

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

This is non-aligned?

It's ironic that the recent summit of non-aligned countries in Zimbabwe was dominated by talk of perceived aggression by the United States instead of more pressing matters facing third world nations, such as rapid population growth and hunger problems.

Speakers at the weeklong meeting showed the kind of ignorance that wars are built upon — the inability to see shades of gray in between the more definitive tones of black and white. They cursed imperialism, of course (whatever the word means after several years of such inflammatory use), and chose sides as if their nations were embroiled in a football game.

Among the "lowlights" of the summit was a speech from Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega — the leader of a Soviet-allied country that is, in effect, at war with the United States. "Latin America," Ortega declared, "has been a target of aggression, intervention and interference on the part of a superpower that is enthroned on our continent."

An "enthroned" superpower? Perhaps Ortega has forgotten that American presidents serve four-year terms, not life terms as do most aspirant or

actual dictators, be they in Moscow or Managua.

Another leader wearing blinders from a Soviet-allied country — Libya's Moammar Khadafy — took the summit floor in midweek, conceitedly asking for help in his personal grudge match with the United States. He received some: a committee of the gathered nations adopted a resolution condemning the U.S. bombing of Libya and calling for the United States to pay restitution for the act.

Yet on Thursday, an ungrateful Khadafy ranted about imperialistic and Zionist spies and "puppets" in the 25-year-old organization, which he said had outlived its usefulness. An Egyptian official later issued a statement calling the remarks "vicious, obnoxious and abusive." So much for rational discourse from the Libyan representative.

Some of the summit's 101 members complained that this and previous summits of so-called non-aligned nations were nothing more than formalities. Perhaps if they'd invite leaders of nations that truly are non-aligned, something more substantial would be accomplished.

The Pentagon and oligopoly

Scandalous tactics employed by some defense department contractors reign as one of the favorite stumping topics among Congressional candidates. As the nefarious ploys of an increasing number of contractors surface, assurances of leaving the days of \$500 hammers are offered by even the least glib of pols.

In light of rising public dissent over these happenings, the Pentagon is preparing to impose new regulations designed to "encourage them (the contractors) to modernize," according to one Pentagon official. But hold the applause just yet. Some of the measures expected to be instituted may create the same problems the Pentagon finds itself trying to eradicate.

The Washington Post reported Sunday that new Pentagon regulations scheduled to be released later this month will reduce "average industry profit rates on negotiated contracts" by one percent, a mere \$600 million. With more than 40 contractors under investigation for charges of cheating the government, stemming the flood of taxpayers' dollars seems only fair and sounds a welcome change.

But the effects of the expected measures may yield a bigger backfire than a plugged M-16. While the industry's profits will drop, so, it is

expected, will the number of contractors. Industry analysts foresee increased restrictions and bureaucratic roadblocks forcing many small contractors out of the defense business.

Meanwhile, to protect their tremendous market shares, the General Electrics and Lockheeds of the industry have bought out smaller contractors. Other large contractors have announced intentions of investing in markets with a more predictable, less hostile future.

The aggregate effect of these trends will be less competition. Even freshmen Economics 10 students know that fewer competitors means higher prices.

Pentagon officials maintain that the policymakers seek not to alter the contractors' ledgers but their attitudes. Decreased earnings should bring better competition, which can ultimately result in lower defense budgets. But if the Pentagon's new measures squelch the small contractors, the new regulations will be counterproductive.

Based on the track record of defense contractors as a group, any measure that will decrease competition must be seen as a deterrent to a cost-efficient defense. The Pentagon needs to find a better way to prevent the scams of the past.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Tar Heel Forum

Homophobia threatens rights of all

Marguerite Arnold

Guest Writer

I seem to remember that toward the end of the shanty affair last year, certain members of Students for America had their tender feelings stepped on when certain labels were applied collectively, mind you, to the group, including the clarification of its acronym as Student Fascists of America.

Some SFA members seemed shocked that anyone could apply the term "racist" to the organization, and did everything they could to escape the label, however appropriate. There is another label that was also attached to SFA and the College Republicans, one that I have heard no member even try to refute, and that is homophobic.

Unfortunately, such discriminatory tendencies also pervade the attitudes of some campus leaders.

Judging from Student Congress representative Jim Wooten's comments in The Daily Tar Heel ("CGLA funding under fire," Aug. 27), he seems to agree with SFA and the College Republicans' extreme beliefs and is continuing to do everything in his power to make sure he measures up to such ways of thinking.

His arguments for withdrawing funding for the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association appear relatively harmless at first glance, and perhaps on the surface can be laughed away as so much hot air. However, last year's cut in funding for the CGLA — and the fact that another cut is on the agenda for next spring — indicates that too many Student Congress members ascribe to a similar, detestable philosophy.

As stated in the article, Wooten's argument is that because the persecution is legal, we should engage in it. To merit this persecution, he says in his diatribe that engaging in oral or anal sex is a crime against the state.

I would like to point out that under General Statute 14-27.2, a man cannot legally rape his wife. No matter what he does, he cannot sexually violate his wife in the eye of the law. So much for the justice of the legal system.

Also, according to G.S. 14-27.44: "Sexual

Act means cunnilingus, fellatio, analingus or anal intercourse, but does not include vaginal intercourse. [Apparently, boys and girls, we've been fooling ourselves all along.] Sexual Act also means the penetration, however slight, by any object in the genital or anal opening of another person's body . . . The legislature intended the words 'any object' to embrace parts of the human body as well as inanimate or foreign objects. This statute is violated when the defendant penetrated the victim's genital opening with his [my emphasis; notice how this law is also sexist in intent] finger."

So, according to the law, a father cannot change his child's diaper or wipe his or her bottom because he would run the risk of violating not only this law, but also G.S. 14.177, the famous Crime Against Nature law. Actually, the reason that the law only mentions "his finger" could be yet another attempt to keep a woman in her place. Imagine the scene: "Honey, will you change Junior's diaper?" "No, I'm sorry, it's against the law."

By the illustration of this rather far-fetched scene, I seek to again prove the oldest law of geometry. If a = b, and b = c, then a = c. Therefore, it is just as pertinent, according to this law, for the government to legislate whether a father may or may not legally wipe his child's behind as it is to make illegal the practice of homosexuality, and just as ludicrous.

On a far more serious note, this law seeks to legislate morality by calling homosexuality an act against nature. It is entirely irrelevant and based on false grounds, for who has the right to determine what is indeed nature? In my opinion, sex is natural in any of the manifestations it may take. For those of us who ultimately believe that God shows the way, did not Jesus Christ himself say that those who judge others should be

blameless themselves? I don't see too many innocents wandering around. Neither do I like to be told what I may or may not do in an act of love with whomever I choose.

Another point is that no relationship — gay or heterosexual — is based solely on sexual intercourse. Of course, there are varying degrees, but again, that is (and rightly should be) up to the discretion of the individuals. By saying that he is against funding for the CGLA, Wooten totally discounts the relationships formed by anyone on the basis of the sexual act itself.

I would sincerely hope that the students and faculty on this campus take this threat to our constitutional freedoms as real. If Wooten and others like him can claim that gays and lesbians have no rights on this campus, then the next phrases will be, "If you are black, female, non-Christian, un-American or un-conservative, then you have no rights."

As for Jim Wooten's feelings, I don't really care about them especially, as he has not only insulted, but tried to degrade about 10 percent of the student body. Besides, he personally is not really the issue; his involvement and subsequent mouthings off in the interests of his particular ideology are the real issues, both to take notice of and to react against.

As to the question, no matter how irrelevant, that seems to come up when dealing with gay rights: Why am I supporting them if I am not gay? Because if one does, one runs the risk of being suspected of being gay. Figure it out for yourself, or if you can't, ask me. If I am or am not a lesbian, does that make my opinions any less valid, or my fight for justice less real?

I am very proud of who I am and the dream to which I ascribe — that of an America in which this type of idiocy is universally decried for the evil that it is and not accepted out of ignorant, hypocritical fear.

Marguerite Arnold is a sophomore anthropology major from Blowing Rock.

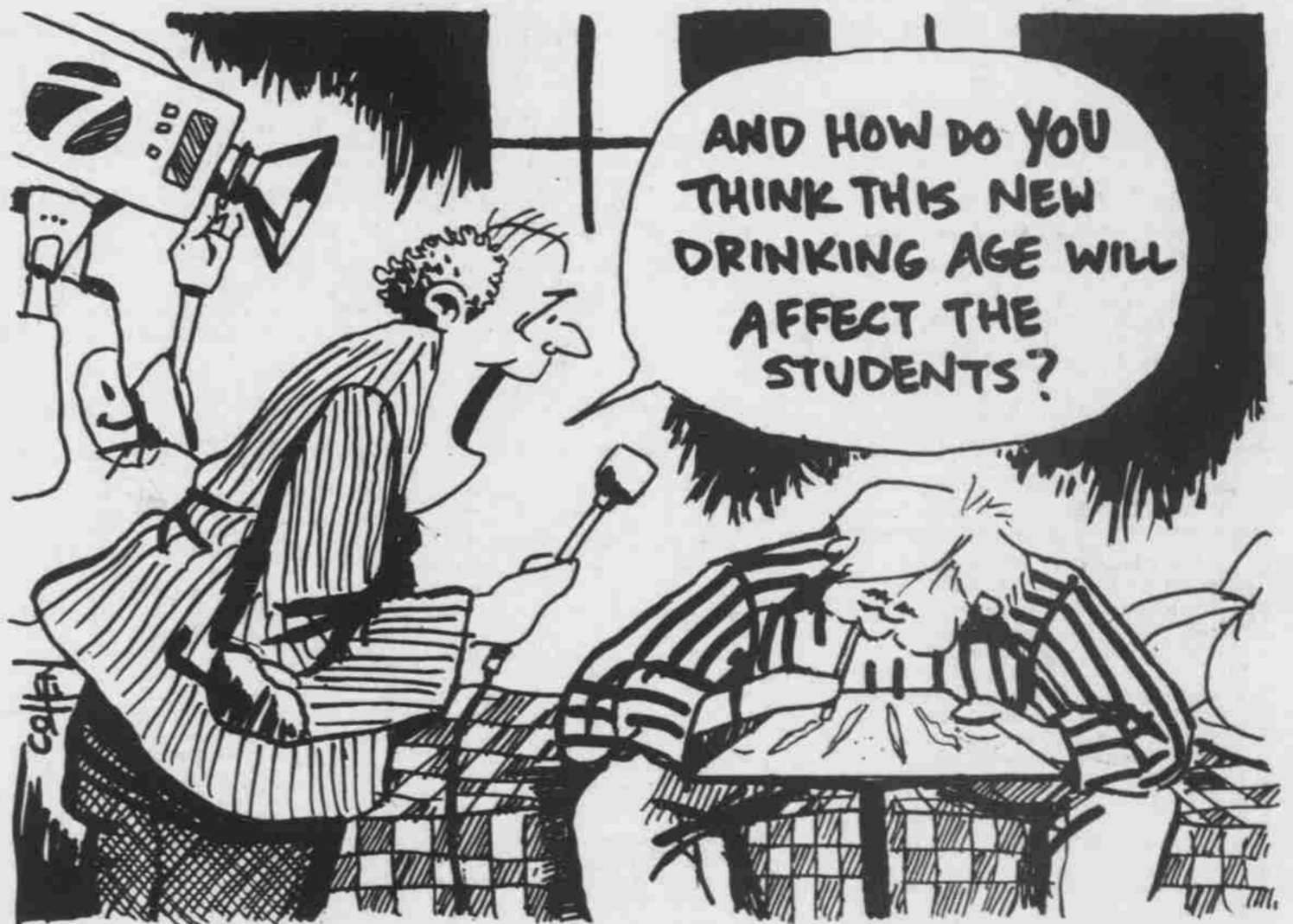
Victorian values

To the editor:

I read the Sept. 3 edition of The Daily Tar Heel with a grin that widened with each article I encountered. The police blame the media for the Franklin Street riot, and University officials are telling students to be ashamed of themselves.

I want to ask a question. With the exception of national championships and other approved excuses, how often do drunken parties trash Franklin Street? I wasn't there, but it does sound as if the party became too violent; however, from what I understand, it eventually developed into a protest. The "primary concern for drinking" did not indicate necessarily the "drug and alcohol problems in our society today." It was the last chance for getting drunk before Big Brother grounded the bad little girls and boys from Demon Drink, and it was an expression of everyone's attitude about it.

Will everyone have to patiently tolerate the Victorian values which periodically fix themselves on society through hypocritical officials? I doubt it. Prohibition didn't stop anyone, but it just may have encouraged drinking by people with a sense of adventure, and it lasted only 14 years. Everyone will keep going, probably stronger than before, and eventually the government will recover from its power-induced mania for a little while.



Letters

I turned 19 on Sept. 1, not legally able to drink for three years. However, the drinking age never stopped me from having a cooler before and won't now. The idea of defiance just appeals to me enough to do it more frequently, if anything. If I am responsible enough to work my way through college, and because of

that job, pay taxes which pay the officials' salaries, then I am certainly responsible enough to relax with a glass of wine now and then, just as they probably do. Now, I will just sit back, wine in hand, prepared to be amused by the proceedings.

ROBIN M. MIZE
 Sophomore
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Letters policy

Please observe these guidelines for letters and columns:
 ■ Include name, year in school, major and phone number. University employees, include title and department.
 ■ All letters and columns must be typed.

Law and disorder: Who's to blame?

Louis Corrigan

Guest Writer

When the human blockade stretching from "The Happy Store" finally connected with the Spanky's crowd, I joked to Bryan Hassel about the marvels of student empowerment and my surprise at such a turn-out for an anti-apartheid rally. As piles of beer cartons became Franklin Street bonfires and ambulances carried away victims of flying bottles, joking gave way to utter amazement.

A law completely unenforceable from moment one stands on shaky ground and shakes the foundations of other laws. What of public consumption? drunk and disorderly conduct? illegal substance use? public indecency? Sunday night, such laws did not exist.

It's curious how the Chapel Hill police chose to deal with the rise in the drinking age. Chapel Hill became essentially an open party and from Spanky's to Hector's, more or less a blocked-off riot zone. Early on, students flowed slowly down Franklin, haphazardly rocking cars that blocked the path. A police car looked to be next just 40 yards ahead, and visions of South Africa came to mind. The policeman, however, quickly turned around and sped away.

The police directed traffic around this zone; they occasionally broke up fights (of which there were several); but mostly they actively avoided confrontation and allowed to happen all that might, short of murder.

Not to say it wasn't fun. It was a party like few others. Howling and screaming in a drunken haze is a natural pleasure. Turning that alley-way where the flower lady sits into a stadium-style urinal was a

liberation of utility. Lighting a cigarette from a burning Stroth's carton in the middle of Franklin is a peculiar joy.

But it was as much an unleashing of anger as a celebration. Over a dozen windows were broken. Subway salvaged its remaining windows by boarding up as if in preparation for a hurricane. Fireworks exploded from the crowd and burst just overhead. Bottles shattered all about. If no one was raped or killed, I will honestly be surprised.

And the state and national government are substantially responsible if not legally liable for it all. Irresponsible actions don't just happen. They are nurtured by a society.

It's not so much a question of army draft but no draft beer, or less drinking and driving, or millions of dollars in state highway funds. The problematic proper question is how far a society's lawmakers can and should go to insure the basically utilitarian notion of the public good, and to respond to or reflect the basically Christian moral environment without infringing on citizens' personal liberties and altering America's relatively enlightened liberalist tradition.

How should we treat the cigarette industry? soft and hard pornography? abortion? homosexuality? cocaine and marijuana use? Are some restrictions on

these things "better" than no restrictions at all? Are unenforceable laws truly laws, and even if they aren't, can they be seen as "good"? Who decides and can we disagree live with, much less abide by, those decisions?

Currently we're experiencing a conservative backlash. Sometimes we must feel liberals are the only folks with any faith in man's ability to maturely decide for himself what vices are natural and good and contribute to his happiness, and which are best avoided.

In the end, we all decide these questions, even with our silence and absence of decision. True decision, though, is responsibility and choice. When we restrict the necessity to decide, we also limit the necessity for responsible action. Thus, if for no other reason, a more open society is a good thing in forcing us to accept responsibility and not allowing us to remain moral children overlong.

Late Sunday night, on into Monday, with all the churning bodies about, one fellow danced about a bonfire chanting to the air, "F--- 21." There was something singularly sad and primitive, even barbaric about this lonely warrior so drunk, so angry and so crazed from the combination. It was as if amidst this chaos, this semi-jubilant mass return to a kind of childhood status, he expressed the depth of concern and response possible, the depth of responsibility. And it was horrible and feeble.

Louis Corrigan is a senior English major from Atlanta.