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The Daily Tar Heel

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Fair-Weather Fans

Saturday's loss to N.C. State was embarrassing - but not because the team did not play well.

After the debacle at Kenan Stadium on Saturday, many questions were floating around in the crisp autumn afternoon.

Would this painful loss finally lead to Coach Carl Torbush's demise? After being on the losing end of eight straight Carolina-State games, is offensive coordinator Mike O'Cain bad luck, a bad coach or both? Will Ronald Curry ever live up to all his prep hype?

Well Tar Heel fans, you've sadly overlooked the question that should be No. 1 in your minds: Are Carolina fans a fair-weather bunch?

Sure, the loss this weekend was a tough one - nobody enjoys losing to their arch-rivals - but that is no excuse for the behavior that many "fans" showed during the game against State. As painful as it is to admit, the Wolfpack fans came to Chapel Hill and showed us up.

To begin with, although it was good that Kenan had a capacity crowd, a disproportionate number of fans were sporting Wolfpack red, signifying exactly whose fans had scooped up all the tickets. The State fan support and spirit weren't exactly countered by the home team, as too many UNC fans shunned Carolina blue, instead choosing to dress as if they were attending a cocktail. Nothing shows school spirit more than a sea

of khakis and tight black pants. The fan support was even worse after the game began. For every guy covered in light-blue body paint, there were five spectators who acted as if the game was a nuisance to their conversations.

As if not making any noise or dressing the part of fans weren't bad enough, Carolina fans compounded these errors by leaving the game early. While State fans became more boisterous as the game went on, UNC fans meekly left the stadium in large numbers while the outcome of the game was still reasonably in doubt. By the time the game was actually decided, there was hardly a Carolina fan in sight. For those few brave souls who did remain to sing the alma mater at the close of the game, hold some people back with you next time.

Now that the football team is struggling, don't make the mistake of ignoring it. The season isn't over, and the team needs your support more than ever. So on Saturday, when the Heels face powerhouse Clemson in Kenan Stadium, show up early, stay late and show your support for the team regardless of what the scoreboard says.

That way, whenever Carolina football is on top again, it'll mean a lot more to you than if you simply jumped on the bandwagon.

Family Matters

The parents of a teenage boy who fathered a child should pitch in and pay child support.

Anyone who believes the television-commercial portrayal of warm and fuzzy family relations need only look to a case set to be reviewed by the state Supreme Court for proof that blood no longer is thicker than water - and the sexes remain far from equal where children are concerned.

The case in question involves a suit brought by the parents of 2-year-old Trevor Lee Whitman's teenage mother, Beth Whitman, against the parents of the baby's father to get them to pay child support.

Last year, the child's father, Chad Kiger, agreed to pay \$50 dollars a month in child support. Now the Whitmans want the paternal grandparents to pitch in at least half the cost of caring for the baby, estimated at about \$400 to \$500 a month.

Thus far, Beverly and William "Sonny" Kiger have refused to pay any money. Although whether they are obligated to do so legally is a murky issue, the answer is clear from a moral standpoint. As grandparents, they should want only the best for their flesh and blood and should pay out of pure love.

But the reasons for why they should pick up the financial slack go beyond the child-

grandparent bond. Because their son, who was 15 at the time of the child's birth and therefore a financially dependent minor, could not support the child on his own, they should have pitched in from the time the child was an infant. So long as he remains a minor under their care, they should be held responsible for any financial trouble in which he finds himself.

Besides their obligation to help their son, the Kigers should pay out of a sense of fairness. Even today, a disproportionate amount of stress is thrust upon the families of teenage girls who become pregnant. Because the girl carries the baby and is usually the one expected to care for it, she and her family have no choice but to face the reality of the situation. Unfortunately, the same does not hold true for boys. Teenage fathers all too often are able to run away from the situation. Because of this, their families often do not feel the pressure to get involved.

But it takes two to create a baby, and in the case of teenage pregnancy, both families should be involved in caring for the child, even if that means simply providing financial support.



Pageant Needs to Get With Times

The Miss America Pageant was Saturday. I know what you're thinking: It was held in the stands of Kenan Stadium during the football game. (Actually no, but if I dressed like most of the girls there, I might need to pull out one of my evening gowns to be properly attired.)

Before the pageant began, I commenced with my usual pre-pageant activities by looking at all of the contestants' pictures on the Web, and yes, pictures lie. The Miss America Pageant began on a resounding note of cheese. Watching Donny and Marie Osmond sing for five minutes is something you shouldn't do if you've eaten in the past four hours. I thought I was going to be sick.

But something brings me back each year to watch this pageant with fervor. I can think of nothing I like better than seeing a bunch of competitive women who hate each other run around Disney World holding hands and modeling evening gowns.

And whoever dressed those poor women should dispose of the disastrous patterns of fashion waste for next year, sending them back to the Sears from whence they came. Judging by the apparel these women were wearing, it looks like they were ready for the '80s dance down in Carboro.

Just a few years ago, Miss America concerned itself with representing young women who were to be future career women, but this year the contestants looked like 16-year-olds who should be on MTV.

My favorite part was when they choose the top 10 and then asked all the girls who didn't make it how they felt. First of all, that's a cruel question. If you'd spent your entire life preparing for one day, you'd obviously be devastated. Those girls have real class. If that would've been anyone else, they probably would have smacked the host for having such poor taste. But did those women? Nope; they gave a smile that could crack glass as they



ANNE MARIE TEAGUE GLAMOROUS TRASH

forced nice comments about the other contestants.

Instead of getting up before the entire nation and pretending to be the Virgin Mary, why not take the halo off and just be yourself? It seems that the image presented this year is one of a flashy "hip millennium girl" crossed with Betty Crocker. Am I the only one who sees two contrasting images here?

As always, we have some girl who looks like she's never filed her own fingernails showing us how she milks cows on her daddy's farm. And if anything bad happened in her life, she'll recount every devastating detail. These women are as bad as presidential candidates George W. Bush and Al Gore trying to get the "sympathy vote."

I love to criticize pageants, but truthfully, I am playing devil's advocate to an extent. Yes, I see problems with pageants, but I also genuinely enjoyed the few I competed in. Pageants provide young women with a lot of positive benefits that the Miss America Pageant does not make apparent in a televised three-hour stint.

Competing in a pageant is an ultimate test of courage and confidence. No one has any right to say it's a poor representation of women until he or she knows how much work goes into competing. It's the one thing that could make you feel on top of the world and then in an instant break your heart. Pageants

provide young women with a lot of skills and keep them so busy with community service platforms, talent, public speaking and fitness preparation that they don't have time to be much less of anything than a pretty good person.

Of course you don't have to be "Miss It" with a crown to make a difference. But staying within the competitive realm definitely encourages you to be a benefit to society and not a detriment like I've been lately.

The one thing the Miss America Pageant needs, however, is a dose of modern reality. What its organizers need to do is get rid of the "cheeseball twin" hosts and encourage young women to speak out on the issues and not conform to the norm.

So what should a modern-day Miss America be all about? Certainly not someone who pops RU-486 like vitamins but not a polished Hollywood image of moral and ethical perfection, either. Isn't it always better when we know someone has done something wrong once in her life?

Why? Because it makes her more real. And I can respect what's real.

So how about a more realistic Miss America? She'd be a person who cares about the world around her, a girl who likes to go out once in a while and still be able to respect the person she sees in the mirror the next morning, a woman who's going to make something of herself in the career climb, a person who remembers where she came from and always has tomorrow in the back of her mind, and, most importantly, someone who's made a mistake once or twice in her life and is willing to admit it if it will influence someone else positively.

Now, that's what I call Miss America.

Anne Marie Teague is a senior business administration major from Lumberton. E-mail her at teague@email.unc.edu.

READERS' FORUM

Opposing Team's Fans Should Not Be Sitting In Kenan Student Section

TO THE EDITOR:

Well it appears our agriculturally inclined rivals got the best of us on Saturday, both on the football field and in the student section. That "red sea" of seats (formerly known as reserved UNC-student seating) was alarmingly reminiscent of a Little League dugout, with more whooping, moustaches and tobacco spit than seems humanly possible - even by N.C. State standards. This influx of fans proceeded to take up so much room that UNC students were turned away from their very own, deserved seats.

That's right - the yellow-jacketed security guards had no problem turning UNC students away while allowing the Pack fans to remain seated. Does anyone see a problem with this? Apparently not the security guards, and definitely not the gloating State fans. The guards were very adamant that the seats were on a first come, first serve basis, regardless of your school.

Hey, if that's the way it's going to be enforced, then maybe we've just solved the basketball seating issue. We don't need more student seating in the Dean Dome, we just need to get there earlier than the rightful seat holders, right?

And for those who are wondering, yes,

I have graduated and am no longer enrolled in any classes. On Saturday I would have graciously given up my seat to any enrolled UNC student, but not to an opposing fan, and definitely not to a Wolfpack, however. Go Heels!

Matt Ricketts Class of 2000

Columnist Disrespectful To Computer Science Majors, Department

TO THE EDITOR:

William McKinney's Oct. 12 column, "All the Troubles With Technology" was disturbing for several reasons. The Department of Computer Science does not deserve and will not have "a stigma as a place of cheating." There are many students in the department who uphold the Honor Code and will continue to do so. The unpublicized actions of the honest majority of computer science majors should define the department. The Daily Tar Heel in general has failed to acknowledge this anonymous majority.

Additionally, Mr. McKinney's case for moving the computer science department is offensive and disrespectful to the institution that educates him. Most of the computer science majors chose Carolina because of its reputation and the prospect

of a well-rounded education. We would ask that Mr. McKinney not make spiteful accusations and irresponsible recommendations about that which he readily admits he does not understand.

In addition, the DTH and much of the media in general consistently misuse the term "hacker." This misuse was made by the DTH in the same edition on Page 3 in regards to the defacing of the UNC home page. A hacker is an ethical, clever programmer, not to be confused with a malicious "cracker." See <http://www.eps.mcgill.ca/jargon/html/The-Jargon-Lexicon-framed.html> for expanded definitions.

Finally, to show there are no hard feelings, we hackers invite Mr. McKinney to our next round of D&D. :-)

Heather Morgan Senior Computer Science

Scott Tolsma Junior Computer Science

Palestinian Leadership Solely Responsible For 'Disgraceful' Fighting

TO THE EDITOR:

Arafat, the PLO and all Palestinians had

an opportunity to show the world that they were capable of ensuring order and security during Ariel Sharon's Sept. 28 visit to the Temple Mount.

Unfortunately, they gave us living proof why Jerusalem can never again be divided and why Israel must remain as sole protector - ensuring freedom of worship and free access to all of Jerusalem for all faiths. Prior to 1967, under Jordanian rule this was not the case - Jews were barred from their holy sites.

Events of the past weeks have been disgraceful, and blame lies squarely on the Palestinians and their leadership. Ariel Sharon had every right to make his visit to the Temple Mount, a site open to the public.

So why the outrage? The appearance of Mr. Sharon brought back memories of his excursion into Lebanon that succeeded in booting Arafat and the PLO out of Lebanon and into Tunisia. No doubt, this was Arafat's way of seeking revenge - create hysteria with past images of the intifada, thereby enticing Palestinians to rise up and create the kind of terror that we are witnessing today.

Make no mistake, this was a well-orchestrated attempt by the PLO to use violence as a means of bringing the Israeli army in to protect lives. They also knew that if death resulted, Israel would be blamed, enabling the Palestinian leadership to once again run crying to the international com-

munity. And that is just what happened.

Adding insult to injury, the United Nations had the audacity to pass a resolution condemning Israel. This was nothing new - the bias against Israel is well-known; that is why these resolutions are almost laughable.

This past year, Israel has made historic concessions to the Palestinians - return of 92 percent of the West Bank, and Gaza for a future state, sovereignty over Muslim and Christian quarters of Old Jerusalem and compensation for refugees, in addition to withdrawing from South Lebanon. Incredibly, Arafat turned down the deal, and Hezbollah continues its attacks out of Lebanon.

The bottom line is that the Palestinians started the fighting, and now they must deal with the consequences.

Judging from past conflicts, they should realize they are fighting a battle they will not win. Arabs here and abroad who blame Israel for this latest incident should be ashamed of themselves. It is time for the Palestinians to acknowledge their responsibility, look at what Barak offered and put together some credible leadership that Palestinians, and the rest of the world, can truly look up to.

Rene de la Varre Chapel Hill

The length rule was waived.



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 for space, clarity and vulgarity. 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 forum to: editdesk@unc.edu.