

letters to the editor

Qualifying the absolute—Carter not the first Southerner, but the fourth

To the editor:
While it is common these days to refer to Jimmy Carter as the first President from the South since the Civil War, as the *Daily Tar Heel* did twice on the front page Friday, such regional absolutes need qualification. By my count there have been three Presidents from the states of the Confederacy since the War for Southern Independence.

Andrew Johnson was born in Raleigh, a southern city of unquestioned credentials. He later moved to Tennessee, became a Unionist, and Abraham Lincoln's Vice-President in 1864. Johnson's southernness was the good old Jacksonian variety, and the same skepticism with which he distrusted the planter aristocracy of his homeland allowed him the good sense to know a carpetbagger when he saw one. His

adamant but artless opposition to Charles Sumner and Radical Reconstruction sealed his political doom although he lived to battle Yankee and Bourbon alike on the floor of Congress. He would have been outraged had you suggested he was not a Southerner.

Woodrow Wilson was born in Staunton, Virginia, and educated at Davidson and Princeton. There are few things in the South more southern than Davidson College; and those who know Princeton as "the UVa of the North" do not doubt the compelling fact that more Mint Juleps are served behind closed doors at the alma mater of James Madison than at any other college in America. To be charitable, it is true that Wilson rose to national prominence as Governor of New Jersey. But in spite of the outlandish connections of his later

years, Wilson said more than once that the South was the only place on earth that nothing need be explained to him. Surely a statement of such subtlety and passion stamps him as a son of Virginia forever.

Finally, Lyndon Johnson, though he called himself alternately a Southerner or a Westerner, depending upon the political advantage at stake, was born, bred and buried in Texas, a state over which much southern blood was spilled to insure that slavery would have a fighting chance to reach the Pacific. The Cotton Bowl wasn't named that for whimsical reasons.

To use a favorite phrase of the new administration, I think it is accurate to say that Carter is indeed the first President to come from a so-called Deep South state, although one ordinarily employs that label without qualification only when speaking of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. What is really accurate to say I suppose is that south Georgia shares the affinities of its true Deep South neighbors more than it does the dominant air of Coca-Cola-ism in Atlanta. Those among us who are unreconstructed will perhaps even



comment
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Learning by experience—time for a commitment

What educational issue is foremost in the minds of Carolina students?
This open-ended question was thrown at a group of students meeting with Board of Trustees last week. Their answers were varied; but the response that received the most discussion concerned internship programs.

An increasing number of students, faculty members and administrators have expressed an interest in expanding opportunities at this University for gaining practical experience in various fields. But the actual commitment by all departments of the University to experiential learning is tenuous. The law school faculty, in fact, has actively fought the idea of an accredited internship program, and many other departments have merely ignored it.

A number of people and departments within the University have made efforts to provide opportunities for field projects and internships. Jane Kendall Smith in the Career Planning and Placement Center has collected information on internship programs throughout the United States, and Dean of Experimental and Special Studies Lou Lipsitz has helped to arrange academic credit for learning done outside the classroom. The School of Journalism, the drama department and others have attempted to provide some experiential learning opportunities for their students. But all these efforts are fragmented and often apply only to select groups of students. There is no central location where all students can go to learn of possible opportunities for experiential learning.

Student Body President Billy Richardson and the Student Affairs Office are attempting to provide such a central location. They have proposed that a part-time employee be hired by the Student Affairs Office to consolidate information on internships and to research possibilities for creating a permanent internship referral service. This permanent service ideally would provide students with information on internships, would serve as a placement service for such internships and would work to expand intern opportunities.

Richardson has asked the Campus Governing Council for \$750 to help initiate this service. The council's finance committee approved the request Monday evening. The proposal will be presented for approval by the entire council at its next meeting.

The demand for an effective internship referral and placement service was evident at last week's encounter between students and Trustees. If the CGC approves Richardson's proposal it will have made the first step toward instituting such a service, and will perhaps have made its most important contribution to students this year.

John Russell
40 Davie Circle

Mason-Dixon further north

To the editor:
Your lead editorial last Friday "Tara is rewon," besides raising some grammatical considerations, contains an even greater error: "...the Southerner, once he steps across the Mason-Dixon line, is considered an alien—even if he is no further north than the northern bank of the Potomac."

For your edification, the following information from *Black's Law Dictionary* is included here:
"Mason and Dixon's Line—The boundary line between Pennsylvania on the north and Maryland on the south celebrated before the extinction of slavery as the one of demarcation between the slave and the free states..."

The District of Columbia lies south of Pennsylvania.
Such great bastions of moral fortitude, racial tolerance, basic cleanliness, political honesty, constitutional practice and personal friendliness as New York City, Boston, Detroit, Chicago and Pittsburgh lie north of the Maryland-Pennsylvania line.

I do hope this information will be of use to your staff.

Blackwell M. Brogden Jr.
UNC School of Law

Road to tyranny

To the editor:
The stifling of dissent is the first step along the road to tyranny. The founders of the Republic, recognizing the critical nature of this issue, responded in the Constitution by saying in the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." While the original limitation was upon Federal actions only, the Fourteenth Amendment later extended coverage of the First Amendment to actions by the various states.

Two candidates for Student Body President, Gary Mason and Joe Roberts have based much of their campaign rhetoric upon denial of this most basic American right by attacking the Carolina Gay Association (CGA)—Roberts—and both the CGA and the Black Student Movement (BSM)—Mason. In addition to inflaming significant minorities on this campus, their irresponsible proposals offend the law of the land and demonstrate contempt for the principles of liberty and justice upon which this nation stands.

The right of black students to organize to maintain their cultural, social and political unity has been universally recognized and supported by the courts during recent years. Demands by gays for the same rights are gaining increased support and have been affirmed by recent court decisions. In an opinion written by Circuit Judge Winter, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit [Gay Alliance of Students (GAS) vs. Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)] ruled: "GAS correctly posits its claim to register upon the first amendment associational rights of its members. Healy v. James (1972) makes clear that in the context of the scope of protection which the first amendment affords to

associational rights on a state-supported college campus, the Constitution's protection is not limited to direct interference with fundamental rights." Quoting from *Bates v. City of Little Rock* (1960) the Court added: "freedoms such as these are protected not only against heavy-handed frontal attack, but also being stifled by more subtle governmental interference." The Court of Appeals concluded, "For the foregoing reasons, we conclude that so long as VCU maintains a program of registration of student organizations, its refusal to register GAS on the same terms and conditions as those applied to other student organizations violated the First and 14th Amendments."

The perversion of the law, and the dissolution of Constitutional liberties, are often greater threats to American society than any racial or cultural group could possibly be. Vocal dissent is the price of liberty. If freedom is denied to these groups today, whose rights would be denied tomorrow? Christians? Republicans? State fans? To deny these rights to the BSM and the CGA would establish a dangerous precedent which must be avoided. The groups in question threaten nobody. The responses to these groups as stated by Messrs. Mason and Roberts, threaten the survival of those American ideals which have been a beacon of hope for all humanity for over two centuries. The choice is ours to make; let us make it while we still have the freedom to do so.

Joel William Roberts
629 Craige

Visible, viable, valuable candidate

To the editor:
Oh what the hell! Me too.
Today I have decided to announce my candidacy for presidency of the Student Body. Why? I have my reasons. I want a new beginning, a better tomorrow and a chance to make student government more visible, viable, valuable and anything else starting with a V.

How do I stand on the issues, you may ask? I am definitely for them and please quote me on that. Soon, my position papers may be released which will show my firm stands on the issues. For example: funding homosexuals and the BSM—maybe we should and maybe we shouldn't; parking—doesn't it make you sick?; tenure—for grad students, yes; and minorities on student courts—no, everyone should be at least 18. I would also like to take a stand on Dr. David Stewart, but I doubt he could support me (6'4", 175 lbs., Girls!). Plus, my fortune teller advises that I stay out of that one.

Though presently not a UNC student, I think I'm qualified. I am from Fayetteville, of course. I don't know nothing about government; don't know no politicians and would avoid the rascals if I did. I pledge that I'm not applying to law school, unless you elect me so I'd have a chance of gettin' in. I'm only in Chapel Hill maybe two days a week, so I couldn't screw up too bad. For political advisers, I'll pick the best—Woody Durham and that cute cheerleader, you know, the third one from the left with the brown hair.

I swear I'm serious. I swear I'm serious. Please vote for me.

G. Craig Stewart III
Durham

Can't wait

To the editor:
In regard to the letter by Rick Potts et al. concerning the reinstatement of marathon waiting for basketball tickets: Why? It may have escaped your attention, but the reason that most students are here is to be STUDENTS.

omitted from my review in yesterday's paper).
Patti Smith is so far ahead of what's happening with music today. It's like she's wired into the future. She's treading new ground, new form, new style. And there's a small number of people here lucky enough to have seen her.

In ten years, she will show up in everything everyone else is doing. But even then, she'll have already bought and sold the whole scene and moved on to something else. Like Dylan, she's gonna scorch the ground, use it up, say all there is to say about what she's doing. And then leave. The influence and imitation will be blurred images of the original. No one says anything like Dylan says it, and certainly no one enters his scene and breaks any new ground.

I think Patti Smith scared a lot of people. She was too bold and too abrasive. But you know they refused Dylan too.

Kathy Hodges
423 James

Tenure outdated, outmoded

To the editor:
I would like to voice my wholehearted agreement with Professor Richard Sharvey's evaluation of our outdated and outmoded system of tenure (*DTH*, Jan. 24). His suggestions deserve serious consideration. If they are implemented, the rise in quality of teaching and research at UNC will be enormous.

Robert D. Rodman
Assistant Professor of Linguistics

Blood and guts

To the editor:
Really now, let's get down to the blood and guts of Patti Smith (which unfortunately was inadvertently

The *Daily Tar Heel* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be typed, double spaced, on a 60-space line and are subject to condensation or editing for libelous content or bad taste.
Letters should not run over 50 lines (300 words) and should be mailed to the *Daily Tar Heel*, Carolina Union.
Unsigned or initialed columns on this page represent the opinion of the *Daily Tar Heel*. Signed columns or cartoons represent the opinion of the individual contributor only.

Give up? 'Snapper' Organs strikes again

Editor's note: the picture below appeared on the front page of the *DTH* on Jan. 19.



If these three walked into a bank, the tellers would probably call the police. Dreaming of spring break and Fort Lauderdale, though, the young men are probably intent only on reaching the warmth of the nearest building.

To the editor:
Come on folks: I give up trying to find the hidden person on the *DTH*'s front page (Jan. 19). I searched and searched and couldn't find him. Please be good sports and tell us where he is located. (In one of the guys' pockets perhaps?)

Toni Padrick
306 Biological Sciences Research Center
N.C. Memorial Hospital

Editor's Note: Had you taken the time to further scrutinize the picture, you probably would have recognized Inspector Harry "Snapper" Organs of Scotland Yard's Q Division. Organs, a master of disguise, appeared as a bush.

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