

# Opinion

## Recycling will only work if UNC students pitch in

In general, Americans tend to favor economic development over environmental protection. That preference, along with our growing population, technological advances and liking for disposable products, has meant an increase in the amount of waste we generate. The United States is the world's most wasteful country, with each citizen generating more than three kilograms of solid waste per day.

Orange County sent 100 thousand tons of solid waste to its landfill during the 1988 fiscal year. For the last three months, the county has recycled an average of 180 tons (or a little over 2 percent of the waste stream) of newspaper, glass, aluminum and mixed paper every month. We need to do everything we can to increase waste disposal efficiency and thus save landfill space, since the landfill may reach capacity in fewer than 10 years.

By throwing away recyclable waste products, we waste valuable resources and force companies to use more energy to make replacements. Newspaper, scrap paper, scrap metal, glass containers and aluminum beverage cans are only a few of the things that can be recycled. I am focusing on aluminum cans because they are 100 percent recyclable.

Students must do what they can to help recycle, by picking up cans around campus, taking cans to be recycled, pressuring friends to do the

**Anne Isenhower**  
Asst. News Editor

same — and maybe even refusing to date anyone who doesn't recycle.

America is making progress. Blair Pollock, solid waste planner for Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Orange County, said that of the 74 billion aluminum beverage cans America produced in 1988, half were recycled. Pollock added that everyone is responsible for recycling: "People can't just sit around and wait for somebody else to do it."

My apartment mates and I keep milk crates in our kitchen and take them to a recycling site when they are full of newspaper, aluminum cans, mixed paper and glass. Pollock suggests that students in residence halls find someone on their floor with a car to take their materials to a recycling center.

Campus Y committee SEAC (the Student Environmental Action Coalition) educates people about what they can do to help lessen environmental damage. The group, along with its Tarheel Aluminum Recycling Program subcommittee, is restructuring and expanding its campus-wide aluminum recycling program, SEAC co-chairman Donald Whittier said. The group hopes to obtain more large blue bins like those now in the Union,

the Campus Y and about half the residence halls on campus.

"People are wanting to recycle and participate in an environmentally responsible program," Whittier said. "(The program) gets people to ask larger questions about the environment and the way they live."

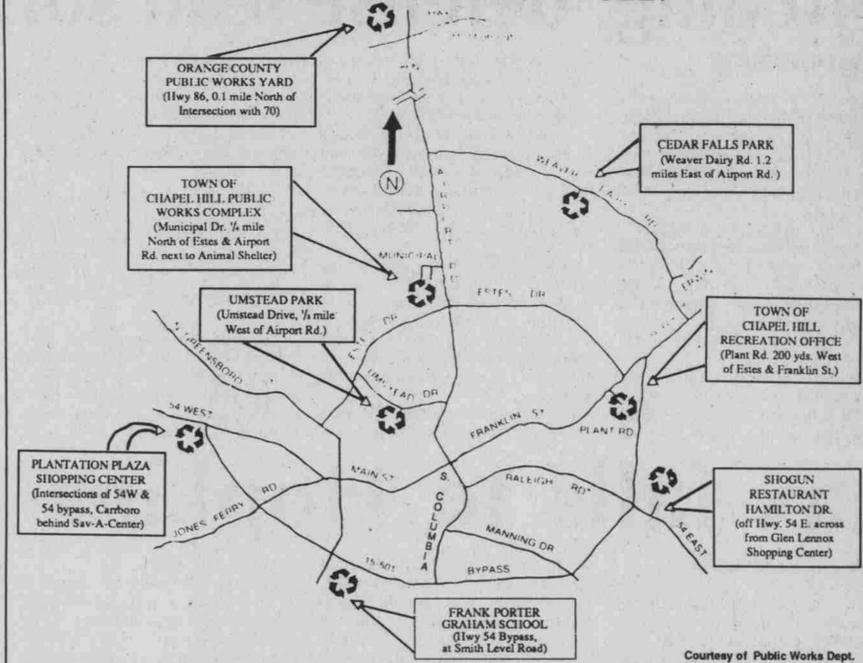
Students can "adopt" one of SEAC's bins and put it in a campus location; they are then responsible for maintaining the bin and emptying it into bigger bins that SEAC empties, said Jon Heiderscheid, SEAC's recycling coordinator. (SEAC sells the cans to recycling companies and uses the proceeds to pay for collection expenses, publicity and program expansion).

The adjoining map shows the eight Orange County recycling locations; all accept newspaper, glass and aluminum cans. The Boy Scout Troop 39's location at the Public Works Complex is one of the most-used sites in town, since they also accept magazines, cardboard and junk mail.

We must all educate ourselves about recycling. Wasting resources should be regarded as a mortal sin, for the survival of the environment depends on it, and on that depends the survival of man.

Anne Isenhower is a senior interdisciplinary studies major from Morganton.

### WHERE YOU CAN RECYCLE:



Courtesy of Public Works Dept.



## Alumni forget student welfare

The past several months have been dominated by issues concerning the quality of education at UNC. Students have rallied for increasing faculty salaries, and many agree that this may be one step to help maintain UNC's level of excellence and reputation. Yet there are many other underlying problems that affect the quality of education at UNC. The library is underfunded by an estimated \$800,000; there are tens of millions of dollars needed to maintain and renovate existing campus facilities over the next decade; and more efforts are needed to retain good professors and to provide supportive resources to attract future ones. The state cannot provide all the funds, leaving the responsibility to private sources. However, there has been plenty of money from private sources to fund the \$34 million Dean Smith Student Activities Center, and the projected eight to nine million dollar future Alumni Center. The alumni have chosen the attitude of providing support for programs relevant to making their stay more pleasant at Chapel Hill, rather than seeking to ensure a future for high quality and excellence in education at Carolina.

With a great multi-purpose arena to watch their favorite basketball team and a convenient place to party afterwards at the expense of student parking and campus beauty the alumni have succeeded in alienating the students and promoting excesses of self-aggrandizement. The alumni has not only abused its money and power to plow over student concerns, but has ignored their responsibility to help the University maintain its reputation and

**Marcus Higi**  
Guest Writer

ability to educate future North Carolinian generations. The present mentality can only comprehend the concept that good basketball and football programs build a great university. Abstract ideas such as an excellent liberal arts education with strong departments in the science and humanities may be beyond their grasp. Unfortunately, if the present trends continue, it may become beyond the grasp of UNC students as well.

The future Alumni Center and Student Activities Center epitomize the alumni's excessive ego-centric attitude of self-aggrandizement at the expense of students. Students opposed the alumni building's proposed location on Stadium Drive from the beginning when they learned it would destroy the beautiful woods surrounding Kenan Stadium and eliminate scarce student resident parking spaces. The alumni and University pretended to listen to student concerns, while they couldn't care less what the students thought. The ironically named Student Activities Center, better known as the Dean Dome, has had student seating reduced and placed farthest away from the court. After all, what is a university good for besides great sports and fun social gatherings for alumni?

Obviously, one could argue that the alumni can do what they want with their money, and no one has any business to tell them how to spend

it. One can also say that the new Alumni Center will only encourage future monetary generosity to the University that will benefit all. However, the alumni's largesse is misdirected. The primary beneficiary is not intended to be the University, but the alumni themselves. The rest of us may only benefit indirectly. Perhaps in some cosmic twist a strong sports program may strengthen UNC's academic standing, although it is more likely to compromise it. The alumni have tarnished the University's integrity, making it concede to money and power. Their intent is not motivated by a noble cause for higher learning, but simple greed. It seems some would rather convert the University to a playground for North Carolina's wealthy and powerful, instead of strengthening a commitment to education and scholarship.

The alumni have neglected their responsibility — higher education — and have instead adopted an attitude of excessive self-aggrandizement. While the University struggles to adequately fund the library, retain and seek quality professors, and maintain a quality education at Carolina, the alumni build monuments to themselves. Sadly, the quality of education at UNC will suffer, and ultimately future students will pay for lack of commitment to higher education. It is time for alumni to be motivated by a call of duty and responsibility to ensure that UNC will continue to be an institution of higher learning and education.

Marcus Higi is a junior biology major from Asheville.

## Examine entire assault rifle ban issue

During the recent debate over assault rifles, a number of writers to the DTH expressed the view that assault rifles should be banned outright, since we can't easily tell who is going to misuse them. But why stop there? In the United States more people are killed by automobiles than by all guns combined. Speed is a major factor in many auto deaths. Since we can't tell who's going to speed and who's not, let's ban sports cars. The only reason anyone would want to have a car that goes 150 mph ("racetrack refined," as one car ad puts it) is to break the law and endanger lives. Right? "But speed isn't important," sports car owners will say. "I like the style, the quality, etc." Guess what? The same things can apply to assault rifles.

It is popularly held that only criminals want assault rifles, since assault rifles have no legitimate uses. The much-maligned UZI and MAC-109 are not assault rifles: they are machine guns. Rifles such as the M1A and the HK-91 are obviously unsuitable for criminals due to their size. For two decades assault rifles have been used in countless competition matches. Many gun clubs have shooting courses especially designed for assault rifles, just like there are matches for black powder guns, "western" guns and skeet shooting. There are even match grade assault rifles made especially for target shooting. If target shooting isn't legitimate for assault rifles, it isn't legitimate for any firearm.

Time magazine noted that "the main difference between an AK-47 and a semiautomatic hunting rifle is the fact that the AK-47 looks very lethal." The rhetoric about assault rifles being "overkill" is irrelevant. Hunting with large capacity magazines is illegal anyway. People are generally unaware that five round hunting magazines are available for most assault rifles.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has admitted that half of the assault rifles in the U.S. are owned by collectors. I own an AKS, the Chinese made semiautomatic version of the AK-47. I have a degree in history. History, especially military history, has been a lifelong avocation of mine. The AK-47 is the most widely used assault rifle in the world and has been in almost every conflict since the late 1950s. To me, owning an AKS is owning a piece of history. I have never even gotten a speeding ticket, much less committed a crime with a weapon. Why should I be denied the right to collect firearms because of the criminal actions of others? More importantly, why is collecting not legitimate?

The most belligerent anti-gun people I have met have never even handled a firearm and know nothing about them. Their discourse is usually limited to self-righteously proclaiming their hatred for guns. They sound

**Edward West**  
Guest Writer

like Archie Bunker: since they don't like guns, no one else should have them. It's easy to criticize something you don't understand or urge the confiscation of someone else's property.

A primary objection to assault rifles is that they are easily converted to full-auto. But any semiautomatic weapon can be converted to full-auto. During the Cuban revolution Castro's forces converted .22 rifles to automatic, cut them down, and used them as submachine guns. Semiautomatic hunting rifles can be modified to accept military magazines, and that is only the tip of the iceberg where improvised weaponry is concerned.

Anti-gun people seem to view an assault rifle ban as a panacea which will drastically reduce violent crime. (That's what they thought about the prohibition of alcohol, too.) But, as one sociologist recently said, "the consequences on street violence are likely to be nil. If criminals can get all the drugs they want, they can get guns, too." This logic seems to escape many people. Automatic weapons are easily available in the Third World. There are plenty of weapons here which won't be affected by restrictions on assault rifles, such as a 9 mm "pistol" that has a 100 round magazine, and "assault" shotguns with extended magazines, short barrels and pistol grips. Assault shotguns are much cheaper and easier to conceal than assault rifles. They are deadly at close range, and in urban confrontations the ranges are typically short.

The report *Weapons, Crime, and Violence in America* concludes that "there is little evidence to show that gun ownership among the population as a whole is an important cause of criminal violence." British police superintendent Colin Greenwood further says that "Armed crime and violent crime generally are products of ethnic and social factors unrelated to the availability of a particular type of weapon. The number of firearms required to satisfy the 'crime' market is minute, and these are supplied no matter what controls are instituted. Controls have had serious effects on legitimate owners of firearms, but there is no case . . . in which controls can be shown to have restricted the flow of weapons to criminals or in any way reduced crime."

Enforcement of a ban on assault rifles poses a lot of questions which haven't been answered. Will owners be compensated when they hand over their rifles? What if they fail to comply? Will police powers be expanded to include house-to-house searches and arbitrary dragnets? "I want the state to take away people's

guns," said ACLU Executive Director Aryah Neier. "But I don't want the state to use methods that I deplore when used against naughty children, sexual minorities, drug users, or unsightly drinkers. Since such reprehensible police practices are probably needed to make anti-gun laws effective, my proposal to ban guns should probably be marked a failure before it is even tried."

In 1977 Judge Malcolm Wilkey remarked that "the exclusionary rule has made unenforceable the gun control laws we have and will make ineffective any stricter controls . . ." Judge D. Shields affirmed that "the primary area of contest in most gun cases is the area of search and seizure . . . More than half of these contested cases begin with a motion to suppress." Malcolm proposed to solve this problem by abandoning the exclusionary rule! This would make the 4th Amendment unenforceable. Any confiscation legislation would pose a serious threat to the constitutional rights to privacy and due process and set dangerous precedents.

If criminal use of assault rifles is the issue, an arbitrary ban is not the answer. Mandatory background checks or special licensing would prevent the easy availability of assault rifles without hurting legitimate owners. Since federal law restricted machine guns, not a single legally registered machine gun has been used in a crime. (Anyone over 21 with a clean record can purchase a machine gun in most states, provided they are willing to pay a \$200 transfer fee and wait up to 60 days for the paperwork to be processed.)

The root of drug violence is not assault rifles: it is consumer demand for drugs. Stop drug use and you'll stop drug trafficking and the violence that accompanies it. As long as drug trafficking is profitable, you can ban anything you want and it will have no effect. A ban on assault rifles won't stop other homicide either. As Don B. Kates Jr. and Mark K. Benenson point out in *Restricting Handguns: The Liberal Critics Speak Out*, "the average murderer is a sociopath, a disturbed or deranged aberrant whom the law cannot disarm any more than it can keep him from killing."

"The law is the safest shield," said Sir Edward Coke, champion of the common law. This shield should protect the prerogatives of all law-abiding citizens and punish the guilty, not the innocent. There are no conclusive statistics to show that an assault rifle ban is warranted. The burden of proof lies upon those who seek to restrict our liberties, and they must prove beyond a doubt that the benefits of such restrictions outweigh the cost. Those who seek to outlaw assault rifles have yet to do so.

Edward West is a library assistant at the UNC Law Library.

## Police, poets, shirts, sugar and Springfest highlight a diverse week

"The University police do not have a rape case at this time. What we have a report on is a woman who told us she was pushed and kissed." — Sgt. Ned Comar, a spokesman for the University police, speaking Thursday about the rape March 31 on Finley Golf Course. Chapel Hill police said Wednesday that the woman was raped.

"If they (University police) ask for

### Week in Quotes

"our assistance, we will help. The media is making this sound like a turf war between the University and town police." — Chapel Hill Police Capt. Ralph Pendergraph, speaking on the confusion about which police department has jurisdiction over the investigation of the rape on Finley Golf Course.

"He made big mistakes. He was not a wonderful administrator. He did not abstain from whiskey, tobacco or sex. He was not a fabulous husband or father. His apparent attitude toward women was conventional at best, strikingly narrow, mean. He did like him a little sugar in his bowl." — Poet June Jordan, the 1988-89 Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial lecturer, in her speech about King

Thursday night in Hamilton Hall.

"All I know is hearsay — I haven't actually seen the fake shirts. I find it very upsetting, but we don't have a copyright to the Springfest name, so I don't see how we can do anything about it. We can't make the donation if we can't cover our expenses, so the makers of the fake T-shirts are actually taking away from charities." — Kurt Seufert, chairman of the

Springfest committee, talking about the unofficial shirts sold on campus last week. Selling the shirts may be a violation of the Code of Student Conduct.

"My new administration believes that it would be in the best interest of all concerned if we waited until the fall for possible funds. However, we still believe that the (Student

Congress) Appeals Committee hearing was unquestionably unfair." — Kim McLean, the new president of the Black Student Movement, announcing the BSM's decision not to appeal to the Student Supreme Court a case involving the congress budget process. The BSM had missed the funding request deadline, so it did not participate in the budget process.

Compiled by editor Sharon Keschull.