

The Daily Tar Heel

93rd year of editorial freedom

ARNE RICKERT AND DAVID SCHMIDT

Editor

Editor

STUART TONKINSON	Managing Editor	LEIGH WILLIAMS	City Editor
BEN PERKOWSKI	Associate Editor	MARK POWELL	Business Editor
DICK ANDERSON	Associate Editor	LEE ROBERTS	Sports Editor
JANET OLSON	University Editor	FRANK BRUNI	Arts Editor
STEVE FERGUSON	News Editor	SHARON SHERIDAN	Features Editor
VANCE TREFETHEN	State and National Editor	LARRY CHILDRESS	Photo Editor

A little more thought

To the editors:

There has been a great deal in the *DTH* lately about discrimination towards, and the funding or not funding of a gay organization on campus. Of all the articles and letters I've read in general, A. Carter's letter of April 9 ("Give homosexuality a little more thought"), in particular, stands out most in my mind. As Carter suggested, I have given "a little more thought" to this matter.

Carter accused Bob Carlton, in his comments ("Let's not fund perverted, deviant sexuality," March 27) of an attempt to "desex" lesbians. After all, the prefix *homo* indicates same or like. On the other hand, *hetero* indicates other, another, or different. So let's not blame Carlton for desexing anyone when they have already done it to themselves. Gays have taken it upon themselves by their very preference to separate "them" from "us."

I agree with Carlton that "sexuality is a private matter," regardless of one's preference. Considering the remark made by Carter as to "what homosexuals do in private" as being "unfortunate," what is unfortunate is that the rest of us are constantly being reminded, in public, of what they do in private. It's not our (heterosexuals') fault that the gays decided to "come out of the closet." This appears to be a case where discretion would be the better part of valor.

Reading Carter's comment on North Carolina's Crimes Against Nature Law, it appeared to me that the comment was ill-conceived. It would seem that Carter should follow his (or her) own advice and give this matter "a little more thought." Plainly stated, homosexuality is a crime against nature. In nature proper, I have yet to witness or hear of

anyone witnessing any animals of the same gender engaging in oral or anal sex. Married couples (let me qualify that by saying a woman married to a man) have an undisputed right to privacy in their bedroom. Why? Because the union of a man and woman is sanctified by God, regardless of who they worship, by both church and state. I am unaware of any formal religious organization that approves or condones any form of homosexual relationship.

If gays want to live in "the real world," then they ought to get with the real program. And, by the way, there is nothing a homosexual can do to make me "more aware" of their (self-inflicted) plight. There is nothing they can do or say to change my attitude towards them. In no way, shape, or form can or will my life fit with that of a gay man or woman. They don't want me to try to change them. Why are they trying to change me?

Homosexuals should come to the understanding that we all — each and every one of us — were born with free agency. We have the right to choose. Most of us chose to be straight. If you choose to be queer, learn to live with the consequences of that decision. I am not speaking of acts of violence towards gays. There I do agree with Carter. And yes, Carter, I also agree that all people have the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." And this means that if I choose not to allow my children to be taught by a gay school teacher, then allow me that right. If I, as an employer, choose not to hire or employ homosexuals, then allow me the right to exercise my right to life, liberty and the pursuit of my happiness.

B. Jay Gladwell
School of Dentistry

Food for thought

To the editors:

Having always thought Cap'n Crunch the perfect munch food for a 3 a.m. buzz, I have long been a fan of the Cap'n. So, it has been with great interest that I have followed the latest development in the *DTH* concerning the greatest of American cult heroes.

The unthinkable, though, has occurred. Just Wondering, tune in your set this Saturday morning and prepare to be horrified. Last Saturday, during yet another memorable episode of the *Scooby-Doo/Scrappy-Doo* hour, I saw a

cereal commercial in which — GASP! — the Cap'n actually breakdanced! Yes, Cap'n Crunch did the body wave and spun around on his back, all of this while in uniform. (And his mouth was open.)

The implication is clear: The Reagan administration has cut federal aid to disabled veterans to such an extent that they must now dance and roll in the streets to make ends meet.

Appalled,
Richard Wilkinson

To the editors:

To celebrate the arrival of a socialized meal service at UNC, the Fast Break is running a limited time only special. Just go to the counter and ask for a double

double Doug Doug Berger Berger, please. It's a good time for the great taste of ARA.

Mary Lou (Mc)Retton
West Virginia

READER FORUM

Finding unity through discussion

To the editors:

Recently, criticism has been launched concerning racial interaction on campus. Problems do exist between the races and there have been a few worthwhile efforts to understand these conflicts and bridge the racial gap. However, one successful attempt, sponsored by the Carolina Union Human Relations Committee, was made on April 2 and 9 when a small racially-mixed group of students gathered under the guidance of clinical psychologist Dr. Denise Barnes to discuss topics relating to race. The two sessions in which we participated enabled us as strangers to express ourselves openly about personal experiences and racial problems.

The meetings were informal and relatively unstructured, allowing for discussion of a variety of subjects. One major topic of concern was the conscious and unconscious use of racial slurs in everyday situations. The group discussed at length various ways to confront such situations. A generous portion of our time was spent addressing the issue of racial discrimination as well, on a personal level and from an economic viewpoint. But our most informative discussion centered on interracial relationships: friendships, dating and marriage. There were

differing views along racial and gender lines, and it was enlightening to see the issue through the eyes of others.

Each of us signed up for the group for different reasons; some of us wanted to vent our feelings of guilt and frustration, some wanted to listen to what the other race had to say. Some of us anticipated tension and strained conversation within the group, which proved not to be the case. What we found was an open atmosphere in which we were comfortable sharing our personal experiences and innermost feelings. Without the need to form an ultimate opinion on either the causes of or solutions to racial barriers, we were able to draw from our mutual exchange a personal conclusion about our short-sightedness, inferences, understandings and misunderstandings of each other as members of different races.

Perhaps the most important discovery we made was that race is more than color, it is culture. Black culture is distinctive, rich and important to American society. To unconsciously request that blacks deny their culture in the name of integration is tragic and must be prevented. Only when there is respect and recognition for the two cultures will there be hope

for the harmony and racial equality upon which the future of America depends.

We are writing, not to pat ourselves on the back for making an effort that may seem token in terms of widespread effectiveness, but rather to let students know that this was a beneficial experience for us and similar opportunities may be available in the fall. If the chance to form groups such as ours is offered, we urge students to get involved. This experience afforded us the opportunity for introspection and expression on an individual level and we recommend this experience for other students. Racial awareness must begin with intense and personal exchange before it can extend itself on a wider scale. We encourage students to look for this type of exchange so that our campus, our nation and our world can cultivate unity between the races and learn to accept each other through the common link of humanity.

Charlotte E. Gay
Lorenzo Lee Brooks
Joseph Stewart
Tonya L. Smith
Suzy Adler
Keith Clark
Mary H. Sentementes
Kelli Grying
Barry Kitch
Yoshi C. DeBerry

Maybe some day

To the editors:

Simply put: What a great day it will be when the universities have all the money they need, and our buddy Vice President George Bush will be forced to institute a mandatory meal plan in the Pentagon to buy a missile.

Steve Hines
Chapel Hill



Debate sparks reflections, tears

To the editors:

Last Monday a debate between the Carolina Committee on Central America and Students For America occurred in the Pit. As a newcomer to the CCCA, I decided to stand back and listen objectively to the issues at hand (i.e., United States support for the contras vs. non-intervention). However, during those intense "60 minutes" of debate I was moved at a deeper level.

I was saddened as I looked at the bronze, healthy bodies of these men, women and, yes, some children, who clutched signs reading, "Soviets out of Nicaragua." Communists out, bad guys out, evil out — these were the words running through my mind; my thoughts continued to run until I remembered the column I wrote for the *DTH* ("Vets deserve understanding, not blame," Nov. 15).

I fought back my tears as I thought of that ex-Green Beret

from Vietnam who battled the same enemy 15 years ago and how he is still struggling to overcome his guilt for murdering innocent women and children, to break his drug habit, and to stop having nightmares and flashbacks.

My thoughts were broken by a thin, grey-black hair man who came through the crowd and stood before Ashley Osment (CCCA chairperson) and addressed the crowd: "Is that who you think your fighting - Soviets and communists?! I landed on the shores of Okinawa 40 years ago, and I will tell you who got killed . . . innocent women and children."

As Americans, we all have the right to our own opinions. The sadness is when we turn our heads from the wounded men and women of our past; when we fail to learn.

We can dream our dreams of victory in the reflections of our war monuments in Washington D.C.,

but the truth is not buried there. The truth, and the reality of war, is alive in the hearts and minds of men and women who work in our factories, private industry, government, universities. These men and women are everywhere. They are the people who will share with you the senseless murdering of their friends, of their "enemies" — women and children.

To those bronze bodies: The bottom line is that your life, your innocence is reflected in the eyes of the soldiers who have returned with the truth: Real people do die. Needlessly.

You can carry those signs, but before visions of glory and victory overcome reality — go visit the VA hospital in Durham, read personal accounts on war, talk to the survivors and then battle your dreams.

Peggy Gregson
Craig