

# Reader says cartoon 'dauby and prejudiced'

To the editors:  
The Oliphant cartoon in Monday's *DTH* with Pope Paul VI and Earl Butz surrounded by dying Africans was offensive, dauby and prejudiced. The caricature implied that the Catholic Church has been unreasonable and unresponsive towards the victims of the famine in the Sub-Sahara region. Nothing could be further from the truth. In the article accompanying the cartoon the reader was informed that Pope Paul VI condemned the American position that population control is the only ultimate answer to the problem of food, and proposed instead increased agricultural output. Beyond this statement, the Church has been anything but inactive: Catholic assistance, in the form of both money and personnel, have been sent to the Sub-Sahara region for some time now; the sources of this aid span the Church, from Rome down through to the diocesan level. Again, aside from the obvious myopic view of a broad subject, we were insulted by the coarse and bigoted opinion expressed. The choice of a subject for a political cartoon of this nature should reflect a clear-headed view of an issue and not a personal bias.  
Bill Nelson  
420 Smith Ave.  
John Hanley  
2104 Granville South

Discrimination can be divided into two categories: "blatant" discrimination and institutionalized discrimination. "Blatant" discrimination is when a person is qualified for a position but he or she is denied the position solely because of race, sex, religion or national origin. Despite the fact that some male WASPs do not think anyone is being discriminated against, I have observed and been subjected to quite a bit of this blatant discrimination right here in North Carolina in the year 1974. A banker told me that I did not get a job I had applied for because they "wanted a man for it." One real estate agent in the triangle area told us they had advertised a low priced house in a town 20 miles from the house so that the local blacks would not try to buy the house; the owner wanted to keep the area all white. Institutionalized discrimination is deeper in our society. The way our society is organized, the criteria used in evaluations and some societal values have the effect of discriminating against some groups. For instance, take a look at how employment agencies are operated in the Raleigh area. Half of the office is responsible for placing people in secretarial and retail jobs. When my husband and I would go into these employment agencies, I would be referred to the person who handled the secretaries and he to the person who handled the management jobs despite the fact we have the same degree from the same school with the same GPA. It does not take a social scientist to figure out that the only difference between us is our sex. Yet my husband was being told he was excellently qualified for entrance level management and I was being asked repeatedly how fast I could type, whether I was taking birth control and being told I better snap up this \$2 an hour bridal consultant job because good jobs like this do not come along often or I better brush up on my typing. I think it is safe to say that

discrimination is still very much with us and is not just the product of paranoid women and radical blacks. Given a racist and sexist society, how do we end discrimination? It takes six months for a complaint to be investigated by HUD. It takes two years and longer to settle an employment discrimination complaint through EEOC. Despite Mr. Kelly's belief in the efficacy of "the numerous local and federal agencies that are specifically designed to handle this type of discrimination," two years is a long time to wait for a job you are already qualified for. And how do you prevent future discrimination, both blatant and institutionalized? I am truly sorry, but some form of quotas is the only way I can think of. Otherwise the elaborate white male society will find some way to maintain the current status quo, either consciously or unconsciously. And blacks and women will never meet the muster because they lack the education and the experience they were discriminated out of in the past. An end to discrimination will in the long run be of great benefit to all in our society. The best person for the job will be hired rather than the sexist racist criteria now used, and the job will be done in the best way possible. The individual will also be free to choose the best job he or she can get on his or her abilities, getting the best job for the individual. If quotas and reverse discrimination are the only way to get this started, I will support them. Mr. Platt and Mr. Kelly, you are dead wrong and very near-sighted.  
Margaret Dube-Rundell  
UNC Law School

## Seback review called damning

To the editors:  
I'll have to hand it to Rick Sebak. His review of the *UNC Readers'* production, *The Jar*, aroused my ordinarily tolerant temperament. Since I hold opinions of an entirely different nature, I feel compelled to respond to his article. I am not affiliated with the *UNC Readers*, so I believe my judgment to be just as valid as Rick's.  
The *UNC Readers* are students in Mrs. Martha Hardy's Speech 141 class. It seems unfair to subject a learning experience to such harsh criticisms. Mrs. Hardy's class provides an outlet for experimentation to discover the dimensions of this art form. I don't understand how Rick can label the group's efforts a "narrow-visioned misunderstanding of the subtleties of an oral presentation." Not only did he express his disapproval of this particular show, he also ruled out the possibility of any improvement in the future. While Rick is entitled to his opinion, such remarks are not constructive but demoralizing. They are also not necessarily true.  
My hope is that people will not be unduly influenced by Rick's damning article. If you've never seen a *UNC Readers'* production, then by all means see one for yourself. Don't let a single opinion cause you to miss an enjoyable experience. You may just come to believe, as I do, that reader's theatre is an entertaining and worthwhile way to spend an evening.  
Cheryl Oxford  
258 Ehringhaus

## Mass apathy is false assumption

To the editors:  
Kevin Roddy is indeed failing as an alarm clock, as he says, but for different reasons than those he believes. It seems he is trying to expose two reasons for his cynicism: our "pathetic ignorance" and the shortcomings of our system. His intentions may be good but his energies are misdirected.  
To begin with, mass ignorance (or apathy) is not a valid assumption. Doesn't Mr. Roddy realize that not everyone is indifferent or unaware? This is true for the very fact that some people when they see a problem, whether internal or external, take steps to do something about it. It is wrong to characterize us as a bunch of sloths producing nothing but a yearly crop of moss. At least some of us are doing what we want to do, and enjoying it. What you see as problems cannot be totally blamed on "apathetic ignorance," if at all.  
Being active, however, does not necessarily entail getting your own way in everything. Society means interaction which means we must often adapt to others instead of strictly pursuing our own self-interests. It is not a

shortcoming of the system when we are asked to do something different from what we would prefer to do. Adapting to society does not require a loss of individualism, either; it simply calls for flexibility. If you are to co-exist among other humans, you must adopt a wider perspective.  
I do agree with Mr. Roddy regarding change through group action. You have the right to be heard and the right to try to influence others, and more voices means a greater appeal. But here too, compromise may be necessary, simply because you are not alone in the world.  
Criticism can be constructive, but action is better. And Mr. Roddy, cynicism is not action or participation unless it is transformed from abstract to concrete. Non-voting is not acceptable, either, when the excuse is "lack of choice." Somebody's efforts determined the choice, and you had the same opportunity.  
It seems then that Mr. Roddy's cynicism results more from narrow-mindedness than anything else. Things are being done, whether you accept them or not. Action, not mere criticism, will bring about the needed changes.  
Randy Perkins  
309 Morrison

## Student explains academic policy

To the editors:  
The Student Academic Affairs Committee gave a fairly complete explanation of University academic and administrative policy (*DTH*—Nov. 13). I would like to enlarge on that information.  
What do you do if you find yourself flunking a subject? You do have a course of action—the condition (CO). This involves negotiating with the individual instructor for special work or for a special examination. You might be able to sit through the course again and do a research paper instead of taking a final.  
The CO is very infrequently used and is almost defunct. In fact your professor probably would not even know about it. However, it is a means of extricating yourself from a failing grade. Unfortunately, with this method you have a chance for only a D upon completion of the CO.  
The incomplete (IN) is not used solely if a student fails to do an assignment required in a course. It is in the same class as the CO and is one of the degrees of flexibility that the faculty are allowed. Most faculty will always give a student a chance to learn more and demonstrate mastery in a course. However, the availability of this method could depend on such circumstances as instructor deadlines.  
In both the case of the CO and the IN, the professor is the sole judge as to whether or not they should be applied. The student's record for the semester, e.g. attendance, completion of class work, etc., will probably determine the

applicability of these methods.  
The appeals process is only rarely used. However, don't be afraid to protest a grade if you feel you have a solid case. The faculty will behave honestly in reviewing the case if it is reasonable.  
Also, don't be afraid of dropping a course and receiving the notorious W. The W is simply an annotation of record. It is non-prejudicial and should have little more effect than the older method of blotting the course. If you apply to grad school the admissions board will take into account what course was dropped, the number of hours you were taking, and also what your other courses were.  
If you do not show up for an exam you receive an AB. This is averaged in as an F. The student can only be excused by his academic dean or by the Student Health Service. Some students might expect an incomplete if they skipped their exam. The AB is the *only* grade that can be given in that situation. It is purely an administrative grade.  
When a student flunks a course and then betters his grade after repeating the course, the transcript will show that improvement. The F will remain on the record and in the average. One grade will not supercede another. But don't worry, one F does not make that much difference in terms of your academic career.  
If you have a question about academic procedures see your advisor. Hopefully he will be able to give you the guidance and information that you will need.  
Paul A. Williams  
313 Winston

## PIRG removes the velvet glove

To the editors:  
Well, it seems that PIRG has taken off the velvet glove and put on the mailed fist. We now have a sample of how PIRG will react whenever the student body votes in a way PIRG doesn't like.  
I'm glad I voted against PIRG last week. It seems my distrust of them was well-placed. Incidentally, I voted against PIRG not because of anti-PIRG posters but because of the pro-PIRG posters.  
John L.S. Hickey  
2456 Sedgefield Drive  
Chapel Hill

## Reader defends Mac packaging

To the editors:  
Certainly, I realize that the middleman in our economic society is making a fast buck and will not deny that fact. But I must take issue with Gerry Cohen's "Small group making a

fast buck."  
First, I realize that "all that cardboard packaging and garbage that wraps it (a McDonald's Quarterpounder)" may seem a waste to some people, to some uninformed person. But it's not garbage at all. That paper used is completely recyclable.  
Second, that cardboard packaging and garbage, as Mr. Cohen puts it, used to wrap a Quarterpounder goes a long way towards keeping the sandwich hot and neat-looking. So, the next time Mr. Cohen, or anyone wants a QP without that cardboard packaging and garbage that wraps it up, I can personally guarantee they will always get one that is cold, well washed and brick hard.  
I know, I've worked for McDonald's for six and one-half years and know a lot more about that corporation than Mr. Cohen seems to think he does.  
Will Mr. Cohen apologize for the gross misstatement of fact?  
Carlos Umstead

## Editorial 'bully' and a good show

To the editors:  
To your editorial, "Alternative needed to inflated grade system," I say not "bullshit" but "bully"! Good show.  
C.M. Elliott  
Dept. of Chemistry  
(Graduate Student)

## Thanks to Troy for Kevin Roddy

To the editors:  
Kevin Roddy's editorial in Monday's paper made (embodied and embraced) two points which I think will receive the wholehearted approval of most *DTH* readers with "meager values" that managed to fight the temptation to doze off after reading his opening paragraph.  
First: He charged that students at UNC receive a "pseudo-education." True. Any institution that would give English I credit to a student who writes "As Mark Twain once said," without proceeding this with whatever it was Mark Twain said, surely deserves extreme criticism.  
We are fortunate that Roddy has ascended from Troy, Michigan to open our eyes to this truth and others, such as the one embraced (and embodied) by his maxim "cynicism is participation."  
Second: He pleaded with us (all) to direct our "criticism to those who have inspired it"—a brilliant wording of the intent of this very letter.  
Perhaps Carolina's "education-combine" is in desperate need of a new awakening, but I would rather let my consciousness sleep (in the back of the bus or anywhere else) than endure Kevin Roddy's attempts to raise my self-awareness.  
Anna Campbell  
K-12 Colony Apts.  
Chapel Hill

## Kelly and Platt are near-sighted

To the editors:  
There seems to be a great deal of confusion about discrimination and reverse discrimination as exhibited in the recent issues of the *DTH*. Perhaps I can shed some light on the questions raised.

## The Daily Tar Heel

82nd Year of Editorial Freedom

All unsigned editorials are the opinion of the editors. Letters and columns represent the opinions of individuals.

Founded February 23, 1893 Saturday, November 16, 1974

## Fault-finding: use and abuse

By their very nature, schools teach students to be better critics than performers. We may be able to work our way through integral calculus, discover all of Marx's failings, or explain Richard Nixon's downfall, but when it comes to our own actions, even a single positive accomplishment is very difficult.  
This week two unfortunate events have shown the academic profession's hopeless tendency to criticize. Our only faculty columnist, Gerald Unks, has been receiving carefully-corrected copies of his *DTH* articles from an anonymous grammarian in the English Department. And a member of the American Studies Department found a copy of Wednesday's editorial decrying highgrade distributions placed under her doorway. The intent was obvious; the clipping was a veiled threat that liberal grading practices must stop. Again, it seems that an anonymous faculty member was responsible.  
These two incidents reveal an astonishing lack of sensitivity for those who battle in the front-lines of the university. When you're constantly taking heat, especially when you're in the limelight, the least that opponents can do is identify themselves. They know who you are; you should know who they are. Some people in this university do try their hardest to advance our welfare, but the above backstabbing efforts do not even further the critic's cause. The capacity for acute observation and analysis is quite common here and thus the two nameless faculty critics hardly did anyone a favor by belaboring their own abilities.  
It probably does make a difference in some small minds that our columns do have errors in grammar, syntax and diction, or that one particular department might be too kind to students. All of us try our best to improve, but we could do even better if fault-finding came from friends, not from enemies. But, more important, most criticism challenges petty details, not underlying principles. It is easy for critics to miss the forest for the trees.  
Criticism should flow freely in the university, but it should be from identifiable and sympathetic sources. This is the price of the privilege of dissent, if the suggestions are ever to be adopted by the person criticized. Relations here should be open and honest, however different and conflicting the opinions. The university, of all places, should know better than to indulge in the cruelty and intrigue of the outside world. We should be able to improve on our environment, not be bound by it.  
We dare the nameless, faceless critics in the two above incidents to make their claims public, or even to face their victims. We dare them to take the time to write a weekly column for the benefit of the community, instead of for their own careers. We dare them to face the pressures and the frustrations of any sort of innovative community action. It is easiest for them to criticize what they know least about.



The Daily Tar Heel  
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