

The Daily Tar Heel

93rd year of editorial freedom

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A Koppel of big mistakes

Perhaps some of you stayed up to watch the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Jerry Falwell face off late last night on the ABC News *Nightline* program, hosted by Ted Koppel. Certainly some of you must have. But if you value your time and have little patience for the orchestrated spinning of glossy wheels, we hope you made the proper decision and went to bed early.

The Revs. Jackson and Falwell have been exchanging well-mannered insults for nearly two weeks now, ever since the day that Falwell returned from his much-overpublicized trip to South Africa. If you will recall, upon his return from South Africa, Falwell referred to the black leader Bishop Desmond Tutu as a "phony," and presumed to suggest that he himself more appropriately spoke for South Africa's black population.

A more ludicrous statement may never have been spoken in the English language, of course. Yet that single ludicrous statement has been treated to more media attention than the most recent veritable violence and economic turmoil in South Africa (which is a telling indictment of our nation's degree of concern for the well-being of both black and white South Africans).

Furthermore, Falwell's ludicrous

statement has been met with far more ludicrous responses here in the United States. Early last week, for instance, President Reagan actually went to the trouble to apologize for Falwell's statement. Said Reagan, the Rev. Falwell "certainly had never meant in any way to describe the character or the beliefs or philosophy of Bishop Tutu."

But since when does the president of the United States apologize for the statements of a private citizen?

In no uncertain terms, the disturbing process that we have been witnessing over the past two weeks is one of legitimization. It seems that the more ludicrous Falwell's statements become, the more newsworthy he becomes. And, consequently, the more newsworthy he becomes, the more legitimate it becomes to hear his views upon the subject of South Africa and apartheid.

What is far more disturbing is that the Rev. Jackson, by agreeing to appear with Falwell on a show such as *Nightline*, is aiding in the process of legitimization. Undoubtedly, last night Jackson intended to present his own views as being strikingly legitimate in comparison to those of Falwell. Indeed they are. Nevertheless, one must question the good intentions of a man who is willing, indirectly, to aid in giving Rev. Falwell's views a further hearing.

Make up your mind, Uncle Sam

What do you do when you make a promise that you decide later you don't want to keep? You squirm. And that's exactly what the U.S. government is doing right now in Birmingham, Alabama, to the wonderment and protest of city officials.

The Department of Justice approved a consent decree four years ago that allows Birmingham officials to increase minority representation in city jobs by hiring or promoting blacks and women over more-qualified white candidates. But now the department says, in direct contradiction to the decree, that the city is violating the decree by discriminating against whites.

How's that saying go? ... "Be careful of what you want, for you will surely get it." Well, apparently the government doesn't want what it got or didn't know what it wanted in the first place, but it sure got what it asked for.

Despite the government's weak claim that it doesn't see any contradictions in the case, there are contradictions. Period. Permitting the hiring and promoting of blacks over more-qualified white candidates will lead to discrimination, and according to the Justice Department attorney who negotiated the 1981 decree, the government knew it then.

The attorney in question, Richard J. Ritter, said in a recent deposition, released over the government's objec-

tions, that he expected when the decree was signed "that there would be occasions when the city would resort to selecting qualified blacks" even if "it believed there was a demonstrably better qualified white applicant available."

He added that the decree provided Birmingham with a valid defense for favoring minorities and fighting Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds' claim that the city illegally favors blacks over "demonstrably better qualified" whites.

The Justice Department, which tried to block Ritter's deposition on grounds that it involved internal discussions, says his testimony is "incompatible with the arguments we've been making" and that the "decree does not allow the current practices of the city." Kinda fishy that Uncle Sam was so testy about Ritter's statement, huh?

Apparently the U.S. District Court Judge who unsealed Ritter's deposition thought so, given her criticism of the department's "contrary" arguments in the case.

We'll leave the debate over hiring quotas for another editorial, but as far as we're concerned there's no debate over the government's inexcusable contradictions in Birmingham. The Justice Department ought to admit its mistake and accept the embarrassment, rather than hide behind shallow accusations.

Style over substance

Let's face it, folks: Labor Day's over. You've caught your last rays; you're adjusting to your classes; you're just trying to settle into the ol' college groove. Still, one nagging question's been picking at your brain:

What's in fashion this fall?

Look no further, oh fortunate one. As always (ahem), we've got The Scoop for you. Our reference? None other than that longstanding icon of popular culture, *Playboy* magazine. Without further ado, then, here are the In's and Out's of the coming season:

- Paisley is In — which just goes to prove that things do run in cycles. Some of the artsier professors never put them away, but the rest of you better head for the attic. And while you're up there, you can put away your Hawaiian shirts, which are Out. We can only sigh — aloha mixers will never be the same.

- Now that UNC's Michael Jordan has dribbled his way to professional fame and fortune, everything he endorses turns to gold. Hence, Air Jordans are In. While you could never wear these overpriced red-and-black wonders to a formal, we hear they're really comfortable. But when you're buying your pair, maybe you can get a good trade-in on your running shoes — *Playboy* says they're Out.

- Thanks no doubt to the popularity

of Swatches, those three-to-an-arm timekeepers, watches are suddenly In again — especially on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during those (yawn) 75-minute lectures.

- Nobody got our consent, but wedding rings are In — beware of those seeking an Mrs. Degree. Another kind of ring, however, won't live happily ever after. Faster than you can say Wham!, earrings (in either ear) are Out.

- Others worthy of note:

- Don Johnson. *Miami Vice*. In. Dig it.
- David Lee Roth. Puh-leeze! Very definitely Out.
- Beer. Hey, this is Chapel Hill; has it ever been anything but In?
- Trivia. Who hasn't played Trivial Pursuit at least once too often? Mercifully Out.

Other Ins include using a fork in a Chinese restaurant, blue margaritas, slow dancing and cash (no argument here). Outs, on the other hand, include yuppies, New Wave, hair mousse and the USFL — but was it ever in?

But before you go changing your lifestyle — you know, throwing out everything you own to buy a Princielle wardrobe or a new pair of sneakers, heed *Playboy's* advice and don't take this all too seriously. After all, today's fashion is tomorrow's dinosaur, and vice versa.

Pawing to mews on the merits of cats

By GUY LUCAS

Almost everyone seems to have an opinion about cats. This is no accident — cats want it that way. Nothing a cat does is neutral. It won't stand at a distance from you and wag its tail when you call; it either comes to you or runs as if you were tainted somehow. If it comes to you, it won't hang around any longer than is necessary for you to bore it.

The very things a cat does make some people hate them, while the same things make other people love them. But believe it or not, there are those people who have no opinion. Some of these people just don't know the pros and cons of cats, or maybe they have been living in a communist country (where cats act differently to avoid getting arrested).

For these people, I have asked around and compiled a list of cats' pros and cons.

PROS

- 1) Cats are very independent.
- 2) Cats are softer than dogs.
- 3) Cats are lightweight and thus easier to fling.
- 4) Cats don't often maul small children and old people.
- 5) Cats make less noise than dogs.
- 6) When cats make a no-no on the carpet, it's easier to clean than a dog's no-no.
- 7) Cats don't stick their heads out the car window and slobber all over the door.

CONS

- 1) Cats are very independent.
- 2) Cats don't like to wrestle.
- 3) Cats don't play fetch. They play "You threw it away, so now it's mine."
- 4) A man with a knife cannot be intimidated by a large tabby.

- 5) Cats like to sit on your face while you're sleeping.
- 6) Cats shred furniture.
- 7) Cats meet their girlfriends, or boyfriends, under your bedroom window.
- 8) Cats come home drunk at 3 a.m.
- 9) Cats don't like dogs.
- 10) Lassie wasn't a cat.
- 11) Rin Tin Tin wasn't a cat.
- 12) I'm allergic to cats.

Please keep in mind I have been entirely objective about this whole thing.

I have left the final word on cats to William Faulkner, in this passage from "The Reivers":

"The cat . . . neither toils nor spins, he is a parasite on you but he does not love you; he would die, cease to exist, vanish from the earth (I mean in his so-called domestic form) but so far he has not had to. (There is a fable, Chinese I think, literary I am sure: of a period on earth when the dominant creatures were cats: who after ages of trying to cope with the anguishes of mortality — famine, plague, war, injustice, folly, greed — in a word, civilized government — convened a congress of the wisest cat philosophers to see if anything could be done: who after long deliberation agreed that the dilemma, the problems themselves were insoluble and the only practical solution was to give it up, relinquish, abdicate, by selecting from among the lesser creatures a species, race optimistic enough to believe that the mortal predicament could be solved and ignorant enough never to learn better. Which is why the cat lives with you, is completely dependent on you for food and shelter but lifts no paw for you and loves you not; in a word, why your cat looks at you the way it does.)"

Guy Lucas, a junior journalism major from Greensboro, is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.



READER FORUM

'DTH' scrapes the bottom of the quote barrel

To the editors:
Since you began publication this year the daily quote at the bottom of the front page has come from such notables as Sigmund Freud, Sir Herbert Beerbohn Tree, Honore de Balzac, Robert Shnayerson and Oscar Wilde. Each had something witty or pithy to say about himself and/or the society in which he lived, and it seemed clear that the primary purpose of these little gems was to provide the reader with an amusing thought from one of the notable thinkers of Western civilization. On

the whole, this is a noble intent — since it relieves the reader from the otherwise mundane writing to be found in the *DTH*.

But the quotation from Nietzsche at the bottom of Wednesday's issue surprised me. Nietzsche was one of Adolf Hitler's favorite philosophers and few of his maxims are either amusing or pithy. I would imagine that most of your Christian readers, to say nothing of the blacks and Jews, found little to laugh about in their *DTH* Wednesday.

In the very same issue you claim that "Cartoons and other artwork appearing on the editorial page . . . reflect the opinion of the artist, not necessarily the opinions of the *DTH* editorial staff." I hope the same holds true of your daily quote, but the principle involved is a bit more subtle. Since the daily quote is emblazoned across the bottom of the front page in large print, it doesn't really matter whether it reflects your editorial stand on a particular issue; it simply makes a statement. In light of this, I wonder

why you don't give thinkers who disagree with Nietzsche equal time? Why not quote St. Augustine or St. Paul in one of your issues? Each of these writers is capable of making amusing or pithy statements without offending anyone. Better yet, why not quote that famous writer or restroom wall fame, Mr. Anonymous: "God is dead — Nietzsche; Nietzsche is dead — God."

Scott Carlson
Dept. of Classics

Overlooking something?

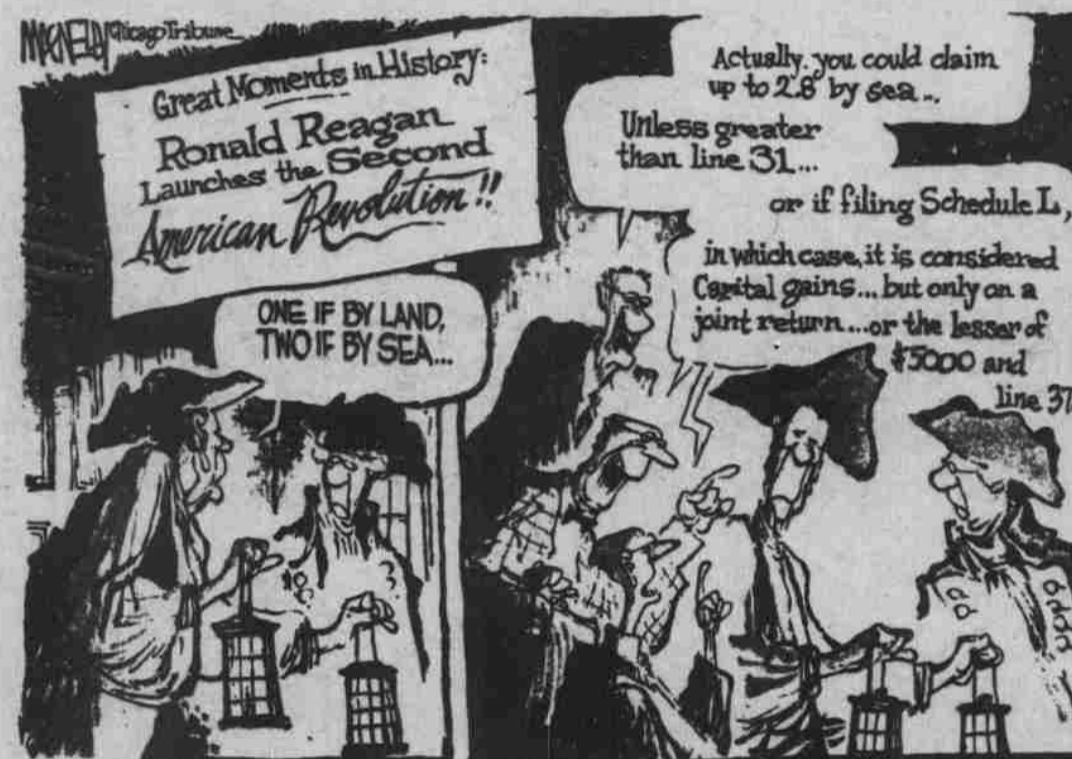
To the editors:
This letter concerns the many editorials and letters in the *DTH* concerning the political situation in South Africa. Let me qualify any statements to follow by saying that the policy of apartheid is as morally repugnant to me as it is to any other American (with the possible exception of the Rev. Falwell). It seems that in expressing their outrage, certain writers have overlooked a few important questions:

- Isn't South Africa the largest producer of gold, uranium and other vital minerals and metals?
- Are there any other previously white-dominated African states that now exist in democratic bliss and racial harmony? . . . Can you say Rhodesia or Ethiopia?
- Even in the good ol' U.S.A. are people of similar color a majority,

or are they split into tribal groups, ideological factions and religious persuasions?
It has been said that people in glass houses shouldn't throw stones; if this is true, I challenge anyone to heave a rock across our fair campus. Regarding this, some other questions come to mind:

- Does the University, or any of its affiliated groups, have financial holdings in South Africa?
- When was the last time you saw a Caucasian behind the counter at any of the ARA eateries?
- Is the percentage of blacks on campus commensurate with the state average?
- Why do most blacks prefer to stay in South Campus dormitories?

Jo Fleische
Chapel Hill



Unity a start toward a safer society

By KARL TAMELER

The UNC campus has been rocked by the violence of the abduction and murder of Sharon Stewart as the first weeks of classes got underway. These same feelings of shock and horror bring back memories of last spring when another female student, Freshteh Gholko, was murdered in her own apartment in a savage attack by another area youth.

These two incidents both involved white female students and black students from area high schools. Both were tragic events that bring out our shock at the brutality and anger that humans are capable of displaying.

When such an incident happens many questions are raised. We ask ourselves: Why? What would motivate such an act? How do we prevent such crimes? There is also talk about swift retribution. Many people believe that capital punishment serves justice. It seems, however, that there are deeper questions to be asked and better solutions to be found to heal an ailing society, plagued with violent crime.

As it is now, we are encouraged by law enforcement people and justice officials to be more withdrawn and even unsocial in order to prevent or avoid such violence. People begin doing their activities with small groups of friends. These clicks, however, become more and more exclusive, so that entry by and interaction with outsiders is strictly limited.

These security precautions, though possibly effective in the short run, have the effect of chopping up society into different entities that do not interact freely. Since these entities are

often divided along racial and economic lines, there are certain groups of people who develop an artificial superiority based on their ability to exclude, and a large mass of people who are left out as a result.

These people who are "left out" are often disadvantaged blacks, who differ greatly in both numbers and income when compared with the white population of towns such as Chapel Hill. Living in a town like this, many such people are constantly subjected to rejection, loneliness

'As loneliness and resentment build up, hostility erupts.'

and exclusion from many activities. As loneliness and resentment build up, hostility erupts — targeted directly at the very people who represent their exclusion and rejection. Such an outlet of frustration is the final link in a vicious circle that sees a tightening, or sealing up, of these groups, especially those at the upper-income levels. More stumbling blocks are thus thrown in the way of the excluded members of society, leaving greater rejection and unfriendliness to be offered to them.

This is a costly and ineffective way to protect society from violent crime. Costly, because as you exclude and cordon off one part of society from another, one group is tagged as aggressive, while the other is offered partiality and favored as potential victims. Worse yet, as exclusion mechanisms become formal and rigid, low-income groups — especially blacks — find they are encouraged to compromise themselves, even

to betray their race, in order to be accepted by mainstream white society.

I propose that, instead of compartmentalizing our society so that the term *society* in our country is defined by independent groups of people bound by common interests and incomes operating on an exclusive basis, we take measures to break down barriers between people. We need to open up society so that all people, regardless of their interests, race or income, can participate in all of society's activities together.

As members of the UNC student body, we all have the opportunity to involve ourselves and learn about people different than us. There are community outreach programs through the Campus Y, such as Big Buddies and prisoner visitation. There is also a great need for student participation in the Chapel Hill Homeless Shelter and Soup Kitchen. Besides these, every day we have the chance to say a kind word, or stop and talk with somebody whom we may feel we do not know or understand well.

We owe it to ourselves, as members of a larger society, to build unity between the many sorts of different and interesting people that we have to live with. It is my belief that such a unity and willingness to cooperate will solve many of the problems that we face in our country today. Not the least of these would be violent crime.

Karl TameLER is a senior political theory and economics major from Pueblo, Co.