

The Daily Tar Heel

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BOARD EDITORIALS

On your way to the polls ...

The Daily Tar Heel endorses the following candidates and issues on the local ballot. All voters should do their duty and go to the polls today.

The following endorsements are based on newspaper articles, campaign literature and discussion among members of the editorial board. The endorsement process did not entail interviews or questionnaires as in previous years. More important than whether every registered voter agrees with these decisions is that they get out and exercise that power which separates our country from many: the power of the vote.

- President**
Bill Clinton
- U.S. Senate**
Harvey Gantt
- U.S. House**
David Price
- N.C. governor**
Jim Hunt
- N.C. Senate**
Howard Lee
Teena Little
- N.C. House**
Joe Hackney
Verla Insko
- Orange County commissioner**
Margaret Brown
Moses Carey

- N.C. Public School Building Bonds**
Yes
- Constitutional amendment to give veto power to the N.C. governor**
Yes
- Constitutional amendment to allow alternative sentencing**
Yes
- Victim's Rights Amendment**
No
- Chapel Hill bonds:**
 - \$5 million for parks and recreation**
Yes
 - \$3 million for open space and greenways**
Yes
 - \$3 million for street and sidewalk improvements**
No
 - \$2 million for fire and police facilities**
Yes
 - \$500,000 for public works**
No
 - District school referendum**
Yes



'Good ol' boys' of Hazard sound awfully familiar

"...just the good ol' boys, never meanin' no harm/ Been in trouble with the law since the day they was born."
—Dukes of Hazard theme song

Keep it to yourself, but at least be true to yourself and admit it. You used to like the "Dukes of Hazard." You arrived to the couch early every Friday night just like me. You watched Bo and Luke outsmart the police and apprehend the 'real' criminals — scheming Northerners polluting Southern ways, ending the good ol' days.

I remember I used to like the Dukes of Hazard. Now I look back and wonder what the hell I was thinking. Some people may still watch reruns of the "Dukes of Hazard" on some small backwoods cable station, but for those of you who didn't, take a moment and recall the main characters:

- Bo and Luke** — the dynamic duo, "just the good ol' boys, never meanin' no harm."
- Cooter** — the local scruffy mechanic who helped the Dukes when they were in a bind and also laundered their money.
- Daisy Duke** — the tantalizing temptress, who teased evil men toward the Dukes with her tight cutoffs.
- Uncle Jesse** — the 'big-willie' kingpin and brains behind the Duke outfit, a big old Santa-Claus lookin' white dude in overalls, a redneck version of Star Wars' Yoda.
- Boss Hogg** — the mafioso on the other side — the financier, political boss and corrupt don of Hazard county — always dressed in white, smoking cigars and eating pork.
- Roscoe Pico Train** — Hogg's equally corrupt but clumsy right hand man.
- Enos** — Roscoe's bumbling sidekick.

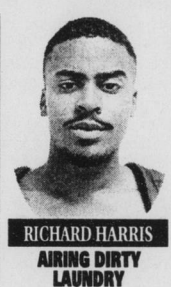
I thought these were some cool dudes, my friends and I always watched the show. But my parents didn't really dig the Dukes.

I don't know if it was because Mom grew up in Alabama, on what would have been the other side of Hazard county's railroad tracks, where the sole Black person on the show, the motorcycle cop, probably lived. Or, maybe Dad didn't like the Dukes because Bo and Luke made me want to jump into the car without opening the doors.

Or maybe, the show was just plain racist.

Hindsight makes it so easy to look back and say the show was racist.

Looking back, the Dukes seem like a precursor to today's right wing militia groups who want to stamp out big government, 'niggers, fags, jews and anyone who doesn't wear camouflage' (in that order). Every episode of the Dukes was a mini-Freedmen's standoff, a militiamen's daydream of the day they'll take back America.



RICHARD HARRIS
AIRING DIRTY LAUNDRY

And as that racism continues in 1996, we still can't overlook it or provide excuses for it. Racism on TV is more subtle now and hard to find. Racism may manifest itself through a character's perception of Native-Americans, stereotyped Jewish people or the absence of positive Hispanic figures. Subtle racism seeps through the movies and other media too.

In fact, racism is still in every circle — social, educational, political and others, but we can't overlook it just because there's action, humor or news disguising it.

Racism was America's birth defect, a genetic mutation that stunted its growth since conception. The mutation was responsible for retarded movements like during World War I when America's racism convinced the government to shut down German-American newspapers and imprison German-American citizens. During World War II, America's racism persuaded the government to put Japanese-Americans in internment camps. During the Cold War, America's racism forced the government to undermine Third World politics, overthrow governments and distribute drugs to urban black youth. During the Gulf War, America's racism asked the government to send disproportionate numbers of Hispanic soldiers to Saudi Arabia.

But check yourself before you think racism infected America only during wars. It's "peacetime" now. And don't think for a minute that racism no longer runs the government.

In fact, don't think racism stops with the government and don't think that racism stops with society.

We have a tendency to make sweeping remarks about what "society" dictates, as if "society" is some man running things. But society is us.

And racism begins and ends with you and me. So today, vote. And vote against racism — there's no excuse for racism. You have a chance today to run Boss Hogg out of office.

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

?? The Weekly POP QUIZ

- 1. How will our town leaders lure students to voting sites?**
 - a. Milk and cookies. Lots of 'em.
 - b. A celebrity student government official will be at a mystery poll site wearing nothing but a campaign sign.
 - c. The miscreants who pasted Jesse Helms "Little White Lies" posters everywhere will come up with something a little more racy.
 - d. Rumor has it that Jennifer Aniston or the Squirrel Nut Zippers will be performing somewhere. We promise.
- 2. Why should you participate in today's election?**
 - a. Voting is fat-free and has no artificial preservatives or flavoring.
 - b. It's good practice for the upcoming Student Congress election.
 - c. We have the opportunity to vote out all of the old incompetent crooks and can elect entirely new ones. Younger, cuter ones, maybe.
 - d. Voting sure beats the hell out of donating blood (you don't get any sweets, but you do get a nifty sticker).
- 3. If candidates truly don't receive money from PACs, then where does it all come from?**
 - a. It grows on trees.
 - b. Really large bake sales.
 - c. Underneath the plush cushions of UNC-system President C.D. Spangler's living room couch.
 - d. The same marvelously successful cattle investments that have brought our first lady large dividends.
- 4. What student suggestions were not considered when P2P Xpress changed its services?**
 - a. Happy hour.
 - b. How to get through the woods from the dark doorway of Craige Residence Hall to the new P2P stop — much farther away.
 - c. Did someone happen to mention a sauna and heart-shaped couch?
 - d. Off-campus service so the 16,000 students who don't live in dorms yet pay student fees can take advantage of the automatic DD, too.

THE DAILY TAR HEEL

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Columnist should substitute 'I' for 'we' in political diatribe

The author is a member of the UNC Young Democrats' Executive Committee

TO THE EDITOR:
Well, thank goodness we have Chris Yates, that master of political thought, to keep his finger so closely to the pulse of ethical concerns of our nation.

It seems that Mr. Yates, after picking up a copy or two of The Washington Post and The New York Times, is a representative for the voters of the United States. He has determined just what Americans consider priorities in the upcoming presidential election.

If you're as confused as I am by this absolutist school of thought, try this: go back and read his guest column ("A question of character," Oct. 28) again. Where it says "the country" or "our nation" or "voters," substitute instead the words "I" or "me." It will then make much more sense.

Yates claims that Americans are "largely conservative." Where he got this statistic, I'm not sure. However, I find his misguided definition of what it means to be conservative more troubling. It seems that conservatives are people that want "lower taxes" and "balanced budgets." Hmm. Now, I consider myself a liberal, but I would really like to see these things happen. Go figure.

The point is, Yates cannot speak for this nation when it comes to stating what the priorities of the upcoming election are. He and I have widely diverging opinions on which of Bill Clinton's actions demonstrate character and which do not. Take, for example, Yates' statement that Clinton, "by listening to the people of this nation and 'becoming what they want,'" is reflecting poor ethics. Uh, Chris, last time I checked, recognizing the changing needs of a country and representing the dynamic population is what a president is supposed to do.

Yates also criticizes Clinton's federal spending package and tax policies. In doing so, Yates equates economics with character, an

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.

impossible equation. Money and morality begin with the same letter; that is where the similarity ends. Yates persists, questioning the ethics of gays in the military and plans for national health care. I do not consider these to be bad agendas.

Yates is putting a morally absolute label on issues that are highly subjective.

Heidi C. Schmitt
JUNIOR
PSYCHOLOGY

Alice Walker's presentation includes Muslim stereotypes

TO THE EDITOR:
There is no doubting the fact that Alice Walker is one of the most important writers of our time. The work she has done to encourage victims of oppression of all types to stand up for themselves cannot be viewed as anything but positive. So, in accordance with Ms. Walker's message, I must stand up.

During her speech in Memorial Hall on Oct. 29, Ms. Walker made a comment that did not sit well with me. While all her work is

dedicated to breaking down stereotypes and overcoming oppression, she fell into stereotyping a little understood group in this country. She made the mistake of stereotyping Muslims. Ms. Walker was telling the audience about one of her stories that was banned from a California standardized test. The story was about a Christian woman who married a Muslim man and her oppression under him. In her relation of the story, she suggested that all Muslim men oppress their wives.

This comment was made in passing, and probably did not affect many members of the audience. However, that is where the problem lies. We cannot overcome the negativity of stereotypes without first realizing when they are being used. All stereotypes have some basis in fact. Some Muslim men do oppress their wives. Some black men break the law. Some southern whites are members of the Ku Klux Klan. These statements are all true. It is when we generalize these facts, or, more specifically, fail to limit the extent of these generalizations, that there is a problem.

This is what happened during Alice Walker's speech. In her efforts to try to liberate women she has oppressed another group. I hope everyone who was present realized this was an unfair statement to make about Muslim men. Anyone who has been stereotyped knows how hurtful it can be, and should realize that just because it is still politically correct to stereotype Muslims as turban-headed terrorists and oppressors, it is not right. I am sorry such a monumental event at UNC had to be tainted with such a remark.

Sammy Banawan
JUNIOR
PSYCHOLOGY

The clock is ticking ...

The deadline for applications to The Daily Tar Heel's editorial board is 5 p.m. Thursday. Applications are in Suite 104 of the Student Union. Questions regarding either applications or the editorial board should be referred to Editorial Page Editor Ryan Norwood at 962-4086.

The editorials are approved by the majority of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor, editorial page editor and seven editorial writers.
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