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# The Daily Tar Heel

88th year of editorial freedom

## The crystal glass

Last of two parts

A glass is filled with water to its halfway point. Is it half full or half empty? Does it hold the promise of quenching one's thirst or will in only wet the throat and tongue and make the pangs of thirst that much more acute? Bobby Doctor, regional director of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, uses this simple analogy to illustrate the subtle but real difference in the way blacks and whites perceive racial progress made in the last 15 years. (Doctor suggests that blacks see the glass half empty, while whites see it half full.) It is a poignant analogy, one that crystallizes the dilemma of black/white relations today, but it does not define the enormity or the complexity of the issue.

What does the future of black/white relations hold for Americans? A brief encapsulation of some of the events sure to affect this relationship is revealing. Membership in the Ku Klux Klan had doubled to 10,000 during the past five years and few would doubt that the number of Klan sympathizers would shame the membership figure. Accompanying this resurgence in racist activity is an increase in race-related crimes. Many blacks, in turn, are responding angrily and, sometimes, violently.

The recent Republican takeover of the Senate has spurred men like Sen. Jesse Helms, (R-N.C.), and Sen. Orrin Hatch, (R-Utah), to introduce measures that would make Affirmative Action and busing even hotter issues. Hatch is proposing a constitutional amendment that would ban Affirmative Action programs on the basis of reverse discrimination. Helms' legislation would make it impossible for the Justice Department to initiate or participate in any action to enforce busing.

As Harvard sociologist Thomas Pettigrew said more than a year ago, "Global attitudes on racial justice have in fact changed greatly in a positive direction, especially among young whites, but what hasn't improved much is the attitude toward the implementation of programs for achieving racial justice. On a whole series of implemented programs, attitudes have grown worse in the '70s."

Yet, even these complicated questions do not encompass what is perhaps the most pressing race-related problem today—the inner cities. It is, after all, in these areas where poverty, ignorance and hatred can be found in their most deplorable and naked forms. Even as many middle-class blacks enjoy the benefits of equal opportunity—and figures show that many young blacks are making gains comparable to those of whites of the same age—the blacks of the urban ghettos are excluded from this prosperity. As the middle-class black sector grows into a potent political and economic force, the ghettos grow as well—ugly and threatening.

The efforts by federal government to improve these potentially explosive areas have failed. And former civil rights activist Carl Gershman contends that the inner cities are more a class problem than a racial one. Still, the fact remain that blacks constitute the vast majority of the inner city population. So it is blacks who will rise up when they consider the situation unbearable.

What does the future of black/white relations hold for America? Certainly, the quiet '70s may give way to the more militant '80s, particularly if blacks don't see a change in white thinking or if the economy continues to devastate already bitter blacks. Some will greet this militancy enthusiastically, convinced that it is only through such action that positive change occurs. Still, the cries for patience and peaceful activism are just as loud as the cries for more militant response.

The many aspects of black/white relations today will not obscure the most important issue of all, the sensitivity of whites to the needs of the black community. Should whites, through ambivalence or resistance, push blacks to the clenched fist or gun, the glass—half-full or half-empty—will crash down, leaving black and whites thirsting for quieter times.

## Pahdun me suh, but I don't have an accent

By DAVID POOLE

"I just love to hear you talk."

People come up to me and tell me that all the time. I'm getting a little tired of it. Let's get one thing straight. We are in the South. Therefore, I do not have the accent.

If we were at Hahvahd (that's how the guise up dire say the name of the school in Massachusetts), I would be the one with the funny accent. But dese guise are on my turf now.

A couple of people I know got copies of a book the other day, the title of which was "How to Speak Southern." In this little book, they were given instruction on the correct pronunciation of words like "young'un" and "ya'll."

Now I'm not one of those off-the-deep-end Southerners who thinks that the only reason the South lost the Civil War (correctly titled the War of Northern Aggression) was that the North cheated somehow. I'm also not the type who feels like anybody from north of Richmond is a spy.

But there's just something about having to defend my region when I'm still in it that I don't like. If we were sitting around the beach house in Cape Cahd discussing clam chawdah or Uncle Joe's haht cahdishen, I wouldn't stand up and say, "Hot damn, you boys shore talk funny." It just wouldn't be gentelemanlike.

I guess the reason us "hicks" get all the guff (which is also the way people around here tend to pronounce the name of a large oil company) is that we're

### letters to the editor

## Columnist slips up, reveals own bigotry

To the editor:

In his smug article seemingly against Nazism (DTH, Nov. 20), writer Brad Kutrow slipped up and revealed his own bigoted attitudes. He cites as an "unfortunate fact" that the Germanic name Snyder sounds malevolent and Nazi-like, and implies that the name Covington (of Anglo-saxon origin) sounds pleasant by contrast.

Who more than the Nazis and the Klan are infamous for downgrading

people because of the sounds of their names, saying for example: F. X. Flanagan sounds like one of those papist Catholics; Leroy Jackson is probably a black revolutionary; and (using the same logic) Brad Kutrow must be a dumb polack.

An unbiased reporter would have said most observers concluded that some voters perceived Snyder's name as sounding malevolent rather than stating as a fact that it does sound. Yes, Mr.

Kutrow, you slipped up. That "unfortunate fact" exists only in the minds of bigots.

As an aside, I wonder where you dredged up the "most observers" who agreed with you. I doubt you polled enough people to justify use of the term "most observers." As a minimum, the 37 Snyders (Schneiders, Sniders) in Chapel Hill deserve an apology.

John L. S. Hickey  
Chapel Hill, N.C.

Poole's void

To the editor:  
Concerning David Poole's column "Wilson Library: uncomfortably silent," (DTH, Nov. 17):

Is it possible that someone can spend four years in college and still have no appreciation for a fine library? Even allowing for some exaggeration of the name of humor, Poole's article is a concession of shallow immaturity.

It does take a while to get used to the way a large library like Wilson operates, but surely by this time it should be familiar to Poole. Unless of course he spends so little time studying...

As for Wilson being too quiet, it is a blessing that some place on this campus repose in calm quietude. In contrast, the Undergraduate Library is little more than a big, noisy study hall.

As for Wilson being a "great void," I feel sure the only void there is when Poole deigns to visit and bring the one between his ears.

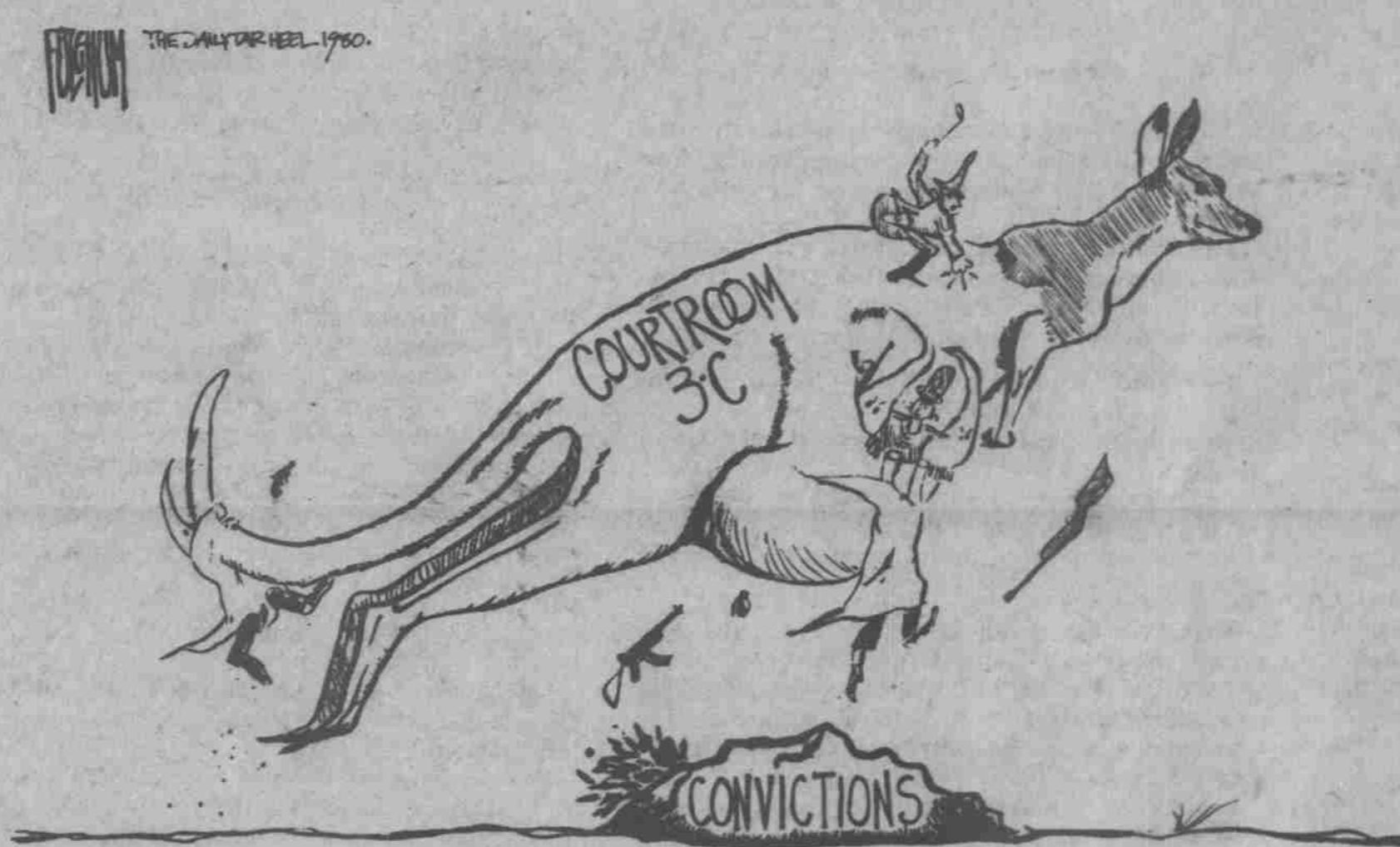
P.B. Thompson  
321 Craige Residence Hall

### Letters?

*The Daily Tar Heel* welcomes letters to the editor and contributions of columns for the editorial page.

Such contributions should be typed, triple-spaced, on a 60-space line, and are subject to editing.

Column writers should include their majors and hometowns; each letter should include the writer's name, address and telephone number.



## Klan-Nazi trial

### Readers speak out on controversial Greensboro verdict

To the editor:

I must object to your editorial, "Justice is just a word," (DTH, Nov. 18), and cartoon of the same day. Criticism of the recent elections is just fine; but criticism of a jury verdict on the grounds that you stated borders on irresponsible journalism.

What places you in a better position to determine the guilt or innocence of the Greensboro defendants than the jury of 12 of their peers who heard the case? I think that your cartoon and editorial do an injustice to the people on the jury who took their duty very seriously and deliberated for seven days before reaching a verdict.

You reach the conclusion in your article that justice is just a word, but you have reached that conclusion because you don't know what constitutes justice. The function of a jury is to determine the guilt or innocence of an individual on the basis of the facts presented concerning the incident giving rise to the charge.

The jury is not to consider the political or social consequences of reaching a certain verdict in determining the guilt or innocence of the individual on trial. Considerations such as whether the Communist Workers Party members will point to Greensboro as a symbol of corruption, or whether blacks will wonder about the concept of justice, or whether there will be future violence are immaterial to the jury's determination of the guilt or innocence of the individual and rightly so.

I see no desecration of the ideas for which the judicial system in this country stands. Nothing essential has been lost in Greensboro. The concept of justice has been affirmed in Greensboro when people from such vile and hated groups as the Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan can be found innocent despite public sentiment.

Steve Schoeberle  
UNC School of Law

'DTH' audacity

To the editor:  
I sincerely disliked the condescending and patronizing attitude that your "Justice is just a

word" editorial (DTH, Nov. 18), conveyed in regard to what black people will wonder as a result of the disgusting verdict given in Greensboro. I took particular offense at the following sentences: "And like it or not, blacks will wonder about the concept of justice. They will wonder about the all-white jury and the racial superiority espoused by the Klan and Nazis, and they may conclude that there are in fact two sets of laws in America, one of whites and one for everyone else."

Those two sentences reveal a total ignorance of the black experience in this country. Whoever wrote or approved that garbage should bone up on the black experience or at least talk in depth with a lot of black people before assuming so damn much about what black people are going to wonder. Your audacity to print an editorial so "knowledgeable" about what black people will wonder does not surprise me because of the writer's and the *Tar Heel's* origins. But that does not make me any less angry at educated people who should know better than to make such ill-thought and off-hand assumptions with the pedantic arrogance of know-it-alls.

For your information—correct me if I am wrong—blacks will not wonder about the concept of justice in the United States as a result of the Greensboro verdict. They will not wonder about the all-white jury or the bullshit spouted by the Klan and Nazis. Blacks do not have to wonder about such things—they know! They know all about America's screwed-up, racist justice system, just as they know all about biased, all-white juries from generations of "not guilty" verdicts exonerating white murderers. Black people have known for years that there are two sets of laws in this country. And you had the gall to print that the verdict in Greensboro will make blacks come to the conclusion that there are "in fact two sets of laws in America, one of whites and one for everyone else."

Where in the world has the writer of the editorial been for the past few years? Is he really naive enough to think that after the acquittal of five murdering cops by an all-white jury in Florida and the acquittal of Klansmen who shot three black women by an

all-white jury in Tennessee, that the verdict given in Greensboro is so damn unique and will cause blacks to despair at the unfairness of it all? Blacks in America know how unfair and how biased the judicial system is, it is too bad that "ivory towered" individuals are just finding out about that unpleasant reality created and sustained by white America. It's quite a rude awakening, isn't it? It should give you a little to "wonder" about.

Phyllis A. Hopkins  
Durham

### Armchair judges

To the editor:

To read *The Daily Tar Heel*, it would seem America is ready to eliminate trial by jury in favor of trial by the media. Many people are upset over the verdict of the Greensboro trial. These people, after carefully weighing evidence from the two-minute segments on the evening news and a story or two they might have read in the paper, judiciously decided on a verdict of guilty.

Now that the real jury has disagreed, the armchair judges are shouting that the jury is wrong, that the jury members obviously hate Communists. To show disapproval, these people are going to have rallies and protest marches and write snappy slogans such as "Justice is only a word" and "Justice is dead."

The point is that 12 people in Greensboro sat through the longest trial in North Carolina history and deliberated six days before rendering their unanimous verdict. These 12 people are no less intelligent than the armchair judges and no more prejudiced. Thankfully, theirs is the verdict that stands.

Unfortunately, the armchair judges may prove to be prophetic when they say "Justice is dead" if Americans continue to ignore the most important tenet of that justice, that one is innocent until proven guilty.

Chuck Bennett  
Chapel Hill

### Don't think

To the editor:

Please don't ask the average intelligent student to choose, or even begin to take sides, between the Communist Workers Party and the Ku Klux Klan and Nazis after a 20-odd week trial by asking if the verdict is just. In "Justice is just a word," (DTH, Nov. 18), you are asking all those who disagree with the verdict to become Communists and all those agreeing with it to become Klansmen and Nazis. It's like asking one to choose whether they would want a mentally retarded child or a stillborn baby to be born into their family. I would want neither.

So, the next time you or anyone else asks me what I think of the verdict of the Greensboro trial, I'll answer: "I don't."

Dean Hodge  
Carolina Apartments

### Poetic

To the editor:

*Bob Dylan may write a song about it  
May even turn out a hit  
But one thing's for real  
This one's by me for our Daily Tar Heel*

*There was anger in the air, Carolina red  
By the false verdict it was bred.  
The news came through the pines and oaks  
I heard it say "Justice is a joke."*

Ali Mahmood  
Durham

### Terrorifying trend

To the editor:

The series of articles on black/white relations and the Klan/Nazi trial in last week's *Daily Tar Heel* has brought home the startling realization that this year may mark a frightening turning point in our nation's history. A surprisingly rapid wave of conservatism swept the country in the recent election, and flagrantly racist organizations are attracting the attention and support of a substantial segment of the populace. Two years ago, Nazi groups and the KKK were

barely visible, ineffectual and easily ignored organizations because their membership, though fervent, was decidedly small.

More recently, our nation and our state have witnessed a period of regression in terms of civil rights; racist groups have become vocal, violent, widely publicized and indeed powerful. The most terrifying aspect of this trend is the lack of response from those who constituted the moderately progressive factor in this country a few months ago. Nazi leader Harold Covington speaks of a "White Power Party" and a "racist Mecca," of a society dichotomized into the White and the Worthless, and the retort has been minimal at best.

I, for one, am infuriated, amazed and terrified. Pro-Aryan groups are gaining momentum in Europe and America, while those of us who believe in civil rights and the dignity of every human being have remained silent. I shudder to think that the spirit of Martin Luther King may be dead.

We are living in the age of the "Moral Majority," yet prosperity and military power are our priorities. If a choice must be made, I'll take human rights, thank you.

Racism is indeed a difficult barrier to break down. Blacks on this campus, for example, have made a few (shamefully few) administrative advances, and yet the spirit of the University remains essentially segregated. As Hayden Renwick, associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, observed, black students for the most part are tired of reaching out to the white population, and white students simply don't make the effort. Our greatest obstacle, then, is inertia on the personal level.

The past four years, while less than progressive, have at least been peaceful, and it may just be an unavoidable fact that peaceful change is slow. Still, it is a shame that we have become too comfortable in our own spheres of influence to make efforts toward constructive change. Perhaps it takes a Watergate or a nuclear holocaust or a Hitler to inspire people toward the active expression of their convictions. I hope I'm wrong.

Chrisann Olier  
C-12 Royal Park Apt.