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The Daily Tar Heel

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BOARD EDITORIALS

Bad Reaction

Once again, campus organizations have expressed irate concern over something that was legitimately printed in a newspaper. This time the trouble has nothing to do with UNC-Chapel Hill or The Daily Tar Heel.

A paid pamphlet advertisement entitled "The Revisionist," which was published in the Old Gold and Black, Wake Forest University's student newspaper, has caused tension between student organizations and the newspaper.

The pamphlet, written by Bradley Smith, was intended to spark a debate about the Holocaust, and there is no reason why the Old Gold and Black shouldn't have run it.

Minority organizations at Wake Forest were outraged and have voiced disappointment about the newspaper's decision to run the ad. Calling it immoral, some organizations have gone so far as to demand a published apology from the newspaper.

What is disappointing is that some campus groups that disagree with the pamphlet are attacking the newspaper for printing it. They should be directing their efforts toward getting their point of view out to the public.

Julie Eling, president of Wake Forest University Hillel, a Jewish student group, said that it was unfair for the pamphlet to be published when other groups are "forced to take a responsive stand instead of a proactive

one." The only thing to be done in a situation such as this is to react to the circumstances. The newspaper had no obligation to let other groups know it was running the ad ahead of time.

University newspapers usually cover student reactions to controversies on campus. Therefore, now is the time for irked organizations to make a public response.

By holding rallies, forums, debate sessions, distributing fliers, etc., organizations such as Hillel can make clear their point concerning the Holocaust many times over.

Instead, campus groups are wasting their time by trying to rally support on campus against the newspaper for printing the ad.

As for Eling's concern over other organizations not being able to respond to the pamphlet in the newspaper, a simple letter to the editor would be both time-efficient and effective.

Groups could also make their rebuttal in an ad of their own.

Whether Smith's pamphlet is moral or immoral is not the point. The fact remains that the text was published as the views of Bradley Smith alone. The newspaper never acknowledged any agreement - or disagreement - with Smith's views.

The Old Gold and Black owes no apology.

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK — JOE MONACO

Basketball 101

Regardless of what happens tonight in Austin when the boys in blue square off against fourth-seeded Tennessee, it is undeniable that, if nothing else, this season has been educational. Let's review what we've learned.

We've learned that Maui is a great place to play a basketball tournament.

We've learned that stress fractures in your little toe can be a big deal.

We've learned what a Wahoo is - twice.

We've learned that Robert O'Kelly can lie dormant for three quarters of a basketball game and then erupt. We learned that one twice, too.

We've learned that it is possible for a freshman guard to show the heart, the courage and the guts of a fifth-year senior.

We've learned that losing Ed Cota for a few minutes at Cameron (or anywhere else, for that matter) is generally not a good thing - 21-8 run, anybody?

We've learned that Cota and Terrence Newby were trick-or-treating on Franklin Street last October when they reportedly sacrificed their own personal safety in an attempt to "break-up" a fight. What fine citizens. Thanks for making the campus safe again, guys.

We've learned that the greatest player in North Carolina basketball history has a

drinking problem. Apparently, life isn't as easy as running Four Corners.

We've learned that the Carl Torbush method of swaying public opinion with consecutive late season wins works just as well on the hardwood as it does on the gridiron. Coach Gut, welcome back.

We've learned that playing a tough non-league schedule does not necessarily prepare you for the regular season. Nine wins in a weak ACC isn't exactly the epitome of readiness.

We've learned that Brendan Haywood is among the most dominant big men in the country - when he chooses to be.

We've learned that Julius Peppers probably works out. A lot.

We've learned that running a competitive campaign for Student Body President isn't as tough as Brad Matthews makes it out to be. Bersticker, we thought you had it.

We've learned that pre-season ratings mean absolutely nothing.

And if nothing else, this past week has shown us that no matter how bad things might seem, there is something magically inspiring about wearing blue and white to the Big Dance.

Boys, keep up the intensity, and good luck tonight in Austin.

Oh yeah. Thanks for the education.

For the Record

The editorial "Incomplete Tour" (March 22) should have stated that members of the Joint Select Committee on Capital Needs visited a medical research building and a Mid Campus residence hall.

BAROMETER

Private Service
Chancellor Search Committee Chairman Richard Stevens is honored April 3 for his work as a Wake County commissioner. Too bad his service here cannot also be considered "public."

No Mo' Ho Hos
A Teamsters strike has shut down bakeries and is causing shortages of Hostess products on the East Coast. Monica Lewinsky and Roseanne are mourning the loss.

Indecisive Decision
A committee on fair labor conditions avoided making a real decision when it decided UNC should join two monitoring groups. Time to come down off the fence.

Bring It On, Vols
After a season that has been less-than-stellar, the Heels are in the Sweet 16 after a surprising defeat of Stanford. Final Four, here we come!

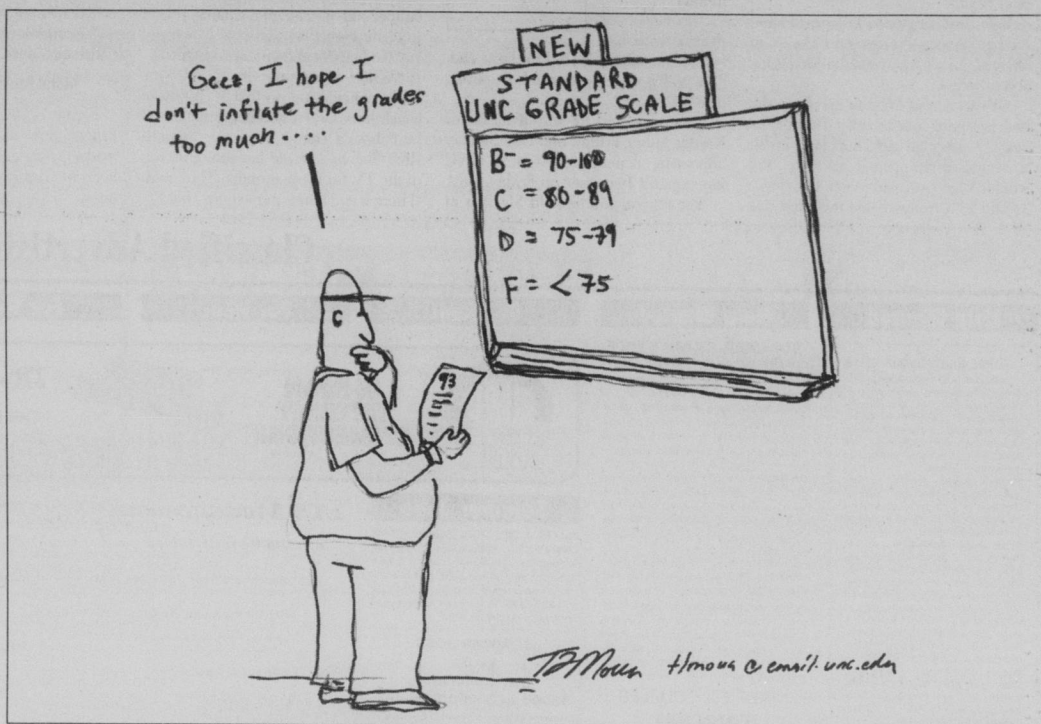
TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

"As a conservative and a Christian, it was frustrating to see the money going to organizations I disagree with."
ATTORNEY SCOTT SOUTHWORTH
Concerning his lawsuit against the University of Wisconsin. Following that logic, we should all just stop paying taxes.

"I know how much it would have meant for someone to come to me to say thank you."
RHA PRESIDENT MURRAY COLEMAN
Discussing Resident Assistant Appreciation Week. You have to actually do something first for people to be grateful.

"In Canada, they abolished the death penalty, and (the murder rate) dropped ..."
SISTER HELEN PREJEAN
Speaking about how the death penalty is ineffective. Maybe if we got rid of punishments altogether, the overall crime rate would go down.

"If I were government and you were the University, and I wanted chocolate and you wanted vanilla, we'd be having chocolate."
LOCAL AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR AARON NELSON
On Chapel Hill's proposal to annex University-owned land. If UNC wanted Cool Whip, things might be different.



Hangin' With Castro in Havana

You've partied with MTV in Cancun, Jay-Z in Key West and sucked down Shlitzes in the Redneck Riviera. Next year? Cuba!

How to get there: You're not really supposed to go to Cuba. But then again, you're not really supposed to smoke pot or bet on the NCAA tourney. Simply fly to Cancun and then fly to Havana from there. Just make sure you fly on Mexicana or AeroCaribe.

If you fly on one of the Cuban planes, pack a parachute. You'll arrive in the newly renovated (courtesy of the Canadian government) José Martí International Airport. At the airport, there's no need to change money. You'll use American dollars the whole trip, thanks to Castro's legalization of the dollar seven years ago. And because the Cubans want your dollars, they won't stamp your passport. The United States will never be the wiser!

Where to stay: Never mind that the rest of the city is falling apart, you'll be staying in Havana's finest renovated hotels. Featuring balcony views of the rubble below, you'll luxuriate in rooms with air conditioning while the rest of the city endures power outages to conserve electricity. And you won't be limited to the three television stations Cubans receive, you can enjoy ESPN and HBO. Be sure to tip the hotel staff, because those in the service industry make astronomical amounts of money compared to doctors who earn \$20 a month taking care of at least 100 families.

Where to eat: Paladares. These home-restaurants boast better food than restaurants in the hotels. The reason? It's easier for the paladares to buy their meats and produce on the black market, which means fresher, better quality food. Just ask Tim, who got food poisoning from a hamburger in the Havana Libre hotel. Speaking of hamburgers, the best part about the food in Cuba? Absolutely no McDonalds.

What to drink: Rum. Lots of rum. The darker, the better. Cubans sip it. You might prefer a mojito: a mix of rum, sugar, lemon and a fresh branch of mint leaves. Best place to drink? El Florida. Hemingway frequented this classy



BRIAN FREDERICK ON TAP

bar that's straight out of Hollywood. There's even a picture of Hemingway and friend Fidel Castro.

Things to do: Attend a pro-Elian rally. Because the courts are siding with Janet Reno, and not the "Cuban mafia" of Miami, it won't be long before Elian is back in Havana suffering from Disney withdrawal. Therefore, if you want every conversation you have with a Cuban to revolve around Elian, go now. You might even get to attend a pro-Elian rally.

At such a rally, you'll see numerous Cubans holding flags while ignoring the ranting speaker at the podium. Mention the "Revolución" and see them wave their flags for the television cameras.

Attend the Museum of the Revolution. Imagine your grandfather got together with his veteran buddies and put together a museum about their service, and you'll understand the Museum of the Revolution.

Basically, Castro has saved anything and everything related to the revolution: forks, shirts, pistols. There's even a model of the apartment where the plans for the revolution were hatched.

Hit the beach. The beach is gorgeous, painted by empty Cristal beer cans left by tourists. (Chicken/egg question: Do tourists leave beer cans because there are no trash cans or are there no trash cans because tourists never use them?) Hang out with drunken, gay Cuban men, forced to go to the beach because the city shuns them.

Stroll through the artisan's market. As you wander past table after table of the same worthless trinkets, best not to look interested in anything or you'll be accosted. This is the

only place in the world, however, where you'll find oils of the revolutionary hero Che Guevara hanging next to oils of naked women on the beach.

Macumba. If there is any doubt in your mind, up to now, about capitalism's foothold in Cuba, the nightclub Macumba will open your eyes. After you fork over 10 bucks for a taxi to the edge of town, Armani-clad bouncers will charge you 15 bucks to enter this mansion-turned-discotheque. You'll find a few thousand people dancing in the backyard, mostly rich European men and attractive Cuban women. Up at the bar, you'll see a rich Texan with a naked lady bolo tie and a wad of hundreds, surrounded by three Cuban women, saying, "Three of you? I'm too old. I could only handle two of you." As you get taken for all your hard-earned money and they blare "Mambo #5" for the third time, you'll begin to wonder if Castro wasn't on to something after all.

The cigars: Every Cuban male will offer to help you get cigars. Ironically, it's harder to get the best Cuban cigars in Havana because they are exported. If you buy them on the black market, they're probably factory rejects. But no one back home will know the difference. Just make sure you tell the Customs Service you've been in Mexico, and they'll wave you right through. Mention Cuba, and they'll search your bags.

At the end of your trip, you could ponder the hypocrisy of the U.S. embargo. (The United States condemns Cuba for not allowing its citizens to do as they will. Yet, the United States won't allow its citizens to travel to Cuba. Further, the only people who have suffered from the embargo are the Cubans the United States supposedly cares about. Finally, our best friend China is far more guilty of human rights abuses.)

Better yet, just be thankful that you saw Cuba before Budweiser smeared its name across the landscape.

Brian "Elian" Frederick is a graduate student in journalism and mass communication from Lawrence, Kan. He can be reached at brifred@yahoo.com.

READERS' FORUM

Resident Assistants Underappreciated, But Very Important

TO THE EDITOR: It is a pleasure to write in recognition and support of the role which resident assistants play in the experiences of students at Carolina. Resident assistants have one of the most important yet underappreciated roles in the education of our students. As you know, students spend the vast majority of their academic career in environments outside of the traditional classroom setting. For some 7,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students at Carolina, the majority of that out-of-class time is spent in residence halls on our campus. Resident assistants are often one of the first members of the University community to interact with students, and for many students, represent the person who will have the most frequent contact with them. Resident assistants are also responsible in the

most direct possible way for establishing and maintaining many of the environments which have made our campus so special and lead to the unusually high success which our students achieve.

The breadth of responsibilities which resident assistants are asked to meet is rather substantial and includes elements of educational, administrative and community leadership responsibility. For many students, their resident assistant, or "RA," proves to be one of the most important individuals our students report as having influenced their academic career.

In light of the above, I would like to recognize the role and performance of resident assistants at Carolina. They represent one of the most direct and substantial impacts on our students' experiences, and they deserve commendation for the level at which they meet their responsibilities.

Susan T. Kitchen
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Baseball Coach Wants To See a Full Stadium This Weekend

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to encourage you to come out to Boshamer Stadium this weekend, as your baseball team takes on the N.C. State Wolfpack in a three-game series.

Game times are 3 p.m. Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday and 1:30 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free with a valid UNC ONE Card!

This is a very important series for the team. Your support has been tremendous this season, and another weekend of great Carolina crowds will certainly help.

Our players would love to have a vocal crowd behind them - Boshamer Stadium at full capacity would be awesome!

Come soak up some sun and cheer on your baseball team this weekend.

Mike Fox
Head Coach



The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticism. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 300 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. Publication is not guaranteed. 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 editdesk@unc.edu.