



NATHAN NYANJOM
A DIFFERENT ANGLE

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Sharing presidency won't pacify Kenyans

"If war is ever lawful, then peace is sometimes sinful," wrote author C.S. Lewis. Kenya has been transformed through a disputed December presidential election into a war-torn country, in which a thousand people have died because of fighting between two traditional ethnic tribes.

The United Nations and United States government's solution for Kenya is to see the two men who competed for the presidency share power — incumbent Mwai Kibaki of Kikuyu tribal heritage and challenger Raila Odinga of Luo descent. By having these two men share power as joint leaders

in a new government, former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice argue that the ongoing violence in Kenya will be able to cease quickly and that peace will be restored between these two tribes.

However, this shared power plan that Annan and Rice speak of is flawed, and the vision of peace that these two world leaders speak of is — as C.S. Lewis puts it — sinful.

The people of Kenya went to the polls on Dec. 27 wanting change from President Kibaki, and in polls leading up to the election, Odinga was projected as the leading candidate.

Then the corruption began. Despite losing in half of Kenya's regions outright and having election officials confess that they were pressured into making quick announcements, Kibaki swore himself in as president days after the election.

Odinga and his supporters refused to accept the election results, and ethnic fighting throughout the country has ensued.

Although a solution is needed, the one proposed by Annan and Rice is not the one.

To think about it in more familiar terms, Democrats and Republicans here in America both know and agree that we need change from President Bush. Would we, however, have issue with a government led by both Bush and the winner of the 2008 presidential election?

There were a lot of Americans upset after the presidential election of 2000 and the fiasco that was Florida, but the notion of a presidency shared by Bush and Gore was never suggested.

We wouldn't stand for it, to say the least.

Yet, that is exactly what Annan and Rice have suggested.

Annan and Rice argue that by having Kibaki and Odinga share power, peace will be ensured since both of these men's tribes have an equal say in government.

While it can be argued that the plan of shared power will bring peace to Kenya the quickest, peace will also come if Odinga is made the country's sole leader. After all, that was the form of presidency voted on by the majority of Kenya in the Dec. 27 election.

Even if peace would ensue with Rice and Annan's plan in the short term, would it continue in the long run? Eventually Kikuyus would voice their frustration that Kibaki was only a co-president, and Luos similarly would be angered that Odinga shared his office seat.

Since neither the solution of an individual president nor a shared presidency will eliminate all tribal tension, and since peace will arise regardless of the decision to have Odinga gain power that is sole or shared, the most democratic action should be taken, and that is installing the election's winner — Odinga — as Kenya's sole president.

When people want change, they vote for it — that's the democratic way. American voters know this, and our government upholds it.

Although the going in Kenya right now is tough, democracy must not go. The world community must uphold Kenya's democratic election and support a vision of Kenya led by only Raila Odinga.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Terrence Nowicki, The Western Front



'YOU PANSY! COME BACK AND FIGHT LIKE A MAN!! I'LL KICK YER BUTT!'

A healthy image

Week should help raise awareness of eating disorders

With less than two weeks left until Spring Break, you might have stepped on a scale in the past few days, tried on a swimsuit or eaten one too many desserts and then decided you needed to do something to change your body.

That's just the kind of thinking that National Eating Disorder Awareness Week aims to combat.

In a country home to about 10 million women and one million men with either anorexia or bulimia and 25 million with binge eating disorder, it's obvious a certain level of dissatisfaction with our bodies has become the norm.

The good news is that in addition to hosting events this week dedicated to raising awareness about the prevalence and danger of eating disorders, UNC has a great treatment program for them.

The UNC Eating Disorders

Program was the first inpatient facility to open in North Carolina, South Carolina or Virginia. It offers partial hospitalization, inpatient care and outpatient treatment.

And with the prevalence of eating disorders, particularly on college campuses, it's important to have that kind of treatment available.

Of the one in five women who struggle with some level of eating problems, 90 percent are between the ages of 12 and 25.

One study reported that 91 percent of women surveyed on a college campus had attempted dieting as a means of controlling their weight, and 22 percent dieted often or always.

Much of the cause of eating disorders can be traced to faulty cognitions regarding body image and unhealthy behaviors, and the Eating Disorders Program targets this with cognitive-behavioral therapy.

But it's far from just internal motivation that drives people to develop eating disorders; American society plays a huge, detrimental role.

When we look to the outside world for reassurance that our bodies are OK, all we find are 100-Calorie Packs, magazines plastered with "15 Ways to Look Great in Your Swimsuit" and drugs to help in case we can't lose the pounds on our own.

It's unfortunate that such treatment centers are becoming increasingly necessary in our country, but it's good that schools like UNC have responded and created effective programs to address the issue and provide treatment.

Whether you diet obsessively, compulsively eat or maintain a healthy lifestyle, this week's events can provide a basis for you to become more informed and better able to promote a healthy body image.

Talkin' about some evolution

Florida makes right call to mandate teaching evolution

In a move that is sure to raise some ire among liberals and evangelicals alike, the Florida State Board of Education passed an act Feb. 19 mandating that Charles Darwin's theory of evolution be taught in every public classroom.

The somewhat controversial caveat of the act is that it specifies that evolution must be taught exactly as it is labeled: the "scientific theory of evolution."

The Sunshine State is on to something here, and the rest of the country, North Carolina included, could take a hint.

Before anyone gets up in arms about the disclaimer attached to evolution, we must point out that the terminology is accurate.

By definition, evolution is a theory. It isn't fully scientifically proven, and there is not a clear consensus on all the details.

For instance, scientists still debate over whether evolution occurs by creeps, a gradual process, or by jerks, in sudden changes.

Regardless of the controversy, however, it's still vital that evolution is taught in schools

because it is the leading theory on how life came to be as it is.

Any student entering a university should definitely have a basic understanding of the theory of evolution.

Many fields, from psychology to anthropology to biology, have parts of their disciplines intertwined with the concepts of Darwin's theory.

Not teaching students about evolution in public high school only puts them two steps behind everyone else when they get to college. Public education has a duty to teach students information they will be expected to know later in life.

It wouldn't hurt, however, also to teach about the parts of evolutionary theory that are lacking in evidence and bring up potential counterarguments.

We're certainly not advocating the teaching of creationism in schools, but alternative theories to evolution do bring up important points that evolutionary theory still must address. And making sure students understand that there is still some uncertainty will surely spark

critical and informed thought.

Part of teaching theories involves recognizing their limitations. Without that crucial information, nobody will know that there are holes that need to be fixed, and no new, more accurate ideas will arise. It's only by tackling these shortcomings that theories get better.

After all, the point of education is to create an informed citizenry enlightened enough to participate in workings of the American democracy and otherwise contribute to society.

Anytime we decide either to delude or shield our children from knowledge and debate, we're doing them a disservice as well as depriving ourselves of an informed population.

Give the students evolutionary theory straight with all the evidence and let them do the critical thinking for themselves.

An act in the same vein by North Carolina would allow for both sides of the debate to be reasonably appeased, but more importantly, allow schools to get on with the job of educating our children.

The right to choose

Military aptitude test should be opt-in, not given to all

Juniors at Cedar Ridge High School in Hillsborough had an extra test to take this year.

But unlike other tests, this one didn't count for a grade. Instead, juniors took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, a test that helps the Army determine the skills and abilities of test-takers.

Taking the ASVAB is not mandatory, and students were given the choice of opting out of taking the test. Nevertheless, the school should go back to the previous system, when students had to sign up for the test themselves.

Beginning this year all juniors were signed up to take the test, regardless of their interest in the military, so that

the administration of the test did not seem like it was being used as a recruitment tool.

Much like going to college or working at a fast food restaurant, enlisting in the military is not an option everyone wants to pursue after high school.

Students are not corralled into taking aptitude tests in high school for a career at McDonald's, and the same should apply for the Army.

Instead, students should be allowed to pursue their own interests regarding their futures. They should be made aware of their options, including the military, because the military certainly is a viable choice for many, but it should still be a choice.

Furthermore, even though students have the option now of

opting out of taking the ASVAB, many will feel like they have to take it or risk being ostracized.

Indeed, there were rumors of students being disciplined for choosing not to take the test, although they were refuted by the Cedar Ridge principal.

Although the school does not release the results of the test to the Army without the students' permission, there's no reason to think that students won't feel pressured to do that, as well, and thus potentially allow the military access to a great deal of their personal information without them actually wanting to release it.

Students should be made aware that the test is being given and the benefits to taking it, but it should be an opt-in system.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"What transpired in December holds no bearing on my dedication to serving the students."

ANDREW COONIN, CAA PRESIDENT-ELECT, ON DWI CHARGE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To read the full-length versions
VISIT <http://dailytarheelpublic.wordpress.com>
Post your own response to a letter, editorial or story online.
VISIT www.dailytarheel.com/feedback

UNC fails to promote safe, free expression on campus

TO THE EDITOR:

The University continues to claim that there is no bias on this campus, but I have to object. Not only is there institutional bias against pro-life students in particular, but this campus is not a safe place for any ideas that challenge the status quo.

Example after example of pro-life students being subjected to harassment, insults and threats even at the hands of our own professors have been reported to University officials. In the past four and a half years, I have received repeated insults and even death threats. My tires were slashed a few months ago. Our group materials have been vandalized while in University storage.

This morning I awoke to a phone call telling me that our Pit cube had been defaced with hateful graffiti, and I would have to paint it for the third time in a week. The first time it was defaced was because of overzealous N.C. State students, and this time it was because of close-minded and violent idiots at my own university.

The cube had been painted to publicize Dr. John Diggs' lecture at 7 p.m. tonight in Peabody 218. Diggs will be speaking on the medical and racist effects of abortion. If you disagree, I encourage you to challenge his notions with intelligent questions rather than stooping to immature tactics like graffiti on a Pit cube.

I also sincerely hope that the University will begin to take these violent acts seriously and work to create a safe environment for all students.

Ashley Tyndall
President
Carolina Students for Life

That pirating music hurts small music stores is sad

TO THE EDITOR:

With the recent news of the upcoming closing of Schoolkids Records on Franklin Street, I must admit I'm feeling a bit sad and sentimental.

After more than 30 years in business, one of Franklin Street's biggest landmarks will join the growing list of small businesses closing shop over recent months. When asked about the store's declining sales, Schoolkids owner Mike Phillips put at least a portion of the blame on music piracy.

Believe me when I say I know all about a shortage of funds when it comes to buying luxuries like CDs; I've ripped as much music as the next broke student.

There's a delicate balance between buying all of your music (an albeit unreasonable alternative) and pirating it all.

What people don't realize when they rip music is that the fat-walletted record execs aren't the only ones paying the price. Eventually the bill trickles back down to independent record stores, such as our own that will be closing next month.

I for one hate to see the place go, not only because Best Buy is less convenient but because I enjoyed the time I spent perusing their inventory for the gems I did end up buying.

Philip Pledger
Junior
Communications, Music

CAA has done a lousy job of promotion this season

TO THE EDITOR:

I was disappointed that the Carolina Athletic Association has not tried to publicize the under-use of the standby line until the Friday Daily Tar Heel issue with only two home games left ("Standby line not fully utilized," Feb. 22).

The CAA has done a very poor job of communicating with the student body all season. The main ticket policy Web page has not been updated since September, and the Duke ticket policy page did not tell students how to ensure that they had graduating status.

Last year there was more information on the site, including the number of tickets available for each game, which changes per game. In fact, the site lists that there are seven phases for tickets, not the current five phases.

Also, the CAA listserv has not been utilized to let students know about the changes in the policy or to remind people of distributions. If the CAA wants more people to attend the games, it should communicate better and possibly reinstate the second chance policy that was used last year.

I certainly hope that CAA president-elect Andrew Coonin will do a better job with the CAA next year.

Chetna Khosla
Graduate Student
Chemistry

OWASA should implement Stage 3 restrictions now

TO THE EDITOR:

The best way to encourage people to use less water, as any ECON 101 student could tell you, is to make it more expensive. I'm forced to wonder why, then, Orange Water and Sewer Authority has yet to move to Stage 3 restrictions.

After examining OWASA's fee schedule, I found that current restrictions influence almost no one. OWASA spokesman Greg Feller stated that the typical Orange County residence has, since 2002, used 5,500 gallons of water per month. Under Stage 2 restrictions, there is no surcharge at this usage level.

Worse, nonresidential users don't face surcharges in Stage 2 either. This effectively means that most people are not affected by the current pricing efforts at all.

It should be no mystery why OWASA hasn't been able to curb consumption so far. With water reserves at less than half, OWASA should go ahead and implement Stage 3 restrictions. Under Stage 3, both the typical residence and nonresidential users will face a charge 1.25 times normal rates.

Until most Orange County citizens and businesses feel the effects of the drought in their wallets, usage won't change much in the long run. We don't know how long the drought will last, and OWASA should act now before things become far worse.

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The Daily Tar Heel

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of editorial freedom

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