

The Daily Tar Heel

77 Years of Editorial Freedom



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University Housing and Sterility

The University has some explaining to do. In an administrative statement Thursday it was learned all incoming freshman will be required to live in University housing for two years and that sophomore and junior transfer students will be required to do so for one year.

The reason, the University explained, was a debt to the University's bondholders. That's fine. But to require students to live in housing which is as functionally insufficient as the housing on this campus is to endanger the educational, social, and

psychological well-being of the students here.

The four factories on South Campus, for instance, are a quagmire of sterility. Perhaps before the University sentences students to those prisons it might do something about improving their educational, social, and physical facilities.

That is, unless the administration of this University is merely interested in the financial well-being of the school, as opposed to the total well-being of the students.

An Interview With The Kid

With the recent rise in publicity of Middle America and the consequent rise in importance of this sector of our society, we decided to interview the kid, a Middle American who is a UNC student. The complete interview, unedited and uncut, follows.

DTH: How do you feel about your recent rise to importance?

KID: Well, I've always tried to shun the limelight but I think it's time that people spoke up about what's happening. You know, it's not so important my being important, but it is important that people understand what's important.

DTH: Before you continue, is Middle America the same as Silent America? Are you a Silent American?

KID: No, I think those are two distinct things we got here. No, I think a Silent American is a sub-type of a Middle American.

DTH: Are you such a sub-type?

KID: If I wasn't, then I wouldn't be here.

DTH: What do you think about HEW's letter telling the University to desegregate more?

KID: HEW?

DTH: The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

KID: Oh, HEW. Well, the way I look at it, I think that HEW ought to mind its own business and not stick its nose into other people's affairs. Now that's a matter of principle.

DTH: But isn't the University part of the public sector? It is a state university.

KID: Well, now, the way I look at that—the state can run its state agencies the way it wants.

DTH: Do you think a state-supported school should be permitted to operate with such a disproportionate ratio of whites to blacks as the University does?

KID: Now, you take the black schools and you won't find HEW telling them they ought to go out and recruit white students. I think it's purely a matter of interest and pressure groups. Now this is a well-documented fact. And you can take J. Edgar Hoover, you can take him, and he knows what's going on, see. You can read MASTERS OF DECEIT (by J. Edgar Hoover) and

when you realize what he realizes, i.e. that the Communists have mastered deceit, and when you realize the immorality and the amorality and the infiltration of Communism into such black groups as those led by M.L. King, Jr., and the invidiousness of such as the Black Panthers and Eldridge Cleaver, as Mr. J. Edgar Hoover pointed out, well then you just realize the serious and curious state of circumstances we're in—and all this coupled with an autocratic regime in Washington, D.C., dictating to the states what the

states should rightfully execute on their own—now this is a well documented matter of fact. Now the way I look at it...

DTH: Would you say we're in a crisis of confidence?

KID: I'd say that there's some kind of gap operating here—call it what you will.

DTH: Some have called it the Credibility Gap.

KID: Yeah, that's right, call it what you will.

DTH: But getting back to HEW and UNC. Do you think the present enrollment rate of blacks is very fair?

KID: I think it's certainly high enough, if that's all the members of the Negro race that want to come here.

DTH: How do you think the University has behaved during the food service problem?

KID: Well, I think that the University acted with the neutral restraint which it had the power to do. Now this power was endowed to them by the state legislature convening in Raleigh.

DTH: When was that?

KID: It's a well documented fact.

DTH: Oh. Do you think SAGA is serious about leaving?

KID: No. SAGA is running a business enterprise.

DTH: But isn't that why they're leaving? They claim business has fallen off.

KID: Yes, so I would say that their threat to withdraw is a serious one and came only after due consideration of the stressful and curious circumstances of the situation which brought them here in the first place.

DTH: Which situation was that?

KID: Well, first let me just say that I think if SAGA pulls out it will leave the University in a position of being in an irreparable food vacuum.

DTH: What about the suggestions for some kind of co-operative organization to operate the food service?

KID: Co-operative?

DTH: Co-operative.

KID: Oh. I don't think there's a place for co-operatives on a state campus such as this here.

DTH: Why not?

KID: Well, as any student of history will tell you, the miracle of America is that she was founded under the principles of the free enterprise system. Co-operatives may work in countries such as Israel, but in a country as rich and powerful in natural resources as the U.S. of A., the only way that we can attain true justice and freedom is by not deviating from that miracle known as the free enterprise system.

DTH: Thank-you.

KID: Any time.

Bobby Nowell

Round-Up Time For The 'Cliche Cowboys'

Imagine you are a standout college basketball player and your team has just lost a hard-fought game by a single point. Leaving the court and the disappointment which has velted the home crowd, you want the coach to hurry through his analysis of what went wrong so you can take a shower and wash the frustration out of your hair.

But you know as you descend to the dressing room that one of your greatest challenges of the night waits at the foot of the stairs. It is not enough that you have been bumped around for an hour or so under the backboards, or that you have been pelted by catcalls from the demanding audience. Now, you must encounter another group of people who are potentially more dangerous than the others—the gentlemen of the N.C. Sportswriters Association.

Brandishing soft-lead pencils and wearing a note pad on each hip, these journalists are seldom more than grandstand quarterbacks—only they are paid to do their second-guessing. They are highly competitive and boast of "scoops" they have recorded like a gunslinger displays the notches on his gun.

They will go to almost any length to get a different "angle" on a story—if not a scoop—and the standard method is the post-game dressing-down of game participants who are doing their damndest to dress up and get out of the gym.

Athletes who co-operate with the cliche cowboys, by sacrificing their showers to answer questions, likely will receive favorable notices. But woe be unto him who either does not cultivate a good relationship with sportswriters or who should ever criticize anything one of them has written.

In groping for different twists for their stories, the interviewers hope that (1) an athlete will be loquacious enough to provide at least one or two revealing

quotes, or (2) his personal life will be controversial enough for him to be stamped a "character" about whom much can be written with a minimum of documentation.

However, an increasing number of athletes, while possessing championship mechanical abilities, are uninteresting to the point of being dull. They are the antithesis of the early sports heroes, almost all of whom were "characters" in private life.

Golfer Dale Douglass, who won two tournaments on the professional tour in N.C. last year, was described as the worst possible interview by one scribe: "He doesn't drink, cheat on his wife, shoot pool, drive a sports car, wear loud clothes, talk much, or even smile often."

Sportswriters hate to interview Douglass almost as much as former N.C. State quarterback Charlie Noggle, who was said to have called signals in combinations of "Yeah," "Naw," and "Hi." No one could tell whether Noggle was being superprotective against being misquoted, or whether he was, simply, stupid.

On the other hand, the cliche cowboys often fail to realize it isn't the easiest thing in the world to be quotable while trying to catch one's breath, having ankle tape removed, signing autographs, and

listening to the last of the hot water trickling down the drain in the showers.

Furthermore, the questions they ask seldom provoke replies that make "good copy." They don't inquire of the southpaw pitcher whether he scratches his behind with his left hand. Instead, athletes who have familiarized themselves with the local press can almost predict the queries on a given occasion:

—On a victory: "What was your game plan?"

—On a come-from-behind victory: "What did the coach say to you at halftime?"

—On an exceptional individual performance: "Was this your greatest game?"

—On a closely fought contest: "What did you feel was the turning point?"

—On a defeat: "What happened?"

—On a particularly disastrous defeat: "Where do you go from here?"

Accordingly, the knowledgeable star will compile a repertoire of stock answers to stock questions. Things like:

—"We play them one game at a time."

—"We talked it over and decided to get together and play as a team."

—"We just didn't have it" (really had it) today.

—"It's a game of inches."

—"You win some, you lose some, and

some are rained out."

—We can't (look back) (rest on our laurels). We've got to get ready for the next one."

—"The Mudhens are a fine team. They deserve a lot of credit."

No wonder so many post-game interviews read like broken records sound. If the present trends continue, maybe one day a player will be able to pre-record his postgame comments.

Some players consciously attempt to turn the tables on their overeager, somewhat glib interrogators by feeding them "juicy" but meaningless quotes, melodramatic stories, or an "elaborate hedge" to a pointed question. At the other end of the press relations stick are those who are openly hostile with the press to the point of physical violence. These two types of athletes are seldom out of the headlines, because they make "good copy." But there aren't many of them.

No wonder so many post-game interviews read like broken records sound. If the present trends continue, maybe one day a player will be able to pre-record his postgame comments, enabling him to replay the tape for sportswriters after the game.

In that way, he can take a shower before all the hot water is gone.

Jim Eldridge

The DTH And The Right To Know

We are all so deeply enmeshed in the DAILY TAR HEEL editorial/ "objective reporting" controversy, this "comic-opera" (as the GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS calls it), that we have lost sight of one of the basic questions involved: the student's right to know.

There is a national organization called the Television Information Office which prints full page newspaper ads telling the American people that whether or not they like what they see on their TV screens, it is what is happening in the world today and they have a right to

know about it.

The same thing applies to this campus, and not really on a smaller scale. For we ARE creatures of our environment, and an academic environment without a daily flow of information is absurd, to say the least.

If the DTH were put on a subscription basis, you say, those who wanted to find out what is going on on campus could still do so. That's the way it is with newspapers in the "real" world, you add.

True. But the mass media are not as subscription as one might want them to be. They tend to drown us with their pervasive nature, attacking us in our cars, supermarkets, taverns, barber shops and occasionally, even our bathrooms. And like it or not, we are, at least, aware of the world around us. And like it or not, the DTH has tried to tell us what—if not always precisely how or why—is happening in Chapel Hill.

It does not take much imagination to envision this campus without a DAILY TAR HEEL; there have been more attractive garbage dumps. Any organization or group—left, right, academic, non-academic, black, white, or neuter—would have to plaster the trees, buildings and bulletin boards with signs and posters announcing their event or meeting or whatever. The Peabody arsonist would have a heyday.

But we don't want to do away with the DTH, you repeat; just fix it so we don't have to read that radical crap if we don't want to. So don't. Elect a God-fearing editor with apple pie dripping from his jowls who will report all the Agnews the way you want it.

But where else can one find out for \$2.00 a semester about all the cultural activities and entertainment in the area, as well as information which affects one's performance from day to day on this campus?

Will WCHL tell you that you can now keep a sophomore girl out all night? Will THE CHAPEL HILL WEEKLY print your letter on stopped-up toilets in the dormitory? Will WTVD or WRAL give

you the price of tickets for the next Carolina Union concert?

This is beginning to sound very simplistic and childish, but maybe that's the level we need to reach when discussing things we take for granted. Like being in the know. Like walking toward Lenoir Hall with full knowledge that black militants or highway patrolmen might be there to greet you. Like understanding why nobody was in class October 15. Things like that.

You may not like what is happening on this campus, but you have the right to know about it. And that right should be inalienable. TO COIN A RADICAL PHRASE. That right should be placed above the right of the DTH to operate exclusive of university control.

An archbishop of Dublin in the 19th century, Richard Whately, said "The dangers of knowledge are not to be compared with the dangers of ignorance. Man is more likely to miss his way in darkness than in twilight; in twilight than in full sun."

The DAILY TAR HEEL may not be the sun, but it's better than a total eclipse.

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