide.

In a letter to *The Daily Tar Heel* Friday, Warren said he did not understand why the Coalition for Better Student Government did not allow him time to respond to the questions involved in the issue. While Warren has a legitimate complaint, he has only himself to blame for never stating his views on the most important issue of the election when he had ample opportunity to do so. Both Warren and Harkov failed to provide the discussion of an issue that voters are entitled to hear.

It was encouraging to see the political activism of Warren, Harkov and the Coalition for Better Campus Government, and also the interest shown by law students in the election. But in the future campus elections, candidates should discard the tactics used by Warren and Harkov and concentrate on active discussion of the issues.

One more chance

After much discussion and analysis of statistics, the UNC Board of Governors voted Friday to extend the deadline for three predominantly black schools to improve their nursing programs. The vote, which came despite an earlier directive for the schools to increase their graduates' passing rate on the state's licensing exam or be closed, gives the schools one more chance to upgrade their programs.

In 1977 the board told North Carolina Central University, Winston-Salem State University and North Carolina A&T State University to achieve a two-thirds passing rate on the exam by 1981 or close. While NCCU and Winston-Salem State came within a reasonable percentage of meeting the mandate (54 percent and 64 percent respectively) A&T could muster only a miserable 28 percent passing rate.

But the board, acting on a recommendation from the Committee on Education Planning, Policies and Programs, decided several changes could improve that percentage this year. After the exam results were announced last month, *The Daily Tar Heel* recommended that NCCU and Winston-Salem State be given another chance, but that the program at A&T be closed.

The *DTH* still holds that position, but now that the board has made its decision, officials at A&T should be given the chance to show what they can do to help gain respectability for their program. UNC officials say the appointment of a new chancellor, dean of nursing and dean of academic affairs should be the deciding factor in improving the curriculum and ultimately the school's passing rate.

UNC Board Chairman John Jordan is correct, however, in his assessment that it will be a hard, uphill battle for A&T to improve its passing rate by more than 30 percentage points in one year. Jordan and the board should hold to their word that this will be the last chance. The board showed that it was flexible enough to recognize extenuating circumstances and adjust accordingly. It is now up to each school to prove itself and meet the required standards in the year ahead.

Hunger strikers criticized; issues distorted

By DAVID GILTINAN

The recent death by starvation of 10 Irish Republican Army prisoners in Northern Ireland's Maze prison captured the attention of the world. What drove these men to such an extreme form of protest? What issues were at stake, and who was right — Thatcher or the IRA? Unfortunately, Mark Murrell's analysis of the hunger strike ("Ireland's hunger strike ends, but not in vain," *DTH*, Oct. 8), does more to obscure matters than to clarify them.

I must take issue with a number of statements made by Murrell.

1) "The IRA are undeniably terrorists, but they are nevertheless politically motivated by understandable grievances. Their claim that they are political prisoners is true."

What sort of logic is this? Is it being suggested here that the end justifies the means, however abhorrent? To me, somebody who blows up innocent shoppers in a Belfast store is a killer. I fail to see how an alleged "political" motive diminishes the atrocity in any way. In this instance I must, for once, concur with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Murder is murder is murder. To imply that barbarity is somehow justifiable if committed in the name of a political cause is morally indefensible, and blurs dangerously what is essentially a very clear distinction between right and wrong.

Members of the IRA are not heroes, but thugs. In the emotionally charged atmosphere surrounding the hunger

strike, they would have us think of the protesters as martyrs, conveniently ignoring the barbarities committed by these men against the civilized community in Northern Ireland. Again, Thatcher put things in the proper perspective when she remarked that the hunger strikers always had the option of avoiding death, an option they had denied their victims. Murrell may choose to interpret Thatcher's inflexibility as "ignoring one of her country's oldest problems." Perhaps a more accurate appraisal would be that she was unwilling to be blackmailed into condoning savagery. In effect, the granting of special status to "political" murderers over other kinds of murderers would be doing just that.

hunger strikes began this year, over four times as much money was donated to the IRA from this country than in the corresponding period last year. This money goes to buy guns, and these guns are used to kill people. The IRA has certainly come a long way from the non-violent protest of Terence McSwiney. I only wish it were progress.

3) Murrell also mentions that some of the hunger strikers were elected members of British Parliament. This is true — Bobby Sands was indeed a member for the Fermanagh-South Tyrone constituency. The implication, however, that the IRA is therefore a legitimate political group, enjoying the support of the Catholic population, is false. The circumstances surrounding the election of Bobby Sands were suspicious, to say the least. The only other Catholic candidate withdrew just before the deadline for declaration of candidacy, and all evidence points toward massive intimidation by the IRA throughout the campaign. Sands' election should be viewed more as testimony to the IRA's bullying power than to its popularity.

In truth, the number of active IRA members in Northern Ireland is small, probably somewhere between 300 and 500 (British army estimates). The tragedy is that so few can inflict such damage on a community that basically wants peace. I cannot agree with Murrell's positive assessment of the recent hunger strikes. The IRA has simply continued to do what it does best — to sow the seeds of bitterness and division and reap the grim harvest of destruction.

David Giltinan is a graduate student in statistics from Cork, Ireland.

response

2) Murrell's comparison of the recent protest with previous hunger strikes in Irish history is misleading. He fails to make one important distinction. When the then Lord Mayor of Cork (whose name, by the way, was Terence McSwiney, not Thomas) starved to death in Brixton in 1920, it was because he specifically chose this as a non-violent form of protest. The same can hardly be said of present-day IRA men, most of whom were imprisoned for crimes such as murder, manslaughter, bombing or the illegal possession of weapons. Unable to continue the campaign of violence, they sought to do as much damage as possible from within the prison walls. Sadly, they succeeded — in the six months since the

Letters to the editor

Muslims adhere to distinct religious laws

To the editor:

In regard to Professor Edward Azar's exotic and bizarre opinion about Islam ("Mixed reactions prompted by leader's assassination," *DTH*, Oct. 7), specifically to what he considers as being a paradigm of Muslim natural behavior — and I quote: "When they (Muslims) can't deal with the laws, they go out and kill people ..." — let me kindly say the following.

As a concerned Muslim student, it seems to me that such a hasty and impulsive statement is, the least I can say, regrettable and far away from any profound or "serious" academic comprehension of Islam. Moreover, it is far stretched out beyond any Islamic beliefs, trends and norms or even pure logic itself. Such a statement not only represents a biased and unscientific opinion about Islam, but more important, is advocating a fantasized ignorance and superficial understanding. Maybe it is useful to emphasize that Azar is not a Muslim and his field of specialization is political science and not Islam.

Allow me then as a Muslim, if I can, to help clarify briefly such misconceptions regarding the scope of law in our Muslim life. First of all, the fundamental meaning of the word "Islam" is submission and obedience to God, which means that the notion of "obedience" is inseparable from all our Islamic beliefs. That is simply because Islam is not a set of spiritual beliefs only but rather a total way of life. Accordingly, Islam as a doctrine includes both the spiritual and practical sides of life. That is why there is no separation between church and state. In an ideal Islamic state, Muslims should conform only to the Shari'ah (the Islamic law), which is derived from the glorious Koran (the Muslim Holy Scripture) and the Hadith (the collection of teachings, instructions, conduct and behavior of prophet Mohammed, may peace be upon him).

Yet the conflict for all Muslims in today's secular world often becomes which laws should we conform to: the Koran as our sole constitution with the Shari'ah as the normal set of laws acceptable to our beliefs, or the western secular laws that are usually contradictory to our faith and are often forced upon us. To make my point clear, maybe I should ask, would you as Americans gladly agree to drop your constitution and laws and live your lives in your own country according to a new set of law imported from Russia or

China or even Nazi Germany? If you don't agree, how can you expect us as Muslims to simply forget ours?

Mamdouh Rezeika
 President
 Muslim Student Association

Apathetic lawyers

To the editor:

It is indeed heartening to read that not all law students are interested in such distasteful issues as nuclear arms and the FBI, but rather devote their energies to learning law and striving for jobs ("Maverick lawyers" *DTH*, Oct. 8). We can all certainly find relief in the trend for lawyers to not question the wisdom of laws and institutions, but instead to make careers through the interpretation and manipulation of what is already written.

One would hate to see something as trivial as a conscience detract a law student from the pursuit of legal truth and justice. Indeed, only by denying our responsibility to the general welfare of this country can we overcome that subversive 1960s-type consciousness-raising and

begin to realize our most fundamental reason for living — to make more money.

In dissociating politics from our lives, such ambiguous questions as our "national security" can safely be ignored, and we can each worry about acquiring wealth and maintaining order within that hole in the sand in which our own head is buried. Yes, I for one will sleep easier tonight knowing that the Legal 11 has committed itself to accepting the world just as it is.

Douglas Easterling
 Department of Psychology

Rather unsettling

To the editor:

It is Tom Moore's reviewing talent, not *From Mao to Mozart*, that is "rather chaotic" and "quite unsettling." Once again I find myself at odds with Moore's assessment of an area film, and his Oct. 7 look at the year's best documentary provoked this long overdue plea for responsible and accurate *DTH* reviews.

An unscrupulous reader would be led to expect tediously overdone scenes of a

complaining Isaac Stern, followed by inexplicable rounds of the Chinese countryside as mainstays of this sensitive film. To the contrary, Stern, the world's premier violinist, gently nurtures and encourages charming and amusing scenes. The panoramic views of the country's beautiful landscapes are regrettably brief glimpses of China's simple majesty.

I would challenge Moore's lazy assumption that the film's primary goal was the exposition of China's cultural revolution. Although it touches upon the revolution's brutal sabotage of artistic creativity, this particular film, like the joyful musical celebration of Isaac Stern's goodwill tour, was not designed to "drive home the horrors" of that shameful period of time.

The film skillfully and successfully accomplishes its purposes. Unearthing the tip of an iceberg, it rekindles a passion for the genius of Mozart and stirs one's interest in the ever-provocative Chinese culture.

Heather Ott
 421 Hillsborough St.



Pick out the satires from the real TV shows

By TOM MOORE

It has become a cliché to complain about how bad television shows are. Nevertheless, it does seem that they are getting worse each year. I have a theory for this; it's that TV writers and producers are really the greatest satirists in America and that the stuff they come up with is so stupid and inane that it's really quite funny. To show how clever these folks are, I've given synopses of several of this season's new shows mixed in with some fictional programs. It's up to you to see which are funnier — the real ones or the parodies.

Strike Force, a drama about an elite police force that goes after the biggest criminals that is billed as the bloodiest show in television history. In the opening episode, a pair of restaurant robbers are gunned down in loving slow motion. With Robert Stack as the head of the Strike Force.

Eager Beaver, an updated version of the old sit-com *Leave It To Beaver*. Today the adult Beaver Cleaver is a struggling insurance agent with a zany wife and two rambunctious kids of his own. In the premiere episode, Beaver comes home to find his wife in bed with house guest Eddie Haskell. With Jerry Mathers as the Beaver.

Lewis and Clark, a comedy about a New Yorker who moves to Texas to run a country music club with the help of a local yokel. With Gabe Kaplan and Guich Kooch.

The Mall, a slice-of-life drama from the creators of *The Waltons* and *The Love Boat* about everyday occurrences at a typical suburban shopping mall. In the opening episode, an old woman gets caught shoplifting, the Peanut World closes because business is bad and lots of teen-age kids hang out and smoke marijuana and

drink beer. Special guest stars Tommy Smothers as the owner of Peanut World, Jane Russell as the shoplifter, Slim Pickens as the security guard and Linda Blair and Meckenzee Phillips as two juvenile delinquents.

Love Sidney, the controversial comedy-drama series about a confirmed bachelor who plays father to an unwed mother and her 6-year-old child. In the opening episode, Sidney goes to talk with NBC executives to see whether they have decided what his sexual preference is. With Tony Randall as Sidney.



Action Newsroom!!!, a drama about a busy television newsroom in a big-market metropolitan area. In the premiere, a crisis hits the newsroom when Action Anchorman Dave Crackem's electric hairdryer blows a fuse five minutes before air time. With John Davidson as Dave Crackem, Lola Falana as Beth Ziner, the action co-anchor, and Jonathan Winters as the action weatherman.

Today's FBI, an updated version of the old hit series. Once again the scripts are culled from the actual files of the FBI. The premiere about racketeering on the dockside, however, is taken directly from the script of *On The Waterfront*. With Mike "Mannix" Connors as Efrim Zimbalist Jr.

Top Heavy, a hilarious new comedy from the creators of *Three's Company* about two amply-endowed roommates who work as go-go dancers. In the opening episode, the two ladies shop for lingerie. With Carol Doda and Candy Loving. Special guest appearance by Buddy Hackett as a pervert.

The Powers of Matthew Star, a comedy about a strange prince from another planet who comes to earth so he can go to high school in California. And he has the powers of clairvoyance, telekinesis and telepathy, which help him on pop quizzes and dates.

Death Wish, a television adaptation of the popular Charles Bronson film about a vigilante killer. In the premiere episode, Paul gets mad one night when the service in his favorite restaurant is a little slow, and he pulls out his .45 and lets everyone in the place have it. With Jack Palance as Paul.

Mr. Merlin, a comedy series about the current adventures of Merlin the wizard, who once was the backbone of King Arthur's court. Nowadays, Merlin runs a garage in San Francisco.

Father Murphy, a comedy-drama about a gold prospector in the Dakota territory in the 1870s. In the opening episode, the prospector pretends he's a priest in order to round up some kiddies so he can run an orphanage. With Merlin Olsen as Father Murphy.

Mr. East Goes To Washington, a comedy-drama about a lovable, but absent-minded, conservative professor who sees his surprising election to the Senate as a mandate for reform. In the premiere, Sen. East, while conducting hearings on whether fluoridation of water is a Communist plot, realizes that he brushes with flouridated toothpaste and begins to wonder if he too might be a communist. With Raymond Burr as Sen. East.

Tom Moore, a senior history major from Greensboro, aspires to be the next Ed McMahon.

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