

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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Sexist and racist images Offensive statues need to be removed at once

Brand new statues were put up in front of Davis Library Tuesday, and they should be taken down today.

The artist sculpted seven figures, two of which were African-Americans: one is a man twirling a basketball on his finger like a Harlem Globetrotter, the other appears to be a black slave woman balancing a book on her head. Two other figures, walking alongside each other, depicted a man draping his arm around a woman who carried an apple. These four statues carry overtones of sexism and racism, and those are two isms this campus should not tolerate.

In the past few weeks, this university has seen some serious episodes of discrimination. A Harvey Gantt poster was found with racist slurs written on it. Notes with anti-homosexual comments were found on the UNITAS floor of Carmichael Residence Hall. Similar phrases were placed on the Cube on Coming Out Day. And a note was placed on the Homecoming Queen's car denouncing the idea of an African-American queen.

This rash of hate crimes must stop; the list must come to an end. But these set of statues will do just the opposite. This campus, through its history and heritage, already has racist and sexist elements in place. For instance, Silent Sam in McCorkle Place. First, the statue is racist because it

commemorates Confederate soldiers who fought for states' rights and their ability to legalize slavery. Second, the statue promotes sexism with the legend that Sam's gun (which has been silent for years) goes off every time a virgin goes by. This campus does not need any more statues belittling females and African-Americans.

Having those figurines in front of the main research center on campus communicates University approval of the statues. For a community that has spoken so adamantly against racism, sexism and recent discriminatory events, this display sends a contradictory message. Elements of this campus have strong traditional values that unfortunately harbor discriminatory views. This community does not have to continue this tradition.

Discrimination can only be worked out in the open. If non-whites and whites alike continue to walk on eggshells, second-guessing how the other will react, this community will never accomplish its discrimination-free goal. Without open, uninhibited discussion among everyone, no one will understand where their views are wrong or learn to think in a new, non-discriminatory way. This artist has chosen openly to say that racism and sexism is OK. And this campus should openly say NO. — Jessica Lanning

Rappers were right 2 Live Crew's acquittal reinforces free speech

Hallelujah. Rap rules.

After all the hype, press coverage and much undue attention, the rap group 2 Live Crew walked out of a courtroom last week with fans cheering and jurors wanting to buy their controversial album, *As Nasty as They Wanna Be*. The group was finally acquitted by a Fort Lauderdale jury of an obscenity charge for a club performance this summer.

By this point, no doubt, there are very few people who haven't heard of 2 Live Crew. For more than a year, politicians, politicians' wives and everybody with a self-righteous attitude has hounded the group for simply expressing itself. This is not to say that those uncomfortable with the group's lyrics didn't have a valid argument. Explicit songs about violent sexual acts against women and graphic descriptions of anal and oral sex are definitely offensive material that can have regrettable consequences if heard by impressionable individuals.

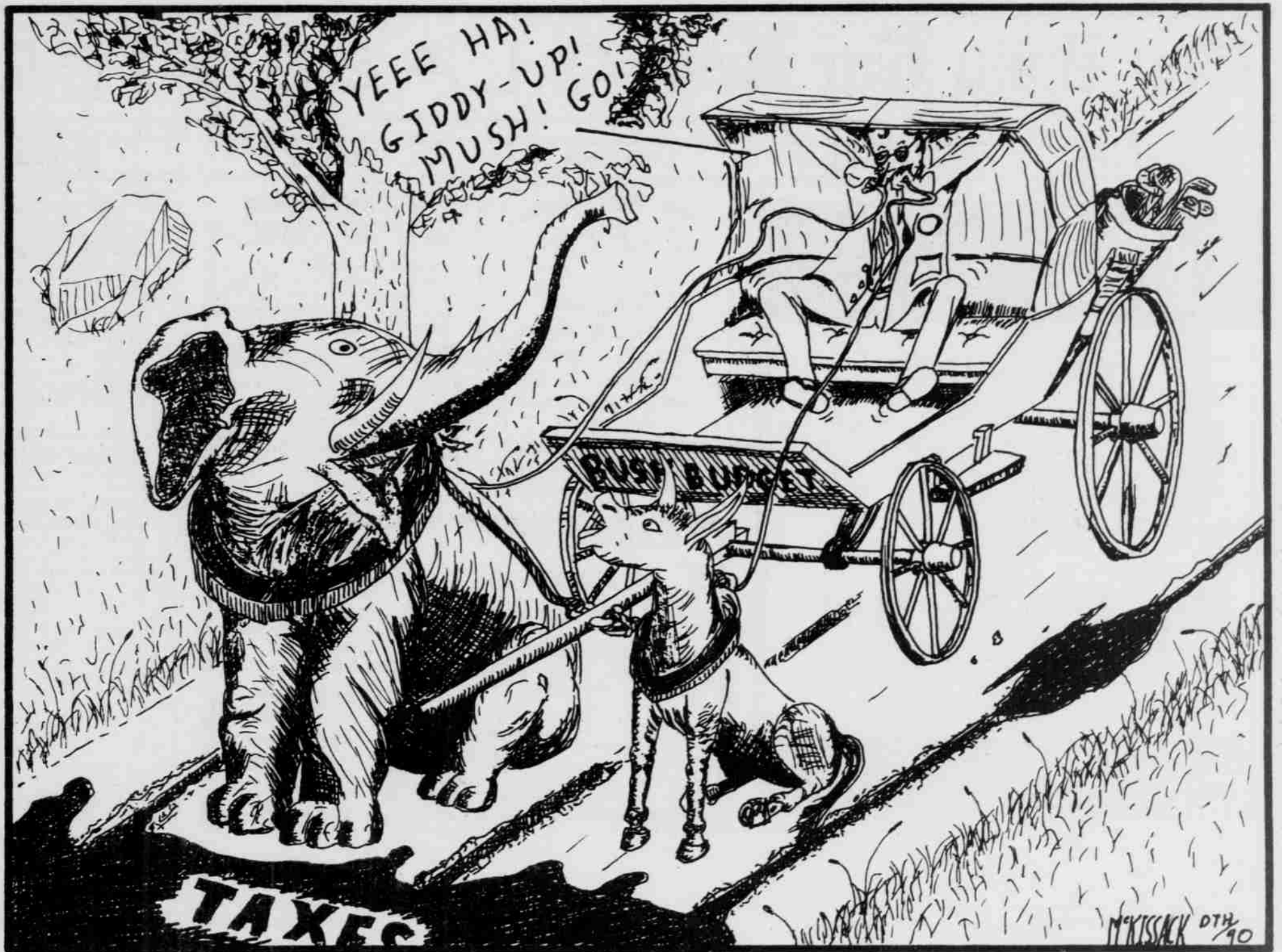
But should a group be stripped of its First Amendment rights for fear of what someone might do if he or she listens to it? Indeed not. That is an unfair shift of responsibility. Individuals control what they listen to. No one is forced to support any group or any type of music.

Parents who claim to care about what

their children listen to shouldn't force their opinions on the masses for the sake of their children. That's the easy way out, to say the least. These "concerned" parents should talk with their children and make sure they don't buy such albums or attend concerts where the music will be performed. And the same is true for adults. If they find the messages abrasive, there's no need to go on a banning raid. There are many other records and artists to choose from.

Thank goodness the jurors in the 2 Live Crew case realized this. They could have easily been swayed to label the group obscene. Four of the jurors were women — the very group 2 Live Crew raps about in a derogatory manner. Five of the six jurors were white — possibly having never come in contact with many of the rap group's terms and expressions. At least two of the jurors were older than 60 — in an age group far removed, in many ways, from the types of music youth listen to today. But, instead of judging 2 Live Crew on what they were used to, the jury realized the basic right of freedom of expression. While many jurors said they wouldn't listen to the music, they all said it wasn't criminal obscenity.

Now, despite those whom they offend, 2 Live Crew can continue to be as nasty as they wanna be. — Lynette Blair



And the exciting search for Rainbow continues

When last we left our intrepid columnist, he was embarking on a dangerous journey, without the aid of his *Stupid Mission Force* compadres. He was flying solo, going alone, the Lone Wolf, like Charles Bronson in "Death Wish III." In other words, he couldn't get anyone else to go with him. Sounds like his love life.

After I decided I had to go find Rainbow, I hauled tush down to Phil Farquhar. Previously Owned Automobiles — Se Habla Espanol in Raleigh because I needed a special car for this job. My trusty VW Golf just didn't have the juice under the hood, and besides, I wanted a spacious trunk, because I might have to forcibly return Rainbow to her rightful place in my kitchen.

I talked to Tradin' Dave, sales manager at Farquhar — Se Habla Espanol, and told him of my special needs. He told me he couldn't help me with those, but he could help me find a car.

"John, this here's what you want."

"What is it?"

"A red 1972 Cadillac Eldorado convertible with whitewall tires and white leather seats."

"Dave, that looks like a '76 Gremlin to me."

"How much money you got to spend?"

"About 40 bucks."

"Then it's a '76 Gremlin."

"How many miles?"

"338,987. But it runs like a dream."

"Gee, I don't know, Dave. I was sorta hoping for something ... less embarrassing."

"Telly what I'll do. I'll toss in a wash 'n' wax at no extra charge to you, and I'll put on a new set of Goodyears at no extra charge to you, and I'll tune her up at no extra charge to you, and I'll tighten the clutch at no extra charge to you, and I'll put one of those Christmas tree deodorizers on the rear-view mirror for only \$782 more."

And I said, "What?"

Three hours later, a puke-green 1976 AMC Gremlin with whitewall tires and the most expensive Christmas tree deodorizer in history rolled off the Phil Farquhar — Se Habla Espanol lot and onto I-40. I had the technology. I had the money. I had the initiative. But most of all, I had too much free time.

John Bland Less Filling

First off, I looked at the return address on the letter Rainbow had allegedly sent me. It read, and I quote, "Pedro says arriba back soon."

That's it. No address, no name, not even a little old zip code. Just those mysterious words: "Pedro says arriba back soon."

Who was Pedro? Could Rainbow be hiding out with a bunch of South American revolutionaries, fighting for their freedom from the dastardly oppression of military juntas? What the hell is a junta anyway? Why is the 'j' silent?

I hopped onto a jet bound for Rio and realized I should have hopped into it instead. When we landed I looked like a Fudgicle that had been left in the very back of a Fast Fare freezer.

The first thing I did when I got into Rio was go into a local watering hole and look for Pedro, because that's what Marshal Dillon always did in "Gunsmoke." I sauntered into a place called "Der Bauhaus" and glanced it over. No Rainbow yet. Maybe if I asked some of the locals.

"Excuse me!" I shouted above the din. "Excuse me! Can I have your attention please? Excuse me! I'm looking for Pedro!"

They all looked at me like I'd just committed a political atrocity with a mountain goat.

"Do you know who Pedro is?"

Still silence. Must be the language barrier, I thought. I quickly glanced in my handy Spanish-English dictionary and realized I should've gotten the English-Spanish one instead.

"Ummmm ... Por favor," I improvised, "know-a who-a Pedro is-a?"

From somewhere in the back of the bar a low voice growled, "That's Italian."

"My fault," I shouted. "El know-o who el Pedro is-o?"

"Nuh-uh," they yelled in unison, and went back to their drinks.

This was perplexing. I was in a South American bar and no one was named Pedro. I grabbed the nearest guy by the collar and in-

terrogated him.

"What's your name?" I said.

"Klaus," he said.

"Are you South American?"

"I am now."

"Who is Pedro?"

"I don't know."

"Say, didn't I see you in 'Triumph of the Will'?"

"No. That wasn't me. I've never been to Berlin. I am a native Brazilian."

"Hmmm. A blond, blue-eyed native Brazilian?"

"It is possible! Look at Charo!"

"Charo! Is she Brazilian?"

"I'm not German! I'm Brazilian! My name is Klaus Rodriguez!"

"I thought she was from Indiana."

"I was framed!" he went on, wildly waving his arms. "I was not at Stalingrad! I know nothing of atrocities committed in the name of the Reich! I was only taking orders! Those four million Deutsch marks were my wife's!"

"Huh?" I said.

"Heil mein Fuhrer!" he shouted, and dropped dead at my feet of a massive guilt-induced heart attack.

I stared at his limp, cold body. "You sure she's not from Indiana?"

That's when I decided I had to go to the mountains, to find a revolutionary group who knew about Pedro, and, hopefully, to find some cheap drugs.

I'll never forget the day I headed up into the hills, looking for Rainbow. Pedro and change for a five. The air was so clear, so fresh, and I could see nothing but razed Amazon rain forests for miles and miles. After a while I came across a small mountain village, untouched by civilization, and it was there that I ran into an Indian named Wolfgang, who taught me about the ancient Aztec ritual of Cuervo shots. I did 12, 13 of these and felt no after-effects whatsoever. Except for the dream about the midget.

John Bland is a senior English and Romance-Novel-Writing major who's been watching too damn much "Twin Peaks."

READERS' FORUM

Gantt willing to help clean up environment

To the editors:
Timothy Moore's criticism of Harvey Gantt's attention to the hazardous waste issue in his campaign for the U.S. Senate ("Gantt makes mistakes in incinerator issue," Oct. 19) is dead wrong.

First, Moore asserts that Gantt, if elected, "would have no input on the (hazardous waste) issue whatsoever." This is not true. The Congress, through federal agencies such as the EPA and OSHA, and through federal legislation such as the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, exercises enormous formative power over the environmental policies of all 50 states, including North Carolina's own laws that deal with the design, siting, regulation and impact of toxic waste incinerators. Thus, Gantt, as a member of the Senate, could and would play a powerful role in this environmental/public health debate, a role that Helms prefers to abdicate, at our expense, to the moneyed polluting corporations.

The second thrust of Moore's criticism, the charge that Democrats alone "caused the need for a hazardous waste dump in the state," is absurd. Every one of us, regardless of political affiliations, is responsible for the toxins and trash that our society produces. Committed environmentalists like Gantt recognize this and fight for a cleaner and a healthier ecology.

The time has arrived to elect to the U.S. Senate a man who believes that the federal government must be a positive force in the stewardship of the environment and in the

education of the youth. The time has come indeed for us North Carolinians to elect Harvey Gantt.

KAM LEE

Staff
Davis Library

Israeli issue proves too complex for writer

To the editors:
The column, "Jews and Palestinians need to settle their score," by Kimberly Maxwell (Oct. 18), is at best naive, and at worst intentionally misleading. She would have us believe that Israel was created as "a reward to Chiam Weizman ..." for helping Great Britain during World War I and that when Israel was formed in 1947, "all the Palestinians who lived in that area were kicked out." Both of these points are incorrect.

For the record, there has been a continuous Jewish presence in Israel dating back well before the conquest of Jerusalem by Rome in 70 A.D. Jewish prayer and tradition since that time has reflected a desire for a return to that homeland and the re-establishment of an independent Jewish state. Modern political Zionism (the movement to restore Israel as a viable political entity) began in the 1880s. At that time, Jews fleeing persecution from around the world began migrating to the site of present-day Israel. They bought land, drained swamps, and as the cliché says, "They made the desert bloom."

After World War I, the British assumed control of the Middle East which had been held by the Ottoman empire. More and more Jews, fleeing persecution, came to Pal-

estine to lay the framework for a national home. The Balfour declaration, representing British policy in 1917, stated that Great Britain "looked with favour upon the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine." The original area of British mandate Palestine included present-day Jordan and Israel. Over time, the land was divided, with more and more being given to the Arabs. Less than 20 percent of the original total was then to become Israel. In 1947, the United Nations further divided the area and approved the creation of a state to be named Israel (now smaller than New Jersey).

Contrary to the distortion provided by Maxwell, all Arab Palestinians living within the borders of Israel were invited to stay by the new government. Many left their homes after being told by Arab leaders that they should "get out of the way" while the invading armies of several Arab countries "drive the Jews into the sea." They were told they could then return and have all the land to themselves. As history goes, the Arab states did not destroy Israel in 1948 as they had hoped. Those who left their homes became part of the Palestinian refugee problem. Other Arabs truly left from fear of war or the consequences of battle. These unfortunate groups constitute a large portion of Palestinian refugees. However, Maxwell, many Arabs stayed and became citizens of the state of Israel. They vote and pay taxes like any other citizen (the same cannot be said for Jews in any Arab country of the world). There are even four Arab members in the Israeli Parliament. This is in contrast to the Arabs of the West

Bank and Gaza who are not citizens and around whom the current conflict exists.

The current problems in Israel with regard to the West Bank and Gaza are very complex. There is a lot of right and wrong on both sides. Years of mistrust and misdeed work against men and women who seek a just settlement. Misstatement of fact and oversimplification of the issue does not help to clarify the situation. Please, Maxwell, before you again try to offer a solution to the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, learn the history of the dispute.

GARY L. FREED, M.D.

Graduate
School of Public Health

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■ After all those all-important signatures, please include such vital statistics as your year in school, major, phone number and hometown.

■ We may be a little short on letters to the editor, but we still reserve the right to edit for vulgarity and stuff. Try to keep it clean, please!

■ If you have a title that is relevant to your letter's subject, please include it with your vital statistics.

■ The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. This also includes personal attacks on people who are not public figures. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.

■ Please include a title relevant to the topic.

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