

The Daily Tar Heel

96th year of editorial freedom

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Don't be crass; show some class

As the 100th anniversary of Carolina football, 1988 has been touted as a year to build new traditions. With a personable new coach, a fresh game plan, new stadium lights, a new press box and a relatively young Carolina Fever program, students have good reason to be excited about the season.

But excitement is a poor excuse for the behavior of some of the fans at Saturday's game.

Before the second-largest crowd in Kenan history — only 14 more people attended last year's game against Clemson — and before a national audience of ESPN junkies, the UNC mikeman led the crowd in cheers that can only be described as being in bad taste. They were filled with obscenities and references to sexual acts. The cheers could be heard clearly throughout the stadium and also over the television.

As always, the alumni were out in force Saturday. It's a shame that they and their children had to listen to such language. Imagine explaining to your three-year-old what sodomy is — and what it has to do with playing football.

All mikeman cheers are supposed to be cleared with Don Collins, the adviser to the cheerleaders. Collins said he cleared some cheers, but not the off-color inventions the mikeman used last weekend.

"He (the mikeman) is representing the University of North Carolina and the spirit program," Collins said, adding that he would meet with the mikeman today to discuss the inappropriateness of certain cheers.

Get enraptured with real issues

It could have already happened. It could be happening right now. Your 400 classmates in BA 71 disappear. People lounging in the Pit suddenly vanish into thin air. What is going on here? Fall break isn't for a few more weeks. Oh, that's right, today is the Rapture.

Those who disappear are actually the lucky ones. The Rapture marks the beginning of the end of the world, and people deemed worthy are spirited away from the death and destruction that is sure to follow. Anyone remaining might be interested to learn that World War III will begin at 5 p.m. sharp on Oct. 5.

In his book, "88 Reasons Why the Rapture will be in '88," former NASA engineer Edward Wisenant makes the above predictions. He cites cycles of 40 and 70 years, satanic pyramids and psychic proof of the birth of the Antichrist, as well as the Bible.

Wisenant's reasoning can be fairly complex, but all too often it lacks substance, as in reason Number 73: "World War III looks very probable in 1988 just from casual observation, and it all looks like it has been planning for a very long time."

The author masks the hollowness

But the mikeman wasn't the only fan to fail the Miss Manners test. While the band performed on the field at halftime, all eyes were riveted on the colorful spectacle of the card section. Students tossed the laminated cards into the air, and the cards came raining down on other students like circular saw blades. The cards are heavy, with sharp corners, and they hurt.

Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity organizes the card section, so fraternity members come early to games to set it up. In return, they get some seating in the card section. Nate Watson, Sigma Phi Epsilon president, said the fraternity would be meeting with the athletic department to decide what needs to be done to keep students from throwing the cards. The fraternity has considered stationing police officers nearby during the card drill, he said, "but we'd like for it not to happen."

"I know it (the card section) can be done," Watson said. "It's just a matter of people working together."

But unless people do start cooperating, the days of the card section may be over. It certainly seems likely that the section won't survive another throwing frenzy like Saturday's.

On Sept. 24, the Tar Heels host Louisville. That weekend is also parents' weekend. UNC fans should clean up their acts before then. After all, crass cheers and childish behavior aren't the kind of new football traditions this University needs. — Matt Bivens

of his position by appealing to the fears and faiths of his audience. If you get past this emotional manipulation, it is easy to pick apart the arguments.

Because of his outrageous predictions, Wisenant's views invite close scrutiny. As a society, though, we rarely examine more mundane but potentially more important issues facing the country with the same close attention.

We cannot blindly believe the ideas our government, our politicians and our media peddle to us. We should be more concerned with choosing the next president than with the possible disappearance of those around us.

To find the substance behind the images of George Bush or Michael Dukakis, we have to ask tough questions and demand substantive answers on important issues. The campaigns may try to cloud the issues with themes of patriotism or a fear of the Soviet Union.

For now, I've decided not to mark the start of WWII on my calendar. If my classes are empty today, I may change my mind. In the meantime I'll be taking a harder look at other people who aim to win my support. I fully expect to be around to vote in November. — Bill Yelverton

the last word

Welcome to the editorial page's newest feature, to be written by the editors of the DTH. We'll use this space each Monday to explain our editorial policies and decisions, to discuss changes and additions to the paper and to let you know more about what's going on in our office. We hope to make the workings of our student newspaper a bit more comprehensible, while sharing some of the insanity that's often found behind the names that are listed in the top left corner of this page.

"The Last Word" isn't really the last word; you, the reader, will always have that. But this column will be our last word, our attempt to give you a "behind the scenes" glimpse of the DTH that you won't get by glancing in the windows of our office or picking up the paper each morning.

With that said, the first thing I'd like to explain is our policy on letters to the editor. Our "Letters Policy" outlines the basic process of submitting a letter, but you may be interested in how we decide which letters to print.

The first thing to understand about letters to the editor is that we don't always have a choice; sometimes we're so desperate to fill the editorial page that we'll print almost anything. This is a rare and unhappy

occasion, and one that we do our best to avoid.

A sore point with many letter-writers is length; we have space limitations that do not allow us to print long letters. We must cut letters to fit our space, whether the letters are repetitive or merely too long. A hint: once you're written more than two typed, double-spaced pages, try to wind down. That makes an awful lot of newspaper copy.

We do not print publicity letters, which we define as letters written to call attention to specific campus events. This policy is necessary because we do not have the space to advertise all campus activities on the back page, and it would be unfair to choose to help some groups and not others. Quite frankly, even if we did have space, I wouldn't want to print such letters, because I think "Readers' Forum" should be reserved for arguments and observations, not advertisements.

We choose letters to print based on their timeliness, their coherence and their length. We do not avoid printing letters that are extremely critical of the paper; actually, I take a sort of perverse pleasure in proving that I'm not afraid to be publicly chastised. — Jean Lutes

Life is like a bowl of cold cereal

It's big. It's very big. In fact, many people have told me so in these exact words. Of course, I realize that it's relative and all, but I have to agree. I am not boasting nor bragging; I don't mean to sound conceited, but there are no two ways about it — it's big.

That's what attracted me to Carolina: its size. It's a Lucky Charms mix of surprises in the big cereal bowl of life.

Alas, discovering the little quirks that exist among such a diverse student body is not as simple as separating the yellow moons, purple hearts, green clovers and blue diamonds from the crunchy dull stuff. Besides the readily discernible advantages in having geographical, religious, ethnic and racial diversity, this academic environment promotes the co-existence of many different ideologies and ideas. I refer not to "popular" beliefs, but to the bizarre, private convictions held by individuals. We all have them, and the cross-section of students at UNC provides a big, fat salmagundi of wackiness.

Take a good look at the person sitting beside you. No matter how well you think you know him or her, he or she could believe that Jimmy Hoffa is still alive, dressing in drag and using the name Jeanne Kirkpatrick. It just may never have come up in conversation.

I first began to notice this phenomenon last spring. A few compadres and I were at a friend's house on Rosemary Street one evening drinking some herbal tea. We got on the subject of movies, and in particular Westerns, when one of my friends stated that she believed everything everyone ever says is actually a line in a Bette Davis movie. Dwelling on this single statement for days, I began to experience downright weird occurrences.

Stuart Hathaway

I Spy

For example, one day everyone I met or saw was named Dave. I started blinking to music and playing — of all things — golf. Thank goodness I snapped out of it after a week, but I kept noticing these Things.

Over the summer I had an unusual discussion on the Freudian consequences underlying the use of straws. The individual with whom I was speaking is convinced that straws are a capitalist device produced and financed by the bourgeoisie to release subconscious sexual frustrations and tensions in the proletariat. Thus, they keep the working class enslaved to the aristocracy and forestall the revolution.

While the argument didn't persuade me, it was enough to make me think twice about those little plastic tubes, and to keep me away from fast food restaurants.

The rest of the summer passed without incident, and I began to feel fairly certain that I had met the few really obtuse persons in North Carolina. Then I came back to UNC this fall.

One of the most sociable and intelligent students I've met at UNC was certain that when he turned off his light at night, *The Shining* broke out in his aquarium among his fish. Several mornings he said he woke to find one of his neon tetras dead, and was convinced that foul play was involved.

According to his story, when the lights were turned off, one of his guppies would lie motionless under the filter, its brain absorbing the vibrations it created, and

then turn, crazed, on the neon tetras. One by one, the tetras were murdered until only two were left. He had given up hope for the last two, only to wake one morning to find the killer guppie floating on top of the water. One can only speculate, he says, but the last two neon tetras are still alive.

Just so you don't think this is a localized phenomena dreamt up by homeboy North Carolinians, I should tell you that there is a student from Indiana, an athlete and generally a good student, who thinks that no one actually lives in the state of Tennessee. Though he has visited Tennessee several times, including the cities of Chattanooga and Knoxville, he insists that everyone there "was just visiting."

Are these isolated incidents? Maybe not. In the course of preparing this column, I spoke with the writer of "Wednesday's Child," which appears in the DTH on Wednesdays. At Time-Out late one night, he confided in me that he has a friend with the idiosyncrasy of all idiosyncrasies. This girl fervently believes that if you enter an elevator in Davis Library and get off on the eighth floor, you will actually exit from a different elevator. Repeated attempts to persuade her that this is impossible have been unsuccessful.

These are normal people. I guess we all have some ideas or superstitions to which we alone subscribe, and, like the "Be Yourself" book you got in second grade, it makes each of us feel different — even special. Here at Carolina, we have loads of special people. Maybe in the big cereal bowl of life, we're all a bunch of flakes.

Stuart Hathaway is a junior political science and history major from Charlotte.

Readers' Forum

Complain in person

To the editor:

Yes, Marguerite Arnold, we do have problems in this world and on this campus, and a substantial parking shortage is one of them! It's a problem that affects every person on this campus: the students, the administrators, the faculty, the maintenance staff and the administrative assistants.

Contrary to what you believe, student government is not working to find a space for Biff to park his BMW and we are not trying to deprive our faculty and administration of their parking spaces. We simply want to make sure that all groups who are affected by the parking policies are represented in the decision-making process. For students working off campus to pay for their education and student teachers living on campus, this is a serious problem. As members of student government, it is our responsibility to make sure that these and other student views are represented.

Instead of sitting at home writing letters to the DTH and complaining about how we are wasting our time with this issue, why don't you attend the next Traffic and Parking Advisory Committee meeting on Sept. 29 and voice your opinion to members of the committee? I personally would love to see you walk into an overheated room full of people who take this issue very seriously.

PAULA ZELLMER
Senior
Business administration

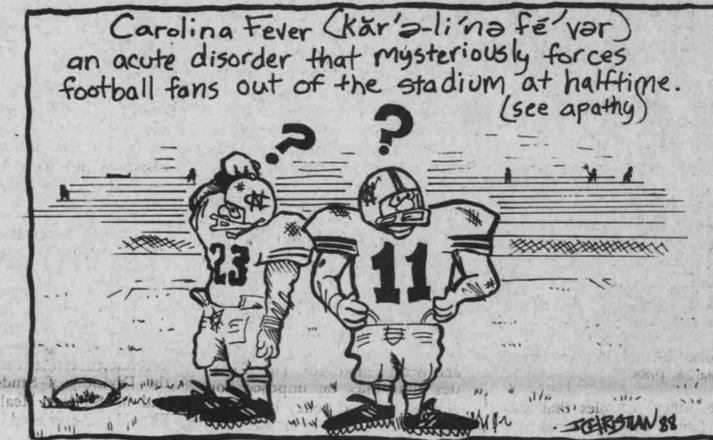
Chivalry is dead

To the editor:

Occasionally I have to stand up on the bus as I ride from campus to my apartment. It isn't too dangerous if you remember to brace yourself against the starts and stops.

I have also been pregnant on occasion. It is exceptionally wonderful except for the aching back and cramping leg muscles.

Twice I have seen a pregnant woman board my bus and have



to stand. Unfortunately, I didn't have a seat to offer. I was angered and hurt by the lack of respect afforded to this woman.

I have a cousin in Charlotte who is pregnant. I pray that people in Charlotte are more courteous than those in Chapel Hill.

W.R. HUTCHENS
Sophomore
Education

Thanks for the shower

To the editor:

As we sit here in line for Oklahoma football tickets, we really have to wonder who is in charge of watering the grass along Skipper Bowles Drive.

At about 7 a.m., as we were sitting patiently along the sidewalk, we were suddenly jolted awake by a small hiss... like that of sprinkler system. Then, to our shock, we were pelted with stunningly cold drops of water! After all the water conservation efforts that Orange County has undergone this summer, does it seem right to water the already green grass as well as the cement we're sitting on? Also, does it have to be done on a morning when many hundreds of sleepy but die-hard Tar Heel football fans are in line for tickets?

This caused more than just a minor inconvenience to the

students in line; it forced them to move their blankets into the street to avoid a drenching. This blocked two lanes of traffic and forced the traffic into the other lanes.

We would appreciate someone paying attention to this matter before Wednesday, Sept. 21, the day Louisville tickets will be distributed.

ALICIA WORRELL
Senior
Math

LISA KOWALSKE
Senior
Math

Let there be opposition

To the editor:

In the Sept. 8 edition of the DTH, two letters caught my eye. The first, by Marguerite Arnold ("Screaming back at the Klan is vital"), was on the necessity of opposing those who are so vocal on issues we may disagree with. The other letter, by Rich Brents ("Thou shalt be informed"), was on why he thinks Jon Rust should curb his editorializing until he actually sees the film "The Last Temptation of Christ."

Arnold's article was right on the money. She said that screaming back at the Klan "means that their beliefs are

challenged openly. That is the only way to get them to stop marching."

"At least if they (the Klan) march," she says, "let there be some active, loud opposition." Good. Well said.

Then I run my eyes on down the page and find that Rich Brents went to see "Last Temptation" because he saw the protests surrounding the release of the film as a "threat to (his) constitutional rights."

Since when? If anything, Brents should welcome the protest of the film as a sign that constitutional rights are alive and well in America. I fear, though, that many share Brent's view and would want to deny people the right to protest even something that is "progressive" and accepted by all the intellectual elite.

As Arnold rightly said, protesting is a freedom guaranteed to everyone under the Constitution, whether the cause is popular or not.

People who oppose the Klan are not going to remain silent, nor should they. And neither should people who oppose the film "The Last Temptation of Christ." If for no other reason, Christians should protest the film so that it must be shown, at least "let there be some active, loud opposition."

KELLEY S. HUGHES
Senior
Philosophy

Questions keep America great and free

To the editor:

In her Sept. 8 letter ("United States: love 'em or leave 'em"), Suzie Saldi displays an incredible lack of insight, coupled with all the reasoned political philosophy of the average "Morton Downey, Jr. Show" audience member. Saldi tells us that if we do not love the country as it is, to leave it.

She writes about how the thousands of immigrants who flocked to this country loved it, yet she forgets that many of the immigrants came here because they faced in their home countries the same intolerable political climate that an attitude such as hers fosters. It seems strange that someone who is so knee-jerk pro-American can criticize the very attitudes that made the foundation of this country possible. If the majority of American colonists had felt in 1763 the way Saldi does today, we would

still be living under British rule. No doubt Saldi would be writing letters telling us not to whine about the taxes on our tea.

Saldi's biggest error is to confuse the country with the government that controls it. I have respect for this country, for its beauty and for the strength of the people that live here. I have no respect for the politicians and generals who have interfered in the lives of millions worldwide in my name, nor do I respect those who blindly cheer them on. Perhaps when Saldi was "standing proud during anti-American rallies," she should have asked what the people were protesting. Could it be that the politicians to whom we have given so much power are abusing it? Don't mention the thought around Saldi, she'll have you deported.

The bottom line is simple. Whether or not we agree that this is the greatest country

on earth, no one can make a rational argument for the static political climate that Saldi apparently desires. If we don't foster a climate of debate, continually scrutinizing the actions of those who rule us, then we soon may no longer be the land of "freedom and democracy" that Saldi admires. If this country is as great as Saldi believes, then it could stand criticism. Indeed, criticism can only serve to make the country better. Saldi should be thankful for those who follow in the footsteps of the Founding Fathers and question every action of their government. It is people such as these that make a country truly free.

ANTHONY WOODLIEF
Junior
Political Science