

Causewalk Litterers Being Cool

To the Editor:

Since the war officially began, not a single day has passed that I have not heard both pro and anti-war arguments. I was personally against the war in the Persian Gulf before it actually began, but as I began to educate myself about the situation in the Middle East, I began to realize that the decision to go to war was the correct one. [But I realize that I am speaking for myself— for what I believe. I am but one voice.] And although I watched the news through teary eyes the day the war officially started, I knew that I was not crying because we had gone to war but because of the horrible injustice that was taking place. It took me a long time to come to this realization and believe me, I took my turn with those protesting any war for any cause. I believe they call them conscientious objectors.

What I do not object to are people expressing their opinions— it is a constitutional right. Just at the beginning of February, I fired off an angry letter to the editor of The Laurinburg Exchange after reading a "Street Talk" column of February 6. The question for the day asked local people what they thought about the media cover-

age on the Persian Gulf War. Two women who answered said they preferred not to be constantly bombarded by the news of the war. I then exercised my constitutional right to express my opinion— publically. I signed my name. I even hoped for a response— some controversy. Anything but apathy.

What I object to are those who claim to speak for the cause of peace and yet are afraid to openly fight for their cause. I refer, of course, to the recent flux of, well, comments— opinions, littering the Cause Walk as of late. Yes, I think littering is the perfect choice of words. Why? Because people who cannot back a cause openly, people who are afraid to express their opinions in public, do nothing to support their cause, their unsigned opinions are worth garbage, with a capital "G."

I am glad to know that people on campus are interested in the events occurring in the Middle East, but I wonder if these folks who continually "decorate," for lack of a better word, the causewalk truly understand why we have gone to war. It is fine and dandy to protest a war if you actually understand why we have gone to war and still object. But I think those people

who have contributed to the "decoration" of the causewalk are more interested in "being cool" by protesting war and advocating world peace, which, given the nature of human beings, seems next to impossible to achieve. Don't get me wrong, I am all for peace but then again I am for a war that is being fought against injustice. If I have misinterpreted your motives then please forgive me and God bless you in your cause! But I think you will find that there are more productive ways to get across your message than to litter the causewalk with UNSIGNED anti-war messages. I am going to close with a quote from columnist Phil Julian of the Jacksonville Daily News (NC):

"Imagine the joy that instantly impales the spirits of the men and women over there who are doing their best to secure for a smaller country the same freedom of speech you are exercising in your protests."

So try to keep that in mind the next time that you "decide" to decorate the causewalk.

Sincerely,
Heather Lyn Gupton

Tactfully Express Yourself

To the Editor:

Seeing all the various opinions and comments related to the war all over campus makes me very proud that we are an open-minded enough community that individuals feel comfortable in expressing their views. Although I may not agree with and am often quite upset by some of the things I see and read, I still totally support the act of expressing how one feels. However, it saddens me greatly that we seem to be moving in the direction of personal accusations rather than focusing on the issue - which is that there is a very real war going on right this minute on the other side of the world. It also frustrates me that there is such a lack of objective information coming out of the U.S. media and government - which leads to a lot of misconceptions about people of cultures different than our own as well as what is happening on both sides in this situation (or maybe there is no such thing as objective information in a war . . .). I hope that people will continue to publicly share their feelings, thoughts and reactions to the war, but that we do not degenerate to the point of attacking individual personalities and opinions.

In Peace,
Rebecca Green

Vandalism Unexcused

To the Editor:

To The Causewalk Vandals:

Once again, you have seemingly asserted your freedom of expression. However, you have done so in an irresponsible manner— in a manner that serves not to unite our community but to divide. The cause walk is not an acceptable forum for public presentation of war protest. However, the "wall," the Lance, peace vigils and open letters to the campus are. If you are so dedicated to the truth of your anti-war convictions, why are you so ashamed to identify yourselves? If you feel so strongly that you must "enlighten" us all and convince us of the truthfulness of your beliefs, then you have obviously failed to convince yourselves.

This campus is the property of the College, and the willful vandalism of it is unexcusable and illegal. Most students enjoy the beauty of the campus and would rather not see it defaced by such graffiti. Your actions have accomplished nothing, but to convince others of your own irresponsibility as members of this community. Without doubt, we are all concerned about the war and its tragedy; however, we must express such concerns in appropriate forums. Instead of spending your time and efforts trying to convince us of war's tragedy, why not convince elected officials who can make a change?

Sincerely,
Todd Spradlin

Religion Misunderstood

To the Editor:

I am distictly appalled at your most recent article about Walter Hartlove. I have defended witchcraft for 15 years because it is a religion that deeply involves my family. I am not a witch, but I have been here for four years and have felt that I lived in a community of understanding. I am not certain of this after this article.

If Walter Hartlove called witches, "warlocks," then he is using a Christian term against witches. If Heather Gupton is using the term, "warlocks," she is wrong. In either case this is a form of ignorance so profound as to be insulting. The word "warlock" stems from the Anglo-Saxon word waerloga, meaning a traitor or liar. The church used this word to describe witches because they were not easily converted to Christianity. Just because of this, Christians prosecuted witches- any person can understand this as we think of Southern politics in the Sixties.

Where is Hartlove's evidence that this silver was "hot?" I don't understand why he is discrediting Wiccan business as well as Wiccan religion, which he so charmingly calls a "cult."

Where is the equalizing article about my mother's recent visit? This was another visit to aid Skip Clark's class. Is Yvonne Frost not sensational enough? I can understand certain limitations, such as space in the paper, but when the article was printed in the fall, there were a number of errors that could have been corrected had Skip, myself,

or even the people the article was written about were consulted to check the facts. A person worshipping as a witch is a Wiccan. Gavin Frost, the high priest of the Church of Wicca, is the Flamen. Yvonne Frost, in her alternative role, is a Flamenca. A male witch is not a warlock. This word, especially, is used to intentionally insult anyone who is a witch or is educated in this area.

I am more than sorry that I missed Hartlove's lectures. He must have been very entertaining. I may even know representatives of this group through my parents' influences, but it is sadly left out of the article. There are no groups associated with the Church of Wicca that are "evil."

I expect I will have to continue writing these letters for the rest of my life out of respect for my parents and their lifelong undertakings. It is astounding to me that after four years at St. Andrews, three visits by my parents and countless latenight talks, that I have to be so insulted.

Not only has there been misinformation presented, there is not even fair play given. I am just stunned and appalled. How am I supposed to be comfortable in this community when people are calling my parents' religion evil and my father a warlock? I not only have to hear this regularly, I have to see it in newsprint. I don't know what to think.

Sincerely,
Jo Frost

Thanks for the Reminder

To the Editor:

A thank you
To whomever keeps decorating the Cause Walk, I'd like to thank you for reminding me that my brothers and friends could be killed at any moment. You are right! I do not think about having a dead brother often enough, God forbid that anyone try and keep a grasp on something safe and secure like life before the war. It was totally insensitive of me, when faced with the potential of his death, not to think about it in a public manner at all times. When I write my next letter to him, I will remember to tell him, "I think of your death often and have stopped my life because of it." Again thank you— for filling my life with even more pain.

Signed deAnne McKinney
A military brat and sister

Please support the families as well as the troops.

Be Responsible for Methods of Expression

To the Editor:

Yes folks, it is another letter concerning the causewalk. This one is a little different though. I will not bring into question the patriotism of those involved. I am only concerned with their method of expression. The causewalk has been vandalized, plain and simple. Those involved felt this extreme action was necessary due to the extreme nature of the war. I support your right to protest nonviolently in whatever manner you choose, as I am sure Ghandi or Martin Luther King Jr. would. There is one stipulation though, when your protests violate a law I feel that you should admit your actions and face the consequences, much as the "sit-in" participants allowed themselves to be arrested. This is the same approach Ghandi and King advocated. Unless the statutes have changed recently, I believe that vandalism is considered a crime, so face up to your actions.

They try to justify their actions claiming that the paint they used is non-toxic and water-soluble. Well guess what, water soluble does not mean that it is easy to clean up. Water color paints are water soluble, but once they dry they stain pretty good. It is not impossible to remove, but it

cannot simply be hosed away. The vandals claim that "we" know who they are, so there is no real need to reveal themselves. Forgive me for being ignorant, but I do not know who they are. I do not want the vandals revealed so that others can ridicule them. I only want the causewalk to be cleaned up. If they choose to come by night and anonymously clean it up, fine. Otherwise I feel that every step should be taken to find these people, and see that they pay for their actions.

Some of you reading this probably feel that I am being unfair to the protestors. Believe me, if pro-war protestors had vandalized the causewalk my position would not change. Some of you may feel that I am missing the bigger issue, the war. True, concern over an act of vandalism may seem petty in light of the death and carnage in the Middle East. So sue me for being petty. I do not think about the war a lot, but quite frankly I'm not sure what my position on our involvement is. I only want a reasonably clean causewalk once again, and for those involved to take responsibility for their actions.

Sincerely,
Chris Hock

Nobody Wins in War

To the Editor:

Dear deAnne S. McKinney, (and anyone else this is relevant to)

I am sorry that you do not like to be reminded that your brother or friends may be killed. But regardless of whether or not you think about it, it can happen. I too, have a brother in the Marine Corps and I think about him everyday.

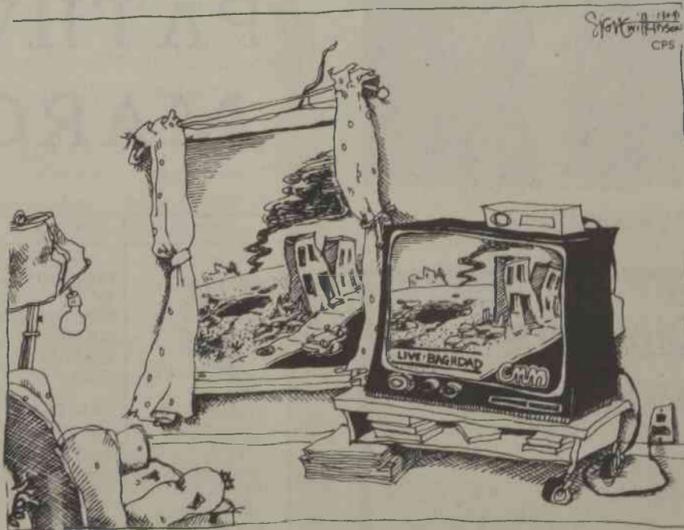
Maybe when we stop thinking only ourselves and realize that every human being in the Gulf has a family, regardless of nationality, then we will see that the only outcome of war is death. Ignoring this fact stops nothing. I do not like think of my brothers death either, but if he dies, will it be for a just cause? Those who make foreign policies are seldom called upon

to enforce these policies.

When we stop thinking of how the war will affect us and realize that innocent human beings, who have nothing to do with oil or dictators or whatever misinformed reason we chose for liking or disliking this war, are dying every hour of the day. Then we will realize that we must learn to communicate and solve our problems without the aid of brute force. I support the troops but I support humanity more.

"Those who call the shots won't be among the dead and slain...and on each end of the rifle
..... we are the same."

Sincerely, Your Idealist Friend
Christopher Moyles



U.S. DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY