

The Daily Tar Heel

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Single sexed out

As four female cadets enter South Carolina's Citadel, the school demonstrates honorable regard for the law and opportunity for progress.

The Citadel took a step forward for equal opportunity education Saturday when four women — Petra Lovetinska, Nancy Mace, Kim Messer and Charlotte native Jeanie Mentavlos — entered the institution with this year's freshman class. Both the institution and the four celebrated freshmen have demonstrated the sort of resolve necessary to make the Citadel just as successful as a coeducational entity.

Citadel officials made it clear that their primary concern in admitting the women was to obey the law; specifically, the Supreme Court ruling that publicly financed single-sex education was unconstitutional. However, the school must comply not only with the letter of the law, but also with the spirit of it, by working to make the changes necessary to accommodate women.

The four women must also attempt to understand the culture of the military institution and live within it. Citadel officials have acted admirably in understanding that the decision to include women has been made and that it is their job to implement it. The school reportedly has taken 56 classes to welcome the women and brief the upperclassmen about integrating women successfully into the school's community.

The young women have displayed aggressive attitudes and athletic prowess — what may have been the ingredients lacking from Shannon Faulkner's abortive attempt at being the first woman to complete the Citadel's educational program. The determination expressed by both the four women and the institution must be sustained if the latest initiative is to be a success.

We must also remember the new educational choice provided for women has come with the elimination of one choice for men — to receive the Citadel's unique educational experience in a single-sex setting.

This decision may be the first step towards the elimination of a whole range of educational options: black colleges, women's schools and all-male institutions not yet forced to change. Nearly all educational institutions are, to a degree, publicly funded, and the precedent set in the Citadel ruling may be applied to them in the future.

Obviously our leaders will have to weigh the sacrifices inherent in such radical changes. Becoming an equal opportunity society may mean the sacrifice of a range of opportunities. But four women entering the ranks of an honorable, law-abiding institution sheds a sense of renewal and hope on that sacrifice.

In class, check out who you sit with. Look at how your Women's Studies class is 90 percent women, how your African-American Studies class is 90 percent African American.

Isn't it great how we can all sit and laugh here in the same club together, black and white... And not understand each other? It could only happen in America.
—Richard Pryor

As you sit in class, in the Pit, on the toilet, wherever — this week, take a moment and look around. Look around and think about how distant we are from each other.

As diverse as this campus is, there is NO real interaction between ethnic groups, not even during that swanky week designated for "race relations."

In the Pit, notice the black people in front of the Undergraduate Library and on the wall to the right of Lenoir. Native-American folks on the corner next to the black people, Indian students in one corner of the Pit, tie-dye non-conformists in another corner, a lot of white frat boys and sorority girls on the wall across from the UL, and basketball and football players in front of it.

Appropriately named, the Pit represents a ditch between your group and mine, no matter who we are, and no one is crossing it. We each occupy our own little territory. The boundaries are so set we might as well design flags and hoist them above our plots. Unofficially, we party with our own groups. Great Hall is Black Hall. Fraternity Court is White Court and the Cabaret is for "everyone else."

Before you think I'm ready to advocate some corny We-Are-the-World, let's-all-hold-hands, can't-we-all-just-get-along solution to "the racial issue," let me say, I like this.

It's cool that we're different. We must develop organizations and atmospheres to support our unique interests, otherwise we face

Independent book store not threat to UNC Student Stores

A small number (15 or so) of professors and graduate teaching assistants on this campus help support the existence of the independent bookstore, Internationalist Books (on Franklin Street), by ordering our course books through them.

For reasons that utterly baffle me, Student Stores apparently sees this practice as a threat. By underhanded means (since they neither asked the instructors involved nor the staff at the Internationalist), Student Stores found out which courses had placed orders with the Internationalist and what books had been ordered for this fall semester.

Student Stores then ordered the same books (still without informing the instructors involved) and stocked the books accordingly under the appropriate course orders.

Is the existence of other book stores in town an outrage Student Stores cannot tolerate? Does it harbor some monopolistic fantasy of driving stores like the Internationalist from town? (We are talking about the elephant trying to stamp out the mouse here.)

Independent booksellers are a vanishing breed, and the advantages of diversity in bookselling are similar to diversity's advantages in other markets and other nonmarket activities. Different bookstores will stock, highlight and value different books at a time when over 55,000 new books are published in America alone each year.

If certain professors choose to spread the money generated by students' buying course books around town a little bit, Student Stores would do well to recognize that it would do better serving the needs of the customers who come to it, than in trying to serve customers who have chosen to take their business elsewhere.

John McGowan
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

English professor stands with 'Tall Figures of the Earth'

The first chapter of Jesse Stuart's 1938 autobiography "Beyond Dark Hills" is entitled



One way to ditch our silences — crossing the Pit



RICHARD HARRIS
AIRING DIRTY LAUNDRY

assimilation — the disintegration of identity.

Curricula must be developed by and about women and people of color because every building is already named after a white man. Every bust outside every department depicts a white guy. We actually need more support for our individual groups.

However, if the Women's Studies classes continue to overflow with women and the African-American Studies classes fill up with African Americans, society will not really learn. Men will still believe Mike Tyson was innocent and somebody will still confuse Harriet Tubman with Maya Angelou.

I hear my senior classmates acknowledge that most learning in college comes from interaction with people outside of class — the four-in-the-morning arguments in your dorm or in Miami Subs about religion, gender and race. But if you've only argued with a few people in a few classes, what have you learned? What did you get out of Carolina's diverse extracurriculum, other than a lot of parties, a few basketball games and a tattoo from some guy named on Franklin Street named Stormshadow?

What I want you to do for me is take a risk this entire year, especially if it's your senior year. Do something different. Cross some boundaries. Jump in the Pit between your group and another. Black people, go to He's Not this Thursday. Listen to some Beck. White people, go to BW-3 next Tuesday. Listen to some Nas. If you're Asian, I want to see you in

Great Hall; if you're Native American, come with me to a Sangam mixer. Learn something new about a group of people.

As you cross each group's little moat, be real. Be frank and honest. Masking your thoughts tears down our bridge. Say exactly what's on your mind, then listen.

As a little kid with a big ol' Afro, I had an uncanny knack for letting people know exactly what was on my mind, whether they wanted to know it or not. I'd get in trouble for saying stuff people usually keep to themselves. Let's all say what needs to be said even if we air our own dirty laundry.

One positive discussion I've had here at UNC was with a guy from South Carolina about his Confederate flag. Even though he probably thought I some kind of militant and I thought he was ignorant for whining over a war that ended 130 years ago, we understood each other. I burned his flag and he shot me with his hunting rifle, but we were honest.

White people, admit you're mad that O.J. got off. Black people, list the reasons you know he didn't do it.

Even as elections approach, remember: the most destructive repercussion and dangerous force in America is not the Republican Party, Ross Perot or the Arch Deluxe, but your silence. If you don't speak up and say what you believe, you'll lose. Ten percent of the people must not be allowed to dictate your future.

Within Richard Pryor's cynicism is the sharp splinter of truth that says communication is essential for UNC and America to survive.

End note: Dante Calabria and Harry Connick Jr. tie for first (in what was a tight race) for the Honorary Black Man of the Year Award.

Richard Harris is a senior journalism major from Hercules, Calif.



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.

"Tall Figures of the Earth." In it, Stuart describes ancestors from both sides of his family, and his spare, beautiful prose convinces the reader that many of his forebears were indeed giants — epic eaters, drinkers, fighters, workers — Kentucky mountain people of huge dimensions. And it becomes obvious that Stuart sees his own life in the context of theirs; he knew from early childhood that he had large boots to fill.

This past July 31, a giant of this earth and the University community passed away, leaving those of us who knew him with a void in our lives. Robert Addison Bain joined the English Department at UNC in 1964, where he taught composition and American literature for 32 years.

Although he retired from full-time teaching in 1991, he continued to teach part time until December 1995. During his years in Greenlaw Hall, he won every significant award for undergraduate teaching the University offers; he wrote and edited over 15 books; produced countless articles, chapters, and papers; taught writing workshops throughout the state, primarily for public school educators; directed 17 doctoral dissertations, 49 master's theses, and 30 honors essays.

In addition to his contributions to our community, he was in 1982 and again in 1993 visiting professor at universities in Spain, a country with which he fell in love.

As impressive as they are, even these numbers and honors fail to capture the essence of Bob Bain. He was, to borrow James Still's phrase, "the pattern of a man." He always balanced scholarly acumen with earthy common sense and pointed insight with kindness.

He was that rare combination of gifted writer and skillful editor. Never in the years that I knew him — as professor, mentor, editor and friend — did his native wit fail him, and I delight to think that he has graced heaven with a spirited profanity or two during the past few weeks.

He taught me, and countless others, not only how to read and write but also how to live.

The essence of the man was that he cared when he didn't have to — about his students, about his colleagues, about public school children. His was a vast and passionate heart.

How, then, can we honor the passing of a giant? Hamlet says of his dead father:

'A was a man, take him for all in all, I shall not look upon his like again.'

Nor shall we. But we must, here in the kingdom that we shared with Bob Bain, strive to marry reflection to action, to leaven thought with compassion. For when a tall one dies, all who follow are forced to grow.

Terry Roberts
UNC PH.D., 1989
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PAIDEIA CENTER

Searching for meaning? Consider sharpening your editorial skills

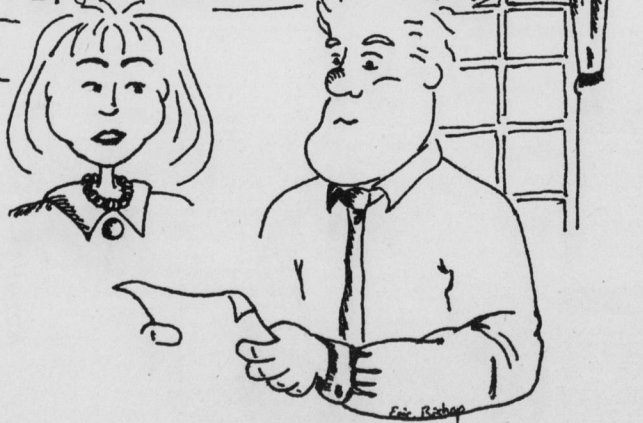
Are you tired of keeping silent on local issues? Do you have a knack for spouting off your thoughts on international news? Fear not, for The Daily Tar Heel is here to help you apply those gifts.

Let the word go forth: we need mail. In order for the Reader's Forum to fulfill its role, readers need to get involved and enlighten us with their thoughts. Letters to the editor should be dropped off at Suite 104 of the Student Union. Keep 'em short.

If you aspire to something even greater, consider applying for the editorial board. A few spots have opened up, and we will soon be looking for writers. Applications will be available Wednesday. Pick them up at the DTH office.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Bob spoke about the issues, while Elizabeth's speech focused on Bob's good characteristics. So... I'll address the issues and you can talk about my good characteristics.



Eric Bobber