

The Daily Tar Heel

91st year of editorial freedom

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...or is it Memorex?

Few students have videocassette recorders in their dorm rooms, but a recent Supreme Court ruling may affect more than one of you who use Mom and Dad's machine to tape *All My Children* or ACC Tournament games.

The court ruled last week that home taping is not an infringement of copyright laws so long as the reshewing is not used for commercial purposes. The court cited that congress, in a revision of the copyright laws in 1976, failed to mention VCR use, and until Congress makes a law one way or the other, the court would stand behind home tapers. It was a ruling that bluntly faced new options open to consumers in an increasingly electronic environment. As Associate Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for the 5 to 4 majority, "Sound policy as well as history, supports our consistent deference to Congress when major technological innovations alter the market for copyrighted material."

The monumental decision came about through a lawsuit against the Sony Corp. by Universal Pictures, which claimed that Sony was providing equipment with which to steal royalty profits from studios, producers and actors. Television and movie producers are concerned about profits lost to those who are building up their videotape libraries from movies shown on television. They are also concerned, though less so, about those who tape a show to be watched at a later date ("time shifting") and then skip over the commercials. Despite the ruling, MCA Inc., the parent company of Universal, plans to do some strong lobbying in Congress to increase its and its competitors' copyrights.

One proposal is to levy a "royalty tax" of several hundred dollars on all VCRs and of one or two dollars on each blank videocassette. The collected revenues would be returned to the producers through a complex sharing formula. Such taxes could amount to billions of dollars returned to the producers each year: Sales of VCRs more than doubled between 1982 and 1983, to 4.2 million units, and sales of blank tapes skyrocketed from 24.7 million to 57 million the same year.

Even taking into account the wave of new products, producers of movies and television shows have spent large amounts of money to create their programs, and their monetary rights must be preserved regardless of whether the shows are broadcast over the air. The royalty tax seems the best method of reimbursement without restricting the recording wishes of U.S. viewers. Taxing blank cassettes at a rate of \$1 or \$2 is reasonable considering the tapes are reusable. A high tax on the machines — \$200 per unit has been suggested — would have dire effects, however, by pricing some segments of the population out of the market. As "information" becomes more a mainstay of our society, low-income families could lose out again because they would not have the convenience of "time shifting" television programming. When, and if, Congress approaches the problem, it should be mindful of the producers' rights but should not allow them to dictate who their audience will be.

Death penalty affirms value of human life

By VANCE TREFETHEN

The recent publicity surrounding the likely execution of James Hutchins and the entire issue of capital punishment has raised public awareness and provoked numerous, often deeply emotional public responses. The case for or against capital punishment often seems cut and dried to those who espouse one view or the other, but often the arguments for both leave a great deal to be desired.

The most frequently made, and perhaps best, argument against the death penalty is that the state has no right to take the life of a human being. But this is flawed.

The logical continuation of this line of reasoning requires us to also demand the unilateral dismantling of all other agents of government that are empowered to kill, i.e. the military. The military has no other purpose for existing but for preparing and carrying out, if necessary, various actions that society deems appropriate, rightly or wrongly, for self-defense, all of which necessarily involve the taking of life. Capital punishment, in this sense, serves as an internal self-defense mechanism, and is therefore justified the same way having an army is justified.

Unfortunately, there are a large number of arguments in favor of capital punishment that are equally unacceptable. It is sometimes embarrassing to admit that you agree with a point of view that someone is taking when they argue it vehemently with points that are invalid.

One of the more common reasons given in support of the death penalty is deterrence. If potential criminals know that they will be executed if they commit a certain crime, they will be less likely to do it, or so the theory goes. The problem is that most capital crimes are committed on impulse—"crimes of passion," if you will. The person who has an argument with a friend or spouse and impulsively grabs a gun and shoots could probably be threatened with the most horrible and seemingly deterring



punishments mankind could devise, and none of them would stop him from pulling the trigger in that one moment of irrational behavior. Deterrence requires rational thought, and rational thought does not precede these kinds of crimes.

Perhaps the weakest argument for capital punishment is that it saves money when compared to the cost of feeding and housing a criminal for the duration of a life sentence. If I believed capital punishment were absolutely morally wrong, it wouldn't matter how much money could be saved, I would still oppose it.

More important is the fact that the economic argument generally isn't true. Studies in New York State indicate that the additional costs of legal fees, court time, appeals, death row security measures and various other administrative costs in capital punishment cases frequently end up costing society more

than it would cost to simply lock the offender up for life.

Understanding the true reason for consistent application of capital punishment requires an understanding of the reason societies have criminal justice systems at all. There are those who would contend that the purpose of the system is, or should be, to reform the offender, rather than to punish him. Those who favor reform generally oppose capital punishment because it gives no opportunity to reform the offender. This is consistent. If reform is the goal, doubtless there are countless thousands of people whose forced rehabilitation and reform could benefit society greatly. But government does not (and should not) simply round up people and try to reform them. Government, even when motivated by a reform attitude, only attempts to reform those who are guilty of some crime, i.e. those who *deserve* it. Even in the spirit of reform, there is a deeper sense of forcing the offender to undergo some involuntary experience because he deserves it, and not simply because his life could be improved by it.

This is the true basis for a nation's possession of a criminal justice system: giving those who break society's rules a punishment equal to what they deserve. In this way, society expresses its collective moral and social values. For example, if the penalty for stealing a car were a \$5 fine, one could logically conclude that society does not value cars highly.

If the penalty for murder is anything less than capital punishment, it reflects a societal view that human life is cheap, or that the life of some (the strong and aggressive who can and will kill people) is more valuable than the life of others (the innocent and less aggressive), since in the end the aggressor lives and the innocent dies. Capital punishment is necessary to fulfill the purpose and goals of the criminal justice system, not for deterrence or for saving money. Anything less demeans human life.

Vance Trefethen, a sophomore economics major from Bangor, Maine, is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Di-Phi Societies want you!

To the editor:

What is the most important knowledge we can obtain during our four years at UNC? Certainly, specific information vital to our careers is of primary importance, but I feel the knowledge of proper communication skills far outweighs most other abilities in its values. Why? Because success in most fields is directly related to how well we express our thoughts and opinions to others. In addition, throughout life we're constantly judged by others on how well we present ourselves. Ben Jonson once said, "Language most shows a man: Speak that I may see thee." In the same way, how well we present ourselves to others can be responsible for better grades, new jobs and even stronger friendships.

The Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies exist with the purpose of helping students acquire skill and confidence in the art of public speaking. Because of our sincere belief in the importance of effective oral communication, we would like to invite all students to our meetings each Monday night from 7:30 to 9 in 300 New West. If you wish to improve your ability as an orator, we hope you'll consider our organization, which offers both the oppor-

tunity for practice as well as constructive evaluation.

Although public speaking is noted in the *Book of Lists* as the No. 1 phobia, Di-Phi can help you conquer this fear through practice. To learn how to swim you can only study books and listen to lectures for so long. Eventually, you have to dive in! In the same way, anyone interested in becoming more comfortable in front of audiences must speak before them frequently. Fortunately, Di-Phi is around to help. We're not experts — just students who wish to become better communicators. All of us are trying to learn from one another and recognize how much courage it takes to stand and utter a single word. It's probably this supportive nature of our group that has helped me as a growing speaker the most.

After the initial fear of speaking in front of a group has diminished, we offer friendly and constructive evaluation to members. Through the use of an official evaluator as well as feedback from other members, we try to improve our presentations through more varied vocal variety as well as gestures. Obviously, the responsibility for evaluation lies ultimately with the speaker, but by providing useful sug-

gestions we hope to assist the speaker in recognizing his own strengths and weaknesses as a communicator.

Again, we hope all students will think about dropping in on one of our meetings. Remember: New West 300 at 7:30 each Monday. Even if you can't make it tonight, we would love to hear from you

and hope you'll get in touch with us. If you have any questions, please call — my number is 933-8445. Let Di-Phi help you get the most out of college!

Jim Slaughter, President
Dialectic and
Philanthropic Societies

Clarifying the issue

To the editor:

I read Chris Kremer's letter to the editor, "More on SECS," (*DTH*, Jan. 18) at about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday afternoon. At 5 p.m. I was on the phone with Kremer. We had a lengthy discussion. My purpose in calling him was the shock I received in reading the last paragraph of his letter.

In that paragraph, Kremer said that the Sexuality Education and Counseling Service is "secretive in much of what they do." He called our meetings "strategy" sessions. He said that they are not open, nor accessible to the general public. Kremer also said "often they meet at one of their 'counselor's' homes."

The first major point is that Kremer told me that his information was from a year ago — or more. He was often vague. In his last paragraph he was speaking of Human Sexuality Information and Counseling Service — which preceded SECS and was composed of different people. Kremer, therefore, has misrepresented the truth.

I became involved with SECS, as did most of my fellow counselors, in September 1983. We spent last semester in training for our peer-counselor positions. We began with a weekend retreat at the Fleming Center in Raleigh, the purpose of which was to broaden our mindset in order to create a truly nonjudgmental atmosphere for SECS.

The reason SECS has a nonjudgmental approach is simply that SECS is a service to the UNC community. If someone is troubled about a relationship, he wants to turn to someone who will listen to him without condemning him. If a person wants condemnation there are several places one can go to get it. SECS is not one of those places.

Instead, SECS' peer-counselor approach allows a person to speak freely and to ask for factual information. SECS also provides a referral service. As far as Kremer's concerns about SECS' pro-choice stand on abortion, in our referral service, SECS would be just as likely to

refer a client to Pregnancy Support Service as to an abortion clinic. It all depends on the individual client's wishes.

SECS met twice a week last semester for training — not "strategy." We had speakers from various organizations, such as Student Legal Services and CHEC, talk to us about factual information as well as professional counselors speak to us about counseling technique. These meetings are not closed; we had several guests. Furthermore, SECS meets on the second floor of the Union — pretty accessible.

SECS also does outreaches for various groups such as residence halls, fraternities and sororities. The subjects of these outreaches vary from values clarification to contraception information to labeling in society. Kremer said he had tried to attend a SECS outreach, which in fact was a HSICS outreach a year ago, but was "rebuffed." The outreach was one at a woman's dormitory and someone in some way gave him the idea that he probably should not go. He never got to the door. Kremer was again vague. Perhaps the outreach was on a women's topic. In any case, he should have gone to it, instead of letting hearsay stop him.

I can understand Kremer being upset that his student fees are being spent on an organization of which he does not approve. However, in this university, there are probably many people who fall into this category in one way or another. SECS exists to provide a valuable service to a great part of this community. The choice to use it is yours.

SECS is open to everyone. Kremer said that the counselors at SECS include homosexuals and bisexuals. He forgot to mention heterosexuals as well. Every counselor at SECS is concerned with all human feelings of well-being. SECS is pro-choice on life.

Arlaine Rockey
Sexuality Education
and Counseling Service

...even further

To the editor:

It is difficult to know how to respond to the misleading diatribe on the Sexuality Education and Counseling Service (Chris Kremer, "More on SECS," *DTH*, Jan. 18). It seems that in his haste to label our counseling staff as an "ugly little group" and assert that "abortion promotion" is a major aim of SECS, Kremer reveals to *DTH* readers his own biases and confirms the fact that his analysis of Cindi Ross' article ("SECS provides a listening ear") was, at best, superficial.

During the past 1½ years that I have been involved with the service, I have never had the pleasure of meeting Kremer, yet it is apparent to me that he is indeed out of touch with the present reality of the situation. During that time, we have always held our meetings in the Carolina Union and publicized their times in the *DTH* — not in "inaccessible places" nor of the "secretive" nature that Kremer claims.

As to his blatantly false assertion that SECS "refuses to be accessible" to the student body, I invite him to call or stop by the office during our regular working hours.

At SECS we do use a

I know that I'm biased, but I feel that the group of men and women who volunteer their time to SECS are some very special concerned and caring people who shouldn't be judged by a complete stranger.

Brian Richmond, Director
Sexuality Education
and Counseling Service

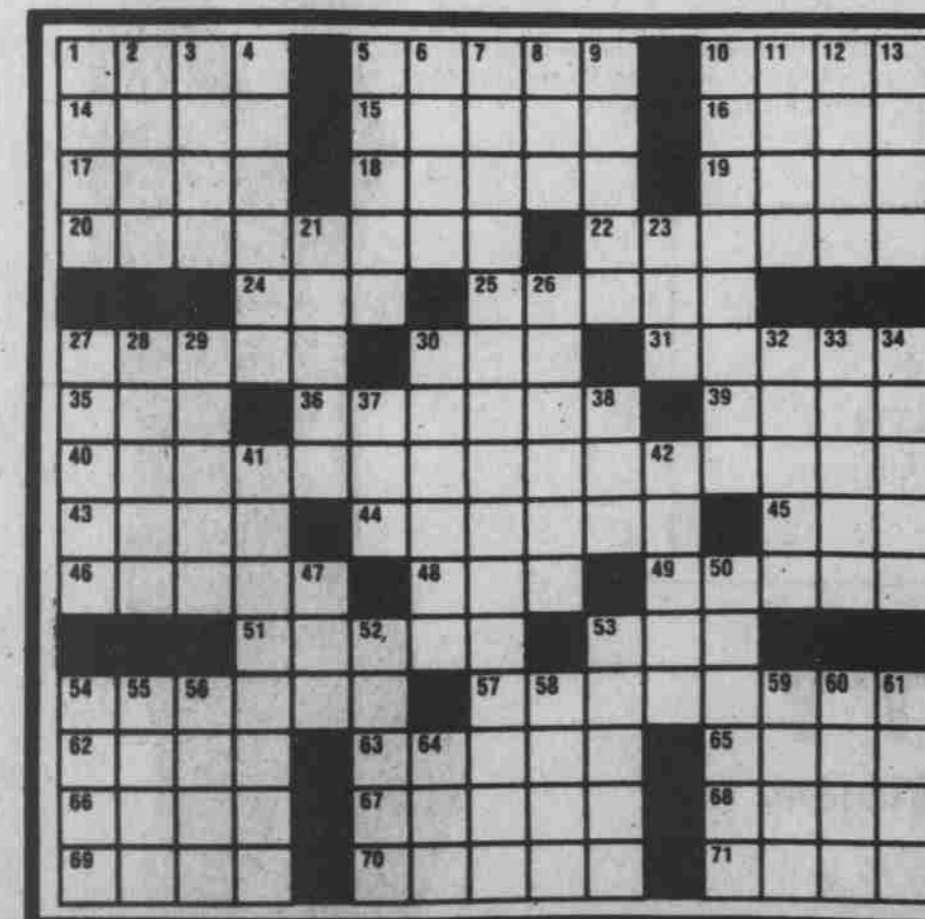
THE Daily Crossword by John H. Miles

- ACROSS
- 1 Pagod's captain
- 5 Sheriff's group
- 10 Lewis unit, for short
- 14 Theater seat
- 15 Praise
- 16 Above
- 17 Math. division
- 18 Bullyrag
- 19 Green color
- 20 Heated exchange
- 22 Fine brandy
- 24 Letter opener
- 25 Ne plus
- 27 Capital of Crete
- 30 Retainer
- 31 Pergois
- 35 I love's last
- 36 Casette and Persian
- 39 Heraldic pattern
- 40 Lindbergh's plane
- 43 Otherwise
- 44 Dahl or Francis
- 45 Child
- 46 Beginnings
- 48 Sloths
- 49 Long lock
- 51 Egyptian measure
- 53 Cedar Rapids school
- 54 Animal pay for a patch
- 57 Extinct
- 62 - five
- 63 Gypsies' way
- 65 Misalignment agent
- 66 At hand
- 67 Eur. subway
- 68 Zhivago's sweetheart
- 69 NY river
- 70 Nordic
- 71 Trees
- 21 "Moon Over" .. .
- 23 Mouth's part
- 28 Festivals of .. .
- 29 Spectacle
- 32 Schwab's .. .
- 34 Snow than enough
- 29 Outcry
- 30 Plant treatises
- 32 Savage creature
- 33 Mixtures
- 34 Relaxes
- 37 Gr. letter
- 38 Stopping place: abbr.
- 41 Final warning
- 42 Friend
- 47 Spanish lady: abbr.
- 50 Entertain sumptuously
- 52 Tense situation
- 53 Punctuation mark
- 54 Eat well
- 55 Concert halls
- 56 Meadows
- 58 It. money
- 59 Bedouin head cord
- 60 Specified period
- 61 Ages
- 64 For each

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

TIAARA ELIAND SCAM
OMI VILOR SILLA
PUTANENOTO REIN
ERASER SEPARATE
MORIE ROGER
ARKANSAS UNLESS
BAINNS SOLITI DUO
CLOD PERIS COIR
DEG AINEN GUITA
RISKING BICRATES
EDEMA SEAS
HEDONIST SMEARS
ASON SHUTUPSHOP
INFO BEINER YUBA
LEFT DRAMA OMEN

1/21/84



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1/23/84

Spare yourself

To the editor:

If you're a little bored with Purdy's, a little nauseated by Hector's, or just find yourself with nothing to do tonight, check out the Ram Theatre for some good old-fashioned violence against women, Friday night, *Pieces*, a movie the National Organization of Women and other concerned groups have protested and had removed in New York, Chicago, and other cities across the country, had its first showing in Chapel Hill and will probably, despite protests, continue to run through Thursday. *Pieces* is a brutal, gore-filled movie that is not recommended for those with weak stomachs and/or an ounce of humanity. A college dean in Boston chainsaws women to their deaths and collects their body parts to piece together, creating a facsimile of his mother whom

he had axed to death as a young boy.

It is this type of movie that plants the seeds in the minds of the maniacal. It was appalling to see, out of a very small audience, the high percentage of men who came alone to the movie, sat in the front rows, and were mesmerized by the power depicted on the screen. Can you imagine the outrage had all the victims been Jewish, black or members of another minority group? But, alas, as a friend so aptly put it, "Women are fair game."

So, for the mere price of \$3.75, you, too, can see women decapitated, sawed in half...But please, save your money. This type of thing should not be supported or condoned in any way.

Teresa Lynch
Avery Residence Hall

Get a calculator

To the editor:

According to your editorial "License to kill" (*DTH*, Jan. 19), "In 1976, these new laws (concerning the death penalty) were tested and upheld by the Supreme Court. Yet nine years later, it's become apparent...."

1976
+9
1985

Charles Brewer
Carrboro

Editor's note: The *DTH* regrets the error.



At SECS we do use a