

Trudeau says Doonesbury to return

Staff and wire reports

KANSAS CITY — The comic strip "Doonesbury," not seen since January 1983 because its characters were "confused and out of sorts," will return to newspapers — including *The Daily Tar Heel* — on Sept. 30, its distributor announced July 14. DTH Editor Jeff Hiday said there will probably be some sort

of vote in the fall to determine what cartoons would run in *The DTH*, but that "Doonesbury" and "Bloom County" will almost certainly run.

When cartoonist Garry Trudeau announced his sabbatical in September 1982, he said of his characters, "It's time to give them some \$20 haircuts, graduate them and move them out into the larger world of grown-up concerns."

John McMeel, president of Universal Press Syndicate, announced in a news release July 14 that Doonesbury would resume Sept. 30. The strip had been appearing in 726 papers when Trudeau decided to take a break.

The release did not include any comments from Trudeau or give any clue as to what changes the characters had undergone.

Mule droppings cause debate in Texas

The Associated Press

JEFFERSON — Mule droppings have become the topic of fierce debate in one of the dirtiest political fights anyone in this eastern Texas town can remember.

One faction wants the mules diapered. A rival group has declared itself anti-diaper, or as an antique dealer says, "I'm pro-poop."

Caught in the middle are the mule buggies that have been a tourist attraction for 18 years in this town of 2,600 people. The mules travel a three-mile tour of antebellum homes and churches. "This is a small town," said City Manager Sara Hernandez.

"When something starts like this, everybody just choose up sides."

The squabble over the mules heated up last month when businesses on Lafayette Street in downtown Jefferson started a petition asking that each buggy-pulling mule wear a diaper — a baglike apparatus worn by police horses in New Orleans and some other cities.

The petition asks that a city ordinance be passed "to control manure from commercially used domestic animals."

"It gets to smelling pretty rough out there," said Russell Cooner, 43, who works at Fulger's Barber Shop. A nearby intersection "seems to be one of the places where they like to

dump," he said.

Joel Mullins, owner of the mule buggies, started his own petition opposing the proposed diaper ordinance.

"We do not find the manure droppings of these animals to be offensive or causing harm to our business in any way," the petition states.

Mullins, 69, has taken the squabble personally.

"I spend an hour every morning grooming these mules, getting their hair all shiny for the people," Mullins said. "And now they want me to hang a diaper bag from them."

The anti-diaper petition has drawn its strongest support from antique dealers who find the droppings "quaint."

"I'm pro-poop," said antique dealer Bob Haynes. "Quite frankly, most of our tourists are city people. They don't object. They consider it part of this sleepy country town."

Both sides will present their petitions during the next City Council meeting in August. In the meantime, Mayor Rule Young is trying to stay impartial.

"We'll look at it from a health standpoint," said Young. "I've heard complaints about the odor from it, and the possibility of people stepping in it. Others complain about the fly problem."

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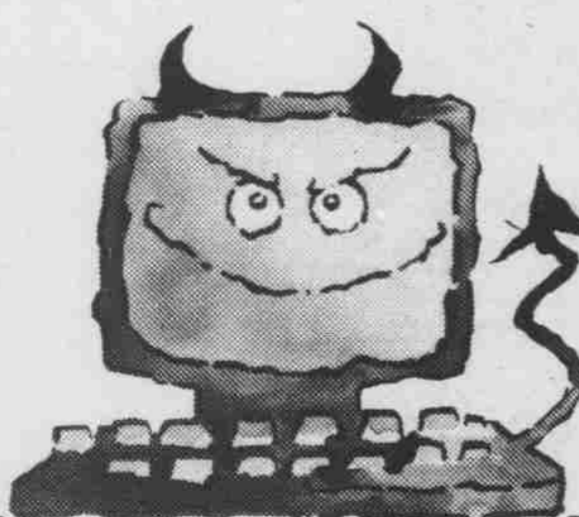
3:20 • 5:20 • 7:20 • 9:20 DOLBY STEREO	3:00 • 5:00 • 7:00 • 9:00	LAST DAY! 2:30 • 4:50 • 7:10 • 9:30
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