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The Daily Tar Heel

92nd year of editorial freedom.

Just another battleground?

The space shuttle Discovery landed safely Sunday afternoon, but instead of the usual pomp and circumstance, this landing attracted no fanfare whatsoever. Rather, this particular mission was clouded with secrecy since neither the National Aeronautics and Space Administration nor the Defense Department, which sponsored the whole event, was talking about what was going on.

Being a curious lot, the press snooped around and found unidentified sources who said the Discovery was carrying a satellite designed to monitor Soviet missile tests and eavesdrop on Soviet communications. Quite a change from past shuttle missions, where scientific experiments and space repairs have been conducted.

The secrecy and military purpose surrounding the Discovery is setting the stage for a whole new era in space shuttle missions, but, unfortunately, it is hard to admire anything about this change. While there are many reasons why the shuttles should be involved with military maneuvers — such as saving the Defense Department millions of dollars — the use of the space shuttles as springboards for the military contradicts the basic philosophy on which the space program was founded.

Despite NASA's glowing press releases about the shuttle's ability to save stranded satellites and perform other services of benefit to mankind, there is little doubt that this amazing piece of space technology is basically a Department of Defense toy. A huge military base for secret shuttle missions is under construction in California. In fact,

No kidding

Considering the generous supply of snow and slush Chapel Hill has witnessed so far this year and the DTH's uncompromising commitment to "serving the students and the University community," especially when the health and safety of our readers are at stake, we would like to pass on some helpful hints aimed at avoiding those nasty nasal symptoms associated with the winter months.

The impetus and primary source for this act of editorial altruism comes from a story printed in Sunday's Raleigh News and Observer directed at the same purpose. Most of the advice makes sense: make sure the air at home is not overheated and is well-moistened; and stay away from aspirin, which thins the blood, if you are susceptible to nosebleeds.

But some of the hints make a tad too much sense, if you get the drift. Advice like: "People suffering from allergies should keep their wardrobes and homes, especially their bedrooms, as free as possible of allergy-provoking substances." Uh-huh. This bit of wisdom must have been inspired by that commercial a few years ago where the woman is sitting in a grassy field begging for relief

money for the shuttle may not have been appropriated in the first place if balky congressman hadn't been convinced of its defense applications.

Those who remember the first lunar landing in 1969 can probably also remember the plaque that was left behind, which said, "We came in peace for all mankind." Judging from the events that occurred this last weekend, we seem to have forgotten the plaque and the message it stands for. The purpose of the space program then was to increase our knowledge and speed up progress. And while we were competing with the Russians, it was hardly in the same context that we compete with them now.

Another comparison between the then and now is the national support which surrounded the program. Almost every child in elementary school in 1969 could name the three astronauts on the Apollo 11 flight which put the first man on the moon, and everyone knew the historic words "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" by heart. What a stark contrast to Discovery's latest mission where the names of the astronauts weren't even supposed to have been known.

Meanwhile, the Reagan administration is further promoting militarization of space by its insistence on continuing research into the "Star Wars" antiballistic missile system. Space, once the object of romantic musings and boyhood dreams, has now become just another potential battleground. Perhaps its time to ask why.

from her hay fever. Of course, the unanimous reaction from everyone watching that ad serves as a succinct expression of this aforementioned advice, namely, "GET OUT OF THE FIELD, STUPID!"

Along the same lines, a recent Associated Press story gives a wonderful winter driving tip. No, nothing about how to brake on ice. Something much more practical: "Safety experts . . . advise drivers to try not to sneeze while behind the wheel" because they could be stunned in that condition.

Do these "safety experts" believe drivers are in favor of 55 mph sneezing attacks? And what, exactly, do they expect us to do if we find a sneeze coming on at the same time we're maneuvering a hairpin turn? One of the fun things about stopping an upcoming sneeze anywhere, much less on the highway, is that phenomenon known as "watery eyes," or, in the case of a big sneeze, "Lake Pupil." So what's more dangerous — a quick, basically unavoidable sneeze, followed by a momentary "stun," or a two-hour, half-blind struggle to stop one?

Well, we hope someone out there has found these tips helpful. Let it never be said the DTH is only a fair-weather friend.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Goetz: Separating fantasy from reality

By DAVID GOLDMAN

On the walls of the 14th Street and 6th Avenue subway station in Manhattan, a new piece of graffiti has recently appeared for public consumption: "GOETZ RULES NIGGERS." It is a succinct comment, and one that cuts to the heart of the hoopla surrounding Bernhard Goetz, New York's putative "subway vigilante."

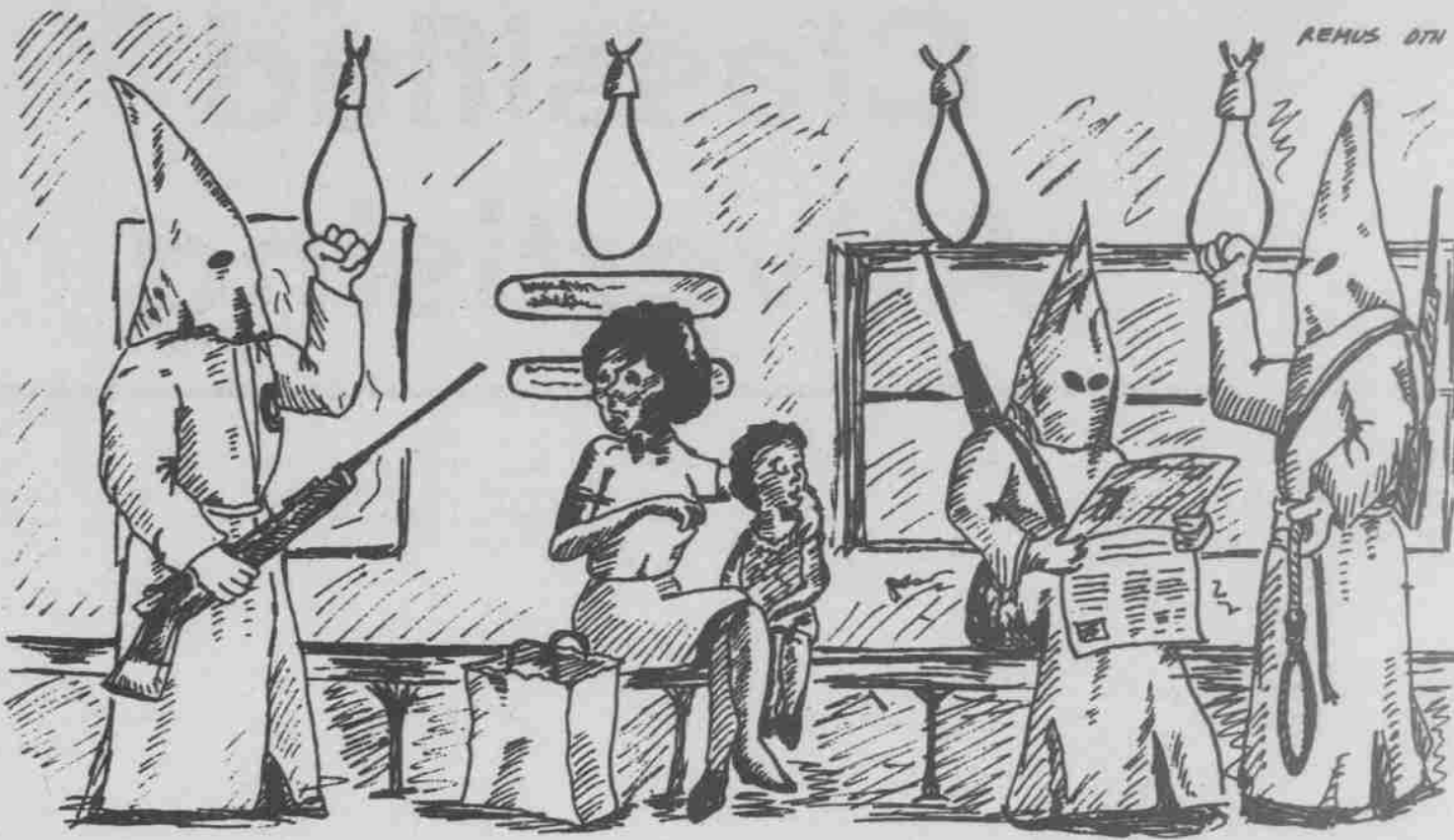
Goetz has been hailed across the nation as a "public hero," a man who finally got fed up and fought back against the criminal elements. Now a New York grand jury has bolstered this image by refusing to charge Goetz with attempted murder for the shooting of four youths on a subway last month.

But this portrayal of Goetz is a myth — a fantasy through which America can indulge its worst fears and its most violent impulses. In reality, it is racism which lies at the core of the shooting, and its stench pervades public reaction to the incident. While the press ignores and denies the racist implications of the incident, everyone in New York knows otherwise.

The significance of a white man emptying his gun into four black youths is lost on no one. Goetz, described by his neighbors as a bigot, was not a man defending himself from criminal attack. Witnesses report that the four teenagers were only "horseplaying" and that when the youths asked Goetz for money he replied, "I've got something for each of you." He proceeded to empty his gun into their bodies. Two of the youths were shot in the back as they fled. Later in testimony to police Goetz revealed, "I wanted to gouge their eyes out." Nice Guy. New American Hero.

Meanwhile 19-year-old Daryl Cabey, whose spine was severed by a bullet in the back, remains in the coma he slipped into two weeks ago. If he had died the charges against Goetz would have been upgraded to murder. But now the grand jury's verdict precludes even this development.

As Cabey's family prays for his recovery, journalists around the country and here in Chapel Hill continue to laud the sentiments surrounding the shooting. Mark Stinneford, in an amazing display of his inability to distinguish fantasy from reality ("Justice, not vengeance," Jan. 24), concedes that adulation for Goetz "may be a little misplaced," but at the same time argues that it's "easy to understand the near deification



of Goetz . . . For too long we've allowed criminals open season on responsible citizens." Stinneford's article rails about our rights to self-defense but he knows that self-defense is not the issue here. Bernhard Goetz was not defending himself. Even for Stinneford there are better heroes.

What has emerged from this tragic incident is the ugly spectacle, so pathetically represented in Stinneford's column, of Americans disregarding the mythical story of one man, one blond lonely yuppie, who stands up against the dark hordes surrounding him and threatening our nation. It is this fantasy, and not the actual facts surrounding the shooting — not even first-hand experience with crime — which has marshaled the approving rage of people around the country. Isn't it a bit odd that Stinneford, a senior journalism major from Raleigh, can assert that "it's easy for us to imagine being harassed on a subway by weapon-carrying youth?" North Carolina subways are notoriously crime-free; it does indeed require a vivid imagination for him to relate so passionately to the plight of New York subway patrons.

There is quite definitely something more than sympathy with New York City crime victims being expressed in the tremendous national outpouring of rage over the Goetz case. It is

an unthinking rage rooted in frustration and helplessness which focuses on a metaphorical enemy, crime, as the cause of our problems and sees violent revenge as the remedy. But "crime" is only the metaphor, "self-defense" the code word. In our sense of history so shallow, our memories so short, that we are unable to remember where calls for socially sanctioned revenge have led?

Here in the South, in the decades following the end of Reconstruction, Southern elitists spoke of "protecting our way of life from outsiders." These rhetorical code words translated into violence against thousands of blacks who had sought to transform the old Southern way of life. In 1930s Germany, public campaigns against "decadent elements" served as the prelude to the Nazis' slaughtering of millions of Jews.

No, we have not yet reached that point. But the current national fantasy about solving crime by killing "criminals" is in this historical vein. In this case "criminals" stands for the urban poor — particularly blacks, the nation's desperate and disinherited. If you don't believe it, you can read it on the subway walls.

David Goldman is a UNC graduate living in Chapel Hill.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Invest in equality through constitutional funding

To the editor:

Being one of the many whites dedicated to the promise of blacks enjoying a fair share in society, I feel compelled to address the issue of constitutional funding for the Black Student Movement. It is one of the central issues in the upcoming student body president election, making it immediately pertinent to every student on campus — black and white.

Such funding is a political issue as well as an economic one, but it is also one that begs special philosophical consideration. Our Declaration of Independence holds this philosophical truth to be self-evident: "That all men are created equal." Well, they are, but it's certainly not evident in America. Look at the black ghettos in any large city, and you'll see what I

mean. The reason for such sad plight has nothing to do with "natural selection," but with our society's self-perpetuating systems of injustice — we have to take responsibility.

We find an immediate example of one of these vicious, circular "systems" right here on campus. The poor representation of blacks on the UNC faculty suggests a lack of dedication to black concerns. This perception, in turn, contributes to an atmosphere that retards the equal integration and involvement of blacks on campus. So, many blacks here feel alienated, as is evidenced by the extremely high rate of black transfers and dropouts. So it comes as no surprise that of the blacks that stay here and are later destined to university professorships, virtually none return to their

alma mater. This is one reason we have trouble here with minority faculty recruitment. And so we come back around to the problem of too few black professors. It's a vicious circle. (And one, for example's sake, that is terribly oversimplified: solving just one of these problems wouldn't necessarily alleviate the rest.)

And what does any of this have to do with our constitutional funding of BSM? For one thing, the money from this funding will directly increase black involvement here at UNC through enhanced BSM programming. More importantly, our commitment to such funding is the kind of caring gesture that will lessen black alienation on campus. And with an active and integrated black population, UNC will naturally attract black talent

from all over the state — both student and faculty — that it fails to attract now.

Here are a few more specific points that may dissuade those that feel BSM should not be considered a special case when it comes to funding. First, BSM is the largest student organization on campus with over 600 members. Next, BSM programs, which include periodic black sensitivity forums and the publishing of *Black Ink*, are undoubtedly "worthy" of funding (an unfounded concern of some of the SBP candidates). But, most importantly, it is our responsibility to alleviate the kind of self-perpetuating injustices that violate the most basic tenet upon which our country was founded — equality.

Peter Lennon
Chapel Hill

Keep the bargain, ARA!

To the editor:

The mandatory meal plan is a cruel joke. In 1981-82 I was a junior in high school and unfortunately did not know anything about the plans for the future of UNC meal plans. My question is why are the freshmen and sophomores being punished by being required to participate? We did not have any input. But who cares? I do not recall being surveyed, or for that matter forewarned in any material I received from UNC. As we know the meal plan is mandatory and we get to donate a generous \$100 for the wonderful meals provided by ARA Food Services.

The other day a paper was slipped under my door describing the \$100 meal plan and the great benefits. One of these benefits was described as "you can get up to 35 meals for only \$100." Thirty-five meals for \$100 is no big bargain. My roommate and I can eat three meals a day — seven days a week (that's 42 meals) — for less than \$60. So no one is doing anyone a favor charging one person \$100 for what may

add up to 35 light meals. In other words, eating three meals a day for one month would cost one person well over \$200. At this rate we will not have to worry about carrying cash on campus because the ARA will have it all.

Lastly, I would like to point out that if ARA foods were such a good buy, they would sell themselves. They would not have to coerce anyone to eat at their nice dining places. I mean, how did McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, et al., get started without government forcing everyone to buy meal plans? Apparently ARA is not what it is trying to appear if the only way they can guarantee its business is by coercing campus residents to buy meal plans. Students are well aware of ARA's existence on campus. If ARA is such a great place to eat and such a bargain, it will do enough business without dragging unwilling souls to the dinner table.

Julie Wise
Cobb

Goetz's subway "defense" leaves some questions

To the editor:

I disagree with two points raised in Rick Henderson's letter, "Punks aren't the victims" (Jan. 28).

First, he asserts that "in the Goetz case, the problem boils down to . . . Either a person has the right to defend his life and property or he doesn't." I believe that the issue is not whether a person has a right to defend his life, but rather the degree to which the "defense" meted out by Goetz fit the "assault" of the four youths. In my opinion, this question is raised by these points: Goetz shot two of the four in the back, and Goetz apparently did not know that the teenagers were carrying the sharpened screwdrivers when he shot them.

Second, Henderson charges the New York City Police with "trying to destroy a man who was only

doing what the police . . . couldn't do." Goetz's trial is not an attempt to crucify Goetz, but rather an attempt to establish his guilt or innocence. Goetz's trial may well exonerate him, but the fact that he shot four human beings demands close, objective scrutiny, lest the wave of public support for his act be taken as a clear mandate for other gun-wielding vigilantes to "protect themselves" from jaywalkers, politicians and other criminals. The constitutional right to due process may seem to be an evil in an age of rampant crime, but it is a necessary evil because it protects the innocent (as well as the guilty) who are charged with a crime (as may be the case with Goetz).

Blaise Byron Faint
Ehringhaus

What do ya knooooow?

To the editor:

While attending the Georgia Tech basketball game in our beloved Carmichael Auditorium on Sunday afternoon I could have sworn I overheard the following conversation:
Michael Jordan (while trying to take Gov. Jim Martin's seat next to Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham III): "The best thing about being an ex-Tar Heel is

getting freebies to the game. Just call the front office, and bingo . . ."

Usher (to Jordan): "You're in the wrong seat buddy, get up."

Jordan: "Oops, I must be in the front row!"

So, great editor of the DTH, "Is it true?"

Tony G. Deans
Morrison

Perpetuating intolerance

To the editor:

The DTH survey ("Our own survey," Jan. 28) intended to counter the one by Ann Landers, includes one brief and careless sentence that perpetuates an ignorant prejudice against Mormons. By implying that Landers' irresponsible survey of women qualifies her as "an agent of the Mormon church," the DTH jokingly foists an uninformed stereotype of its readers. The DTH implies that Mormons not only

encourage Victorian sexual attitudes, but they underhandedly employ right-wing homemakers as secret agents to spread their doctrines. While the DTH may take elaborate steps to avoid language that could slur blacks, homosexuals and other minorities, this casual insensitivity toward the Latter-Day Saint population reveals a persistent attitude of religious intolerance.

Lorelei D. Harris
Carrboro

Some friendly corrections

To the editor:

We were pleased to read such a rave review of the Me and Dixon show ("Crowd-pleasing, unstructured fun," Jan. 22), but since we are the sort of people who will go to see Me and Dixon two nights running, we feel compelled to clear up a few minor points. First of all, Don Dixon does not live in Carrboro (contrary to popular belief). And, more importantly, we think that the song about dancing with

girls is entitled "Most of the Girls like to Dance" (but only with some of the boys).

Otherwise, Huffman wrote a great review of a terrific band. The show was excellent, well worth the price of renting a dog sled to get to the Cradle.

Mimi Herman
Anne Grignon
Chapel Hill

N.C. State outclassed again

To the editor:

The DTH has once again out-classed its rival over in Raleigh. The *Technician's* perverted attempt at humor in the form of a parody of the DTH on Jan. 16 was racist, bigoted, tasteless and therefore just plain not funny. The Jan. 18 parody of Duke's student newspaper, *The*

Chronicle, by contrast, was funny but not at the expense of sinking to the level of a Jesse Helms commercial. For this, you are to be congratulated. Thank you and keep up the good work.

Stephen B. Jones
Medical School Administration