

The Daily Tar Heel

96th year of editorial freedom

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Listen to the real experts

Black Student Movement leaders made headlines this week after holding a press conference about low graduation rates of black students at UNC. The statistics they cited could easily be described as shocking. The five-year graduation rate for black freshmen entering UNC has fallen from 55.6 percent in 1974 to 45.6 percent in 1981, according to a report compiled by the UNC Office of Institutional Research. The graduation rate for white students over the same period has remained close to 75 percent.

Given such figures, it's hardly surprising that black enrollment at UNC has steadily declined since 1982. Officials have cited the decreasing number of black high school graduates as one of the major reasons for the drop.

Placing the blame for minority enrollment problems on factors that administrators cannot control is a cop-out. Efforts to recruit more black freshmen must go hand in hand with efforts to make blacks who are already here feel more comfortable. And the blacks on this campus have voiced legitimate concerns about the University's sincerity in such efforts.

When the Black Cultural Center planning committee was established in 1984, the administration took a positive step to "represent a continued commitment of the University to enhance the multi-cultural dimension of the campus."

Four years have passed since that proposal was made. This week, the BSM leaders held their press confer-

ence in the Black Cultural Center as it now exists — a glassed-in room across from the Student Union's television lounge. As BSM President Kenny Perry said: "When a black cultural center was first proposed, we had no idea that our University would close off a vending area, install carpet, put up blinds and call it a black cultural center."

Administrators could respond that planning a cultural center takes careful consideration, but they must realize that Perry's remark accurately reflects how black students feel about the BCC and the general attitude of UNC's administration. Although officials must be applauded for their willingness to research the proposal, the time for research is over.

The lack of progress with the BCC is not the only reason black students doubt the administration's commitment. The recent departure of Associate Dean Hayden Renwick, who served as a counselor for many minority students, has further distanced them from the administration. A qualified administrator to replace Renwick must be found soon.

The University and the community must work harder to accommodate the black students who come to UNC. Students, faculty and administrators shouldn't need a press conference to tell them that. Black freshmen today can't afford to wait four years for the University to research their problem — UNC's minority students are already experts. We just need to listen to them. — Jean Lutes

Super Tuesday not so super

This Tuesday, 20 states will hold presidential primaries or caucuses to decide roughly one-third of each party's delegates to national conventions. The big thing about this Tuesday is that an unprecedented 14 Southern states will hold their primaries on the same day.

Southern political leaders hoped Super Tuesday would be the South's friend, giving the region's voters a more significant voice in choosing presidential nominees: Iowa, New Hampshire, *wham-o* — Super Tuesday. Although it might work to the South's advantage, the nation's best interests could be compromised.

The greatest problem with Super Tuesday is the implausibility that any candidate will bring a majority of delegates to his party's convention. Only two widely acclaimed presidential contests occur before Super Tuesday — Iowa and New Hampshire. Any serious contender for his party's nomination had to campaign in those states. Obviously, this gave those two states a vastly disproportionate influence on the presidential race.

However, Super Tuesday creates a new problem. By virtually ignoring Iowa and New Hampshire, the Tennessee-born Sen. Albert Gore's campaign can rely on a purely regional base to ignite his campaign. With a strong showing on Super Tuesday,

Gore — along with other Southern-based candidates — could pick up enough delegates to evenly divide a field of four or five Democrats at the Atlanta convention.

This will force candidates to make power plays during the conventions to gain votes needed to win the nominations. Coalition-building and back-room handshakes will probably tip the balance to one of those candidates.

Super Tuesday's size is also a problem. Because the candidates will have to cover 20 states in a short time, only those with the biggest war chests will be able to survive. These aren't New Hampshires, either — we're talking Texas, Florida, the Carolinas and others. For instance, Sen. Paul Simon, who made decent showings in Iowa and New Hampshire, was forced to pull his resources from the South. His campaign contributions would not allow him to cover so many states at once. And Simon is an established candidate; perhaps many other potential candidates decided never to risk running due to the obstacles Super Tuesday posed.

Advantages and disadvantages will exist in any primary system. Super Tuesday is a regional creation designed to produce nominees reflecting the South's ideologies. Tuesday's primaries may work to that end, but they may not be worth the price. — Stuart Hathaway

Clip-n-Save

Fires rage from the ruins of exploded ideals and ravaged values. Smoke billows from the ashes of corrupt policies of leaders bereft of morality and without a trace of humanity. The scene is strewn with twisted perversions of ethics, and the last light of justice is setting on the horizon. This is the state of our national conscience.

Out of this gruesome scene emerges a lone figure. Through the dust and smoke rides a hero of the oppressed — the Protester. It's not easy for our hero, trying to fit protests, classes and buying sprees at local flea markets for used-yet-fashionable attire into his/her daily schedule.

But now, McDonald's fast-food restaurant chain will carry the fight for truth and justice to people everywhere. With the purchase of a regular-size fries, Big Mac and shake, you can receive your very own McProtest doll. No other cost is involved, but you do have to sign a petition supporting a local left-wingtip cause.

Mattel Toys has expressed interest in the forthcoming McProtest doll, and plans a whole line of related toys targeted at replacing the violent He-Man-dominated market. Now, instead of playing "He-Man battles Skeletor," children everywhere can play such fun games as "Chase the CIA Recruiter." Down the line, Mattel also plans a Build-a-Shanty construction set, a Chain-o-Pack with instructions on how to chain oneself to radiators, and a Red Dye Marks the Spot board game.

A Panache reporter (known in literary circles as an oxymoron) caught up with a rowdy group of fanatics at a recent protest to get their reaction on the products. "Hey, hey, ho, ho, we think it's pretty sweet, you know," they chanted.

So don't just sit there drinking your morning coffee or nodding off in class — rush down to the McDonalds nearest you and be the first person on your hall or in your apartment to take a McProtest doll home. Remember, this offer is for a limited time only.

Readers' Forum

CIA protests slighted law students

Lisa Rice

Guest Writer

As the president of the Student Bar Association (the student government at the law school) and a UNC graduate student for four years, I was outraged and disgusted by the harassment of the CIA recruiter last Tuesday.

Every person has the right to express his or her opinion in a peaceful and constructive manner. This right to protest and educate has been widely recognized by the University, which has allowed and often supported protests on a wide variety of topics. However, the right to present one's point of view does not give a person authority to force another to accept that viewpoint. What gives the CIAAC the authority to tell a fellow student with whom she may or may not interview? The administration has acted much more fairly and honorably than the CIAAC in this regard.

Perhaps this is because the CIAAC has digressed from a true educational protest group to a self-centered media campaign designed to propel a small group of students into the spotlight. Their crude and sensational tactics focus more attention on what they do rather than why they do it. Fasting, throwing rocks, spilling paint, chasing recruiters in speeding cars and eating breakfast in the Law School lobby does not explain or prove CIA violations.

I must also protest the shoddy reporting on the issue by the DTH. The DTH has

continually downplayed the extent to which the CIAAC harassed Mr. Moffet and violated other students' rights. More accurate accounts had to be obtained from the city newspapers.

Furthermore, the DTH has done a poor job of presenting the law school's opinion on these events. First it refers several times to Kenneth Brown as the dean of the law school, though Brown resigned from that position last November. Next, the article, which was supposed to present the opinions of the general student body, only quotes one first-year law student, and focuses entirely on his comments regarding the administrators' actions, completely ignoring strong concerns over the cancellation of interviews. Such an article, describing the general opinions of more than 600 students, should cite a representative sample of first-, second- and third-year law students. The DTH did try to contact me, but did not allow sufficient time for me to receive the message and respond to it.

I have spoken to many law students regarding this matter. I think I would be correct in expressing the general opinion

of law students as the following:

■ They support the protesters' rights to express their opinions in a constructive and reasonable manner;

■ Many question and are critical of certain CIA tactics;

■ Most recognize that the CIA is a federally supported government agency, and therefore not illegal per se, having every right to interview on campus;

■ Most feel that the interviews should have taken place at the law school, where proper security measures could have been taken; however, they can understand Acting Dean Ronald C. Link's reasons for acquiescing to the CIA's request for off-campus interviews;

■ The majority believe that every student has the right to interview with whomever they wish.

The law school students respect the right of the protesters to express their opinion, but will not allow them to violate the rights of law students by preventing interviews. They also do not believe this issue should be ignored or dropped. Therefore, their concerns and comments have been forwarded to the dean of the law school so that appropriate action can be taken.

Lisa Rice is a third-year law student from Latham, N.Y.

Clip-n-Save trite, snide

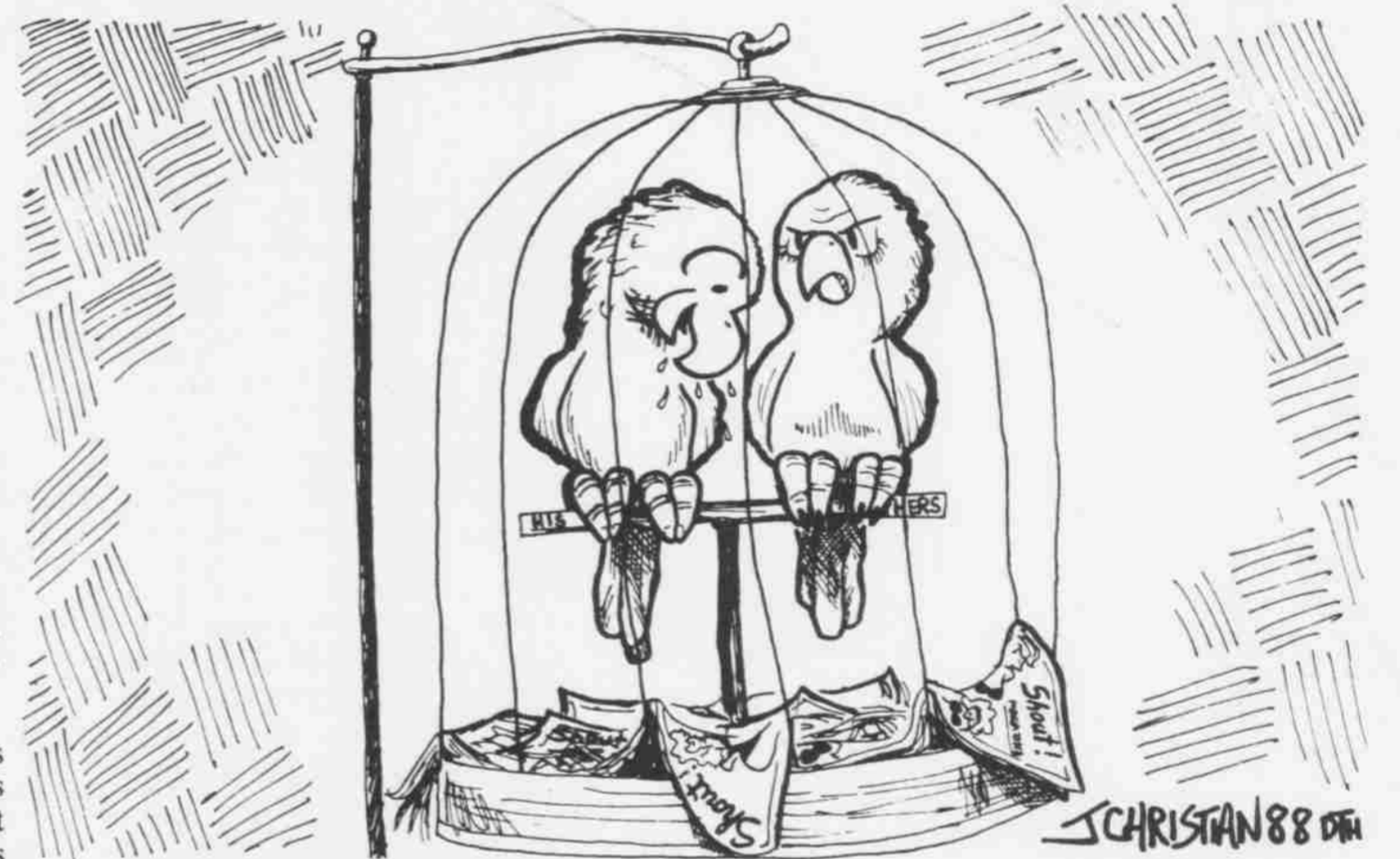
To the editor:

I am writing in response to the first entry of the "Clip-n-Save." I was shocked at what I read. I did not catch the supposedly "funny informative clever" writing it self-advertised. All I saw was a vicious and cowardly personal attack on Jim Surowiecki, the author of the Non Sequitur. What are you going to do for an encore, print a doctored photo of Jill Gerber with a mustache? I would not be surprised.

The Non Sequitur was exactly that: a column that was different in style from the rest of The Daily Tar Heel. But this does not mean that it was irrelevant. Maybe the Non Sequitur was not the usual trendy commentary, brimming with nifty snide comments, but it certainly was not a waste of time to read.

Admittedly, sometimes I did not follow all of Jim Surowiecki's literary allusions, but more often than not, I was moved by the romance and pure idealism of his writing. His characters were sweet and sensitive, able to escape the harsh realities of an often-tedious everyday life by their overwhelming love for everything natural and innocent. I find it comforting that somebody thinks sensitivity is still important. Jim Surowiecki writes beautifully, which is a rarity, particularly in the DTH.

Before the author of "Clip-n-Save," comfortably sheltered by anonymity, starts ripping into Jim Surowiecki, maybe he or she should prove himself or herself. Let's see what literary merits the "Clip-n-Save," which, by the way, sounds like a coupon booklet from Big Star, will bestow upon the DTH. From its less than illus-



trious beginnings, I doubt the "Clip-n-Save" will enhance the DTH at all. If this new column is self-promoted as "with it," I'd rather be without it.

ZANDY HARTIG
 Sophomore
 English

Don't bury MIA issue

To the editor:

After four years at this University and two years of service in the United States Army as an infantryman, someone has finally stepped over the line and prompted an editorial response on my part. To leave the MIA issue behind ("Leave MIA issue behind," Feb. 29) is to leave families forever in turmoil over the fate of their loved ones.

The issue has nothing to do with military intelligence; most soldiers (including myself) had no idea what was going on in their own company, and had no valuable long term information. Nor is the issue political blackmail; the Vietnam War

proved to the world that its opinion mattered very little to these people. Blain Holman is also incorrect in assuming that, if any MIAs do remain alive, Vietnam is keeping them hidden for fear of a military reprisal on the part of the United States. Maybe I'm getting old, but I seem to remember that the United States bombed the stuffing out of that country for 10 years without gaining much influence.

The MIA issue is still an issue for today — would it be an issue for you if a family member disappeared in a country at war? Granted, life goes on, but would you kindly not have Blain Holman bury me until I'm dead?

LEO YAKUTIS
 Senior
 History/
 American Studies

Take pride in condoms

To the editor:

I like condoms. I wear condoms. I support condoms. I

think condoms are great, don't you? You should. Condoms are great. Condoms are good. More condoms, less pseudo-morality.

Scott Williams and Ana Khan ("Let's bring back morality," Feb. 25) have a "strong moral foundation" that is characterized by "scorn" and "disgrace" for anyone who does not embrace their narrow-minded condom-less view of the "fallen society." But it is easy to see that condoms are just a red herring. Promiscuity and homosexuality are the real targets.

The reality is the disease. The reality is that condoms are the best practical alternative available, while the "revival of morals and standards" that Wallace and Khan call for is nothing short of an inquisition. The evil they see in the condom is nothing compared to the evil I see in their pride. After all, a condom is a condom is a condom.

KARL FATTIG
 Graduate
 Romance Languages

Eat-in celebrated racism, bigotry

Steve Sullivan

Guest Writer

As a member of CGLA, a fester in the CIA Action Committee and a co-organizer of the recent Kiss-In, I watched the Eat-In on Thursday, Feb. 18, from a unique vantage point: I was the only active member of all three groups that were targeted for attack. From this viewpoint, I'll attempt to communicate my thoughts and feelings on the Eat-In and the socio-political context from which it evolved.

The facts of CIA-sponsored atrocities are well-known and well-documented: Anti-Castro insurgents trained in Guatemalan camps by former Nazi SS veterans recruited by the CIA; CIA-financed Argentinian training camps at which urban terrorist tactics and torture methods are taught; CIA-prepared assassination manuals; drug trafficking.

As for the rights of students to become involved with the CIA, I have as much respect for this right as I have for the legal "right" of North Carolina citizens to discriminate against me as a gay person and the "right" of North Carolina husbands to rape their wives. The right to exploit, violate and degrade is not a right at all, but a state-sanctioned crime.

The CIA's atrocities are not committed in a political or social vacuum; they are manifestations of institutionalized male violence, which is the very backbone of American culture. It should be obvious that the historically white male power structure is in place only through violence

or the threat of violence: genocide of indigenous Americans, slavery of blacks, slavery of women, violence against lesbians and gays, economic exploitation of third world people — these are not isolated instances of violence, but are, in fact, evidence of one giant Western disease; the lie that men, white men particularly, have the right to use and exploit the planet and its inhabitants for selfish purposes — "prosperity."

The Eat-In was certainly a celebration of prosperity: well-fed, well-dressed, well-groomed, well-educated white heterosexual males gathered together to eat and affirm each other's role as rightful inheritors of "the good life" at the expense of every marginalized, trampled and despised person who has suffered to uphold their standard of living. The event was, it seemed to me, redundant.

The Eat-In linked three seemingly isolated events — the CIA recruitment, CGLA funding, and Jesse Helms' AIDS amendment — into one event. I, as well, recognize these three events as woven together; all are results of male violence, bigotry and hatred. But the similarities in

our vision end here. I'm working for a world where human need bypasses human greed, where people are not violated in order to benefit the elite. The people who "Ate-In," however, seemed to absolutely glorify their consumption, in spite of the fact, or perhaps because of the fact, that others were going hungry (me, for example) before their very eyes.

The event served as reassurance that there are in fact still a number of men (with a few hench-women thrown in for decor) who are willing to sell whatever vestige of integrity, fair-mindedness or compassion they may have had left for a few pieces of free pizza.

By fasting, I said with a rage born out of self-love and love for humanity: "I will not harm you or attempt to degrade you, you who have degraded me and my sisters and brothers, all the various despised minorities; but neither will I accept your violence any longer." By naming my oppression as a gay man, and by naming the violence of the CIA, I'm sharing something with my community that is usually left nameless. This is not "moral blackmail," it is my experience. The response to it has been one of great ugliness and lack of compassion.

Steve Sullivan is an Evening College student from Chapel Hill.