

# The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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## Name-calling hurts profession

Bob Windsor is back, accompanied by all the controversy of his previous days of publishing. With The Landmark '89, a revival of his earlier publication which ran from 1982 to 1986, Windsor hopes to give conservatives a stronger voice in the media.

Windsor is the man who created quite a scandal during the 1984 elections with his scathing attack on the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, former N.C. Gov. Jim Hunt. Using words such as "sissy," "prissy" and "girlish," Windsor mercilessly criticized Hunt, even going so far as to question his sexual orientation. In his latest publication, Windsor continues to draw upon his flair for name-calling, as he refers to "demon queers, dykes, abortionist and humanist liberals" in the Democratic Party.

Windsor is entitled to his views; indeed, the Constitution guarantees his right to believe and publish what he chooses. His practice of name-calling, however, must be questioned. Surely Windsor could present his opinions without resorting to the nastiness of mud-slinging. Such tactics, although undoubtedly appealing to the emotions, do not make for good journalism.

## Losing the war against guns

Our nation's capital has become a battle zone.

Washington, D.C., is on a pace to top 500 murders for 1989, after already posting the highest murder rate in the nation in 1988 with 372, more than one per day.

Thirteen people were wounded or killed by gunfire in one day — Feb. 13 — on the bloodiest day in memory. On the same day in Bethesda, Md., a Washington suburb, an angry bank employee killed three co-workers in the bank and then shot and killed himself.

The violence is not restricted to drug pushers and their customers in the poorest sections of the city, although there the problem is much worse. One woman was shot by errant gunfire while standing in her kitchen.

The problem has reached epidemic proportions, and some residents and local officials have called for National Guard members to patrol the city in an effort to stop the rising tide of violence. Obviously something must be done.

Opponents of gun control legislation cite Washington as a perfect example of their argument that creating obstacles to buying firearms is not a solution, because it is illegal to sell handguns in the city. What those opponents neglect is the quick and easy availability of guns in Virginia and Maryland. People can drive five miles out of the city to a nearby gun shop in either state, and walk out in minutes with their very own handgun.

What Washington does prove is that

The American public needs to demand high standards of the media, regardless of what ideology they may present. Such standards should include a commitment to ethics, accuracy and truth. Sensationalism, while it may sell papers, does not serve any purpose; it does not enlighten, and it can cause unnecessary embarrassment and pain.

Windsor says he is committed to telling the truth. However, he admits he does not care whom he tramples in the process. Having been threatened in the past with lawsuits which never materialized, Windsor blatantly challenges people to sue him. His readiness to publish insulting words is of questionable merit. His attack on Hunt, for example, centered on Hunt's sexual preferences, rather than his qualifications or the issues. Such an approach to reporting does not promote respectable journalism.

Windsor says he will use his paper to call attention to the poor quality of education in North Carolina, an admirable project. His journalism will only be worthwhile, however, if he focuses on the issues. — Mary Jo Dunnington

banning handguns on a state-by-state level is completely ineffective. It must be done on a national level if it can ever have a chance to work. In the meantime, people are dying.

The problem becomes even greater when considering local leadership, or the lack of it. Mayor Marion Barry is undergoing another of his infamous personal crises, and his ability to govern is at a new low following allegations of his involvement with a known drug dealer. He claims the city is no more violent than before. Unless Barry can't count, he is dreaming. Either is entirely possible.

It is essential that the City Council move quickly. Washington already has an understaffed police force, which is half of the problem. The council should step in immediately, appropriating emergency funds to the department and sending the National Guard in to assist the police. A curfew could also be effective in the short term, at least until the violence subsides.

The irony in this situation concerns the national government's control of Washington. Congress was quick to step in and exercise its responsibility over the city a few months ago by nullifying several city laws, including one allotting government funds for abortions. Why hasn't Congress stepped in just as quickly to rectify an equally terrifying, even more dangerous problem? If no one takes control soon, our nation's capital, which has already lost the battle, will lose the war. — Kimberly Edens

## Death by Tupperware: not a pretty sight

Laura Pearlman  
Casting Pearls

I've witnessed many kitchen disasters in my time — some of which have been my creation and many others I've stood back laughing as someone else deals with the wreckage. There was the time that I made potato pancakes that turned green when exposed to the air for 20 minutes. And then there was the time that a lovely soufflé I created collapsed out of the oven and was served instead as a giant crepe. My mother experienced one catastrophe while baking a pound cake last year. She stuck her head in the oven to check the cake and promptly singed off her eyelashes. People without eyelashes look pretty funny.

I hate to be sexist or engage in male bashing, but just indulge me this once. I've rarely seen a man who can cope in a kitchen. My father, the Great White Hunter, keeps our freezer stocked with enough quail, venison and elk to feed us until the spring thaw, which is great. Until it's time to cook the game. Dad makes it to the kitchen long enough to wreak havoc and break at least one appliance. Then the football game starts or he's got a date for golf and the womenfolk are left to re-establish some semblance of order. It's never surprised me that we subsisted on Spaghetti O's and tuna fish until the spring thaw as the game suffered third-degree freezer burn tucked behind my grandmother's brisket.

But without a doubt, the most dangerous person in a kitchen is my housemate, John. In his afterlife I think John should be sent to the Great Kitchen in the Sky glued to the floor in front of the sink with melted Tupperware and forced to wash dishes for all eternity. He's not a slob in the kitchen (he cooks everything in aluminum foil and then recycles it), but washing dishes is the

safest place I could think to put him, and after every effort he's made to burn our kitchen down this year, I think he deserves to perform some kind of penance.

Twice now he has left Tupperware on the stove to burn up. Only Tupperware doesn't really burn up, it smolders — filling the house with noxious fumes forcing innocent victims into the street gasping for breath. The whole street has grown accustomed to our pouring into the yard gagging and forbidding John to enter the kitchen again. We're also the only house in the whole neighborhood furnished with oxygen masks and a fire extinguisher that's actually been used. Only two burners on the stove work now — the other two, encrusted with Tupperware, have been given an honorable discharge and put out to pasture on top of the refrigerator. John has since been sent to the appliance store to enlist new soldiers for the war zone that is our kitchen.

Another kitchen disaster sponsored by John, which he denies to this day, is the mysterious death of the house teapot. It was one of those that your grandmother always has sitting on the stove — the kind that whistles when the water is ready. It was a charming teapot and added a nice, homey touch to the kitchen. Unfortunately, it suffered a long and painful demise at the hands of John (and I am positive it was John) when he left it burning all night. No one really noticed that the pot had gone from a shiny silver to a matte black overnight, until the next time

someone boiled water in it, when they ended up with flakes of rust brewing with their teabag. Besides exposing us to some kind of dread lung disease from inhaling Tupperware fumes, he also has also tried to kill us off with tetanus.

Actually, these fiascoes are only a side show to his actual cooking process. John spent the past summer in the Middle East and returned as a gourmet specializing in chickpeas, lentils and rice. Because he possesses little or no sense of proportion, he brews up a vat of gruel on Sunday night and eats the dish for the rest of the week — claiming with every forced bite that he could eat it every night of the year. This week's selection is a lentil and wheat rice dish. John will be out of town from Wednesday until Friday and has graciously offered the leftovers to anyone who would care for them.

But John doesn't only specialize in main courses. He also dabbles in desserts, and as the lone Julia Child of the Apocalypse, he makes a mean peanut butter cookie. And I do mean mean. After dislodging a tennis-ball-sized lump of cookie from my throat, I managed to ask him for the recipe — such a tasty cookie should be shared around. For a cookie made from natural peanut butter, wheat flour, honey and cement it really wasn't half bad.

I figure by the time John gets through reading this column, he'll probably want to force-feed me hummus for the rest of the semester. Of course if he keeps the peanut butter cookies to himself and stays away from the stove when it's on, I could think of worse fates that aren't quite as safe.

Laura Pearlman is a junior English major from Asheville.

## Readers' Forum

### Ad not meant to offend

To the editor:  
We blew it!! Recently, we distributed in your newspaper a "Spring Break Guide," which outlined Miller Brewing Company's planned activities in Daytona Beach, Fla., and South Padre Island, Texas, during March.

Since its distribution, concerns have been voiced about the "tone" and content of the brochure.

Miller's intention was to create a humorous takeoff on Spring Break. We certainly did not intend to produce material which might be considered offensive or inappropriate. Consequently, we've stopped all further distribution of the guide.

As you know, Miller enjoys a long-standing reputation for creating high-quality advertising and adhering to responsible marketing practices. We remain committed to both.

SUSAN HENDERSON  
Miller Brewing Company

### Smeal misunderstood

To the editor:

Last Friday's article about Eleanor Smeal's talk on abortion rights in the 1990s ("Activist advocates abortion rights," Feb. 24) contained several inaccuracies and misleading quotes.

Smeal neither said nor implied that if *Roe vs. Wade* is overturned, "all forms of contraception" as well as abortion will become illegal. Rather, certain forms of contraception could become illegal, depending on how the debate over "when life begins" is resolved.

ELECTIONS ARE:  
HELL   
HELL   
HELL

PART II  
THE NINE DIFFERENT TYPES OF CAMPAIGNERS

1989 - PETE CORSON  
DTH WITH FURTHER APOLOGIES TO MATT GROENING

<p>DID I MENTION THAT HE'S DEAN SMITH'S CHOICE?</p> <p>THE NAME-DROPPER</p>	<p>IF YOU WIN, I'LL BE ON YOUR CABINET, RIGHT? RIGHT? PLEASE? SEE, I'M GOING TO RUN NEXT YEAR...</p> <p>THE OPPORTUNIST</p>	<p>ALRIGHT, PLEDGE MARGGOTS! YOU'RE DOING EIGHT HOURS OF CAMPAIGNING FOR ME TODAY AND YOU'RE GOING TO ENJOY IT!</p> <p>THE COERCIVE BIG BROTHER</p>
<p>STICK WITH ME, BABY! I'LL MAKE YOU A STAR! LET'S DO LUNCH...</p> <p>THE PR-MAD CAMPAIGN MANAGER</p>	<p>IF THAT OTHER GUY WINS, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR PARKING SPACE, YOUR GPA WILL PLUNGE, AND WE'LL NEVER WIN THE ACC TOURNAMENT AGAIN...</p> <p>THE PROPHET</p>	<p>HEY, I USED TO WORK FOR THIS GUY! I GOT ALL THE DIRT ON HIM!</p> <p>THE DEFECTOR</p>
<p>HE'S JUST IT! THE BEST THING SINCE BRYAN HASSEL! OOOOHH... I THINK I LOVE HIM...</p> <p>THE GROUPIE</p>	<p>WE NEED YOU TO POST 500 FLIERS BY THIS AFTERNOON.</p> <p>THE DRONE</p>	<p>NO, I'M NOT CAMPAIGNING, SO IF I CONVINCED YOU, IT'S ALL OFF THE RECORD, OF COURSE...</p> <p>THE "NEUTRAL" DTH STAFFER</p>

According to Smeal, if we determine that life begins with conception, the IUD would become illegal. If we determine that life begins at fertilization, the birth control pill would become illegal as well. Smeal drew a distinction between fertilization, when egg and sperm meet, and conception, when the zygote moves from the fallopian tube to the uterus for implantation.

I must admit that I was not fully familiar with the terms of birth control, but clearly barrier methods such as the diaphragm, cervical cap, and condom would not be affected by the debate on when life begins. Readers of the DTH article may have thought that Smeal was trying to whip up unjustified hysteria about the possible consequences of an overturn of *Roe vs. Wade*. The concern Smeal hoped to elicit from her audience about the future of abortion and certain

forms of birth control was justified.

In her discussion of RU486, the "abortion pill" recently introduced in France and China, Smeal did not say that "U.S. government officials attempted to outlaw the drug in France." The U.S. government cannot make French laws. Smeal said that U.S. right-to-lifers threatened the pharmaceutical company that produced RU486 with a boycott of American imports.

When Smeal said that RU486 "is no longer the moral property of a pharmaceutical (company) or a nation (but is now the) moral property of women," she was quoting the French government officials who ruled that the pharmaceutical company could not withhold the drug from the market despite the pressure of anti-abortionists. She thus made the point that the option of abortion is understood as a woman's right, not just by feminist

activists but also by many governments and legal experts.

LISA HEINEMAN  
Graduate History

### Letters policy

All letters and columns must be signed by the author, with a limit of two signatures per letter or column. Name, year in school, major and phone number must be submitted.

All letters must be typed, double-spaced on a 60-space line, for ease of editing. A maximum of 250 words is optimal.

The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity, and vulgarity. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.

## UNC followed state rules in epidemic

To the editor:

I am writing in an effort to clear misunderstandings regarding the recent large scale inoculation of students, faculty and staff for measles. Student Health was aware of the measles epidemic in North Carolina. We knew that state authorities would require large scale inoculation should a case emerge in our population and that such an action would not be called unless a case did develop.

Since 1986, complete inoculation records have been required of all entering students at Carolina. For three weeks before the UNC case was diagnosed, our employees were pulled from their regular assignments during the day and also asked to work overtime in order to review the 23,000 records of current students. One of the major problems in containing this epidemic is that persons properly inoculated at 12 months of age have developed the disease. Therefore all our records had to be reviewed to insure that the vaccine was given after 15 months of age.

We made every effort to keep local media apprised of the situation and the potential necessity of large scale inoculation. Meanwhile, we were inoculating students coming from affected areas of the state and students whose assignments in hospitals and clinics

warranted immediate protection. Vaccine was being provided by the state and was not available from the manufacturer. Because it was scarce, we were asked not to vaccinate those students who had been vaccinated between 12 and 15 months of age unless they had knowledge of exposure or came from a county where measles was considered to be epidemic.

The case of measles at UNC was reported to the Orange County Health Department on a Friday afternoon. The state sent a representative to the campus to help organize the University's response at that time. The time frame for the response was set by state officials based on epidemiologic need. It was their intent that the entire university community be vaccinated, preferably within 72 hours, to prevent the second generation spread of the disease.

Inoculations were given on Monday through Thursday. On Wednesday afternoon, the Director of the Orange County Health Department issued a quarantine order banning any individual who could not demonstrate immunity or show proof of inoculation from the campus. Apparently many students and employees believe the University did not allow sufficient time for them to gather their immunization records. The University had no control over this time

frame nor over the fact that some students, faculty and staff were required to miss work and class.

Measles is epidemic in North Carolina and in several other states. By specific state statute, North Carolina has empowered public health officials to orchestrate the medical response to this problem. In my judgment, this university made a superior response to the expectations of those officials. Over 60 percent of the student body was not affected by the inoculation program because they were precleared. With the help of University staff and volunteers, letters and cards were sent within 36 hours of the diagnosis of the case and no faculty or staff born after Jan. 1, 1957, were included in that notification. The inoculation clinics were well organized and there were never long waiting lines. Instructors were notified of those in their classes not meeting requirements by Thursday morning. All of this required tremendous effort and coordination by large numbers of people. Far from criticizing my staff, I have congratulated them for helping to minimize the disruption of academic work that this epidemiologic necessity created.

JUDITH COWAN, M.D.  
Director  
Student Health Service

## The Daily Tar Heel

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