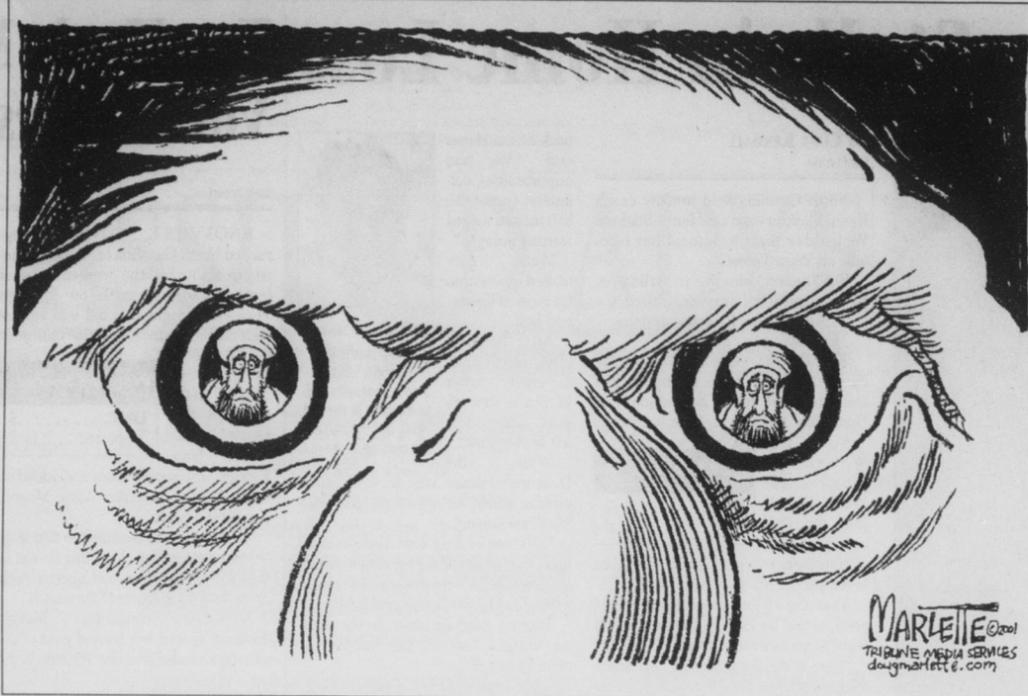


Opinion



Absent Minds Meet Kindness of Humanity

I'm a ditz. In the past five weeks alone, I've locked myself out of my room twice, lost a sweater and set of room keys, left my clarinet in someone's car and misplaced my purse and UNC ONE Card enough times to make my roommate start noticing where I place them. Last semester I studied abroad in England. Within the first three days, I locked my keys in my room and had to call security to retrieve them, lost a claim ticket for my coat at a club and had to wait until everyone went home before they'd give me my coat, and left a sweater in a public restroom. I've gotten it all back, though, which overwhelms me with people's kindness and my luck and convinces me that some higher power appreciates my permanent spaciness.



MARIAN CROTTY
COUNTERPOINT

Board Editorials

Invalid Source

The campus gay community responded positively to a false posting and further legitimized its need for a center

In Monday's Daily Tar Heel Campus Calendar, an announcement ran that stated that a "gay pride march" would take place Tuesday.

However, the contact student listed in the ad, Jim Carlton, is not associated with the Queer Network for Change nor did the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender leaders have any march planned.

Although UNC might consider itself an enlightened and progressive university, one must wonder how sentiments such as the one motivating this prank still exist on campus.

One explanation for the false ad is that someone might have wanted to assemble a large group of gay students and cause them harm.

What is more likely is that someone thought it would be funny to link Jim Carlton with a visible gay campus organization - implying that being gay or hanging out with gay people is an insult.

There are those that might consider this

an innocent prank. However, one can hardly characterize this action as innocent.

Perhaps those responsible for the false ad didn't consider how such an ad would create a hostile environment for gay students on campus.

And perhaps the pranksters didn't consider how such a joke might make some students that are already ostracized in many realms of society feel out of place.

But even if those responsible for the false ad didn't consider these aspects, it does not make their actions any less reprehensible.

Deep down this was not just a stupid prank but a hateful and ignorant action that should not be confused with humor.

Instead of being brought down by such a puerile hoax, LGBT leaders chose instead to hold a march anyway, even though they had never planned the alleged one.

What an unfortunate reality it is that this group of students had to enlist the aid of campus police because they felt threatened on their own campus.

Provost Robert Shelton recently announced the formation of a committee that would analyze the needs for a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center on campus.

Perhaps the committee should consider this incident in their evaluation as direct support of the demand for an LGBT resource center.

Students on this campus, both gay and straight, can benefit from such a resource center.

Perhaps if the resource center existed, those students responsible for this prank would have been provided with the information to understand the implications of their actions.

For now, every student at UNC should consider the consequences of this action and make a conscious effort not to laugh.

Also, campus calendars, including the DTH, should be more careful about the validity of submissions, and learn from this mistake.

Missing the Bus

Cites all across the country are putting an end to forced busing, but many still don't show progress

After more than 30 years of forced school busing, Charlotte - the city that brought the case to the Supreme Court in 1971 - will launch a race-neutral assignment plan for the 2002-03 year.

Other cities across the nation, including Boston and Seattle, have already put a stop to across-town busing, following parents' demands to send their children to schools closer to home.

Charlotte has similar concerns, and its school board is looking forward to refocusing the energy, time and money spent busing kids around towards addressing more students' needs.

But just because a city or a school board decides to stop busing doesn't mean that there is an absence of discrimination or inconsistencies in the quality of schools.

By the summer of 1999, Seattle had spent two years without forced busing, and school officials found that they were expe-

riencing a whole batch of new problems.

Some schools' enrollments were at almost 100 percent minority, while others, which had reached their minority caps during the busing period, had seen a drop in overall enrollment. Also, poverty in schools was a problem, resulting in low performance rates.

So is forced busing just a lost cause if situations returned to similar conditions once it was suspended? What is the real solution?

Parents in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school district express satisfaction with the decision, saying that now they can focus on strengthening neighborhood schools and start new programs for students of certain backgrounds.

But while the addition of programs is nothing but positive, there are still so many problems to be addressed, many of which were part of forced busing's original agen-

da, including diversity in schools, equal distribution of resources and quality education for all students.

Dissenting opinion said the decision only nullifies all the hard work of minorities during the past 30 years, especially that of blacks.

And if cities like Seattle that have ended forced busing are seeing the resurfacing of similar problems, those who disagree with the decision are right to point out that there are still problems forced busing has failed to solve.

So what are school districts going to do, and what is the best way to get the education students need? More resources and teachers. Spreading financial resources evenly among schools, especially impoverished areas and neighborhoods.

It's time to improve the use of human resources as well - teachers are the catalyst to quality education - but apparently busing didn't quite make the mark.

KATE HARTIG EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

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READERS' FORUM

Graduate Student Notes Lack of Water Fountains In University Stadium

TO THE EDITOR:

First I would like to congratulate Coach Bunting and the Tar Heels on crushing the Seminoles last Saturday. I was proud to be at the game cheering on my team. However, I found what I believe is a serious problem at Kenan Stadium. On my way to my seat I had difficulty locating a water fountain. An usher informed that there was one between sections 119 and 120. I looked by those sections but still could not find a water fountain.

At this point, I could not believe that there was no public access to water except for the overpriced bottled water for \$2.50.

I went back to the stadium Sunday to thoroughly search for a water fountain. I did find the elusive fountain near sections 119 and 120, but it was not working and was filled with leaves, dirt and dead bugs. On the lower level of the stadium, I found four water fountains, one on each corner of the field. None of these were working. The only working fountains I found were a group of four in the concourse area. I find these conditions outrageous in a stadium that seats 60,000 people, especially when

temperatures flirted with 90 degrees on Saturday. I hope that the stadium officials will fix the water fountains that are already in place and add more accessible fountains. I for one cannot afford to pay for water that should be readily available and will be boycotting the concession stands.

Neil Vogeley
Graduate Student
Chemistry

Alumna Counters Idea That Violence Is the Only Way to Answer Attacks

TO THE EDITOR:

Christina L. Cleland's Letter to the Editor, "Alumna Sees Present Situation As 'Killed or Be Killed' Type Scenario" (Wed. 26 Sept.) typifies the simplistic and short-sighted reaction of many Americans to the recent tragic terrorist events. The idea that the situation we are faced with is simply a "kill or be killed" scenario depends on several assumptions - the most important of which Cleland outlines in her letter.

The main sentiment seems to be that those involved in the perpetration of the attacks are "not a civilized people" and are "nothing like us." Such terms suggest that

Cleland and other like-minded Americans have fully dehumanized the "Other Side" in this conflict, called "America's New War" by jingoists everywhere.

Regardless of their deplorable actions, those involved in the attacks - our enemies, for lack of a better term - are indeed human beings. Dehumanizing them is a natural reaction but is an altogether too simplistic one. Highlighting our differences will not resolve underlying issues. Fighting violence with more violence does not quell the situation but rather escalates the entire cycle of hate and pulls innocent bystanders (the Afghan people, for one) into the conflict. Cleland says that since bin Laden's group "uses shocking force," we as a nation must do the same.

How exactly does this make the United States any less of an "uncivilized monster" than the attacks on Sept. 11 make bin Laden's group? Responding to terrorist attacks in a similar fashion makes us terrorists, too?

To assume that there is no alternative to reacting in an overly violent, militaristic way is to truly compromise our intelligence and strength as a nation and as a people.

There are other ways to react to this disaster besides destroying, as evidenced by the flurry of anti-war sentiment over the past few weeks. People participating in vigils, peace rallies, teach-ins, etc., are not

"obtuse" (as Cleland asserts). They are the courageous and peace-loving citizens of the United States who can and will bring this country out of its arrogant, jingoistic rut and into a peaceful 21st century. It's 2001 - can't we do any better than this?

Jennifer Betowt
Class of '00

The length rule was waived.

Student Emphasizes That Many Liberties Resulted From Success in Fighting

TO THE EDITOR:

I think that many of the students at UNC that have been protesting U.S. military action in Afghanistan and writing articles of this sort are overlooking a very important fact. Everything we do in our lives from morning to night, from writing in a newspaper to voting, has been given to us because people fought, killed and died for these freedoms. So before you sign your petition protesting war, think about how that right was given to you.

U.S. retaliation against terrorism is not "an eye for an eye," it is a protection of freedom and democracy. Bombing a build-

ing in Afghanistan filled with 5,000 innocent men women and children would be "an eye for an eye." The United States will not do this. Will there be civilian casualties? Of course, but we will not purposely kill the innocent people of Afghanistan.

It is a terrible fact that there is certain evil in this world that cannot be ignored or dealt with peacefully. It can only be fought. Imagine if the entire world during World War II, in the name of pacifism and peace, threw down their arms against Nazi Germany and allowed Hitler to take over the world, exterminate the Jews and place all of us under a fascist dictatorship. This is obviously not an acceptable option.

Certain evil must be removed by force and terrorism is an evil that falls under this category. I agree that the United States has engaged in questionable wars and military action in the past, but certainly nothing can be compared to our current situation. The students of UNC must not contribute to any division of our country during these times. The United States must indeed remain one nation under God, or we will very well lose the freedoms that millions have given their lives for.

Jason Rolland
Graduate Student
Chemistry



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.