

The Daily Tar Heel

95th year of editorial freedom

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Athletics needs defined role

When the Dick Crum affair broke last semester, faculty pressure for an investigation into the circumstances surrounding his resignation began full force. So far complete information about the episode has yet to come forth. And now the Faculty Council is on the verge of establishing a committee to investigate all aspects of UNC athletics.

As the resolution before the council now stands, a look into Crum's departure will not be a defined responsibility of the committee. But, undoubtedly, it is the event that has focused attention on the athletic department and is serving as the main impetus for an investigation.

Many faculty have vociferously claimed that the unprofessional handling of the Crum episode not only tarnished the school's reputation for athletic integrity, but also revealed a skewed set of priorities in which too much weight is placed on athletics. Sadly, their claims are on the mark.

When the Rams Club, or Educational Foundation, spends \$800,000 to buy out the contract of a coach who appears to be doing his job, something

board opinion

is wrong. The faculty resolution defines the purposes of UNC, among other things, as: to foster mastery of knowledge through excellence in teaching; to maintain national eminence in research; and to create a climate that fosters the education, personal growth and moral character of its students.

The concerns that the athletic department may be compromising the University's purposes and standards of conduct have merit. According to the resolution, the proposed committee would examine all relevant aspects of the athletic program — its scope, procedures, financing and other resources. Its fund-raising arm, the Rams Club, would also be evaluated. Faculty members hope that it can be determined whether the role of athletics is compromising UNC's purposes as an academic institution.

The athletic department has welcomed the investigation, showing its desire to cooperate with the concerned faculty. But until the investigation takes place and the role of the athletic department is better defined, athletics will continue to gain precedence over academics. Until then, there can be no defense against a debacle such as the Crum affair.

Getting stuck in the sandbox

Maybe George Bush finally has shed his image as the Republican wallflower. Disproving the belief that he has no personality, the vice president displayed the most passion during his campaign so far in a live television interview Monday night.

Unfortunately, his theatrics didn't come while promoting his positions on pressing campaign issues. Instead, he was lashing out at CBS News anchor Dan Rather for questioning his role in the Iran-contra affair.

After Rather began the interview, Bush responded acridly that he wanted to talk about his campaign, not the Iran controversy. When Rather persisted, Bush mentioned the newsmen's walkout last September over a tennis match that pre-empted his show.

Bush supporters have been clamoring that Rather treated the candidate with appalling disrespect. As a journalist, Rather should keep his broadcasts as objective and unemotional as possible. His purpose is to report the news, not make it. But the vice president's position does not give him license to attack reporters personally.

Bush insisted that CBS had promised him that the news spot would be a campaign profile, not an investigation into the Iran-contra affair. If this

were the case, then it was unethical of Rather to spring the Iran question on him. But had Bush merely answered calmly, the whole episode could have been avoided.

Whether Rather acted inappropriately, the most important issue to come out of the broadcast is Bush's reluctance to answer questions about the Iran-contra scandal. If Congress found him innocent of any wrongdoing, then he should tell the voters this as often as they want to hear it. He must know by now that public accountability is a prerequisite for any elected office, especially the presidency.

Yet Bush has managed to sway popular sentiment in this case. CBS reportedly received several thousand calls in his defense after the broadcast. Political analysts are already speculating that the incident will help him in the Iowa caucuses Feb. 8.

It shouldn't. Both men are guilty of trading professional conduct for sandbox antics. Regardless of which participant was more responsible, a one-upmanship battle replaced what could have been an informative, innocuous piece. While spouting insults at each another, Rather and Bush failed to see whom they cheated the most — the viewers. — **Jill Gerber**

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Printing: The Chapel Hill Newspaper.

Readers' Forum

A post-adolescent look at heroes

Louis Corrigan
 Staff Columnist

Some years ago, in the regular course of spending whole days in the library and living without a television, sports ceased to hold their formerly all-encompassing grip on my imagination. Once a raison d'être during the John Drew/Eddie Johnson glory days of the Atlanta Hawks, sports had become a mere amusement. Once I was no longer living from game to game, I found my days open to new activities, including my share of the would-be intellectual's disdain for fanaticism. Chapel Hill provided ample opportunities.

Once an avid devotee of Ford, Davis, O'Koren, Worthy, Jordan and Holly Farms, I now developed a distaste for Carolina blue and all the raging semi-professional fans, whether disguised as students or alumni. Surely, I thought, fanness occupies only a stage in the adolescent's development. This was the famous period of affiliation that had brought us the Bolshevik Revolution, the Nazi Youth League and John Wayne-style patriotism. But such movements, like all things, have a limited appeal and must fall away or change in time.

None other than John Naisbitt has assured us that we are living in a world economy where we need not protectionism, but a new way of seeing ourselves. Nationalism was a swell idea, democratic and moral for its day, but as we become adults, do we not see through less parochial eyes? Rambo affronts our sensibilities by embodying and exaggerating the idiocy of our personal and national youth when we were spurred on by fear, testosterone and aspirations for glory.

With luck, nations, like men, mature. From the drug-induced Summer of Love through the ignorance of ideology that was Vietnam to the corruption of Watergate, America saw the end to very opposite illusions. These sobering events revealed

limitations both in our claim to and ability to export salvation, and in our capacity to endure the Utopia of brotherly love when it means clusters of naked, narcotized bodies.

America found a new pragmatism of personal responsibility in Yuppiedom. If it was conservative, it was also honest and focused in its goal: the most painless and prosperous security as fast as possible. If it was a retreat from social causes, well, isolationism was long ago sanctioned by George Washington himself. And what can be more American than self-reliance? Reagan's foreign policy be damned. Just keep the economy booming.

Then came the outcry against drug-taking athletes who had violated their public trust in failing to serve as role models for America's youth. To that I scoffed. America's youth does not need heroes, I thought. In a post-illusory era when the baggage of religion and New Deal ethics were being discarded, America did not need heroes forever wielding influence on a passive populace. As with all of us, America was trying to grow up. And athletes, surely, were no different from the splashy rock stars we made rich for keeping us entertained. If they were exciting players, all the more reason they should be excused from being honest people.

Of course, I had attained a little hillock of independence from all those who had served as my heroes, from my father to John Lennon, from Ernest Hemingway to Morrissey, from many valuable teachers to my girlfriend. And on that hillock I wanted to sit for a while, leary of bandwagons, deaf to church bells and

battle chants. The view was at first pristine. We see a landscape best alone. But I was deluded, blind to the gallery of gods I had assembled on my walls and bookshelves, denying the deifying instinct in my core. After all, I some days needed an R.E.M. or a Sinead O'Connor to keep my spirits up.

In the past 10 years pro basketball teams have turned into franchises of millionaire superstars, mere stables of point totals to be traded about the league. By contrast, college basketball has remained the pre-eminent spectator sport because the superstars are still dependent on the everyman, and the team concept still wins out. Strange, then, that I would rediscover my latent fanaticism in a pro team — the Boston Celtics.

For two weeks last May, I lived the Celtics' epic struggle against the Detroit Pistons. Overmatched and injured, the Celtics endured. Larry Bird had been wrestled down and responded like a child. But then he returned to Game Five with The Steal that made all wonder if he were not the greatest player ever. I began daydreaming about Larry Bird.

In her recent appearance on campus, Maya Angelou spoke of our need for heroes and heroes like Martin Luther King. She stressed the importance of keeping such figures life-sized so that they might continue to inspire us rather than overwhelm us. I would say Maya Angelou is a sage, if it were not necessary to keep her life-sized.

But some heroes we can only idolize. They allow us vicarious thrills which we are incapable of achieving. They entertain us and make life rich and enjoyable.

I admit to having both.

Louis Corrigan is an Evening College student from Atlanta, Ga.

Fever gets red carpet

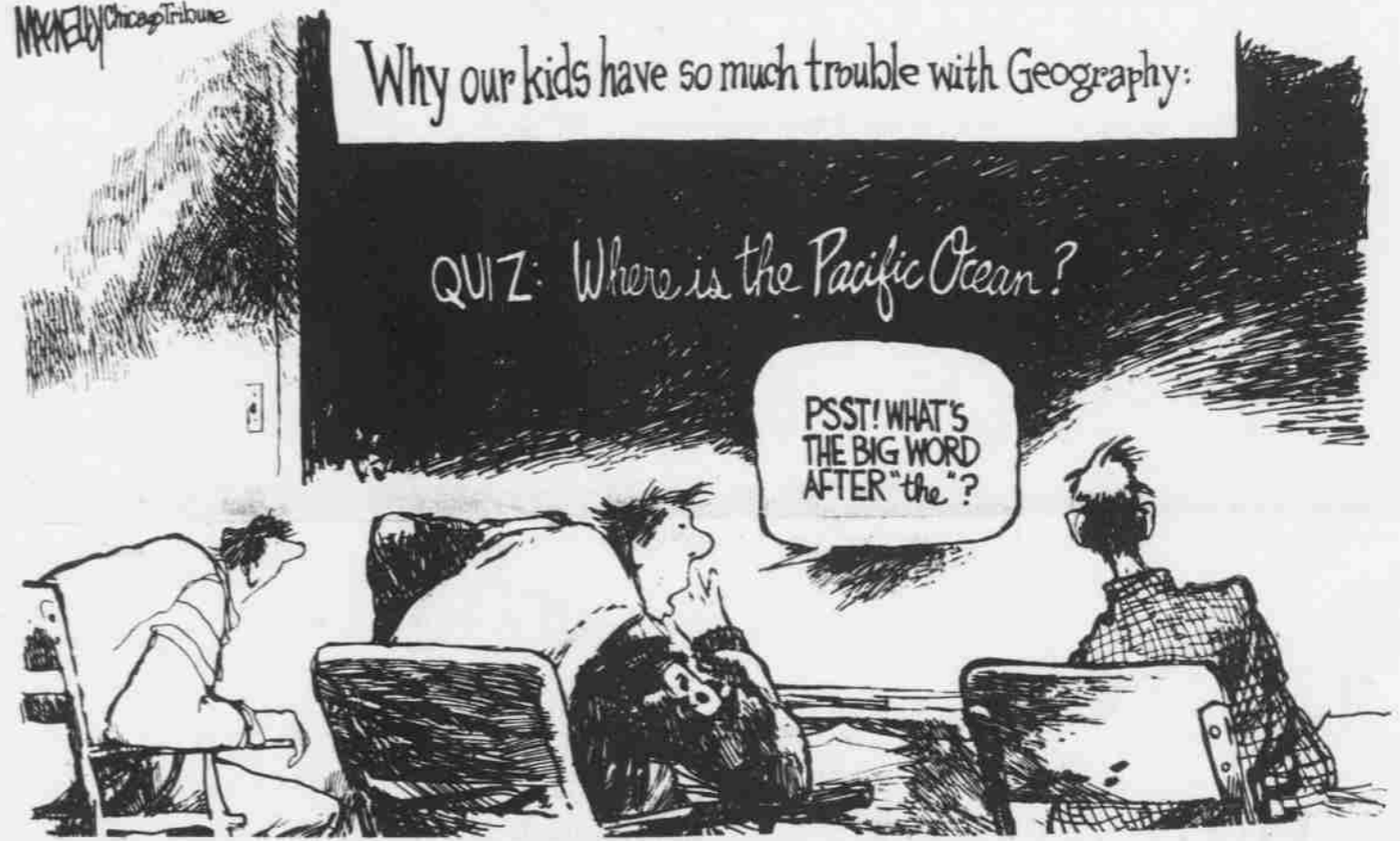
To the editor:

I went to the UNC vs. Duke basketball game on Jan. 21. To get a ticket, I, along with countless others, stood in the cold and rain outside the Smith Center on the previous Sunday. One group of students did not have to stand in line to gain admission and were guaranteed good seats. This group was Carolina Fever.

I think it is fantastic that students want to get together to show their school spirit. But doing it at the expense of others is absurd. By standing in line, I received my tickets randomly and sat in the corner of the upper deck. This group, by showing its spirit (and I feel I have as much as they do), sat in Section 116. I have sat in those seats at past games and have found that they are some of the best seats in the arena, but because Carolina Fever has those seats at every game, I no longer have a chance to sit there!

I know I can join a block, and if it is successful, I will have a randomly distributed ticket with the group. All I ask is that the Carolina Fever block be given the same restrictions as any other. This means that its members would be seated randomly in the arena along with the other individual students and blocks. Just because I have chosen not to be a member of Carolina Fever does not mean that I do not support UNC athletics. What makes this group so special that it automatically receives some of the best seats in the house?

DARA LEONARD
 Junior
 Education



Keep problem in perspective

To the editor:

I would like to point out to Bob Sheldon ("United States should push PLO recognition," Jan. 22) that the situation between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization is not as cut-and-dried as he and so many other Americans think.

First, the PLO and the Palestinians are not the same thing. The PLO constantly claims to lead the Palestinians when in fact it has had little to do with the rioting in Gaza and the West Bank. Becoming dissatisfied with the PLO in the last decade, many Palestinians, especially the younger generations, have sought fundamentalist Islam as the answer to their problems. Yassir Arafat and the PLO have simply tried to jump in front of the cameras.

Second, people often have the crippling tendency to look at the present without remembering the past, thus losing

perspective of the situation. Israel took over Gaza and the West Bank in 1967 after being provoked. The PLO, with the support of the Arab world, was using both of these areas as bases for their unending quest to destroy the state of Israel. After invasion by the Arabs, Israel struck back and took Gaza and the West Bank so that the PLO could not regain a foothold. How would you like it if you were an Israeli, and the strongest threat to your existence lay 20 miles from your back yard?

I also sympathize with the Palestinians and think the Israelis have handled the situation badly with their show of excessive force and stubbornness. Of course, the Palestinians have rights. What many people fail to see is that if Israel gives back the territories, the PLO will move in again. Many Israelis will have died for naught.

The Palestinians seem to be victims of a world in which power politics and the struggle for survival are the main ideol-

ogies. The Israelis may not be right in their handling of the situation, but we shouldn't support terrorists or take things out of perspective before making judgments on others. Sheldon, peace is nice, but until people at least try to see the whole picture, it will be unattainable forever. Let's all read our history books before we watch the seven o'clock news.

MICHAEL SCHMIER
 Freshman
 International Studies

Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments, ideas and criticisms.

When submitting letters or columns, students should include the following: name, year in school, major, phone number and the date submitted. Other members of the University community should give similar information.

CIA puts its ideals before preserving lives

Editor's note: The author was one of three CIA protesters to receive a prayer for judgment on Jan. 14 after an appearance district court.

To the editor:

I am greatly disappointed with the Jan. 21 editorial "See protest through to the end," which said, "The protesters did an admirable job of making people think." This statement obviously did not include the editorial board. Its members falsely stated that CIA supporters believe the CIA is trying "to prevent nations from inflicting greater crimes on their people." If any of these board members had bothered to read any books supporting the CIA, such as "Secrets, Spies, and Scholars," by Ray S. Cline, they would have found that its purpose is to stop communism or leftist ideals.

Furthermore, the DTH said that, "Whether the CIA commits unjustified crimes is a political issue open to debate. It shouldn't have been given the weight of fact in the courtroom." Where else do you convince people of crimes other than in a courtroom? The CIA's actions are not

only a political issue, but also a legal and human rights issue. Any organization associated with assassination, terrorism, torture, mass slaughter and coups of democratically elected governments should not be accepted by the American people as a legitimate intelligence organization but should be brought to court. The CIA has broken many laws including the executive order prohibiting U.S. intelligence from participating in assassination and the Boland Amendment.

So we, the CIA Action Committee, decided that we could not stand by and watch while millions of people suffered. We brought this issue to the courtroom by bringing a former CIA agent, Ralph McGee, to testify. If one had looked into McGee's past, one would find 25 years of CIA service, as a CIA adviser to the secret police in Vietnam, assistant director to covert operations in Thailand and the Philippines and winner of a Lifetime Distinguished Service Award — one of the highest honors given. The judge accepted McGee as an expert witness. Yet the editorial board claimed that, "The protest was weakened by a questionable defense."

Questionable? McGee's past experience and knowledge is a fact, and any amount of research can prove it.

A little more research also would have proven to the board that many convictions do belong in the courtroom, contrary to the editorial saying, "Many people have firm opinions. But just because convictions are strong doesn't make them correct. Or incorrect. Right or wrong, they don't belong in the courthouse." If the board truly believes this, then Brown vs. the Board of Education was an extremely ridiculous case.

Finally, whoever wrote the editorial was obviously not at the trial. The editorial said, "Whatever they pleaded, the judge should have found them guilty." The judge did find us guilty. If the writers didn't attend the trial, why were they writing about the validity of the defense used? I am beginning to believe that accurate reporting is about "as rare as a yuppie without a cellular phone."

JOEY TEMPLETON
 Sophomore
 Political Science/Drama