

I'm John Gjertsen, editor-in-chief, and I'm taking this page.

If I had enough material to print a real newspaper where every page had real journalism on it, believe me, I wouldn't be doing something stupid like making my own beer page.

First of all, I would like to say that this page's theme is nothing more than a joke. I certainly don't want to advocate underage drinking—I know nobody here does that sort of thing anyway. The joke has to do with the fact that the *Stentorian* staff does its best to print interesting stories, and our biggest fear is that we'll publish an issue that is boring and dry. So what if this page is dry, I ask, as long as it goes down smooth and refreshing?

And now to dispel a myth. In the business of *Stentorian* layout, ladies and gentlemen, there's no such thing as "less filling."

It's all filling, in case you haven't noticed. Not that filling is bad, however. I hope you enjoy the photo essay insert of the Pow Wow. I hope you don't find my section here too boring either. *It doesn't get any better than this.*

But I especially hope you read all the real articles, too. Some writers actually do write like they should. A few even do it on time. So I'd like to toast all those who have done their share or more for *The Stentorian*, and made it happen. *This page's for you.*



IT'S IT AND THAT'S THAT

I like to tell everyone that I've had a great two years with *The Stentorian*. I love it when writers don't turn in articles and I'm left with nothing to make an issue with. Those sleepless nights. That soft feel of the newsprint fresh off the press. It's been great. But it's almost over.

Any junior who wants a big or small position on the newspaper staff next year, please talk to me. We need a lot of help. (Hey, sometimes it's cool!)

For the seniors, I have another message. You know that there is one more issue, and you know what it is.

SENIOR WILLS. All seniors who would like to leave a final adieu in the last *Stentorian* this year are encouraged to do so. Simply write your wills in legible English and submit them to:

Last Name begins with:

- A - B: John Gjertsen, 4th West, Box H136
- C - F: Daniel Aldrich, 3rd Bryan, Box B156
- G - I: Erika Petersen, 1st Beall, Box B281
- J - L: Hunter Tart, 2nd East, Box H199
- M - O: Joe Hensley, 2nd East, Box H213
- P - S: John Patty, 2nd Bryan, Box B279
- T - Z: Jason Katz, 2nd Bryan, Box B231

There is a 175 word limit which will be strictly enforced. Do not feel obliged to use every last possible word you can squeeze into this limit. *All wills will be DUE Friday, May 1, at 10:30pm. There will be no exceptions. Try to get them in earlier than this.*



WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT?

Sure, it would be nice to have Rachel Hunter build me a nice house by the beach. But I'm more interested in those small, harmless changes that would make NCSSM a happier place.

For instance, wouldn't it be great if my RA didn't cut off invitationals before the movie was over? Or, for next year's invitationals-goers, wouldn't it be great if invitationals started after curfew instead of at 11:30?

Or wouldn't it be great if you could see a concert on a weeknight and return late if you had a parent's signature? What was that? You can get a two-hour curfew extension with stage IIs? What about the several people who went to see Dinosaur Jr. only given *one* hour by incompetent RAs who *don't know the rules*? And the people who saw U2 who were given more than two hours extension because an RA was present at the concert?

Wouldn't it be great for the juniors if they could return next fall and have a day to themselves without the new juniors? Instead, they enter the school as seniors *after* juniors have already moved in.

Wouldn't it be great if I didn't get an unexcused absence notice in the middle of March for a class I supposedly missed in the middle of February? Records show that I didn't sign a roll sheet. Had the notice come at a reasonable time, I could have proven my attendance. That would have been great.

Wouldn't it be great if I didn't get *another* unexcused absence notice for a class I was *excused* for to take a math test? Wouldn't it be great if I weren't held responsible for the fact that the office doesn't do *their* paperwork on time?

Wouldn't it be great if the storage closets on my hall could actually be used for storage? Like unwanted room furnishings? But I suppose they have to be in the room at all times instead of a few feet away. Bed frames are all the time walking off campus. Wouldn't it be great if lofts could stay up until the end of school, and not weeks earlier?

Wouldn't it be great if the administration gave the students of the school a tiny bit of *trust*?

(I'd probably have more success if I asked Miss Hunter to start on our beach house...)

WHY ASK WHY?

Because this is basically my last issue, this is also my last chance to offend anyone's political beliefs. Why pass it up?

Those of you who will be 18 in November will, for the first time, get a chance to VOTE. If you're like me, you still don't know who you want in the White House, and you haven't been paying attention to the other elections. In the presidential race, I feel like the republican party has neglected issues like economy and education, whereas the democratic party platform needs serious help on some other issues. The latter half of this complaint seeded an argument I had with my brother on why being an all-out *liberal* bothered me. Webster says liberal means "not bound by orthodox tenets or established forms in political philosophy."

But basically it's another bandwagon. A support group based around set political and social perspectives. Undoubtedly, it's a bandwagon with some appeal to it. Who wouldn't recycle? Who wouldn't save the world? Who wouldn't want to revive our deceased education system? Liberalism has real energy, real spirit, especially considering you can rally for a real cause with thousands of other people.

This is the essence of the problem I have with liberal thought. When people don't know all the facts about the issues, they follow each other. They pick popular opinions rather than personal ones. The whole point of being a free thinker is masked behind a platform of set ideas.

To illustrate this, I would like to present a situation of hypocrisy. Animal rights vs. Abortion.

First the animals. Animals are used in laboratories. Animals die in laboratories so that scientific knowledge can be advanced. Some are used to study things like infectious diseases, which can be argued as necessary for human health. On the other end of the scale, some animals die as a result of cosmetics testing. In either case, the scientific community generally argues that there is no substitute for live specimen, and that some animals must die in order for research to advance. Many liberals, however, are dead-set against all of this. They speak out for the "rights" of the animals, which they believe are being violated. They speak out for more legislation to restrict what laboratories can and can't do with animals.

Now let's talk about people. People get pregnant. Some people get pregnant way too early. Some people get raped. Babies happen. People want to abort living fetuses because they feel they can't take care of them. Or they can't afford them. Or they got raped. Or they have second thoughts when all their friends tell them about how painful pregnancy is. How do liberals feel about this? *Pro-choice*, of course! Legislation restricting abortion would all of a sudden infringe on our freedom of choice (even though we've gotten along real well for hundreds of years without it). This would stand against the name of democracy!

Back up for a moment. Let's not get confused as to what we're talking about. There's a common theme to both these problems. We're talking about *life* here, ladies and gentlemen. Life and its *alternative*... We're talking about the justified *killing* of living beings who cannot defend themselves. The animals sure can't defend themselves. It's all in the name of science. As humans, we feel ourselves superior in such a way that can justify experimenting with animals to propagate our race. The fetuses can't defend themselves. They probably don't care too much to be killed, either. But as adults, we feel ourselves superior in such a way that we can justify terminating a life for whatever reason because it would be better off dead than born into no family or born with a defect, or whatever. *Who are we to judge?*

I can't believe there are people who would save an animal's life and not save a human's. But because of the nice ring in the word "choice" and the constitutional flavor it carries, it has now become popular to jump on the bandwagon. Make sure you protect the rights of lab rats, but for God's sake feel free to kill an unborn baby if the mother doesn't feel like having it is a good idea. Is it just me, or does that not make much sense?

I don't always disagree with liberals. I just like to take the issues separately and study them seriously before I put signs up and spread petitions telling everyone what they should think. When nonconformists conform among themselves, they're just a more self-righteous breed of conformists, and nothing changes.

Me, I'd rather make up my own mind.

