

The Daily Tar Heel

93rd year of editorial freedom

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Paging through the future

Perhaps this morning's *Daily Tar Heel* isn't the freshest thing on your breakfast table. But it's comfortable there, as it was nearly a century ago. Strange that such a long tradition would insist on change, yet it does — every year — and today marks the new beginning.

The revised masthead above pronounces the difference. Not only does it contain the rare combination of two chief editors, it introduces other names with some familiar ones. The rest of the paper likewise will join the new with the old.

An effort toward greater insight and background in stories will temper coverage that continues its focus on campus news. Writers also will be encouraged to develop individual styles within the restraints of journalistic responsibility.

Cosmetic adjustments such as darker headlines, off-column layouts (on page 1 in this issue) and more boxed stories already enhance the basic design of past *DTHs*.

Viewpoints differing from those of the editors won't necessarily be denied publication as editorials if they're

sensible, because such a diverse and intelligent audience as ours deserves exposure to more than one perspective.

Tone is just as important. Editorials will be written with care and sincerity, none to be printed unless we could personally read them to those they concern without hesitation.

This won't preclude any humor; in fact, the odds and ends that found their way into "The Bottom Line" will rise to greater heights in editorials — like the West German delivery truck that recently spilled its load of apple jelly and caused a traffic jam. Maybe the driver left the cargo door ajar.

Of course, we can't have too much humor.

Finally, we welcome your suggestions and criticism. Though the paper won't always please everyone, our accessibility should.

Still serving students and the University community, today's *DTH* begins the 93rd edition of a paper that began in 1893. We're confident you'll remember this year's *DTH* for much more than a numerical coincidence.

It's time to learn some new tricks

By RUTH BARDON

I am writing to discuss a problem and to propose the beginnings of a solution. But the problem I address is one that many don't consider to be a problem — sexist language. Defenders of sexist language argue that everyone understands "he," "man," and "mankind" to be generic, that "man-made" can't possibly be offensive, and that these words are simply not to be taken too literally. They say that changing the language would entail more extreme difficulties and would result in awkward and sterile language. And they appeal to tradition.

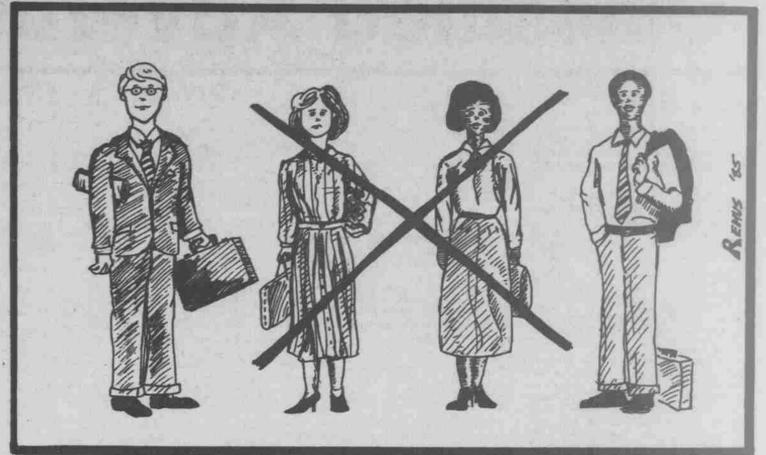
I respect tradition. I admire grace in language. I don't enjoy difficulties, and I do understand the intended meaning of "mankind." But when I hear, "mankind," even though I know that the speaker means to include both men and women, I have a strange reaction — I feel as though I've been erased.

I haven't always felt this way. For years I wrote "mankind" and thought that those who objected were oversensitive and silly. But in 1982 I was forced to change the language I used. I worked as a staff editor at World Book/Childcraft, Inc., where the editorial board was working to eliminate all sexist language in the encyclopedia. In order to learn to write in the new, non-sexist style, I was asked to revise old articles.

I remember struggling with the old "fire" article, in which primitive "man" uses "man-made" tools to build fire, and all "mankind" benefits. And in my head, an image formed of a man making a fire. When I had rewritten the article and changed the language, my mental picture changed accordingly. I learned that the language we use is largely responsible for our perception of the world.

I also learned that sexist language is often vague and inaccurate. My revision was much more specific, and much more detailed than the original article had been. I had been forced to confront the reality behind the words I used, and that made me a sharper writer. And revising that "fire" article taught me one more thing: it's difficult to revise sexist language that's already in print. It's much easier to leave out the sexist language in the first place. And this, of course, requires taking the issue seriously, not just giving it lip service, but actually changing the way we think and the way we see the world.

This sort of conscious language change is nothing new. Think of the change in the words used to describe black Americans, for example. We no longer talk or write about "colored" students. Non-black Americans realized that



MANKIND?

their language was offensive and consciously changed it.

Sexism in language is comparable to racism in language, but it's a great deal more subtle and pervasive. Take, for example, the word men to signify "the human race." "Men" is supposed to be one of the most comprehensive and all-embracing words of our language. When we say "good will to men," there's charity and generosity, a feeling of expansiveness in our hearts. We mean "good will to all." But the language we use undermines our good intentions. How is it that our words and our meanings are so far apart? The answer, as I see it, is that women are now part of the country (and part of many other countries) in a new, unprecedented way, and our language has simply not caught up to our changing reality.

As a teacher of freshman English, I try to increase my students' awareness of language, to teach them to use language with precision and respect. I try to show them that the words they choose make a difference; that every choice, in writing, has rhetorical consequences. And if a writer says "mankind," there is a strong possibility that some member of the audience will feel excluded. It is easy to avoid giving offense

— and even if it weren't, I think it would be worth the effort.

While many members of the university community agree with what I'm saying, they aren't quite sure of how to go about changing their language. They don't know what words or phrases are available to them. Many universities provide new teaching assistants (and other faculty members) with a written explanation of the university's policy on sexist language. The "policy sheets" often include lists of words and phrases that are neither awkward nor inaccurate. Having a policy sheet not only helps the teachers in their own writing and speaking, but gives written university support to the teachers' efforts to influence their students. I suggest that UNC or the English department or the Freshman English Committee try to create such a policy sheet. A policy sheet will not eliminate sexist language, but it can help to raise the consciousness of the university community. I know that as far as writing and speaking go, we TA's and faculty members are pretty old dogs, but we can try to learn new tricks. And if we can't do the new tricks, we can at least teach them.

Ruth Bardon is a graduate student in the English department living in Chapel Hill

To the dth degree

The Editors' Column

At this strange mid-semester juncture, Dave Schmidt and I begin our co-editorship of *The Daily Tar Heel*. Of course, we've spent the past week and a half preparing ourselves for the quantum leap, but... well, let's just say that there's only so much one can do in a week and a half.

This, in case you're interested, is the first instalment of our Monday editors' column. In the future, its aim will be to field reader responses, to accept criticism, and to point out facts which otherwise might not be understood by even the most well-disposed of readers. Dave and I will most likely take turns at authoring the column, but since I drew the shorter straw, I get to start.

Begin, therefore, with a good example. Today's eight-page edition is, we admit, short on copy and long on advertising. The problem which we encountered was as follows: an advertiser desired a two-page foldout in today's paper, which required us to print either eight or twelve pages (a ten-page paper has no foldout). We chose the eight-pager over the twelve-

pager, given the amount of copy we had.

You may note that there is an interesting relationship between the amount of copy and the number of advertisements in a newspaper. The advertisements are intended to strengthen the paper, to allow it to print more copy in the future; but the copy is constantly competing for space at present. The *tete-a-tete* between the two can produce funny results, as with today's back-page crossword puzzle.

Running the crossword puzzle on the back page is not our idea of fun and games. We only did it in order to clear space for more copy inside the paper.

Now, perhaps running the crossword puzzle on the back page didn't draw your ire. Perhaps it didn't even draw your attention. But we are more than willing to explain why we did it. That's what this column is all about.

In the future, we fully expect to draw response on more compelling questions. Let it be known, then, that this column exists. Feel free to call our bluffs — if you ever think we're bluffing.

— ARNE RICKERT

READER FORUM

ARA's standards leave something to be desired

To the editors:

Much has been said this semester about the \$100 mandatory meal plan granted to ARA Food Services. Wondering what exactly that \$100 would buy me, I went to the newly opened "Commons" last week for breakfast.

I ordered a \$1.25 sausage and egg biscuit, 45-cent hash browns, and a 55-cent medium Coke that makes a total of \$2.35. I was charged \$2.40, a five cent overcharge. An isolated incident I can accept, but I've since been back twice, ordered the same items, and have been similarly overcharged each time. A five cent overcharge on each student's visit over a semester leads to almost \$2.00 being robbed from the roughly 40 visits needed to spend \$100

results in \$2.00) That brings the "gift" ARA receives from each student to \$102.00 per student.

Additionally, upon getting to my nice, clean, probably newly-renovated table I discovered my biscuit, hash browns, and Coke were in fact a biscuit, hot apple turnover, and a Coke. When I complained to the cashier with whom I had placed my order, I was told that there were no hash browns. The apple turnover had been substituted since it was available and cost the same as the hash browns. Now I appreciate her consideration as much as the next guy, but I hate apple turnovers with a passion! Had she asked my preference in the matter, I would have declined the offered turnover. But, then again, I was not asked. Does McDonald's

randomly substitute one choice for another when one choice is unavailable? For that matter, does any self-supporting and competitive restaurant chain do so? Of course not!

My point in all this is not merely to complain about the poor service, but it does serve as an excellent example of why ARA should not be granted the mandatory \$100 "gift" from each on-campus student. With roughly 6,000 on-campus students, that amounts to a "gift" of over \$600,000 being handed over freely to ARA.

ARA's monopolistic position as the only contracted food service on campus should preclude their needing a subsidy. In economic terms, a monopoly (such as ARA) has a decreased incentive to be efficient due to its position as the sole source of a good or service, in this case food. Also, subsidies such as the mandatory meal plan can lead to a decreased incentive to be efficient.

By inefficiency, I am referring to increased costs, lower quality food, and lower overall quality service. In other words, ARA, when given this subsidy, has even less incentive to meet even the minimally accepted standards of quality and efficiency. Therefore, the increased funding ARA claims will improve its services to the campus, will, in fact, do no such thing.

If ARA's planned "gift" won't improve their quality service, perhaps alternative food services or alternative plans should be considered. Should \$100 of each on-campus student's money be appropriated to underwriting an inefficient and costly food service? I think not. After all, if ARA cannot maintain minimum standards, their contract expires in 1986 and they can be replaced.

Scott Humphrey
Chapel Hill

Apologize, Berger!

To the editors:

I am writing in response to a quote from student body president candidate Doug Berger in the *DTH* article, "BSM funding fails again by narrow margin," (Feb. 13). It seems to me Berger was criticizing the *DTH* for printing editorials, as he blamed the *DTH* for the failure of the referendum and stated that the *DTH's* opposition began "from the first editorial against BSM funding." Now whether I voted for Berger or the referendum is irrelevant and does not pertain to my reason for writing this letter. What is pertinent here is that Berger has openly stated criticism against the First Amendment. Those individuals who were against the Black Student Movement's funding had as much of a right to be heard as those who favored it; I might add that both sides were equally represented and had equal opportunity to be represented, thus no *DTH* bias or prejudice was in effect. On what then does Berger base his criticism? He has no grounds to accuse the *DTH* of bias or prejudice. Therefore he must have been criticizing the *DTH* for abiding by the First Amendment and fulfilling their duties as a newspaper. He must have been criticizing the First Amendment — the freedom of speech and press. He must have been criticizing the United States for being such a free country and he, furthermore,

must have been criticizing Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and our most highly respected forefathers for ratifying such a ludicrous amendment in the first place. How do you, the student body, feel about this? Well I know how I feel. I feel personally criticized for being an American, a believer in what this country was founded upon — freedom: freedom for everyone, black, white, anti-black, or anti-white. I am Jewish and I still fully support the rights of the Nazi party and Ku Klux Klan to hold public marches simply because of my strong belief in the First Amendment. When we take a right away from any individual or group, we take rights away from ourselves as free Americans. I believe it was Jesus who said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." So, yes, Berger, the *DTH* did allow negative editorials to be printed and that action might have caused the BSM referendum to fail. Yet, the *DTH* also printed a series of your negative statements concerning the campus right wing, the *DTH*, and current Student Body President Paul Parker. Democracy, Berger, is not a one way street and if you call yourself an American I believe that you owe your fellow Americans a very sincere apology.

Neil Kodzi
Connor Dorm

The American Way

To the editors:

It was with swelling pride that I read Allen A. Taylor's exposure of Doug Berger ("Against Berger, socialism," Feb. 11). His non-sensense approach left no doubt about the ugly facts of the matter. Just the thought of a socialist occupying the exalted seat of student body president is enough to torture the imagination. But in this intellectual community, we are indeed fortunate to count as one of our own someone like Taylor who

holds the flag with dignity. In helping to educate others with less insight and vision, he goes beyond any ordinary devotion to country. Let no one say that his high-minded and graceful plea emerged from the rank cesspool of ideological bigotry. It was, in fact, the wise counsel of one who has truly committed himself to freedom and the American way.

Henry Shanoski
Chapel Hill

Berger can't handle it

To the editors:

I suppose writing a column or a letter to the editors is the "in" thing to do nowadays, so I'll maintain the status quo.

To the omniscient grad students Harlin Gradin and Steven Band ("DTH" sinks to all-time low with endorsement," Feb. 15) who feel Doug Berger has been treated unfairly: please, quit whining. The election is over. Berger lost. Wallace won. The *DTH* had a questionable editorial practice as anyone who read it surely knew. However, how many people do you think really make their decision according to what the *DTH* says?

Berger lost and he can't handle

that. He's crying about it and clutching at straws so he can rationalize losing. He didn't lose because of ultra-conservatives spreading lies, or because there's a great racist movement on this campus. Berger lost because UNC students don't want some "rebel without a cause" using the University to promote his own political beliefs. The guy lost by 912 votes, people! Get a freakin' clue!

The students showed their opinion. It's over. Now, please stop whining and let this dead horse rest.

Phil Bridges
Governor
Ehringhaus Residence College

Trefethen was right, Jones

To the editors:

Brian Jones displays an appalling lack of knowledge in his attack on Vance Trefethen ("Combating racism with facts, not half-truths," Feb. 11). If Jones really does believe that Jews are not, as a group, denied jobs in the USSR I suggest talking to any refusnik or reading any publication of *B'nai B'rith* or *Amnesty International*. Jews who apply for immigration to the United States or Israel (and only 900 were allowed to leave in 1984) are, as a rule, dismissed from whatever job they happen to hold at the time. If the person is lucky they might be able to find menial labor at a far lower wage rate. If they are not, and all too many are, they are convicted by Soviet authorities on charges of "hoologianing" and "parasitism" for not having a job. The minimum sentence is five years in a labor camp. If they publicly say they wish to leave the Soviet Union, additional charges of "slandering the Soviet Union" are thrown in for good measure.

Anti-semitism is policy in the Soviet Union, both de facto and de

jure. To be a Jew is not a crime, but to be Jewish is. It is forbidden to teach Hebrew in the Soviet Union (punishable by up to 20 years in prison), all but the elderly are prevented from worshipping in synagogues, and anti-Jewish quotas are a way of life.

Jones' ignorance of fact does not end with Soviet Jews. The boat people, primarily ethnic Chinese, are to many Southeast Asian countries what the Jews are to the Soviet Union.

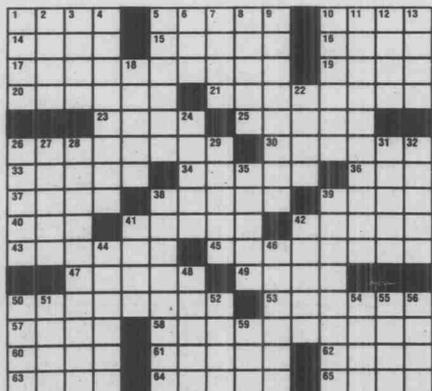
When I first read Trefethen's column I was inclined to agree that many of his analogies stretched the limit. But reading and thinking about Jones' denunciation made me realize that Trefethen was right. You can't shade morality. As for your invitation to conservatives to join with you liberals in combatting racism at UNC, I would be more than happy, Jones, to listen to your proposals on the subject.

Brad Torgan
President-elect
Graduate and Professional
Students Federation

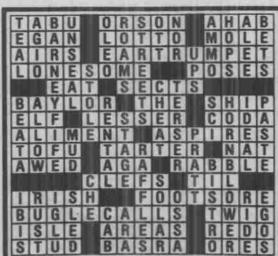
THE Daily Crossword by N.E. Campbell

- ACROSS
1 Ariz. river
5 Say suddenly (with "out")
10 Sponsorship
14 Former Ugandan leader
15 Uncanny
16 Company symbol
17 Final opportunity
19 On the peak
20 Realm
21 Solons
23 Roster
25 Orchid tuber food
26 Kind of club
30 Gaudy
33 Scot. hill-sides
34 More docile
36 WWII area
37 Small rolls
38 Kitchen knife
39 Old Eng. poet
40 Football player
41 Fe or Monica
42 Surface for inscriptions
43 Kilts
45 In high spirits
47 Under to a poet
49 Sharp in taste
50 Greek
53 Used a certain golf club
57 Small liquid container
58 Fla. resort city
60 Fish-eating bird
61 Young eel
62 Puerto —
63 Foxx
64 Men of vision
65 Large amount

- 5 Command
6 Yarn measure
7 Vases
8 Elmer and Grantland
9 Adolescent
10 Click beetle
11 Loss self control
12 Gorin or Stravinsky
13 Bribes
18 Yella
22 Having wings
24 Giant
26 Fr. priestly titles
27 Steamer or Saratoga
28 Together
29 Bill of fare
31 Purloined
32 Desired
35 Intended
38 Recreation activities
39 Speaks imperfectly



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- 41 The Man
42 Bushy plant
44 Staggered
46 Hoglike mammals
48 — Selassie
50 Declare to be true
51 Grow weary
52 Wheel hub
54 Follow closely
55 — homo
56 Indian Ocean vessel
59 Mal de —