4/The Daily Tar Heel/Wednesday, September 12, 1984

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92nd year of editorial freedom

The empire strikes back

Consistency has never been a strong suit of the Russians. While heaping invective on President Reagan for supposedly heightening international tension, the Soviet Union seems determined to stomp out sprouts of cooperation that have developed between East Bloc nations and the West.

Following a six-week Soviet propaganda campaign, East German leader Erich Honecker apparently bowed to pressure from Moscow last week when he canceled a scheduled visit to West Germany. The visit, which would have been the first by an East German leader to the western side of the divided nation, was meant to underscore increasing commercial and cultural ties between the two nations.

Moscow has also turned the heat on Bulgaria, another East Bloc nation which has been seeking renewed dialogue with the West. After a visit from a member of the Soviet Politburo, Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov Monday called off a planned visit to West Germany.

Moscow is turning the screws on East Germany and Bulgaria as part of a deeply cynical campaign to prevent international tension from easing prior to the November elections. The Soviets apparently see lasting peace as less important than the defeat of President Reagan They also fear their clutch on Eastern Europe will be weakened if Warsaw Pact states act on their own to establish secure, profitable relationships woth the West. A commentary in the Soviet daily Pravda warned the East Germans that "relations between the two German states cannot be seen as detached from the entire international situation." It was a not-so-subtle notice that Moscow still expects to call the shots for its client states.

the Russians because they challenge the Soviet Union's one-sided view of suspended nuclear arms talks with the United States. East Germany's Honecker said contacts with the West should continue, despite U.S. deployment of medium-range nulear missiles in Europe. And Bulgaria's Zhivkov reportedly has been more interested in pursuing his own plan for establishing a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans than in answering Moscow's call to protest the U.S. missiles.

Some would argue that the United States often employs pressure similar to that of the Soviets to keep its allies in line. This nation did seek a unified Western front in the boycott of the Moscow Olympics and in it's attempt to deny the Soviets advanced technology for their trans-Siberian pipeline. But the mixed response to those efforts shows the United States cannot expect lockstep response to American policy. When the West unites, it does so based on common traditions and purpose. The Soviets, on the other hand, must enforce East Bloc unity through the barrel of a tank. Brutal repression in Hungary in 1956, in Czechoslovakia in 1968 and in Afghanistan from 1979 to the present shows how far the Soviets will go to enforce their will.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Standing up for the women from UNCle

To the editor:

We of the Association for Women Students are writing to let the DTH know how outraged we are about the "Man from UNCle" cartoon found in Monday's DTH.

Women students are constantly subjected to sexism in the media, newspaper.

To the Editor:

from individuals and even on Franklin Street, where one can hardly walk down the street without noticing sexist advertising and window displays. Women fight sexism in society every day and it is quite disheartening to find blatant examples of it in our own student

In the editor's note, Jeff Hiday explained the importance of having a student newspaper keep its student perspective. We are students, and far from enjoying the comic strip, we found it insulting and offensive. This comic strip hardly represents our perspective.

"serving the students and the University community since 1893." We hardly find it a service to be assaulted with more examples of sexism.

Michelle Emfinger

Ashley Royal

AWS

The DTH supposedly has been

To the editor:



One unidentified reader drew this cartoon in protest

however, deserves only a Bronx cheer. It's a shame the DTH cannot seize upon controversies existing on campus, but must create its own instead. In recognition of this fact, we decided to humor you and respond - IN DISGUST!

It's obvious that the public outcry against sexist humor has not taught the DTH restraint. We hope future DTH editorial decisions will not be aimed at eliciting a response from target groups.

We applaud your decision to publish the

works of a Carolina student in the "Man

from UNCle." Your literary discretion,

(Or was this simply a brainless, tasteless, sexist cartoon?)

Pat Brown Lori Glosemeyer and five others from the UNC Law School

Hinton running dirty campaign of his own

To the editor:

John Hinton's opinion column attacking N.C. Republicans ("Racism: a ghost of elections past," DTH, Sept. 6) offers an excellent example of the kind of sleazy tactics its author professes to deplore.

Although the racist campaign against Frank Porter Graham was run by Democrats, Hinton manages to blame Republicans for it because Jesse Helms, who was a volunteer in Willis Smith's campaign, has since changed parties.

evidence of Helms' racism and so is contented with quoting one man to the effect that Helms "masterminded" the racist campaign with no proof for his accusation, and another man who declares that he didn't like Helms in the 1950s. So. what? Many people don't like Helms today but that doesn't prove the man is a racist. He is an anticommunist. That would account both for his participation in the campaign against Graham and for

If Helms' conservatism is despicable, let him be criticized for this; unsupported charges of racism are as ugly as the real thing.

Hinton goes on to attack N.C. Republicans of racism in this year's elections because the party's state chairman worried in a fund-raising letter about black voter registration. Of course what the chairman fears is a Democratic victory, which is not wireasonable for a man in his position. It is true that he expressed himself stupidly, and he has paid the price of having his remarks interpreted in the worst possible way. What Hinton does not report in his remarkable smear is that the

state's Republican candidates disagreed publicly with the chairman's statements and expressed the wish that blacks and whites alike exercise their right to vote in the elections.

Why is Hinton silent on this point? Clearly because he wants to persuade his readers to vote Democratic in the belief that the state's Republicans are vile racists. No one could accuse Hinton of disinterested journalism.

Mr. Hinton is running a dirty campaign of his own.

The overtures by East Germany and Bulgaria are particularly worrisome to

Despite the Soviet pressure, East Bloc nations will likely continue to make overtures to the West, at least on a small scale. Such contacts are not only a financial boost to the sagging economies of the Warsaw Pact, they are also extremely popular with citizens of Eastern Europe, who seem to crave supposedly decadant Western culture.

The contacts also provide hope for peace, even while Soviet-American relations contine to be stagnant. We hope these sprouts of detente will continue to grow.

If Hinton could prove that Jesse Helms is a racist, I would not vote for Helms. However, Hinton has no

Diehard fan

To the editor:

As a longtime, diehard Chicago Cubs fan, I contest and resent Frank Kennedy questioning whether anyone will give a damn if the Cubs make it to the World Series ("Autumn leaves bring happy tidings," DTH, Sept. 5). The truth of the matter is, a whole lot of people will give a damn.

The Cubs have a huge following that stretches all over the country and has continued to grow of late due to the expansion of cable station WGN from Chicago.

I did tend to agree with Kennedy's assertion that the baseball season has been boring as a whole, but I strongly object to him saying, "Wasn't it nice being able to think of them (the Cubs) as perennial losers?" Anyone with even minimal knowledge of the game can look at the Cubs and see that the years of suffering through disastrous seasons, error-filled games and late season collapses may finally be coming to an end. The Cubs should easily remain a contending power in the National League East in the years to come.

Chris James Citizens United for Baseball in the Sunshine Winston

Tolerate gays

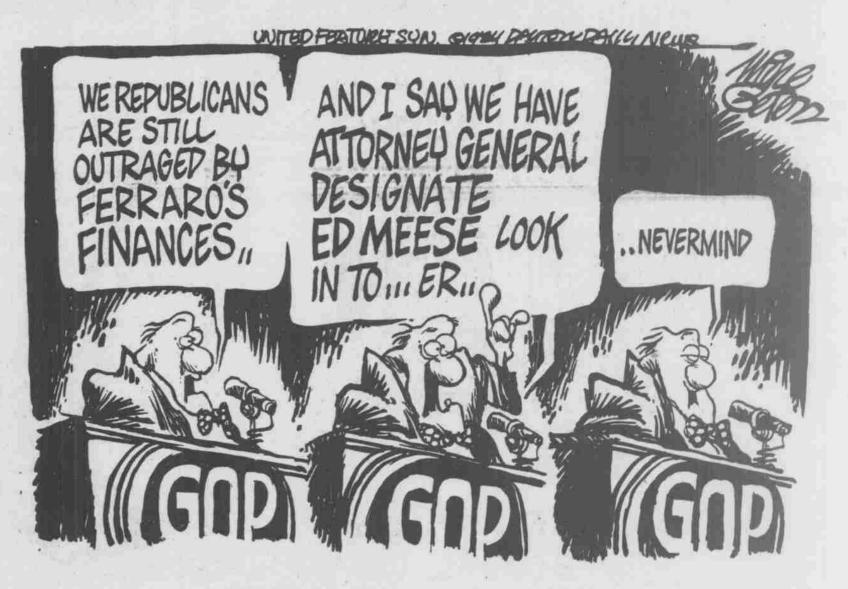
To the editor:

While conceding that college is "supposed to be a liberalizing experience," the editorial "More than just petty theft" (DTH, Sept. 6) was quick to point out that "no one is asking everyone to tolerate gays completely . . ."

Why isn't someone asking everyone to tolerate gays completely? I certainly agree that total tolerance for those of divergent sexual orientations ought not to be fostered, as God knows where that might lead. But I, for one, definitely don't want to see bigotry and prejudice unduly fettered on my liberalized campus.

his opposition to the Martin Luther King holiday (an unpopular action which resulted in charges of racism). He obviously distrusted both men's far-left sympathies.

Lisa D. Jacobs Chapel Hill



Why not shoot them?

To the editor:

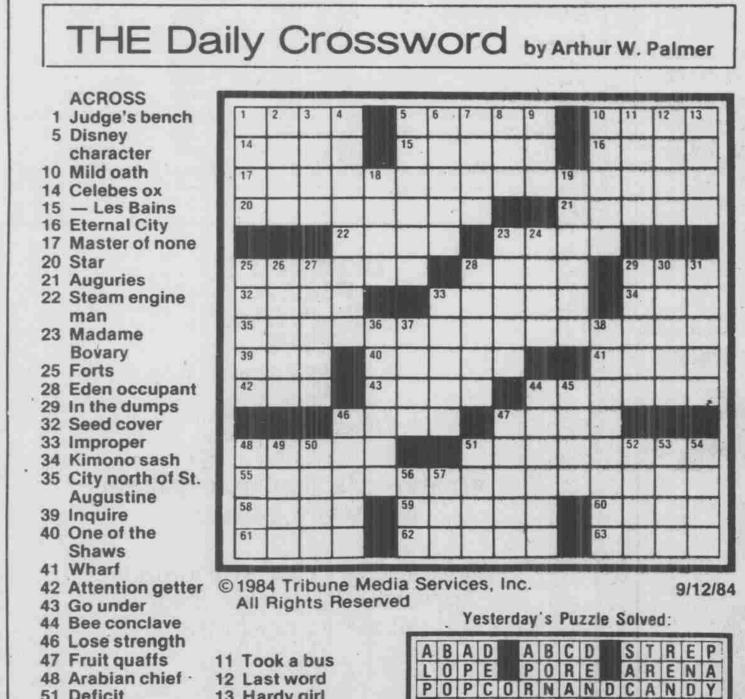
In response to the letter by Mirjam Bohet, Jo Ferguson and three others ("Morehead's logic deadly in nuclear age," DTH, Sept. 5), castigating Benjamin Morehead for his hopeless naivete: they label Morehead an "Ugly American" for concluding the world just might consist of good guys and bad guys, a view the authors "do not and cannot share." They intimate that our founders at the Boston Tea Party could not have shared such a view either.

Jeffrey Hart, professor of English at Dartmouth College, is fond of relating the following story when confronted with such attempts at

moral leveling. Assigned to assist German POW repatriation at the close of World War II, which involved returning German soldiers to their original location of enlistment, Hart soon became frustrated with the enormous paperwork required of those repatriated in the American sector of Germany. Discouraged, Hart requested transfer and was reassigned to oversee transports returning German POW's to locations in the Russian sector of Germany. Hart, who frequently met his Russian counterparts, casually asked if they too became annoved with all the needGerman repatriates, once received, were simply lined up and shot.

The moral of the story is clear enough. The West, whatever her faults, lives by the rule of law. Soviet-dominated Europe lives by the rule of the gun. Only those historically naive and/or wishfully deluded could conclude otherwise. To ignore the moral superiority of the West and then to equate the American Founding Fathers with such a morally reprehensible view is to demonstrate the lunacy of one's logic. Bohet and Ferguson, there is no excuse for such moral bankruptcy.

> Timothy Van Der Weert Chapel Hill



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Merrill M. Mason Chapel Hill Letters? Believe it or not, we never get enough letters. If you've got an opinion you'd like to share with us, whether it be in regards to an issue you've seen discussed on the back page or one that you feel merits discussion but has not received it, we'd like to hear from you. Letters to the editor and editorial columns should be typed on a sixtycharacter line and should be triplespaced. Deadline for letters and columns is 2 p.m. on the working day before publication, and contributions should be placed in the green box outside the offices of The Daily Tar Heel in the Carolina Union annex. We look forward to hearing from you.

