

The Daily Tar Heel

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Established 1893
101 Years of Editorial Freedom

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Take A Look Around You

After a week of examining human rights, abroad and nationally, we might forget about loss of human rights here in our own community. As Human Rights Week ends, we can turn our thoughts to what human rights mean in our own life, in our own community.

The struggle for human rights isn't just a vague foreign policy question or a matter for politicians. Human rights — the "inalienable rights" referred to in the U.S. Declaration of Independence — do not take a solid or easy definition. It's easier to define human rights by their absence than by the actual form they take.

In this town, we don't have all the dignity suggested by America's smug pride in its freedom.

Women aren't safe walking streets alone at night, and often not even during the day. All people live under the threat of violence — just look at the number of assaults reported downtown and on campus this year alone.

Children aren't always safe in daycares, from their parents, from family friends or in their homes.

Employees at the University, like the housekeepers, balance sub-poverty level wages with the effort to raise families in expensive Orange County.

Blacks, whites and members of all ethnicities are often trapped in their skin color, unable to live a life on its merits because of the definitions and roles forced upon them by society's prejudices.

Suspicion and bitterness often arise when we consider how many of our rights are abridged. People begin to mistrust each other, their government and passers-by on the street.

But alienation is not the solution to our basic human rights that are nibbled at every day. In our communities, on a one-on-one human level, we redress some of the wrongs.

People of opposite persuasions, liberals and conservatives, activists and observers alike can agree that we all want our community to be a better place to live. Each of us can work in our own way to make our lives safer, more comfortable — more free.



Your History

In the eternal quest to make America more inclusive of its minorities, the federal government released a 271-page curriculum guide recently that details exactly what students from grades five through 12 should know about United States history and the role of minorities and women.

Great idea; horrible approach!

While the government's effort to put the historical spotlight on personalities typically shafted in public education is laudable, the mandatory approach is all wrong. Curriculum decisions belong at the local and state level, not with the folks on Capitol Hill.

If the Congress that voted on Goals 2000 (a program designed to improve students' knowledge of core subjects) wanted to change the way history texts present the achievements of minorities and women, let them do it through recommended guidelines, not top-down requirements.

We all know the arguments for change.

History books typically cover dead white men

and relegate the accomplishments of women, blacks and other minorities to the back pages of special sections. In addition, curricula place more emphasis on names and dates and less on general historical movements.

Proponents argue that under the National Standards curriculum guide students would better understand the diverse reality of American history, not just the glamorous battles and forefathers usually presented.

Which is all well and good and definitely needed — except for the part about the federal government deciding.

While the guide is presently backed by both the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association, it has also been criticized for its reverse emphasis.

While Harriet Tubman is mentioned six times, for example, the Gettysburg address is mentioned only once.

Let the guide serve as just that — a guide that would recommend how textbooks are written and how teachers present history.

Tar Heel Quotables

"I have to support five children. I've worked here for four years. I put in for 13 promotions and was denied 13 times. Yes, I threatened my supervisor. I was angry. I cursed. But I need my job."

ERIC BROWNING, fired UNC housekeeper

At a rally in the Pit on Wednesday calling for his reinstatement and a new grievance system for University employees.

"So many times, people have written things that are absolutely absurd, like that a politician who just lost in the elections was being considered for chancellor. People just don't understand the need for confidentiality in selecting candidates."

JOHNNY HARRIS, chancellor search committee chairman

On the need for secrecy around the selection process.

"Advertisers tried to say that advertising for beer is no worse than other products. But if other products were gateway drugs and played a part in 90 percent of date rapes on campus, then they wouldn't be allowed on the air."

DEAN SMITH, basketball coach

On his campaign to eliminate alcohol ads during televised ACC sporting events.

"The truth helps to set the captives free."

Tyrants hate the truth, fear the truth; they deny the truth."

WILLIAM SCHULZ,

executive director of Amnesty International

Defining what Amnesty International sees as the heart of its vision

"Human rights is not a static business of setting and accomplishing objectives."

RANDALL ROBINSON, founder and director of TransAfrica

Explaining that a great deal still must be done to improve human rights all over the world

"Senator Helms' foreign policy is totally out of mainstream U.S. policy. Helms is the worst kind of isolationist because he feels that any kind of money we spend abroad is a waste."

ERIC MLYN

assistant professor of political science at UNC

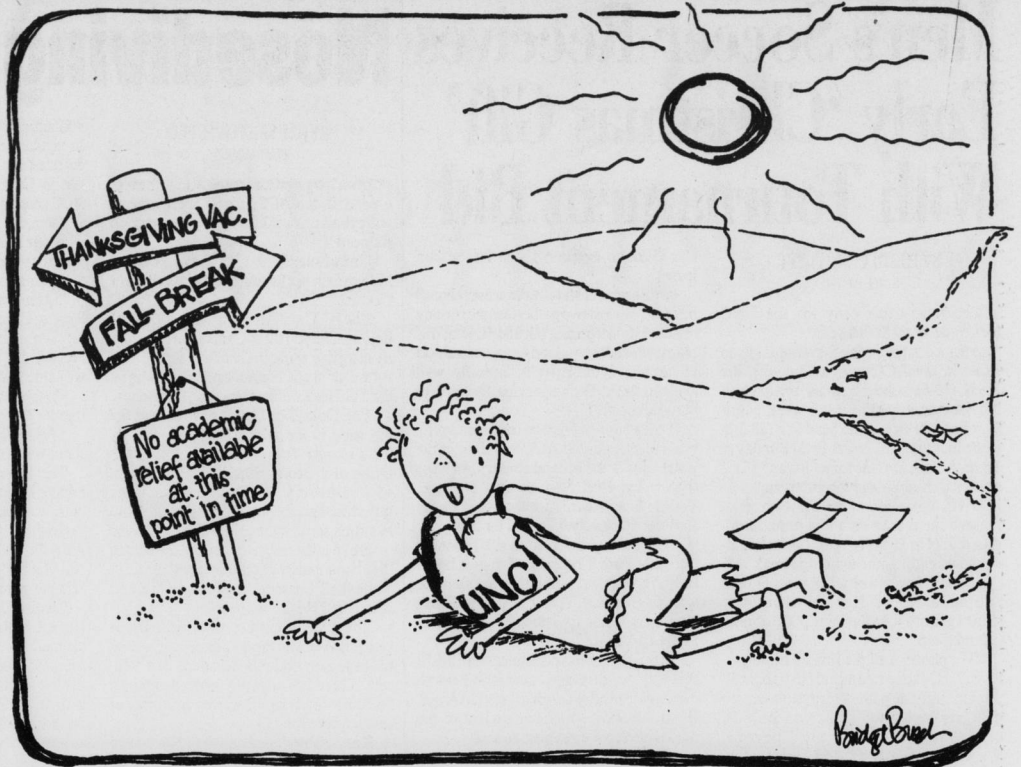
On the prospect of Helms' chairmanship of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

"Wall climbing trains your mind. You have to keep calm and focused while going through physical torment."

TRENT MCDEVITT

climbing wall coordinator at the Chapel Hill Community Center

On the merits of wall climbing, a sport McDevitt says is safer than basketball



Find Me A Woman Who Knows What A Man Wants

Dearest M.,
Though when I say "dearest," I mean it in the most perfunctory sense of the word, with no connotation of value or love. If you really want the correct interpretation of the word, imagine Oscar Wilde curling it around his biting wit, or better yet, Sid Vicious spitting it in your face and then following it with a fist.

Oh, I am told by the indigenous folk here that we English are tight-lipped and tight-assed, that we wouldn't scream even if you shoved a red-hot poker up our collective ass. Ha! As if they, with their fabled "Southern Hospitality," are any better. How is the leisurely drawl of welcome any deeper than the frosty gazes that greet you on the streets of London? How would a good Southern belle react if, to her dainty morning greeting of "How y'all doin'?" one were to reply, "Like Shit," or, "I think I'm going to kill myself." Well, at least Brits are sincere in our spite.

Or most of us are.
There are some who would lead a man on, let him send letter after letter (and I know that you're getting them, I do know!), and not once! Not once reply! If only to tell me that I was — still am — wasting my time!

But you're too dainty for that. A blue-blooded English woman would never sully her hands with such menial tasks. Sure, you don't have slaves, but all those immigrants from the '60s — they're nearly as good!

This would never have happened if you were a man because men sit down and talk things out, looking at each other squarely in the eye and telling each other exactly what the other thinks. Women are a mystery. There is no man, alive or having ever lived, who has understood women, seen past their alabaster-smooth skin and seen into their alligator hearts (which is indeed presuming that they have the aforementioned or-

gans). Homer warned us against woman. So did Milton. They both wrote beautiful poetry, and even then we failed to listen to them! Despite your perfidy, there is one object, one set of lines and volumes that will keep man entranced, at bay and on a leash forever and a day. One woman who grabs on to our balls and squeezes them 'til they pop through the roof of our mouth.

And who is my ill-starred object of desire? You ... as if there were ever any question! The ill-fated dead end of all my enquiries is you. No matter what train of thought I ever follow, it's your face in the light at the end of the tunnel.

The summer softness of your breasts. The autumnal fall of your neck — I wonder if I ever will be able to forget them.

It wasn't my fault getting into this situation, you know. "Fault" would imply that I had "choice" somewhere along the line — as if anything could be further from the truth! Rather like a Democratic candidate, my end was sealed from the very beginning. Besides, what kind of fool would willingly plunge into a long-distance relationship, the pleasures of which are very similar to those of Catholic confession — placebo comforts?

Anyone with even a mote of intelligence could have seen how this was going to end, with me as the Robinson Crusoe of the story, shipwrecked on an island of gun-toting, pill-popping, historically challenged savages, whose idea of a good time ranges from "cow tipping" to



AZIZ HUQ
LEGAL ALIEN

smoking crack on a Saturday night! It's no wonder that the English feel adrift in America. Not only is the land too big, but the ideas are, too — "LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS" — you can hear them booming out halfway across the world in the echo from the Marine's rifle, in the crack of the peasant's head splitting open. BOOM ... all big, hollow principles which hide nothing but a history of genocide and a future of exploitation.

How could you leave me alone here, an emotional paraplegic in the land of the morally blind? So, this is to be my last letter to you. Some would call me stupid for wasting all this time, expending all this quality wit, which could have earned me a position writing for the daytime soaps, and erudition, which might even get me a degree eventually, if another woman doesn't get in the way. As a parting gift, something to show you that I am not in the least bit bitter ...

Let me evoke a well-known bit of folk wisdom, a piece of sentiment often spoken but rarely anthologized and ever eloquent. It's a sentiment that has passed my lips and yours many a time (and might even be the only thing that they have in common), one which is hardly original, but everyone knows that there's nothing original to say in the post-modern epoch. To you, my distant, silent reader, the perpetual listener, the one who saves no words, I have only two words, two words of three and four letters that may indeed sum up not only my feelings but every current of civilization that has gone before us and will follow in our traces. For you, M., I have to say:

f— you,
just
f— you

Yours sincerely,
etc., etc.

Finance Committee's Investigation Wholly Legitimate

I wish to address the uninformed statements made in a Nov. 15 editorial, "A Court of Fools." As a member of the finance committee, I question how the committee's investigation is "a petty, unethical and politically motivated abuse of power" as the editorial suggests.

The Student Government Code delegates the power to Student Congress to require reports from "... organizations receiving funds from Student Government" (94 SGC I.I.I.4.0) and presents the responsibility to "receive and consider reports on behalf of the Congress" to the committees (94 SGC II.I.V.I.E). The Code also states that the committees "shall conduct hearings ... as they deem necessary on matters within their respective areas of competence" and "shall subpoena students to testify by majority vote such witnesses as are necessary ..." to accomplish the purposes of the hearings (94 SGC II.I.V.I.A-B).

Clearly the matters being investigated, considering they pertain to student fees allocated to student groups, fall well within the finance committee's area of competence.

If any criticism of the finance committee is legitimate, it is that the committee has been negligent in the past in requiring groups to be held accountable for the ways in which they acquire and spend student fees. Now that members of the student body have expressed concerns as to how their money is spent, the committee has decided to accept the burden of their duties and investigate these matters.

I wonder if this publication is suggesting the finance committee should avoid their responsibilities and ignore the voices of the students who elected them. Having established the legitimacy of the investigation, I wish to provide a factual account of the committee's proceedings to dispel any myths expressed by the editorial. I did not want to compare the finance committee's investigation with Mr. Battle's investigation,

because they are unrelated, but your editorial left me with no choice. Not only is the finance committee's investigation more expressly warranted by the Code, its organization is more defined than Mr. Battle's committee.

As for being an "independent panel," Mr. Battle's investigation committee includes four of his own appointees out of five committee members. All the members of the finance committee, in comparison, were elected by the student body long before the investigation began. In other words, the makeup of the committee was not established for the sole purpose of investigation by one President Battle.

Now, ask yourself which committee seems to be a politically motivated abuse of power. It also should be noted that the finance committee is proceeding most cautiously to ensure that they do not repeat the mistakes made by what your newspaper called a "Slack Investigation" by the Battle administration.

Each of the criticisms your paper had to offer on the Battle investigation have been addressed by this committee.

In fact, the finance committee has established guidelines for conduct to be followed for the entire investigatory process. These guidelines have allowed for a secretary to formulate official minutes and require that testimony be recorded. The committee is seeking a faculty adviser from the law school and has appointed Kevin Hunter as legal adviser.

If your publication objects to this appointment, the committee would welcome a suggestion of any member of the student body more qualified to serve in this capacity than Hunter, who has served in two administrations as the student body treasurer and the chief legal counsel, and one term on Student Congress.

In addition, it is absolutely "preposterous" to suggest that this committee has attempted to

JULIE GASPERINI
GUEST COLUMNIST

close its meetings to the public. For it was Battle's investigation that discouraged students from attending its meetings.

The only reason the N. C. Open Meetings Law was studied was to ensure that the committee did not infringe on the rights of individuals subpoenaed to testify. In fact, the committee wholeheartedly welcomes the public to attend the entire investigatory proceedings in order to procure the truth.

Furthermore, if this publication is so concerned that the members of the student body be present at these proceedings, then why the objection to three mentioned students doing just that? Let us not forget that it was Mr. Battle's investigation that sought the testimony of Mr. Allen, Mr. Jordan and other "has-beens."

It is also false that Finance Committee Chair Lyon neglected to inform Battle officially of the investigation. In fact, Mr. Battle did receive a written notice of the proceedings weeks before the printing of your editorial. It is ironic, however, that members of the finance committee never were notified of the investigation into their conduct by the Battle administration.

In defense of Tom Lyon's credibility, I would have to agree with many other members of Student Congress that Representative Lyon has proven his abilities as an effective leader of this committee. Lyon has insisted that every aspect of these proceedings be approved by a majority of the committee. Therefore, any question of his personal motives should be moot.

Finally, I question why this publication sends three members of its staff to each meeting to cover an investigation it claims to be "a kangaroo court." In light of the suggestion offered by the editorial, I would suggest that the editorial board of this paper represent professional journalism or stop writing.

Julie Gasperini is District 14 representative to Student Congress.

Columnists Wanted

The Daily Tar Heel editorial page is looking for weekly columnists to write next semester. We're looking for talented writers with a unique or interesting perspective to offer the campus community. Columnists can bring any persuasion to this page, political, editorial or otherwise. We welcome all applicants.

Applications will be available at the DTH office in Union Suite 104 today and at the Union Desk Monday. Completed applications will be due at the DTH by 5 p.m. Nov. 29. Finalists will be notified by telephone and will be interviewed by the editorial page editor and the editor.

Direct any questions to Thanassis Cambanis, editorial page editor, at 962-0245.

Homophobes, Beware!

TO THE EDITOR:

This letter is in response to the "WHITE" flag hanging in the Pit titled, "Republican Coming Out Day." Careful, you might just get what you're asking for. As a matter of fact, I know several Republicans in the closet. Would you like me to name a few? Moreover, why don't I just get a "WHITE" flag, put all of their names on it, and hang it in the Pit? Nevertheless, have your two years of glory. I repeat, two years! You will be given two years again to make complete asses of yourselves with 19th-century antics. Republicans now may have control over the House and the Senate, but Mr. Clinton is still in the biggest seat smoking a cigar (I wish a blunt),



READERS' FORUM

and he is inhaling. Your victory will be short-lived, and long-laughed for us. Do us all a favor, and stay in the closet!

John Patterson
CLASS OF 1994
CARRBORO

