

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

Constitutional rites

One of America's oldest documents, the Constitution, celebrates its 200th birthday this year. But proposals for a Sept. 17 national holiday honoring the document are sure to bring protest from folks in Washington.

The usual argument of another costly federal holiday will undoubtedly come up for debate as it has in the past with other holidays (Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, for instance). However, it doesn't seem illogical to take a day off and celebrate, if only once, the anniversary of a document that has been the basis of our federal government for two centuries.

Although considered an American standard by most folks today, the Constitution created what at the time was the most unique form of government. And just as it is today, the Constitution was a source of controversy. Two states, Rhode Island and our very own North Carolina, refused to ratify the document in its early version because it lacked guarantees for freedoms of speech and religion. Thus, the Bill of Rights was added.

Rob Sikorski, associate director of the N.C. Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, thinks the idea of a national holiday merits attention. "The 1976 celebration was about something that happened 200 years ago and stopped 200 years ago," he said in Monday's *Durham Morning Herald*. "As for the Constitution, 200 years ago was only the starting date. We are celebrating 200 years of people and ideas."

That is, without a doubt, true. The country takes a day off every year to celebrate the declaration of its independence. And last year Americans went all out celebrating the 100th birthday of Lady Liberty, complete with armadas of ships and prime-time television coverage.

The Lady is but a young babe compared to the weathered papers the founding fathers wrote in charting our nation's future. Sure, a few pages may have torn corners, but this year, and perhaps this year alone, we should take one more day to celebrate the document that enables our country to continue celebrating its independence.

Championing breakfast

Remember eggs? Toast and bacon? Juice and milk? Well, forget 'em.

Moms and (let's not fall prey to sexism, here) Dads across the country can rest. Skip the slow fry and quick stir of steamy scrambled eggs. Toss that fresh-squeezed orange juice out the window. And tell the cow to go back to sleep because you won't be doing the milking.

A revolution is shaking the American public, led by those ever-ingenuous nether-corporations known collectively as the fast food industry. In their interest in long life, health and, of course, your greenbacks, they have invented Styrofoam breakfasts. And in giving convenience priority over culture, they've gone too far.

It started out simply. We Southerners have been eating Hardee's ham biscuits for years. The ham biscuit fit nicely into Southern culture, so it was only natural to have them mass-produced for mass-consumption by half-asleep highschoolers.

But in their zeal for a new market, the fast food industry has overdone a half-baked idea. The profit motive has something to do with it. The restaurants were sitting idle in the mornings, corporate MBAs reasoned, so why not squeeze every minute of selling time out of them — why not serve breakfast? Then the MBAs kept

upping the ante. From ham biscuits, the downward spiral twisted to pancakes in Styrofoam platters to croissant-things to pre-packaged Sarah Lee danishes (dani?). But now it has reached an all-time low.

The French Toast Stick. It's not that bad, the MBAs claim. Why, you even get a little plastic bucket of maple syrup with a hermetically sealed, self-sticking foil top in which to dunk the ever-tasty French Toast Stick. Maybe they think you can eat it while you drive — after going to their convenient drive-thru window. A competing chain has come out with round bacon. Where will it all end?

But the problem is not the industry per se; it concerns this nation's future. Local managers say the new breakfasts are selling like, well, hotcakes. With people forsaking the traditional hearty American breakfast, how long can our civilization thrive?

Our country is based on the American breakfast. Our astronauts didn't go into space until they ate hearty steak-and-egg breakfasts. Our President and his cabinet members surely don't make an early-morning fast-food run. They need power breakfasts: American breakfasts.

For all our sakes, don't dash off to class without a hearty American breakfast. The future depends on it.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Tar Heel Forum

Restricting extra athletic boost

If you have ever been to a college football game at any Division I institution, you've seen them. Some of their common possessions include a school pennant, usually held aloft, and a bulging wallet, usually hidden except in special recruiting cases.

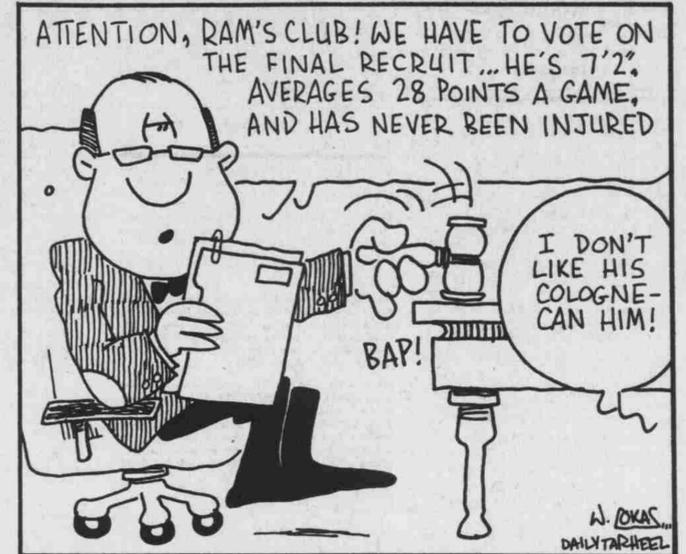
They are high-powered alumni, called "boosters" in the language of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The NCAA made them about as welcome as a booster shot in last week's convention in San Diego.

At that convention, boosters such as the members of the University of North Carolina Rams Club were outlawed from having anything to do with recruiting athletes for colleges. The measure passed overwhelmingly in the vote by college athletic directors and was hailed by the NCAA chief as a giant step forward in bringing honesty back into the college game.

Said NCAA executive director Walter Byers after the legislation passed: "The greatest threat to intercollegiate athletics is the irresponsible behavior of powerful people — outsiders, state legislators, big donors — who make arrangements with irresponsible coaches to circumvent (rules)." Byers' statement is a bit overblown — ignoring other recurrent problems like drug use and eligibility regulations. But his concern is justified. The move to totally outlaw boosters is extreme, but necessary.

Why do alumni give their hard-earned money and other perks to 17- and 18-year-old schoolboys? Many have a terminal case of childhood superiority. They want the teams they cheer for to win. Always. Since the teams that win are usually the ones with better athletes, some of the alumni get involved in recruiting. Stories of a prized recruit shaking hands with an overzealous booster and finding a \$100 bill miraculously enclosed in his palm afterwards have become increasingly common.

In several cases, the alumni have gotten caught and their school has been placed on probation. So in a move analogous to the elementary teacher making her entire class



Scott Fowler
Sports Editor

it. "The fact we need all this crap is an enormous admission of failure," Stanford athletic director Andy Geiger said. "We failed. We can't handle the pressure."

However, it strikes me as a much-needed step. Most boosters are honest. But the ones that aren't spoil it for the rest by indirectly encouraging the top high school athletes to market themselves and to seek the best deal possible.

The NCAA has finally smelled the coffee. Let the boosters' money help build better facilities like the Smith Center, and let the boosters sit placidly in their front-row seats if they wish. But keep them in the stands and out of the recruiting business.

Scott Fowler is a senior journalism major from Spartanburg, S.C.

Ad policy lacks sincerity

To the editor:
 The Daily Tar Heel's new ad policy explained in the article, "Bias ruled out of classified ads" (Dec. 1) needs considerable examination on three points.

First, it seems that the goal of the Justice Department ruling and the DTH policy is not merely to foster non-discriminatory ads but to foster non-discrimination itself. In this regard, the example in the article of an acceptable ad — "White Christian male seeks roommate" — contains the very innuendoes that the DTH claims it intends to avoid. The example fairly screams discrimination, as surely as if it read "no non-whites or non-Christians need apply."

Second, the article states that "students can still let readers know who they want for a roommate by stating what they are." This sentence is an out-and-out guide in one easy lesson for evading the spirit of the DTH's policy on non-discriminatory ads. Further, it is racist in that it assumes automatically that no one will ever want a roommate of a different race or religion.

Last, the article asks if the classified ads look different. They do not. There were at least 11 classified ads offering male and female dormitory contracts for sale, one ad for white male asthmatics to take part in a study, and one ad for black students or faculty to be sperm donors. All of these ads have ostensibly valid reasons for specifying preference by gender or race, and the DTH has evidently exempted them from its policy on non-discriminatory ads using guidelines that are at least unknown to readers.

The advertising staff really needs to rethink its strategy and policies on this important issue and these three points.

JOHN HICKEY
 Research Assoc. Professor
 Environmental Science
 and Engineering

Coach critique

To the editor:
 I have been an avid Carolina basketball fan for more than 10 years, and during that time I have witnessed many, many games. One thing I have noticed in recent years is a slight decline in Dean Smith's coaching abilities. That is not to say Smith cannot coach, but only that he is no longer the best. Sometimes I wonder whether he is even in the top five anymore. On too many occasions during the past four years, UNC has lost to inferior teams.



The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comment. For style and clarity, we ask that you observe the following guidelines for letters to the editor and columns:

- All letters/columns must be signed by the author(s). Limit of two signatures per letter or column.
- Students who submit letters/columns should also include their name, year in school,

major and phone number. Professors and other University employees should include their title and department.

- All letters/columns must be typed. (For easier editing, we ask that they be double-spaced on a 60-space line.)
- The Daily Tar Heel reserves the right to edit letters and columns for style, grammar and accuracy.

And worst of all, Carolina peaks in January or early February and chokes in March.

Considering this to be a serious problem, I began to ponder the situation. Finally, I have come to the conclusion that Dean Smith is suffering from what I will refer to as "Fat Cat" Syndrome. This is when a man who has everything is no longer motivated and is just going through the motions. In 26 years at UNC, Smith has won an NCAA title, an NIT title, numerous ACC titles and numerous holiday tournament titles. He has 19 seasons with 20-plus victories, the last 16 consecutively. He has won nearly 590 games while losing less than 180. He coached the Olympic team to the gold medal in 1976 and has had nearly a score of All-Americans play for him. He has a 21,000-seat arena named in his honor, draws a six-figure salary, has already been inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame and is worshipped by thousands. What else is left to achieve?

I believe with all these accomplishments under his belt, Smith has lost his ability to guide his teams to their full potentials and inspire them to that final level of excellence necessary during the championship drive. There were many times in the past when I saw UNC teams seemingly reach down and find that extra lift that would vault them to victory. I can count on my fingers the number of times I have seen Carolina reach that level during the last four years.

I know Carolina has won a lot of games the last four years and is certain to win a lot more in the future. With the kind of talent Smith has had and will continue to get, he will win 20 or more games, but unless he regains that old desire, he will be beaten by hungrier coaches with slightly less talented teams. I hope I am wrong.

EVERETTE MILLS
 Sophomore
 RTVMP

Not just a holiday

To the editor:
 Jan. 20 marks a day of celebration of brotherhood and aspirations of hope, marking the major accomplishments of Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, the sit-ins staged by the students of A&T State University, the Lyndon B. Johnson administration and the countless number of people who participated in marches and boycotts.

It took those events that occurred nearly 20 years ago to force America to acknowledge and change the injustices it had adopted. They also paved the way for minorities to attend universities which would not have otherwise opened their doors.

But what bothers me is the ignorance fueled by apathy in which our generation is smothered. We as students, black and white, can make a huge differ-

ence in what will be the future. But we merely sit back and enjoy life. We go to classes, hang out, joke around and go blindly about our life.

I admit there is nothing wrong with leading a typical college student's life. But we must realize there is more to gaining an education. We should take advantage of our college years by learning more about ourselves and others around us whose lives touch ours.

In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no morals... we must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character — this is the goal of true education."

I challenge every student not to just look at Jan. 20 as Martin Luther King Day, but also as a day of reflecting upon the celebration of life, a day that no one will make assumptions based on race. I urge you all to learn something about a different culture and commit yourself to world peace. Then carry this through the year, because it is not until we live and respect everyone that we really experience peace and brotherhood.

LINDA SHEALEY
 Junior
 Psychology