

Opinion

Put Penthouse back on sale, president says

We all know the freedoms for which the citizens of Eastern Europe are today marching, protesting and disrupting their lives. Those freedoms are appreciated and protected by American college students and administrators, among others. Authoritarian censorship would never be tolerated here. Students on a leading American college campus would not permit a Communist functionary to tell them, "You can't buy this book here." After all, that right is the essence of a quality education and every citizen's most fundamental freedom.

So what did you think when you first saw the report that Rutledge Tufts had removed Penthouse magazine from the shelves of the UNC Student Stores and Circus Room? It had no "literary content," he said, unlike Playboy which contained "work by mainstream authors and some cutting-edge articles."

Could Mr. Tufts be right? Whether he meant them literally or figuratively, do his statements hold water? Or, is he simply a censor? Should his action be tolerated? Let's see.

Each month Penthouse magazine carries various columns giving voice to different views. Alan Dershowitz, Harvard law professor, writes a monthly column on justice; Jerome Tuccille, author of numerous books and articles on money matters, writes a monthly finance column; B.D. Colen, Pulitzer-prize winning science reporter, writes a monthly column on smart sex; Gary Null, nationally recognized medical issues expert, writes a monthly health column; Marcia Pally, women's rights advocate, writes a monthly column on film; Sidney Siller, the attorney who founded the National Organization for Men, writes a monthly men's rights column; and Emily Prager, humorist and social commentator, writes a column that takes a critical look at our world. Mary Stuart (the first female president of Vietnam Vets of America), Julie Nixon Eisenhower, and baseball umpire Pam Postem have all been profiled in our women column. Campus View is written by and is for and about college students, with contributors from coast-to-coast and Canada. No "literary content"? That holds water like a sieve.

Over the last two years, Penthouse has carried the latest fiction by many well-known authors, including William F. Buckley Jr., James Michener, Tom Clancy, Victoria Joyce, Ed McBain, Kingsley Amis, Ken Follett and Anthony Burgess. Presumably, Mr. Tufts does not consider these people mainstream authors. No "literary content"? Looks like a deluge to me.

Some of you may even have heard of Art Harris, Washington Post investigative reporter, or Steven Emerson, former U.S. News & World Report journalist, or Tad Szulc, former New York Times correspondent, or Michele Mayron, Jerusalem Post correspondent, or Nat Hentoff, Village Voice contributor and nationally recognized First Amendment advocate, or Gerald

David J. Myerson
Guest Writer

Posner, author of a book on Nazi Joseph Mengele, or Steven King, a best selling author. All of these are mainstream writers whose work appeared in Penthouse. No "literary content"? This could be the equivalent of another 40-day flood. (Do you think if Mr. Tufts doesn't like the book that story came from, UNC students would be unable to buy it, too?)

Finally, there is the "cutting-edge." Mr. Tufts' decision will deny UNC students the opportunity to buy upcoming issues of Penthouse. A House committee announced on Nov. 17, 1989 that it was postponing its investigation into activities of Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank until it could read an article on Frank to be published in Penthouse. The dam has burst — run for the hills, Rutledge. That is "literary content" by anyone's standards.

And we ought not forget sex. It's something that warrants open discussion. Without sex there wouldn't even be a Rutledge Tufts.

UNC students should now understand the real problem with censorship. People like Rutledge Tufts who either don't read, can't read, can't remember or have *alternative agendas* decide what's available on book shelves. They decide that Penthouse does not meet the "literary content" standard they set and perhaps only they understand. Do you believe anyone benefits when sources of information are cut off by such a mind?

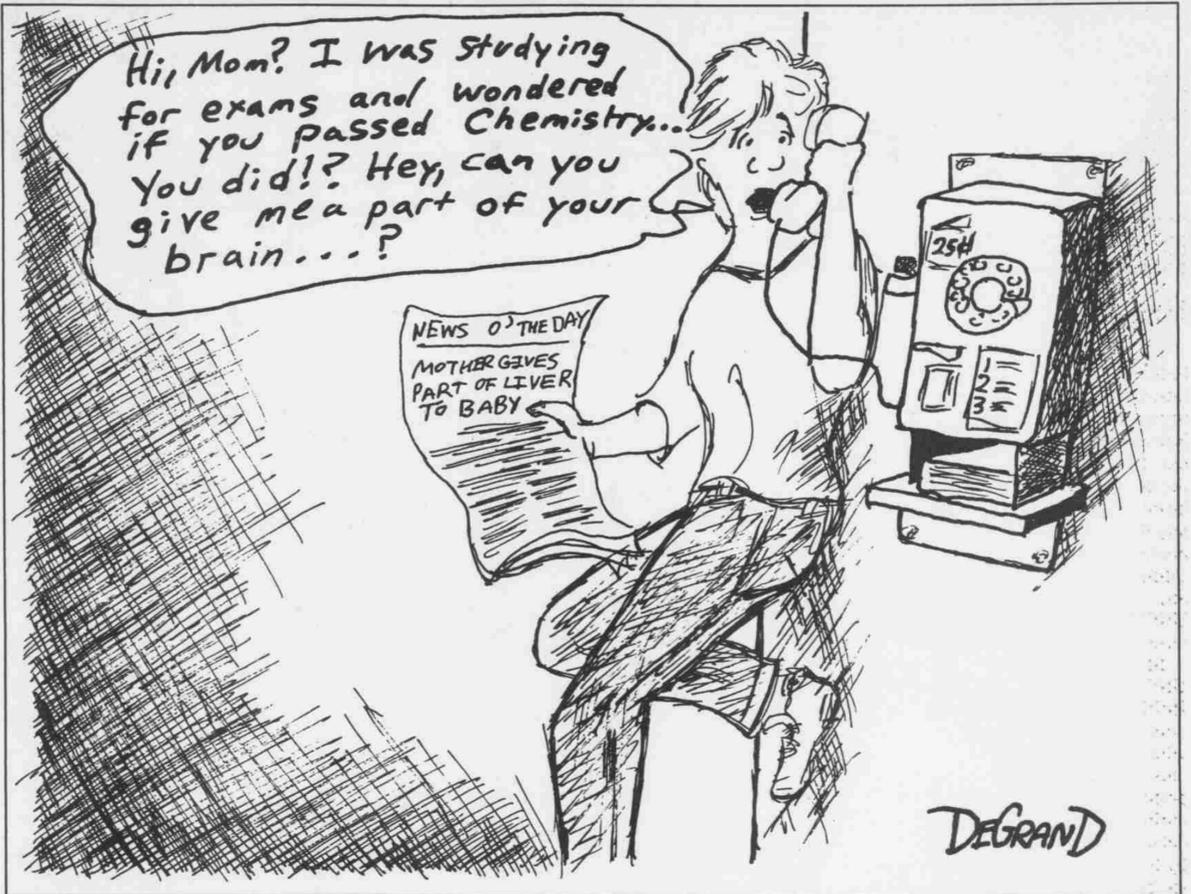
Would UNC students permit their faculty to let someone with these ideas control the texts of courses in English, philosophy or history? I think not. Well, let me tell you something. When UNC students permit the administration to let that kind of person limit what they can buy in their campus book store, they suffer *no less*.

Indeed, each of you may well suffer more. Because in the classroom there is open discourse and discussion. But when you are denied materials outside of the classroom, someone is limiting your scope of knowledge and you have no recourse!

So, it would appear that "literary content" is all in the eye of the beholder. And that is the real lesson to be learned here. When the right to determine which writings are "acceptable" is delegated, you give up your most precious freedom — that of deciding for yourself what ideas or expressions and thoughts are of value. If you want that kind of world move to Eastern Europe. But do it quickly, with luck it will soon be different there, too.

Access is freedom. The East Europeans know that, and so should you. *Put Penthouse back on sale.*

David J. Myerson is the president of Penthouse International Ltd.



Campus Y needs to integrate

Bethany Chaney
Guest Writer

The 33 committees. But as the Y approaches its 130th year of social action, let us not be too quick to celebrate. Despite high morale, busy agendas and wonderful intentions, the Campus Y is stagnating in a predominantly white, privilege-ridden groupthink.

The Campus Y became a truly interracial organization when members such as Anne Queen and John Donne were at the center of civil rights activity and integration in Chapel Hill. The leadership was innovative, and student power and influence was the primary source of energy and change on campus. Progress — true progress — was made with enormous cooperative efforts between students of different races and socioeconomic backgrounds. Chapel Hill became a progressive oasis in a reactionary South. Something has since happened. Chapel Hill has moved along quite rapidly, ignoring the voluntary segregation and subtle institutionalized racism in town and on campus. Campus and community standards are nothing more than the status quo, a complacency which has blinded students and citizens alike. The movement toward any true sense of social consciousness has faded away. At the Campus Y, the

movement has been replaced by an honest and eager cheerleader mentality, a sense of hope, welfare and future. But where is the reality, and the now? It has taken our generation at UNC far too long to realize that nothing will ever get done on campus without a major unifying effort, a restructuring of sorts, as a precondition. The Campus Y is the perfect place to initiate a new unity, and it would be unfair to say that members have not already tried. NMI and Students for the Advancement of Race Relations (SARR), for example, are two of the most involved and visible committees on campus. NMI workshops and SARR's Race Relations Week are important events, creating awareness and promoting dialogue towards change. However, their effectiveness is hampered by a lack of vocal and active follow-up support from the other 31 Y committees, and also by the apprehension exhibited by other students through lack of participation.

The lack of minority participation is especially understandable, as it is difficult to truly respect an organization such as the Y when goals and realities are so contradictory. Specifically, while we all hold high our banners and interlock our hands, we cannot shake the stereotypical image that Y members have fostered. We are above-average, middle-class, pretty white and pretty naive — a microcosm of suburbia. This stereotype could be very well contested if it were not for its institutionalization in the Y leadership. All but four of the Executive Committee are white, none are black and all but two are Morehead scholars. Of the 60 or so committees co-chairs, very few are minority students, and only two of these are black. The leadership, then, is very incompatible and elitist for many students who otherwise would like to get involved at the Campus Y.

Many members have recognized the need for internal change in both the structure and the consistency of the Y, yet very few are willing to talk about this need publicly, with the Division of Student Affairs, or even with the professional staff. Discussion among the Executive Committee members is inexcusably isolated, and, where it exists, communication between the staff, the Exec and the cabinet is wholly ineffective. Various fears are plaguing those who can institute the needed changes — fear of being conspicuous, bold, true leaders in every sense of the word.

Hence, the challenge: It is now time to take a stand. It is now time that student leadership at the Campus Y regain the strength lost through years of conformity to standards we have not developed ourselves. It is time to gain strength through *integration* — not just in terms of interracial involvement at the Y, but in terms of *our* interaction within other groups and organization that may need the support that Y members can provide. It is time to break free of our false social consciousness and the fear of real change that is relegating our activism to no more than a penance. It is time to take risks. Race relations at UNC are at a turning point, and the issues at stake are no longer cut and dry, nor black and white. It is imperative that minority involvement in all aspects of student activism increase, not merely at the Campus Y. NMI and SARR cannot move forward without a firm and active commitment from all groups on campus, *beginning* with those in the Campus Y. Are we ready to avidly promote unity on campus, and to defend the rights of all students here and in their homelands? Are we ready to do so regardless of public opinion, self-consciousness and self-denial? I am, as are the other members of the Campus Y Human Rights Committee, but we need more help. For the future of student activism, the Campus Y and the University of North Carolina, we must all assert our leadership, and take the bold steps necessary to combat racism — institutionalized and not — or be forever buried in our own apathetic inactivity.

Bethany Chaney is a senior interdisciplinary studies major from Chapel Hill.

On the Hill owner responds to criticism

Last week I was given an envelope of articles that had been written about On The Hill which I read with great interest. Although I had been telephone interviewed numerous times, questioned about operational policies and told of allegations by certain customers, I assumed that my explanations would rectify the misunderstandings. But as I read the articles chronologically, it was apparent that my statements had been ignored.

Let's start with why On The Hill exists. I grew up a few blocks from Chapel Hill Boulevard in Durham. My first recollection of Chapel Hill was when I was five years old and took my swimming lessons at the University natatorium and I was told my father had attended UNC where he played football and was in a fraternity. I was given a T-shirt that said "I'm a Carolina Tar Heel" and thus the basis for a dyed-in-the-wool Carolina fan. When I was nine years old I started selling ice cream sandwiches at every home football game and began to identify with the glamour of Chapel Hill. I scribbled UNC on anything that didn't move and anything else that would stand still long enough.

I remember one night when I was 16 years old seeing my first live band on the porch of Graham Memorial across from the street from On The Hill. It was then that I became interested in the entertainment industry.

After seven years of being a corporate pawn, I found myself in private business with a restaurant and bar and later with an additional night club. This was too much for one person, so I sold the first bar and focused on the college night club in Raleigh.

I started the ACC Tavern in January 1984 with a strict dress code and set the music format of beach and Top 40. The three girls' schools, fraternities, and sororities were targeted. The club has always been very successful.

John W. Hopkins
Guest Writer

I always wanted a club in Chapel Hill, but the driving time was prohibitive until Interstate 40 opened. An opportunity developed on Franklin Street when an acquaintance opened a club in February 1989 (Down Under) but soon decided he didn't like the night club business and asked me to purchase it.

I had gotten a close friend of mine and former employee, Sheila Brown, a job there when it opened. Sheila graduated in May 1989 from UNC and didn't want to leave Chapel Hill. I wanted to help her get started in business so, I asked her if she wanted to manage the club. She said she did, so On The Hill was born.

Sheila liked alternative music and thought with a DJ and dance floor she could develop an adequate crowd to support the cause. May is a tough month to start in a college town but with hard work, devotion and supplemental loans until July, the business became successful and many UNC students patronized On The Hill.

The summer crowds were mixed with all segments including a small percentage of alternative dressers. The first of September, Sheila told me she had hired a fellow to work the door who stated that he was homosexual. He seemed to be honest and a good employee. That was fine with me. Each week thereafter

the alternative dressers became larger in number until our more conservatively dressed customers complained and gradually diminished. Revenue declined until it was apparent something had to be done.

After discussing the situation with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission's Legal Department, I chose to change the music format and implement a dress code prohibiting all black clothing. The changes were effective in my effort to re-target my original core-concept clientele. My goal was to re-target the mainstream majority. I realize now that this dress code, in such a liberal environment as Chapel Hill, unintentionally offended some people.

I discovered that the gay community thought they were being discriminated against. In each interview I was questioned about discrimination and I repeatedly explained my core-concept clientele and re-targeting efforts. Apparently, my answers fell on deaf ears. The group was determined to accuse On The Hill of discriminating against homosexuals in order to have their favorite music played even if it meant tabloid journalism.

I do not feel that On The Hill practiced discrimination. I employ personnel from a variety of groups, including homosexuals, blacks, Orientals, athletes, females, males, N.C. State students and Caucasians.

Now if an employee on his own accord wore a certain T-shirt that was inappropriate, then he was wrong, but that was corrected as soon as the manager saw the T-shirt.

If a doorman charged a higher cover charge, as alleged, and it wasn't because of age, sex or time (which vary depending) then that doorman may have acted on his own accord. If so, that was wrong and I'm sure it has been corrected since Oct. 31, when I personally took control of the club.

The real tragedy of this misnomer however, is the injustice done to Sheila Brown, a young, aspiring entrepreneur who had an opportunity of a lifetime. She was on salary and had a percentage of the profits with an option to purchase the business.

Financial institutes do not loan money for such ventures; therefore, very few have the opportunity. The pressure brought upon her was too much to bear and the loss of revenue caused her to think she was incapable of being in the night club business. So, who owes whom an apology?

Since I'm at the top, I'll apologize for any of my employee's mistakes, if they made any. And if they did, they had the best interest of the business in their heart.

The dress code has not been used since the new music format was implemented and there have not been any discriminatory policies toward homosexuals at On The Hill, to my knowledge, nor do they exist currently.

Many articles were written and they all share a common thread: Discrimination is wrong. I agree. It is obvious from my employment record that I do not practice discrimination.

I apologize for any misinterpretation of our efforts to re-target my original core-concept clientele, who are simply the majority of Chapel Hill's residents who are students. This target is simply based on revenue, and I hope everyone will find On The Hill a place to enjoy.

John Hopkins is the owner of On The Hill.

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Dialing, denouncing, defecting and dancing

Week in Quotes

"Let's finally do something that the students can touch, that they can feel — that they can dial. — Student Congress Rep. Jurgen Buchenau, expressing his support in Thursday's meeting for a bill to provide telephones for free local calls in the Undergraduate and Davis libraries.

"She is superbly well qualified. She specializes in African-American folklore, is a distinguished scholar and an excellent teacher. Dr. Harris is a person of great intelligence and energy." — Gillian Cell, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, speaking about the recommendation of English Professor Trudier Harris for chairwoman of the curriculum in African-American studies. The recommendation came after a four-year search for a permanent leader.

"I am very happy because I am here in America. I wanted for a long time to come here, but I didn't have anyone to help me." — Olympic gymnast Nadia Comaneci, speaking on her arrival at Kennedy Airport in

New York, four days after she defected from Romania.

"Alvin Ailey was a giant among American artists, a towering figure on the international dance scene. His works have elated and moved audiences throughout the world. His spirit soars in his creations and he has enriched and illuminated our lives." — Gerald Arpino, artistic director of the Joffrey Ballet, speaking after the 58-year-old founder of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater died Friday from a blood disease.

"It sounds maybe a little better, but it's, you know, hard to tell." — President George Bush, speaking on the latest developments in the Philippines, where President Corazon Aquino was trying to put down a coup by rebel army troops. Bush ordered the deployment of U.S. air power to the Philippines to help Aquino.