

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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Fighting for the future Threshold conference deserves praise

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has every right to be proud this weekend. Starting today, hundreds of people — mostly students — from at least 43 states will converge on UNC to join with local students for Threshold, the first national student environmental conference of this size.

The magnitude of this event is undeniably impressive — more than 1,150 people have already registered. Many respected environmentalists will also lead workshops and pass on their wisdom to students who want to learn how to make a difference. U.S. Sen. Terry Sanford will deliver the welcoming address tonight. And the talented Indigo Girls have been recruited to play at a benefit concert Saturday night.

What members of this community should realize, however, is that this entire conference — from the birth of the idea to the final logistics — is the result of the vision, creativity and hard work of UNC students.

Threshold was the brainchild of leaders of the Campus Y's Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) committee. Over the past few years, the committee has become one of the most active student organizations at UNC. In the spring of 1988, SEAC's organizers began to place advertisements in national environmental magazines in order to establish a national network of environmentally concerned students. After receiving an overwhelm-

ing response, they decided the time was right to get students from across the country together to provide the impetus for a strong and unified student environmental movement.

The weekend's agenda is well-planned to do just that. The organizers of Threshold have secured the expertise of many noted individuals, among them Barry Commoner, Jeremy Rifkin, Richard Grossman, Norman Myers and Randy Hayes. These and others will speak, serve on panels and lead workshops, giving participants the chance to learn about specific issues such as recycling, rainforest action, Earth Day 1990 and environmental careers.

But mere information alone would be of little value without the knowledge of how to translate that information into action. Thus, another significant part of the conference will focus on teaching students to educate others about environmental problems and how to work toward solving those problems. The conference will conclude with what should be a productive experience — a national network discussion, at which all participants will vote on ideas for specific national campaigns. The national campaign that is chosen will give a unifying goal — something for students across the United States to work toward together.

Members of the University community have the opportunity to take part in a historic event this weekend. Anyone interested in attending all or part of the conference can sign up today in the Pit. It will undoubtedly be an inspiring experience.

board opinion

Segregated schools Durham needs to bridge racial gap

In the 1950s and '60s, people risked their lives to integrate schools. Civil rights leaders stood up against such bigots as George Wallace, braved protesters intent on keeping them out of traditionally white schools and faced vicious dogs to gain the right to send their black children to any public school they chose to. But in Durham, that fight, though more subtle, has surfaced once again with the announcement that the city and county schools are racially divided. The segregation must end.

The Durham city school system has been predominantly black since the "white flight" from the city to the county. The system has the highest proportion of black students in the state — 90 percent of the students are black, and 37 percent of the faculties are white. Now, the Durham city and county school systems are considering merging the two systems.

In figures released Wednesday, Durham city school officials said that one high school, one middle and two elementary schools' enrollment are all-black. Only one other elementary school in the state has no white students.

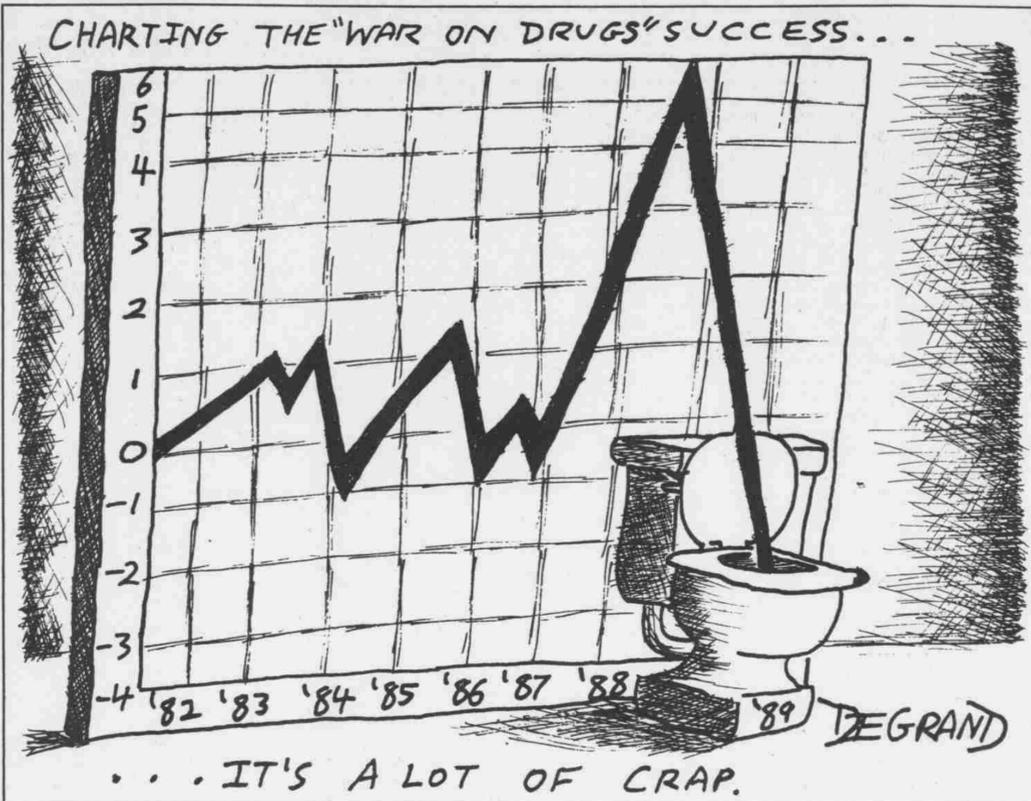
Some of the Durham school officials seem to think it's no big deal that the schools aren't integrated. They think it's OK as long as all the kids get a good education. That sounds hauntingly similar to the "separate-but-equal" argument from the 1960s. Luckily, at least some officials say it's good that the black students in the all-black schools aren't being exposed to

white peers. But one of the most frightening arguments comes from the black chairman of the city school board, Thomas Bass, who said he didn't think white teachers from the county school system would be able to relate to poor, black children if the systems merged.

Though it's fair to say that racial tension has decreased a lot in most parts of the country since the heated days of protest during the civil rights movement, it still persists, as the recent riots in Virginia and racially-motivated murders in New York have shown more clearly than most of us would have liked. Such attitudes as Bass holds certainly won't help the cause of race relations, and racially segregated schools set the cause back years.

Of course, it's not always easy to "relate" to someone from a different background, but that doesn't mean people from different backgrounds and cultures should avoid one another. In the Durham school system, the merger needs to become a reality so the dividing line between blacks and whites can be erased.

In a recent poll, blacks and whites agreed that progress in recent years in race relations seems to be slowing — and some think intolerance may be growing. Durham's situation only perpetuates that decline. The longer the systems remain separate, the longer wrong attitudes toward different races have to grow. — Tammy Blackard



SETA ignores facts, true abuse of animals

To the editor:
I would like to respond to statements made by a PETA member, Andrew Peterson, in the Oct. 18 article "Animal rights pamphlet targets UNC lab reform" and also on some of the statements contained in literature given out by SETA (Students for Ethical Treatment of Animals) here at UNC.

I do research using animals (in an off-campus laboratory), and I think that animals in research are humanely treated. Certainly my rats, which get an appropriate amount of food, water, clean cages with bedding to burrow and dig in and are housed in a controlled-temperature environment, are better off than many people's pets. I'm not sure where scientists got a reputation for being heartless animal abusers, but it's not deserved. No one enjoys killing animals or wants to expose them to pain.

There are several misconceptions held in the PETA and SETA literature that I would like to address. For one thing, descriptions of scientific activity in this literature are taken out of context. Calling stereotaxic instruments devices which hold animals' heads immobile for hours is an example. This description fails to note that the animals are always anesthetized beforehand. And this instrument is primarily used to help scientists performing surgeries, such as brain surgeries, know exactly where the area for surgery lies, so that one doesn't have to damage any more tissue than necessary. UNC labs are said to subject

animals to months of electric shock training. This actually involves exposing the animals to very low levels (like a slight tingle) of shock which gradually escalate. However, the literature doesn't tell you that the animal has access to a lever which, when pressed, reduces the shock intensity. Instead of subjecting animals to pain and trauma, this procedure is conducted so as to allow the animals to tell the experimenter when something feels uncomfortable. This is a very humane way of determining pain threshold before and after analgesics.

Many animal tests have been replaced (for instance, the "rabbit test" for pregnancy), and I hope that more will be replaced by cheaper, easier, more humane tests. But the need for some animal testing will continue. For instance, we can find new compounds that kill the AIDS virus in a test tube. I imagine chlorine bleach would kill it, too. Without animal testing, we won't know beforehand the effect of those compounds on a complicated living organism.

Much PETA literature states that animal testing has never helped mankind. I think most rational beings realize that this statement is untrue. For instance, new surgical techniques have been developed with animals and found useful with humans. Do you want your surgeon trying out his or her new idea about how to surgically correct congenital heart defects on your newborn son or daughter? Me neither. Not all medical advances have been

made as a result of animal testing, but an awful lot of them have.

If animal testing is important, then it follows that scientists should train future scientists to do it properly. This will ensure appropriate, valid tests in the future, and will (by preventing mistakes) keep the number of animals used for testing to a minimum. This is the reason for some of the work by graduate students that Peterson claims is "unnecessary." Of course, not all experiments performed by graduate students are replications of earlier work. It would be tough to get a graduate degree that way.

I truly think that the people involved in SETA want to help animals, and I applaud them for trying to do so. But I think that there are animals outside labs who need the help much more: abandoned animals, abused pets, animals allowed to breed unchecked, wildlife facing vanishing habitats and animals raised for food. And if they want to save animal lives, I think it would be better to start by encouraging people to go vegetarian and to quit wearing leather. We won't physically suffer by eliminating meat from our lives. We could suffer a lot, and forfeit a chance to alleviate the suffering of future generations, by eliminating animal research. And to those PETA members who point to tissue cultures as the alternative, I'd like to ask "Where do you think that tissue comes from?"

ANGELA ALLEN
Graduate student
Psychology

Readers' Forum

Women face decision with Playboy photos

To the editor:
Ladies, are you having trouble keeping up with the bills? Do you find yourself unable to catch that cute guy's attention? Well, Playboy and David Chan will soon be offering a solution to those problems.

Should you be chosen to appear in the "Girls of the ACC" feature, you will have three options: the \$100 clothed (prude) shot, the \$250 semi-nude (tease) shot, or the grand prize \$500 ("Hey, guys, I'll be loaning out pens on the eighth floor of Davis Library tonight!") nude shot.

Of course, should you appear in one of the latter two motifs, you may someday find yourself shamed out of a beauty pageant title or public office — and perhaps bolstering trustee John Pope's sense of purpose. You'll also be responsible for the widespread perversion and fornication that will break out here on campus, not to mention the protests that will certainly be held outside your dorm rooms and apartments!

Just remember, no matter how many people may try to dictate campus ethics and morality, and therefore "proper" guidelines for behavior, the decision will be yours to make.

CRAIG BOMBERGER
Senior
International studies/
political science

'Black Monday' perpetuates racism

To the editor:
The Daily Tar Heel has sunk to a low level of both professional journalism and social fairness.

The article on Oct. 17 ("Friday market plummet fails to cause crash panic") on the stock market confirmed and perpetuated the racism that refuses to die in this country, even on a large and diverse college campus.

The use of the term "Black

Monday" in the article to describe the disastrous stock market crash was mindlessly insensitive to black Americans on this campus and everywhere.

While this term was liberally used in the local media and is considered to be sound in terms of journalistic style, the use of the color black to symbolize dread and "badness," is indeed tantamount to a serious insult from our perspective.

The largest part of the doctrine of American race supremacy and racism is the belief that darkness is bad, negative, ugly, frightening and undesirable, while whiteness is comforting, clean, attractive and good.

Since Africans imported to this country as slaves were labeled black with this in mind, rather than with any other idea of identity, it is necessary that we now remove the connotations of color from language.

In the meantime, we the glorious and ingenious Americans of regal African descent proudly recognize the colors of our skins and celebrate our "black" culture in our own unique way and without internalizing warped, "white" symbolisms such as the one which appeared in the DTH.

COURTNEY N. GALLOP
Graduate student
City and regional planning

Discuss Honor Code in the classrooms

To the editor:
Jennifer Wing's excellent editorial on Oct. 19, "Honor the Code: Cheating cheapens the honor system," was timely. How do we stack up against the 36.6 percent of students who have cheated according to the American Council of Education, et al., poll? I have become increasingly concerned for the health of our Honor Code, and Wing's plea prompts me to ask two questions:

1. Why do so few professors voice their support of the Honor Code in the classroom? We need to be assured of their subscrip-

tion, for it takes courage to report infractions.

2. Why would any student who subscribes to the Honor Code wear one of those T-shirts proclaiming "Ten favorite lies in Chapel Hill: (1) I have neither given nor received..."? What does the appearance of these shirts on campus say about our Honor Code?

I am glad to hear that the Honor Court is publicizing the code. Wing is absolutely right when she says that "Honor Code awareness needs to be increased before UNC runs into problems of other universities.... Let's not add to the ethical breaches already scarring our nation." Let us discuss this in the classroom, too!

NADA BALLATOR
Senior
Psychology

Writer answers letter on communist threat

To the editor:
Thank God for clear-sighted men like R. Everett Langford ("Communism poses greater threat than Hitler," Oct. 16). It is the vigilance of men like him that has kept and keeps this country free and strong.

Like Dr. Elizabeth Dodd, I was once a victim of communist propaganda. Dupe that I was, I assumed that implicating the CIA in one top-secret assassination attempt might mean that there were other attempts (and successes) still kept secret. As an unconscious fellow traveler, I thought that the United States of America didn't engage in terror tactics like assassination.

The wool has been pulled from my eyes. To remain free, we must play in the mud with our enemies.

At first, I refused to believe I had been so thoroughly gulled by the communists. Immediately after reading Mr. Langford's column, I consulted with my astrologer, had my tarot read and read the entrails of a road-kill squirrel. To my shame, I must admit that Mr. Langford is correct.

The KGB influences everything, not just groups like the CIAAC (so obvious to me now). No longer will I believe that there are genuinely concerned people trying to make the world a little safer for themselves and their children. No longer will I believe that these crypto-totalitarians and dupes question the motives and methods of American institutions like the CIA because they can't do anything about the KGB. They obviously want to cripple the CIA so that the KGB can take over the world and really do all the things the CIA is falsely accused of.

However, as I studied the intestines of the flattened squirrel, I discovered that Mr. Langford didn't go far enough in his assertions. Yes, the KGB funds and directs the actions of all the wild-eyed, left-wing peace nuts. If Mr. Langford had gone a little further, he would have found out who is really running the Great Conspiracy.

It's the Jews.

DAVID SINGBAND
Graduate student
Journalism

'Zero-Proof Day' helped, not hurt

To the editor:
A letter published by you last Thursday ("Addiction not the only sin at UNC," Oct. 19) spoofs "Zero-Proof Day," an event part of UNC's just-held alcohol and drug problem awareness week. Written by Professor Madeline Levine, the letter likens alcoholism and drug addiction to sin. Levine's notion is old and ignores widely-accepted medical descriptions for those grave diseases. Her error reinforces the myth that alcoholism and drug addiction yield to what sufferers lose by definition: moral self-control. For humor's sake, she misleads DTH readers about the nature of serious illnesses, and that's regrettable. It's also the opposite of awareness.

CHRIS HOOD
Senior
Interdisciplinary studies

Snippets (Part 3)

Revenge of the Mutant Ninja snippets

In keeping with the festive Halloween spirit, we've decided to concentrate Snippets on the truly ghoulish this week. Truly ghoulish, as in men and cologne. We apologize if we offended any male sensibilities last week with our criticism of women who drench themselves in perfume. Of course, we meant to include men who shower in Brut (by Faberge) and leave vapor trails in class or as they breeze by you in the Pit. But we'll try not to offend you this week as we continue in the grand tradition of this Friday column. Concerning this week's title, it is not to be confused with Halloween 5, The Revenge of Michael Myers. We're bloodier and don't wear masks.

Have you ever wondered ... why some people insist on going into the hall outside their dorm (excuse me, residence hall) room to "get a little privacy" while on the phone. Are these the same people who sleep in Grand Central Station to get a little peace and quiet? Why is it that these people always seem to be having arguments with their significant other? While walking to the bathroom, we are forced to endure listening to Mary Ann whining that

Johnny isn't paying her any attention or Fred crying to Wilma that she doesn't love him anymore. Come on, guys! Get a life!

Why is it that ... some financial wizards refuse to fill out their checks until they get to the bank teller. It's bad enough that most banks only open two of their eight windows without these future captains of industry trying to figure out if they can cash a check for beer money without playing racket ball with the bank computer.

Who was the genius ... who decided to make the UNC Registration Cards too large to fit in the little plastic holder they give you with your student I.D. Where did this person get their engineering degree — MTA Truck Driving Institute (just off Interstate 40 in Kernersville)? Is this the same person who decided hot dogs should be smaller than the bun or that Fetzer gym clothes (Forget about the gym clothes thing. That was last week) ...

Well, that's it for this week. Have a good weekend and watch out for things that go bump in the night. Boo!