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The Daily Tar Heel

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Barrier to Safety

South Campus residents soon will be running for their lives (at least more than usual), thanks, ironically, to a measure taken to improve their safety.

While students were away during Thanksgiving Break, workers installed a fence along the sidewalk from the stoplight at the intersection of Manning and Skipper Bowles drives down to the driveway leading into the Hinton James parking lot.

Normally the fence would simply be another in an endless series of annoying construction-related inconveniences. But the traffic patterns on that stretch of road make it something far more dangerous.

Officials say the fence was put up to encourage pedestrian safety because ongoing construction has obstructed the path to the Manning Drive crosswalk, causing students to jaywalk across the four-lane street.

What's more likely, however, is that the fence won't stop jaywalking, doing nothing to decrease the likelihood of a serious accident.

avoided if the N.C. Department of Transportation had approved another crosswalk, as the Department of Housing requested. But NCDOT officials denied the request, saying the nearby crosswalks at the intersection were sufficient for pedestrian traffic.

Considering the frequency of pedestrians ignoring crosswalks and the fact that most drivers show little regard for traffic laws, it seems clear that the NCDOT made a serious error. But while the NCDOT might have goofed, it is the pedestrians and drivers who must pick up the slack.

If everyone exercises a modicum of caution and common sense — something the NCDOT didn't do — then perhaps the roads of South Campus will be a slightly safer place to be.

CAMERON MITCHELL — EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

Natural Preference

Researchers, religious leaders and everyday people often debate about what constitutes an individual's sexuality. Take a recent study performed at the Medical College of Virginia, for example. In a survey of 4,000 people, the researchers found that when one identical twin is gay, there is a 33 percent chance that the other twin is gay as well.

But rather than spending money on researching the causes of homosexuality, more efforts should be spent on determining exactly what makes someone heterosexual. A "straight" lifestyle might be more socially acceptable, but sexuality is likely determined by the same factors in all cases.

So let's figure out why men are attracted to women and vice versa. After all, this study would have to be more convenient, because heterosexuals dominate the land. Leaders of the Christian moral majority and anyone else who is quick to condemn homosexuality should sponsor the research.

The gay twin study in Virginia does serve a positive function, however, for it indicates that homosexuality isn't a choice. Dr. Kenneth Kendler, who conducted the research, concluded that homosexuality is "moderately inheritable" and can be influ-

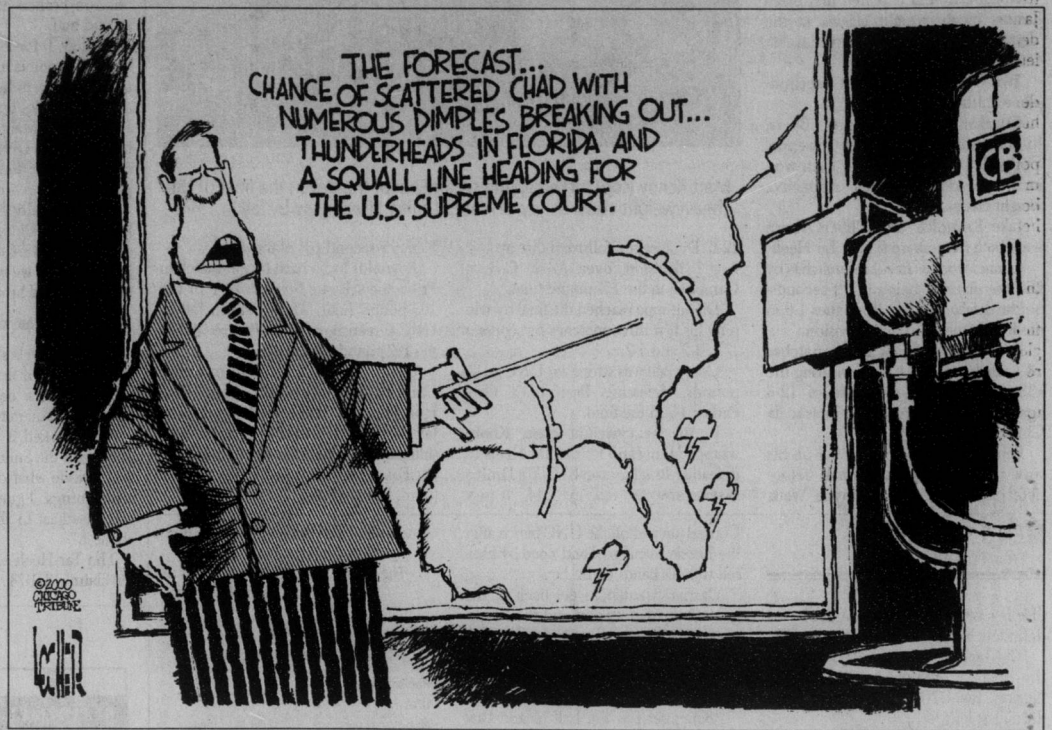
enced by a range of environmental factors.

But can't the same thing be said about heterosexuality? Most straight people will reveal that their sexual preference isn't a choice. They are simply attracted to the opposite sex and aren't forced to analyze the reasoning behind that preference.

Basically, people find it easy to be judgmental when they are criticizing something that they'll never have to face. Members of the moral majority use the Bible as proof that homosexuality is unacceptable — even if many folks don't subscribe to this dogmatic piece of literature.

They argue that gays make a choice to lead what they call sexually deviant lives. It's easy for them to say that homosexuals are choosing to be different. They can't understand the inner struggles that a gay must face.

In reality, no study on homosexuality or heterosexuality ever will determine conclusively the essence behind sexual preference. But one truth remains: Homophobia, no matter how deeply it boils within the blood of society, is not based on logic. No matter what factors decide sexuality, it's one and the same for everyone.



A Peek Into Joe Washington's Life

His roommate had left for class long ago, and Joe had no lady friend to wake him on time.

At 8:45, Joe Washington hurriedly prepares for a 9:00 class in solitude.

The short walk to class is an endless journey, as Joe feels the isolation of an outlaw.

Weighing on his mood is a losing investment in Cisco Systems. In March, Joe bet on the tech bell-weather. But by November, the price had dropped by 30 points, and his faith in the networking company evaporated.

He passes a group of freshmen. Sadly, Joe realizes that many of these new faces never will realize their potential in a world of negativity.

Upon crossing Raleigh Street, Joe runs into Montego Gray. The two men cross paths without exchanging a word.

To some, Montego has it all: He is popular, dresses in designer clothing, drives an impressive Ford Expedition and always has stacks of green (bills and leaves).

Joe is oblivious to Montego's status. He knows that Montego is weak.

As Joe enters Hamilton Hall, he bumps into Montego's girlfriend, Goldie.

He feels the tension as she rubs against him on her way out. Most think that Goldie has it going on. Her hair, nails and skin are flawless; she has a seductive hourglass figure to go with her beautiful face; she never wears the same outfit twice; she can light up a room with her engaging personality.

Again, Joe isn't fooled. He knows from firsthand experience about Goldie's shadiness.

Joe is too exhausted to pay attention in Drama 16. Upon leaving Hamilton 100, Joe can't repeat one word that Professor Mitchell uttered during the lecture.

En route to his room, he receives a page with the number 914-9760-69.

The red-light special. Joe returns the page and hears a familiar voice on the other end.

"What's up, Joe?" "Hey, Goldie."

"What are you doin' right now? Is your roommate home?"



KOFI BOFAH PHILOSOPHY .22

"I'm just chillin'. My roomie's out. He went to close a deal on a car."

"I'll be right over."

Two hours later, Joe had been put to sleep after his rendez-vous with Goldie. He awakens to a knock at his door and finds Goldie missing.

"Who is it?" "It's me, Iris."

Joe frantically scans his room for evidence. "Alright, come in."

"When did you start listening to Al Green? And what's that smell?"

"Nothing."

"Have you been messing with Goldie again? You better leave that girl alone. She's trouble, and her boyfriend's crazy. He'll do anything to prove that he's a thug."

"Whatever, Iris. You have a great imagination. I don't even talk to that girl."

Although friends, Iris Brown and Joe Washington have feelings for each other. Joe loves Iris' innocence. Her beauty and sparkling personality are his inspiration.

Iris loves Joe's ambition. Through sheer will, Joe had destroyed all barriers standing in his way.

At the age of 20, Joe's future was bright. Not to mention he was a cutie.

After some chill time, Iris makes a stop at The Circus Room on her way back to Cobb.

There, Goldie is purchasing some Lemonheads while grittin' on her nemesis. She leaves the establishment to scan Carolina's Directory. She spots the name Brown, Iris. She dials the number and leaves this message:

"You better stop looking at Montego like that. Are you %!2*8*\$%^ him? I bet you are; just

like how you give it up to Joe. You little freak. I told my girls about you, and now everybody knows about your schemes!"

Iris hears the message and laughs — she knows the deal. She has no plots to steal Montego, and she never is going to get involved with Joe while he has relations with Goldie.

Nobody would believe Goldie. Last week, the news leaked that she had a man in Durham, a man back home in Greensboro and Montego, plus Joe on the side. Goldie had lost credibility in the UNC bubble.

Thursday rolls around and The Treehouse is the spot.

Goldie sashays through the club in an all-black skintight outfit. Without question, the girl is sexy, and she never is going to get involved with Joe while he has relations with Goldie.

She spots Iris wrapped around Joe in the corner and begins her usual act. Her tipsiness from the Remy makes it even easier for her to operate. Normally, Joe would have ditched Iris for the instant satisfaction of Goldie, but this time is different.

Joe's outlook had changed. After the party, Joe does not want the night to end. He invites Iris over to spend some more time together.

Iris is ready tonight. She plans to finally let herself go. She knows she will spend the night with Joe.

As the two stroll down the walkway to Joe's dorm, a black Expedition rolls up smelling of weed smoke.

Montego jumps out of the SUV and draws a .22 on Joe. He pulls the trigger and Iris' scream is the only frequency to pierce the air.

The gun has jammed.

Joe sees his opportunity and begins to wrestle with Montego for control. The weapon falls to the ground and Joe picks it up to pull the trigger with no remorse.

This time the gun fires, and Joe Washington blasts Montego Gray mercilessly, sending him to the grave with six holes in his corpse.

Montego has been annihilated by the .22.

Philosophy .22 was only meant to support the positive. Reach Kofi at bofah26@email.unc.edu.

Want to Write (or Draw) Your Opinion in the DTH?

Apply to be a columnist, editorial board member or cartoonist for spring 2001. Applications are available at the DTH front office in Suite 104 of the Student Union and are due back by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6. Those chosen will be notified by 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11.

Questions? Call Editorial Page Editor-select Jonathan Chan at 962-4086.

The Daily Tar Heel

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READERS' FORUM

If Coach Torbush Must Go, Baddour Also Should Be Fired

TO THE EDITOR:

What is Dickie Baddour thinking? He gave Coach Torbush three years to perform a miracle. How can you expect him to create "his team" when not all of the squad are his recruits? He's still playing with the deck that was shuffled by Mack Brown. A record of 17-18 is not that bad for a coach's first three seasons. While it could have been better, you must remember, three of those losses are Florida State, which is pretty much a given for every school in the ACC.

Let's examine his five losses this season. FSU — contender for the national championship. Georgia Tech — Peach Bowl-bound. Clemson — Gator Bowl-bound. N.C. State — Micron PC Bowl-bound. Virginia — Aloha Bowl-bound. The ACC is just damned tough this year. Deal with it, Dickie. Coach Torbush has set up what will be a good program for next year. Now some new coach will step in and take all the credit for what

Carl built. (Bet this sounds familiar to Coach O'Cain.)

Baddour is the one at fault for any lackluster of the UNC program, not Torbush. All last season, Torbush was plagued with the rumors of his dismissal, even a print-up in The Associated Press. Where was Baddour then? His not squashing those rumors probably hindered Torbush's recruiting efforts.

Last season should not even be counted in the first place. Injuries were rampant and morale was less than great, simply because of all the whisperings that Torbush was being fired. If one looks at the 1998 and 2000 seasons, the only conference teams UNC didn't beat at least once were Virginia and FSU. That to me shows he's a pretty competent coach.

I think the administration should put Baddour under the same microscope; I bet they'll find him just as lacking. He fails to do his part to control (false) media rumors. Does Roy Williams ring a bell? He's failed to empower Torbush to create this great team that the fans demand, and now he's set the program back a few years, too, by firing Torbush.

I applauded Coach Torbush for refusing to step down, making Baddour do his own dirty work. So, barring any last-minute recanting of the firing, (I mean, hey, if Gore can renounce his concession, so can Baddour), I say UNC should start two searches, one for a coach, and one for a new director of athletics. I'm just glad I won't be here next season to see the aftermath of Baddour's sportsmanlike conduct. (Where's the flag?)

Jason Rolan Senior Geography

The length rule was waived.

There's Still Time ...

... to write a Viewpoints column for The Daily Tar Heel. Viewpoints columns must be about 800 words in length and signed by no more than two people. The topic is up to you.

Either send your submissions to editdesk@unc.edu or bring them by the DTH office by 6 p.m. the Wednesday before you would like them to run.

Call Editorial Page Editor Kelli Boutin at 962-4086 with questions.



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.

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