

The Daily Tar Heel

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BOARD EDITORIALS

Burning Issue

Last Monday, the Senate began another long-shot effort to pass a Constitutional amendment that would protect the American flag from desecration.

The proposed amendment is a one-sentence article stating, "Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

That is absurd. Congress should have no such power.

The desecration of this nation's banner is, without question, the most stirring form of political protest the United States has had to face.

As a method of expression, desecrating the stars and stripes produces an effect on American citizens that could never be equaled by any poster or pamphlet, speech or sit-in, essay or article.

Put simply, it is an immensely powerful form of expression.

Admittedly, there is, to most Americans, nothing more repulsive than the sight of some ungrateful, unshaven, Lenin-worshipping radical dousing Old Glory with kerosene on the steps of a federal courthouse.

However, it is certainly more despicable to imagine this nation forbidding him from doing so.

One of the standard arguments in favor of the amendment has always been that the flag is a symbolic representation of the millions of servicemen who fought and died for the

United States.

Surely this is true. The flag does represent all the boys that perished in an American uniform and certainly honors their memory each and every time it flutters in the breeze, whether it's atop a schoolhouse, courthouse or outhouse.

However, the obvious question arises: What were those soldiers fighting for in the first place?

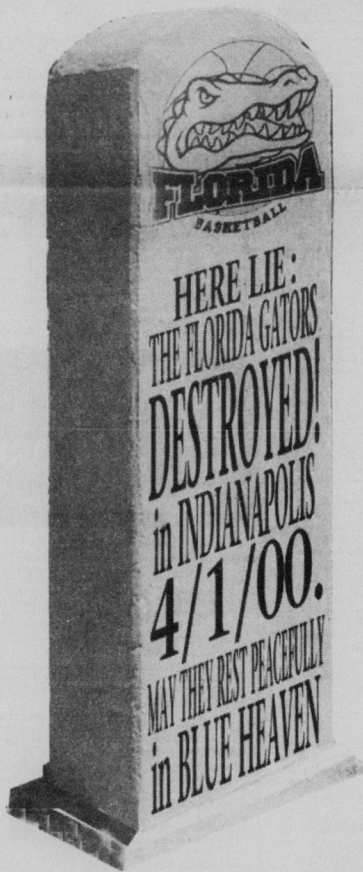
The answer is equally obvious. American troops took up arms to defend the ideals and principles of this nation. They were shipped to Korea, the Middle East, Latin America and Vietnam, all for the purpose of protecting those rights codified in the Constitution and that document's Bill of Rights.

One of those rights they fought for was the right to freely and openly express views and opinions.

Although it might not have been listed first when Madison originally presented his laundry list of rights to the Founding Fathers, the First Amendment is commonly believed to be the most important. Many of the rights we enjoy today are dependent on it.

Those who support protecting the flag with a constitutional amendment are allowing their emotional attachment to the emblem to cloud the issue.

Freedom of speech is the cornerstone of American democracy, and destroying a flag is the essence of that freedom.



Frederick Basketball Diary Excerpts

March Madness is as important to my family as Oktoberfest is to Germans. We spend the winter consumed by college basketball, watching the growth of our teams: Kansas and North Carolina. And the Final Four is the celebration of the harvest.

The first Final Four my younger brother Brad and I attended was the 1988 Final Four in Kansas City. Kansas won the title and my hometown partied until the following season.

Brad ended up coming to school here and played basketball for the Tar Heels. (I had so much fun visiting him in Chapel Hill, I opted for graduate school here.)

But as much as we both love Kansas and North Carolina, my brother and I view college basketball differently. My brother is a participant; I am merely a fan. As a former UNC player and current assistant coach at Vanderbilt, Brad is like the Lederhosen-clad German dancer. At the Final Four, he is either on stage or figuring out how to get there. I am merely the drunken fool in the audience, loving every minute of the show.

This is Carolina's sixth Final Four in the last 10 years. Here is how Brad and I remember Carolina's last five.

1991 (Indianapolis)
Brad: For those who've never been, the Final Four is a gigantic basketball circus. Every college coach you've ever seen on television walks down the streets wearing nothing but warm-ups. There are a million contests for fans to participate in. You can't walk five feet without getting something free: Gillette razors, Nike T-shirts, Gatorade samples, Sprint phone cards.

As for the game, student beat teacher, as Roy Williams got Coach Smith in the semi-final game.

Can't remember who won the national championship that year. (Who cares?)

Me: After watching Roy beat Dean, I was sure that if Kansas didn't win the title that year, the Jayhawks would the next.

1993 (New Orleans)

Brad: I had the unbelievable opportunity to be a ball boy. I sat just to the left of the basket closest to the Michigan bench. After giving



BRIAN FREDERICK
ON TAP

the Heels a two-point lead, Pat Sullivan misses his second free throw with 20 seconds left. Chris Webber rebounds, travels, dribbles into a Derrick Phelps-George Lynch trap and calls the infamous time out.

Sitting just a few feet away, I see Webber turn to the bench after being slapped with a technical and shout, "Why the F-- did you tell me to call time out?" The guys on the bench look at him as if to say, "Don't blame this on me." (A little Basketball 101, C-Webb: Always know how many T.O.s you've got down the stretch.) Coach Smith cuts down the nets for the second time.

Me: I couldn't go to New Orleans because of school, but I wasn't disappointed. I had the house to myself for a week. There is still a tape floating around of that "Weekend Jam Session."

After Kansas lost to Carolina, we walked six miles across town at 2 a.m. drinking Keystone and Brass Monkey in order to (unsuccessfully) serenade a girl.

1995 (Seattle)
Brad: Snapped my streak of consecutive Final Fours. Hey, as a senior in high school, you gotta go on Spring Break.

Brian: Missed this one, but I get the feeling people around here have forgotten about it.

1997 (Indianapolis)
Brad: My first year as a walk-on for the Heels was unbelievable as Coach Smith won his 877th game on the way to his 11th Final Four.

The hype surrounding our team was beyond my wildest imagination. We had a police escort everywhere we went. They gave us so much Nike stuff, they should have just

given us stock. Our hotel lobby resembled a block party as autograph seekers (sadly, they weren't after my John Hancock) hounded the team. What must have been 25,000 watched our Friday practice as Vince put on a dunk display so vicious everyone else moved down to the other basket. As for the game, let's just say Arizona was hot and our shooting performance was definitely not.

Me: There was a tornado warning that Thursday night and I was on the top floor of our hotel, so I sought refuge in the bar. The only thing more intense than the weather was Vince's dunk display the next afternoon.

1998 (San Antonio)
Brad: San Antonio will forever go down as the one that got away. Forget about the game. We lost; we should have won. What else do I remember? Brendan Haywood and I tried to talk to this girl at dinner, and she says, "So, I'm supposed to believe you play for North Carolina." You don't have to believe I played, but how many 7-foot, 265-pound guys do you know who don't play ball?

Me: I needed a drink after the game because not only did Carolina and my brother lose, I spent the game sitting next to Coach K. (No kidding.) I ended up shooting tequila with ESPN's Mike Tirico at some bar on the Riverwalk. (If you think that case of name dropping was bad, be glad I didn't tell you about playing piano with Bruce Hornsby at the 1996 Final Four.)

2000 (Indianapolis)
Brad: By now, I'm at my 9th Final Four. Today, I hope to catch the Heels' practice and get a chance to speak with some of the guys. As for the game tomorrow, with any luck, the boys will handle Florida's press and the magical run directed by Coach Gut will continue.

Me: By now, I'm camped out on a barstool at Woody's, downing steins of beer and waiting for the big game.

See you on Franklin Street.

Brian Frederick is a graduate student in journalism and mass communication from Lawrence, Kan. Send praises to brifred@yahoo.com. Send criticisms to bradfred35@yahoo.com.

BAROMETER

Dollar Dollar Bill
UNC and Dook students came together to compete for spots on the game show "Greed" on Monday. Sad that the only common ground we have seems to be our desire for money.

Secret Giveaway
Did anyone besides CAA officers' friends know students could go to the Smith Center on Monday morning to put their names on a list for Final Four tickets? We didn't think so, either.

Electronic Ballot
What do you get when you mix Elections Board members and technology? Disaster. The online voting system planned for next year promises to be fun.

Stayin' Alive
Ticket to the Final Four: \$100; gas for the ride to Indianapolis: \$40; knowing that Dook is staying home while UNC plays in the Final Four: priceless.

TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

"(The First Amendment is) what we're built on. We have the First Amendment enshrined on the wall in 4-inch metal letters."

JOURNALISM SCHOOL DEAN RICHARD COLE
Yeah, Richard, and there's also that 4-foot tall plaque with your head on it just around the corner in Carroll Hall.

"(Women) are the Midol in the patriarchal society."

THE REV. MARCIA DYSON
Giving a speech for Women's Week. If women are Midol, then does that make men tampons?

"It was a vanilla-ice-cream Congress."
REP. DAVID RUDELL, DIST. 16

Last week it was Aaron Nelson who was talking dirty about a proposed annexation by using ice cream flavors as an analogy. Now it's Student Congress representatives sharing their flavor of choice.

"This is why I came to Carolina."
FRESHMAN BASKETBALL PLAYER JOSEPH FORTE

Commenting on his excitement about making it to the Final Four at the Smith Center on Sunday night. You mean to tell us that you didn't choose UNC for its superior intellectual climate, Joe?

READERS' FORUM

Chapel Hill Police Ask Fans to Celebrate In Fun, Safe Manner

TO THE EDITOR:
As we prepare to celebrate another UNC national championship, I would like to ask all students for their help in keeping the victory celebrations safe.

Our primary mission in planning for Final Four victories has always been to ensure the safety of those who choose to celebrate on Franklin Street. We have been successful in the past thanks to the efforts of hundreds of town employees and volunteers, as well as the cooperation of UNC students and fans.

The most numerous injuries occurring at past celebrations resulted from falls and burns. For that reason, we are asking fans to refrain from starting fires and to keep their feet on the ground. Falls from lampposts, trees and (more recently) crowd-surfing can easily result in serious head and neck injuries. The size of the crowd makes it extremely difficult for emergency medical providers to get to an

injured person and treat them effectively.

We look forward to sharing with you the joy of another NCAA Championship. Please help us keep it safe. Go Heels!

Gregg E. Jarvis
Interim Chief of Police
Chapel Hill Police Department

Naik's Race, Religion Not Factors in Letter Writer's Criticism

TO THE EDITOR:
I would first like to apologize to any person who was offended by my March 27 letter to the editor, which mentioned meditation. In no way was I addressing my statement to Amol Naik (DTH columnist) - to "meditate a little longer" - because he was Hindu and/or Indian. Thus, my comment should not, in any way, be interpreted as one of a "racist" (which Rishi Kotiya, in her March 29 letter, so quickly labeled me).

Rishi, I would ask that you don't try to start a fire when there's nothing

substantial on which it can burn. Neither Naik's race nor his religion were taken into account in my criticism of his column (which is how it should be). In fact, meditation, which is simply the act of engaging in deep thought, is present in many religions, and even in the lives of those who consider themselves nonreligious. One can meditate on Jesus Christ, the exam they just failed or even an article to be submitted for publication.

Enough racism already exists today, so Rishi, please don't look for racist thought when it's not there.

Julie Mancuso
Sophomore
Journalism and Mass
Communication

Get on the Soapbox

Got opinions? Take your griping one step further and share them with 40,000 readers - write a guest column for the DTH.

Guest columns should be no longer than 800 words and should be mailed to editdesk@unc.edu.

Questions? Call Editorial Page Editor Scott Hicks at 962-0245.



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