

The Daily Tar Heel

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Foolish Talk

Every day, it seems, another smudge sullies the intellectual climate at UNC. In the libraries, the bars and the streets, members of the University community aren't just peeved or a little bit upset — they're angry, shocked and offended. The time has come to give serious consideration to the maintenance of a civil environment for public discourse.

Despite the claims of campus activists, the real problem is not hate speech but mean speech. With the help of the administration, the University community should work to eradicate the specter of meanness rearing its ugly head on campus.

Individually, students must stamp out (in the nicest manner possible) all vestiges of meanness they encounter. The Daily Tar Heel, in conjunction with several campus organizations, will be sponsoring mandatory "Stoplight" training sessions.

The method is simple. Green is good, red is bad. When a friend starts one of "those" jokes, just say, "Yellow light." This warns the speaker, and those around, that a mean comment may be imminent. If mean speech continues, assume the "hear-no-evil" stance by placing your hands over your ears and screaming, "RED LIGHT! RED LIGHT!"

Once a red light situation has occurred, report the mean person to your Resident Assistant or local thought police, who will in turn contact Student Attorney General David Huneycut, who

will investigate. Because of the ban on meanness, however, Huneycut will then soundly slap the culprit on the wrist.

Mean speech victims should be treated to free ice cream and a snuggly rendition of "Kumbaya." Students must remember that only nice "green light" speech contributes to the intellectual climate, while mean speech creates a climate for mean actions, like smoking and drinking to excess.

The administration must lend full support to eradicating mean speech by establishing a mean speech code, prohibiting all forms of expression which could be mean, or even unpleasant. Some cases of mean speech are obvious — "I wish there were more chicks in this class" or "I really don't like Indian food."

However, some speech is mean in a subversive way. For example, "I love you." While usually sweet, the expression of amore can make people VERY uncomfortable, especially since it is targeted speech. There is no love on a sensitive campus.

Of course, there are costs to the mean speech policy.

Flirting would be a felony, Chick-Fil-A would have no more employees and the editorial page would be a giant smiley face covered with the lyrics to "You are My Sunshine."

If eradicating meanness means eradicating speech, that leaves us just one thing to say — April Fools!

Transitive Property

For the Class of 1997, time is of the essence. Because of an inept elections board, Senior Class President-Elect Ladell Robbins and Vice President-Elect Amelia Bruce lost several critical weeks of transition time. All rising seniors should come together to ensure a productive and successful senior year.

Because of the questionable results of the Feb. 20 run-off election, the Honor Court demanded a new election on March 26. The time lag wasted an entire month in which the senior class would have been getting projects under way.

This year's campaign produced many acts of good will and cooperation among the candidates. Robbins and Bruce should immediately enlist other candidates' enthusiasm, leadership and experience. These candidates should cooperate for the class they sought to serve and lead. Robbins and Bruce might consider asking one candidate for the use of his beach house for an upcoming weekend. During this or a similar

retreat, they should begin the necessary work for a rewarding senior year.

Robbins and Bruce made a good start by quickly distributing senior class marshal applications. They want a diverse and exciting group of marshals dedicated to a successful senior year. All rising and returning seniors should consider applying for marshal positions by the deadline, April 8. The team should continue to work with the same zeal on other projects.

In his most visible act as senior class president, Thad Woody should actively work to smooth their transition as well.

There is no rest for the weary. Although Robbins and Bruce might enjoy (and deserve) some rest, the organization and planning of a successful senior year needs to occur now. A third election only makes the new officers more accountable to their constituents. They should make next year worth the time it took to elect them.

Affirmative Action Hampers, Not Helps, Equality

OBITUARY: AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DEAD, Year 2006: "The last blow was struck today to the practice of allowing minority status to be considered as a factor in the admissions process for institutions of higher learning. Affirmative action's death throes began in the early 1990s with Daniel Podberesky's challenge of the race-based Banniker scholarship at the University of Maryland and gained momentum in the University of California case and Jack Daly's challenge of a UNC Law School scholarship based on sexual preference. In courtrooms across the nation, preference-based systems have been found irreconcilable with the ideal of true democratic equality. Equality and the hard-fought goal of a colorblind society have now been achieved — on paper."

If the present trend is to be believed, folks, this is a reality we will soon have to face.

While affirmative action has certainly had its successes, there is much more to be gained by its demise.

With affirmative college admissions systems in this state, we can arithmetically fill slots with enough smiling minority faces to decorate our brochures, bolster our statistics and afford us all an affirmative pat on the back.

By applying this easy fix-upper at the college level, we are conveniently excused from the more painful contemplation of the fact that the economic disparity in school system funding in this state has a heck of a lot more to do with who — no matter what race they are — will attend UNC.

Why not just fix things at the end, rather than undertaking the massive job of leveling the playing field from the beginning so that we can earn each other's respect through fair competition rather than affirmation?

As a society, I believe we fear equality. Not economic or social equality, but the kind of equality that threatens to relegate us to being one among a common mass, the kind of equality that would scorn the idea of race, sex, sexual preference or creed as part of an application, the kind of equality that threatens the part of our identity which clings to our racial and cultural difference

and demands respect for and acknowledgement of it.

I have always found the choice of the term "affirmative" fascinating. Preference systems certainly are affirmative — of white guilt. Our society has now, on some unconscious level, attached a guilt to white skin. It matters little whether your ancestors were Indian-butchering, slave-owning New-Worlders or immigrants who stepped off the boat only 20 years ago.

This phenomenon does not actually demand that you feel guilty for the color of your skin (or the fact that you are male, a far worse crime), only that you acknowledge that you should be. It infers that you have no right to stake a cultural claim in a multicultural society.

It mandates silence and support of easy fix-its like affirmative action that save each and every one of us the awkwardness of truly learning to know our cultural others in this society. If we can spreadsheet our tolerance in rainbow-colored statistics that say the job is being done, if we make major bureaucratic decisions on carefully diverse committees, why should any of us bother to expand our comfortably redundant little personal climates?

We have become obsessed with dissecting our society, with tagging our differences and living within carefully drawn lines and hyphenated identities.

Because these identities would be threatened by an ignorant society, we demand that others learn about our histories and our cultures with the assumption that once they are educated, their unquestioning respect will be automatically forthcoming. We brand them intolerant if it is not. We have no desire to know the "others" of whom we require this. And thus multiculturalism is born.



TARA SERVATIUS
BRUTAL HONESTY

Education about our diverse cultural heritages is crucial to our mutual survival in an increasingly diverse society. The problem lies in how we are going about it. There is no easier way to rile the two instructors of my multicultural UNITAS program than to question why we can't emphasize our sameness and the common ground we share while learning about our cultural uniqueness. The idea of sharing any kind of common ground with those we are told we are so different from is a threat to the very foundations of a program that seeks to educate with the goal of the survival and perpetuation of the difference which exists comfortably within the neat little dividers drawn by our society.

Preserving cultural and racial heritage is important. But so is finding common ground as a cure for ignorance and fear. As a student body, we have far more in common with each other than we do with others our age who are attempting to survive in the world without a college education.

Rather than working toward that common ground, we build monuments to our difference. If the massive amount of time, money and planning spent on the part of students, alumni and administrators to build the Sonja J. Haynes Black Cultural Center, a women's center and an Asian center had been spent instead working with those too disadvantaged to have the opportunities we have had, a tangible difference might have been made in people's lives.

For all the student fee money spent on "diversity" programs and activities, a walk from the Undergrad to the Pit will prove that while we may have been "educated," little or no social change has taken place. We will likely graduate knowing as little about the day-to-day lives of "others" on this campus as we did as freshmen, and that is a real shame. We are failing to do the work of diversity, and until we learn to do it — or are forced to — that ideal of true democratic equality, as opposed to the sham that currently passes for it, will never be realized.

Tara Servatius is a senior journalism major from Matthews.



? ? The Weekly POP QUIZ

- Why does UNC need a women's center?
 - There will be a 99 percent chance of not getting hit on there.
 - Welcome to the 1990s, North Carolina.
 - The old Scuttlebutt building shouldn't go to waste (even if it has been condemned).
 - Most institutions of UNC's size, nature and composition have women's centers, providing much-needed services and information.
- Why is the Internal Revenue Service visiting UNC?
 - Two words: Cash Daddy.
 - An anonymous \$1 million donation to certain administrators' numbered Swiss bank accounts.
 - After their success in raiding massage parlors last week, they figured they might as well look into Hooker's university.
 - Boredom.

ANSWERS: 1. a, 2. c.

Publication's Free Speech Silenced Without Advisers

TO THE EDITOR:

The undersigned have agreed to serve as faculty advisers to the Carolina Review during the remainder of the 1995-96 academic year.

The Carolina Review has been without a faculty adviser. Until now it has been unable to identify any faculty or staff member to serve in that capacity. This is primarily attributable to the controversial and sometimes offensive nature of its past issues. Without a faculty adviser, the Carolina Review does not qualify as a student organization. The consequences are that it is deprived of student government funds, funds contributed by alumni to the Carolina Annual Fund earmarked for the Carolina Review and use of facilities. This makes it impossible, as a practical matter, for the Carolina Review to publish future issues.

It would be a shocking limitation upon the freedom of expression in this University if a controversial periodical were to be denied the opportunity to publish because of the inability to satisfy the technical requirement of a faculty adviser. Freedom of expression is of the essence of academic life. This is a state university subject to the First Amendment. The right to speak is not limited by the sensitivities of the audience.

When rights are denied to any of us, we are all at risk.

Paul G. Haskell
KENAN PROFESSOR OF LAW

Daniel H. Pollitt
KENAN PROFESSOR OF LAW EMERITUS

Younger Republicans Support Hayes As Well As Vinroot

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in response to an article by Jennifer Wilson ("Many Younger Republicans' joined Vinroot's Camp," March 12). Perhaps Vinroot has gotten publicity in The Daily Tar Heel because he is a Carolina alumnus, but I would like to point out a few facts that were misleading.

The Straw Poll touted by the Vinroot campaign from the Young Republican Convention involved only 50 people, most of whom are not students.

The College Republicans, on the other hand,

READERS' FORUM

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticism. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 words and must be typed, double-spaced, dated and signed by no more than two people. Students should include their year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff should include their title, department and phone number. The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Bring letters to the DTH office at Suite 104, Carolina Union, mail them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 or e-mail forum to: dth@unc.edu.

represents only college students.

Richard Vinroot may claim to have strong support among youth, but facts simply do not back this claim.

The North Carolina Federation of College Republicans conducted a Straw Poll at its Fall Convention. The result: Robin Hayes defeated Richard Vinroot by a margin of 2 to 1.

With over 125 college students participating in this Straw Poll, it is clear that Robin Hayes has the overwhelming support of young activists.

In addition, the Students for Hayes organization has organized over 15 college campuses with hundreds of members across the state — and support is growing every day.

Vinroot has publicly attacked young Hayes supporters on numerous occasions. He has called us everything from "props" and "barking dogs" to "Viet Nam picketers." If this is Vinroot's way of garnering youth support, I can see why his support is dwindling.

On March 12 Republican voters at the Wake County Republican Convention supported Hayes over Vinroot in a straw poll by a vote of 275 to 265.

The momentum in the governor's race is clearly shifting in favor of Hayes.

The youth activists of today will be the leaders of tomorrow.

We do not need a candidate for governor attacking the future leaders of this state.

We need a governor that has a vision for the

future and believes in the youth of this state — that candidate is Robin Hayes.

Nicole Vandiver
CHAIRWOMAN, UNC-CH STUDENTS FOR HAYES

Existential-Casual Gothism of Miner Should Not Be Mocked

TO THE EDITOR:

I write this letter in direct opposition to Nic Creznic's comments against columnist Tim Miner ("Rewriting Tim Miner: Stick to Humor, Not Star Wars Tutorials," March 27).

Tim's weekly Friday column, "Carolina Gothic," stems from and is firmly rooted in the philosophies of its ancestor column, "Dom Casual and Frank Goth." These philosophies are clearly outlined in the bylaws of the original text on Existential-Casual Gothism, available on reserve at the Undergraduate Library.

Take point three of section eight, chapter one. "The practicing scribe of Existential-Casual Gothism (ECG) must make it his/her duty to observe and analyze the alleged nugacity of various aspects of life on Earth and to challenge aggressively the assumed insignificance of those elements as they relate to our existence" (I.A.iii). As an open practitioner of ECG, I would challenge the insignificance of Mr. Creznic's comments — but I would ultimately fail.

If Mr. Creznic cannot appreciate the humor of "Carolina Gothic," it is probably because he represents everything that the ideologies of the column strive to retreat from. In a world in which everyone wants to project a political stance or add their two cents into an endless orgy of tiring PC babble, it is fortunate that we have Tim Miner's efforts as a refreshing and hysterical reminder of what is truly important in life: the unimportant. If Nic Creznic's preferred mode of humor includes the usual commentary on violence, pornography and "kids these days," then I suggest that he submit his resume and supporting creative materials to Mad Magazine, as his obvious lack of humor would make him a perfect candidate for the position Nic buddy, if you're gonna write something, for public display. Work on you're grammar and punctuation? I mean, yes, commas are not the most important thing in the world but come on if you think about it there are a body of rules that should be followed. Am I wrong here.

Matt Olin
CLASS OF 1995

THE DAILY TAR HEEL

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