

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Observations from a useless woman

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Every Southern town worth its salt has its own Confederate soldier statue. Alexandria, Va., used to have one of these sentries from another era until recently, when the 20th century rudely toppled it.

Alexandria's favorite son fell after a car hit and badly damaged the statue's base. The current debate revolves around whether or not to restore the soldier to his rightful place in the town center. Some of those opposed to re-erecting the statue call the auto wreck an act of God, a means for removing a memorial to an immoral war (As opposed to what, I ask you? A moral war?). The pro-statue forces call their soldier a symbol of patriotism, of duty, of defending the sacred ground of Virginia.

All this hoopla leads me to consider UNC's own Confederate soldier, Silent Sam. In the minds of most Tar Heels, he is not a symbol of the War of Northern Aggression at all, but rather a virginity test. It's not too surprising. In this town everything revolves around sex, beer and basketball. A peripheral fourth value is academics.

At least this fourth element applies to the masculine portion of the student body. Just this week, in a sociology class on this campus, a male student (who shall remain nameless for his own protection) stated that a woman's education was not as important as a man's because men are the major breadwinners in our society. It would seem, if one extended this thesis, that the majority of UNC students are slaving away to acquire a relatively unimportant degree when they should instead be serving and drinking beer, cheering for the basketball team and . . . well, you know.

When these female students graduate, they will attempt to enter the labor force and start to worry. It seems that women currently tend to be fairly concerned about their economic futures while men are relatively satisfied and secure, according to CBS' morning news show. CBS went on to say that the Wall Street Journal wonders why this is so. Seems fairly obvious to me that this anxiety is a direct result of women pretending that their trivial educations equip them for careers at all.

The highlight of the Bush-Dukakis debate was the reaction of the only female member of the media panel when she was told she had time to ask an extra question. Caught totally off guard, her face contorted in sheer and utter panic while the cameras closed in for a better look. Probably a combination of economic anxiety and too much sex, beer and basketball contributed to her inability to take it all in stride.

In the debate, George Bush reminded us again that the present month is actually December and not September as so many of us have been deluded into believing. If the seventh of this month was Pearl Harbor Day and the 25th was Christmas, then it would seem that the 31st would be New Year's

Eve. But wait, this month only has 30 days.

Well, logically this would mean there will be no New Year's Eve this year, but since logic only goes so far in explaining the phenomenon of Bush anyhow, let's just contrive a holiday. The month ends this weekend, and I think

that's good enough reason for a New Year's Eve party. Too bad it isn't basketball season.

Well, beer never goes out of season, and before it clouds my brain too much, let me draw some conclusions just for fun. It seems to me that Confederate soldiers have as much right as anyone else

to stand in Alexandria, that the Wall Street Journal has trouble with intuitive truths, and that an artificial holiday is a good way to make me forget my insecurities about my economic future, but hey, what do I know? My education is largely insignificant anyway.

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