

The Daily Tar Heel

90th year of editorial freedom

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AWS objects to 'Playboy' ad

To the editor:
We were appalled to see the *Playboy* recruiting ad in Tuesday's *Daily Tar Heel*. While the Duke newspaper and others have refused to run it, the *DTH* did so. At hand is not only the fact that the ad was insulting and degrading to women, but the greater issue of pornography itself.

Pornography is all-pervasive in this society. As an industry, it grosses more than \$5 billion annually. Women Against Pornography estimates that there are four times as many pornographic businesses in this country as there are McDonalds, and pornographic magazines are available in nearly every drug-store and supermarket. For many boys, pornography serves as their initial introduction to sex. But its content, until recently, has gone unquestioned.

Pornographic material objectifies the woman — she becomes not someone but something pretty to look at. The woman is sometimes seen in a fog to create a sense of distance, enhancing its effect. Frequently, she is looking away from the camera to eliminate eye contact, if indeed you see her face at all — at times you see only parts of her body. The image promoted is woman as not just something to look at, but as an object on which the viewer carries out his fantasies. Increasingly, the object is not a woman but a young girl, despite laws against child pornography.

This image becomes frightening in the light of the growing abuse and violence against women seen in pornography, even in the so-called "soft-porn" magazines like *Playboy* and *Penthouse*. Women become not only the subject of sexual fantasies but of aggressive and violent acts. They are repeatedly seen bound, chained, gagged, assaulted and raped. For those who view pornography, the idea is promoted that this is not only common but acceptable behavior.

Placed within a greater societal context, this notion is horrifying. The FBI states that domestic violence is the fastest growing violent crime in America, occurring every 18 seconds. A large proportion of this is accounted for by wife and child abuse. It has been estimated that two in three women can expect some sort of violence from a boyfriend or spouse in their lifetime. Projecting from statistics of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports with the assumption that only

one in 10 rapes is reported, estimates now range that from one in three to one in seven women will be raped in their lifetime. And this violence against women is on the rise.

While pornographers will argue that they are only producing what the consumer demands, one wonders if they aren't fueling the fire. If not out and out contributing to objectification and violence against women, pornography is certainly doing nothing to stop it. We have in our country a situation in which over half the population is female and these women are afraid to go out at night or even to be alone during the day. If nothing else, this fear will keep women from attaining their true position of equality in our society.

We ask that *The Daily Tar Heel* discontinue its sale of advertising space to pornographic magazines. More importantly, we ask the women of UNC to refuse to comply with a demeaning, exploitive, and potentially harmful industry.

We found your editorial comments (*DTH*, "Guys and dolls" Feb. 9) as insulting as the original advertisement. We're glad you think women are intelligent enough to make up their own minds but we wonder if you would print a KKK ad asking for black volunteers on the basis that black people are intelligent enough to decide for themselves what action to take. The ad was a blatant insult to the women of UNC and the *DTH* participated in this insult by disseminating it to the community.

Sarah Lee

AWS spokesperson

Vogler shouldn't serve

To the editor:

I have seen a lot in my four years at UNC, many political fights and struggles. However nothing has shocked me, nor made me so mad, as the case of Campus Governing Council Speaker Bobby Vogler, as presented in the article "Painter questions referendum vote" (*DTH*, Feb. 4).

The CGC was established to guarantee representation of all parts of the student body. Endless elections are held to fill seats that have been vacated, or have had no candidates for them. The "system" guarantees representation even to those who do not care at all. I care.

Vogler has made a mockery of this representative government.

The callousness that he has shown stuns me. Elected to serve District 19, he was subsequently elected Speaker of the CGC, the most honored position in our representative assembly. When he chose to move out of his district, he most certainly was aware that he could no longer serve District 19. He seems to have chosen to ignore the law, and to remain in a position of power and influence.

Vogler is not apologetic. It's "not pertinent, because we only have one more meeting left," he said. What about all of the meetings since his moving and the most recent? He should never have been a participating voter at any, had he acted in an honorable way.

Instead of apologizing, he attempts to shift the focus of Painter's motivation in telling all. I care not a whit for Painter, nor for his politics. But no one needed to know the motivation of "Deep Throat," either. (When did Painter learn of Vogler's inelegibility?)

What is the effect upon the faith of the student body in their government? Petty factions fight their battles, some not caring about the people who elected them. And the highest representative appears not to be contrite, but rather exhibits behavior of a child caught red-handed.

Representative government can work, or so I hope fervently. Can government representatives do likewise?

William W. McNairy
Chapel Hill

3-D for Virginia

To the editor:

Once again UNC will play the University of Virginia in a pivotal ACC basketball game; once again the winner will remain atop the national polls; once again the game will be viewed by a national audience, and once again the UNC student body will not show any unified effort to support the best team in the nation!

A quick look at Duke and N.C. State students shows that a united student body is quite visible, if not effective — note the wearing of "Go to Hell Carolina" caps by Dookies and the yelling when a predestinated player touches the ball by Moo-Uers.

Now of course we don't want to mimic our cruder and less intelligent neighbors. But a unified student body would not only look good, but could serve to tell a message, as well.

Just imagine... it's 9 p.m. and coverage of "the game" begins with a panorama of the UNC student body. ... But wait, something's different — there's a banner hanging from

the press box that proclaims that UNC stands out from the rest of the teams in the nation because of Dean Smith, Defense and Discipline... and all of the students are wearing 3-D glasses to emphasize the point!!

Surely there are enough of the 3-D glasses left over from the channel 28 3-D movies shown last fall to adequately supply students going to the game. Moreover, I'm sure the cheerleaders could arrange to make and hang an appropriate banner. So find, beg, borrow or steal some 3-D glasses and let's go give a message to the nation why our team is so good year-in and year-out! Besides the Dean Deserves the Distinction!

Charles Ellis
Chemistry Department

Recognize achievements

To the editor:

Recently, I visited our nation's capitol for the first time. Never before has it been so evident to me that our society is totally white-oriented. All of the historical monuments seemed to be statues and memorials dedicated to white leaders. Yes, it is true that many of these individuals paved the way for the society we live in today, but it is not true that only white men built up America to what it is.

There were many prominent black leaders like Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Martin R. Delany, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King Jr., who contributed to making America a great nation. All of these individuals had significant impacts on American society, yet to appreciate their roles one must take a course in black history or Afro-American studies.

I am sure that Robert E. Lee was a great leader who fought bravely to defend southern ideologies. He may represent the white Virginians, but what of the black Virginians whose ancestors were enslaved because of those ideologies? Blacks have their heroes and leaders, but under today's government they are not recognized.

It is time for our government officials to look into the history books and recognize the past achievements of the black individuals who also helped build America. A splendid example is Martin Luther King Jr. Why has Congress waited so long to recognize his birthday as a national holiday? Dr. King surely deserves it.

I do not want my kids to grow up believing that only white men have contributed to the building of America.
Herman L. Bennett
Grimes

Tix trouble

How much is watching Ralph Sampson and Co. in Carmichael worth? Quite a bit apparently. Tickets for tonight's game are going for more than \$50 each. A part-time UNC student was arrested Tuesday by police officers who say the man offered to sell tickets to tonight's game for \$75 apiece, not a bad profit considering the face value of the tickets is \$10.

State law is clear on the status of scalping: It is illegal to purchase a ticket and resell it for more than \$1 over face value. All those heavy hitters sitting in Carmichael tonight who paid more than \$11 for their tickets purchased those tickets illegally.

The status of selling student tickets, however, is not definite. While it is clear that selling student tickets for more than face value plus \$1 is illegal, it is not clear whether selling student tickets — at any price — is a violation of the Honor Code.

It ought to be. Student funds, in the form of a \$25 per student per semester athletic fee, go toward paying for each student ticket distributed for a basketball or football game. When student tickets are sold to non-students, which is often the case, students who wanted to attend the game sit home while student seats, paid for with student funds, are occupied by non-students.

The most glaring abuse of student tickets is by Monogram Club members, who have tickets reserved for them at the Carmichael box office for each home basketball game. After picking up their reserved ticket, the lettermen can sell the student tickets to the highest bidder. Even just selling those tickets at face value is an abuse of the ticket distribution system.

The student attorney general currently could prosecute a ticket-selling student under a vague section of the Honor Code, but that leaves too much of the interpretation up to the attorney general. Attorneys general change each year; what is needed is an adjustment in the Honor Code that doesn't.

Making additions to the Honor Code is a laborious, slow process that must go through committees of both students and faculty members. Additions to the Honor Code shouldn't be hasty and numerous, but given the amount of money changing hands outside Carmichael tonight, it seems a section forbidding the sale of student tickets would be a wise change.

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WEDNESDAY	2-16	WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?
THURSDAY	2-17	WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE ON THE CROSS?
FRIDAY	2-18	FLEE FORNICATION—THE NEW MORALITY?
SATURDAY	2-19	UNDERSTANDING AUTHORITY
SUNDAY	2-20	TO BE ANNOUNCED

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