

The Daily Tar Heel

91st year of editorial freedom

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Kudos

Congratulations are due Campus Governing Council members and other "concerned" elite who like skilled protesters have found a UNC controversy. His name is Yure Nmomma and his offense was winning a Homecoming queen beauty pageant. As a joke candidate, he by winning has failed in his established campaign role; the concerned students began writing letters to *The Daily Tar Heel*, calling for change. They talked amongst themselves and in closed-door meetings, anxious to rid this campus of future joke candidates so that tradition and the status quo would be safe.

Any sense of perspective on Homecoming had disappeared just as soon as the hairy-legged Teague resident walked away with the bouquet of roses. By arguing that a joke candidate was a slap at UNC tradition, these concerned students began degrading the central principles of this University. Homecoming is an event held in an oval stadium once a year. How can that compare to 190 years of academic excellence?

It's safe to say that the group of students has become so caught up in the issue that they have forgotten what they're fighting for. They have begun talking of amendments to the election laws that would disallow joke candidates to run in any election, neglecting to see that the problem is with Homecoming, not joke candidates. And they've failed to realize that what Yure Nmomma's election has done is prove to students that if they want a strong Homecoming, they will have to work for it by showing some support.

All this has been lost, however, in the concern over an alleged tradition. CGC members and other officials see only the threat against what has gone before. They say they are the few who take their jobs seriously, but is that such a bonus when at the same time they've become afraid of someone who could challenge tradition, someone with the nerve to say "I want changes." Their fear of joke candidates lies not in the people themselves, but in the realization that students may vote for them.

As the clamor over the male Homecoming Yure Nmomma ends, so should the Student Government pursuit of a culprit. To bar future joke candidates from elections would be restricting the freedom of expression, certainly a more important tradition at the University than a weekend beauty pageant. Homecoming does have a place at the University; it's time for students to consider just where that place should be.



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SHOE

Influence for the creation is here



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By KELLY SIMMONS

The editor of the *Treetop Tattler* in the nationally syndicated cartoon "Shoe" still wears tennis shoes and smokes cigars, dines in greasy spoons and rejects his reporters' work. But Jim Shumaker no longer does. "I used to," he said recently, "until I cleaned up my act."

Though he won't directly admit to being the famed P. Martin Shoemaker in the cartoon, all evidence points toward him, and his eyes twinkle as he talks about his connection with Jeff MacNelly.

Shumaker was editor of *The Chapel Hill Weekly* in 1970 when MacNelly worked as a cartoonist there. "We used to have a routine," Shumaker said, leaning back and propping his feet up on his desk next to wooden blocks spelling out the word Shoe. "He'd come shamblin' in and I'd say, 'What do you want to do today?'"

"And he'd say, 'Oh, I don't know, what do you want to do?'"

"I'd draw him a few stick figures to give him an idea about what I wanted — he'd take it and run with it. He's a damn genius."

MacNelly took political cartooning and ran with it — all the way from *The Daily Tar Heel* and *The Chapel Hill Weekly* to the *Chicago Tribune*, grabbing two Pulitzer prizes along the way.

Jim Shumaker has since left the Chapel Hill paper and is now an instructor of journalism here at University.

They haven't seen each other in years, but the two have nothing but praise for each other. In talking to them both, it's difficult to determine which one impressed the other more.

The importance of humor

"He was fast — I'd give him an idea and it seemed like only 15 minutes he'd be back with the finished cartoon," Shumaker said. "They were undoubtedly the finest things in the paper."

MacNelly took his work at the newspaper seriously, much more so than his classes. Studies weren't MacNelly's main concern; his effort went into his art. He never graduated from UNC, though he spent four regular years and two summer school sessions here. He did some sports cartoons for the *DTH* before beginning work at *The Chapel Hill Weekly*.

He regrets not taking his schoolwork seriously but said that, instead, having a good sense of humor and quick wit were the marks of a good journalist. He learned this and a lot more about journalism while working with Shumaker.

"He could really put it down on paper," MacNelly said. "He was tough, but he had a great sense of the absurd — he basically raised hell in print."

"So many people take themselves too seriously," MacNelly never had Shumaker for a class, but he said he imagined he'd be the same in class as at the paper. "He'd be the same if he were selling cars," he said, and laughed.

Drawing funny pictures

MacNelly has the same sense of humor he described in Shumaker. From his *Chicago Tribune* office, he participated in an interview while simultaneously watching a Cubs game. He's only in the office for a few days every other week. Other times he works out

of his home — a farm in Jetersville, Va. Or he's off on speaking engagements. He likes getting out and talking

to college students. "Otherwise I'd just stay in my room and draw funny pictures," he said.

The laidback attitude and sarcasm Shumaker possesses carried over into MacNelly's strip "Shoe," the antics of cynical newspaper editor P. Martin Shoemaker.

"I didn't mean to really call it 'Shoe,'" MacNelly said in defense. But the name has stuck. "He hasn't threatened to sue me... not yet."

Problems with popularity

While the Shoe character, MacNelly admits, is based on Shumaker, the others are basically autobiographical. MacNelly draws from his personal experiences to develop the plots used in the cartoon. "Irving is pretty much me on a daily basis," he joked. His only problem with the strip, he said, is that someone is always trying to dig too deeply into it to find hidden meaning. And there just isn't any.

Once someone told him they'd figured out that the professor was Henry Kissinger and the tree was the Western civilization. "I've created a monster," he lamented.

Shumaker has also had some problems with the popularity of "Shoe." For a while there he did nothing but sit in his office and wait for people to call him up and ask about MacNelly.

"I was intrigued at first," he said. "But I got sick of walking down the street and having people say, 'I saw you in the paper this morning.'"

"I'd say where?"

"And they'd say, 'On the funny pages.'"

Kelly Simmons, a junior journalism major from Reidsville, is an editorial writer for *The Daily Tar Heel*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Homecoming: a hallowed tradition?

Aussie conquest

Monday was a day of firsts for the New York Yacht Club and the United States. For the first time in 132 years, the America's Cup was won by another country. Also, for the first time in the history of the race, it took the entire seven-race sequence to establish a winner. The loss marked the end of the longest winning streak in sports history and broke the record of being the only international trophy never to change hands.

The Australians who gathered in Newport for the race burst into tears of joy at the outcome. The champagne flowed freely and they hoisted a green flag with a yellow kangaroo in red boxing gloves up the mast of the yacht. Jubilant also were the Australians at home who had been up since 2 a.m. their time to watch the televised race.

The Australia II had come a long way since the early summer controversy when the crew refused to uncover a mysterious keel which they felt sure would increase their chances for a victory. New York yachters tried to outlaw the radical keel, a beam on which the frame of the boat rests, but the Aussies won that fight too, remaining in the race with their keel.

It wasn't until after the final race Monday that the Australians lifted the yacht from the water to let spectators view their "secret." Apparently the winged keel gave the boat the ability to turn faster and accelerate more during the crucial inward legs. The prized cup has been directed to the land Down Under where it will remain until 1987 or 1988 when the race will be run again — this time in Australia, and with the Americans as the challengers.

The Aussies should rejoice in their victory, after all it took six tries and 21 years to win it. For the U.S. team, it's all water under the bridge. Besides, the race will still be called the America's Cup; the Australians have agreed to let that tradition remain.

'DTH' too hard on Baxter

To the editor:

We in Teague would like to express our disappointment with *The Daily Tar Heel* editorial "An Open Letter" (Sept. 26) concerning Carolina Athletic Association President Padraic Baxter.

We resent the implication that the letter was written by members of Teague Dorm or "Yure Nmomma," as the article was signed. We reserve the right to use "Yure Nmomma Sleeps in Teague" and all its derivatives. This editorial was not the place for it.

Furthermore, we apologize for the tone of the editorial and hope that the *DTH* will follow in doing the same.

We believe that the editorial, though not intended, was cruel and undeservedly harsh on Baxter. Even though Baxter was not overwhelmingly enthusiastic initially, "Yure Nmomma's" candor was finally officially recognized.

We realize that Baxter does not have an easy job and that it was further complicated by the entrance of a male can-

didate. We also realize that he is the one to whom all upset students and alumni will direct their complaints.

We now apologize for further complicating his job and for any harsh feelings or words that have resulted, but not for our actions in drawing attention to Homecoming at UNC.

For all the people upset that a male in drag won, let us pose one question: "Did you vote?" If the answer is no, stop complaining. It took more than Teague, Padraic Baxter or Scott College to elect "Yure Nmomma." He/she was elected by the entire student body. It is there that all criticism should be leveled.

At most institutions, Homecoming is an event; here, it has become a mere formality. Homecoming 1983 will definitely be one to remember. Maybe next year it will be approached a lot more enthusiastically and seriously by the student body.

Steve Latham (Yure Nmomma)
 Pete Fields
 Steve Potter
 Vince Credle
 Alan Haseley
 Teague

Insulting garbage

To the editor:

I was appalled when I read Yure Nmomma's "An open letter" (*DTH*, Sept. 26), addressed to Carolina Athletic Association President Padraic Baxter. His "open letter" was nothing but a childish, slanderous, personal attack. It made me think of a spoiled brat saying "nanny nanny boo boo" after he has played a trick on another child. Maybe that kind of insulting garbage should be expected from a cocky Homecoming queen, but it should never have appeared in any kind of newspaper.

What happened to your judgment, *DTH*? Were you desperate for editorial page copy? If you have nothing better to print than personal insults, I suggest you leave blank space.

Mary-Benton Hudgens
 Hinton James

Editor's note: "An open letter" was the editorial opinion of the *DTH* and was not written by Homecoming queen Yure Nmomma (Steve Latham).

Latham a statement, not a joke

To the editor:

In all of the flurry surrounding the election of a male running under a pseudonym of questionable taste as Homecoming queen, a couple of essential points seem to have been missed concerning the whole weekend.

The first of these is that somewhere along the line the meaning of Homecoming seems to have been lost. The word "homecoming" itself embodies the whole purpose of the event, which is to welcome alumni "home" to Carolina to see the changes to the campus and reminisce about their days in school here. From that standpoint, Steve Latham's election both enhances and detracts from the meaning of the festivities. On the one hand, the alumni were more vividly reminded of the fun involved in college pranks, but on the other hand they may have felt that their return to campus was not welcome.

The second, and more important, point which has been overlooked is that the relative success (or failure) of the weekend resulted from a lack of cooperation among the several parties responsible for planning and executing the activities. Being in a position to watch the planning from more than one angle, I saw breakdowns in communications which were largely responsible for the less-than-satisfactory outcome this past weekend. The Carolina Athletic Association submitted incorrect information to *The Daily Tar Heel* without verifying it with the Alumni Association, which was sponsoring the particular event. The Alumni Association, the Carolina Athletic Associa-

tion and the Athletic Association arbitrarily chose the opponent for Homecoming without asking for popular student opinion and without explaining the choice. This later led to misunderstandings and negative feelings on the part of residents of Teague Dorm, our new homecoming queen among them. The early date of the Homecoming game also left little time for the students to prepare to welcome the alumni to Chapel Hill, which is a tremendous amount of work and which the CAA is expected to pull off by itself with relatively little assistance from the other concerned groups, either in manpower or money.

In the future it would be advisable to form a Homecoming steering committee consisting of a representative each from the Carolina Athletic Association, the Alumni Association/Order of the Bell Tower, the Athletic Association, Student Government and *The Daily Tar Heel*. This committee would be responsible for overseeing the entire weekend from the choice of an opponent to the post-game dance.

If interest in Homecoming is going to continue the upswing it has taken in the past few years, then an interest in coordinated planning toward a unified purpose must also take an upswing. Perhaps then, frustration with the entire weekend will not culminate in the election of a Homecoming queen who does not appear to be the actual popular choice of the student body.

Sharon L. Moylan
 Northampton Plaza

Outside the ivory tower

To the editor:

To Doc Droze, Jim Swofford, Kevin Monroe and the 49,000 offended people:

My heart simply breaks for the poor senior girls who can never again "run for queen" (unless they manage someday to charm the pants off a gullible Prince) and also for the poor girl who "would have won" had it not been for Yure Nmomma's conquering beauty. And yes, it's such a shame that the Homecoming tradition seems to have gone the way of Studebakers, bobby sox, and the hula hoop. I spent all day Tuesday sobbing over the lack of respect given to such a sacred tradition as Carolina's annual beauty contest.

However, I am even more distressed over the fact that a male Homecoming queen is the major concern of so many people at this University. I guess Carolina really is an ivory tower. But out in the real world, folks, you might find some issues a trifle more important than the UNC Homecoming. For instance, people are dying in Lebanon. The United States is

still involved in El Salvador, where children are taking lessons in guerrilla warfare. The 1984 election is right around the corner. Racial discrimination still exists, even on our beloved campus. But, of course, problems like these are trifling compared to the outrageous jocularity aimed at such a longstanding tradition...aren't they?

Look around, folks, and get your priorities in order. I always assumed (and perhaps it was presumptuous of me) that we were here to get an education, to learn how to better address and maybe even solve some of the terrible problems staring us all in the face. But naturally, educated minds such as yours are concerned with more pressing problems than war, the economy and prejudice. Next week I expect letters decrying the deplorable demise of another "bastion of tradition" — beach music.

Robin Fullilove
 Townhouse Apts.



Today: queen, tomorrow: Chi O

To the editor:

I would like to congratulate "Yure Nmomma" on her victory as the 1983 Homecoming queen. It is a victory that the "guys" in Teague can be very proud of. I do not think this victory earns you an Intramural Champion shirt or contributes

points toward an all-around IM championship though, Steve Latham. Maybe you should try sorority rush next year!

John Huffines
 Morrison

The Daily Tar Heel

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