

The Daily Tar Heel

96th year of editorial freedom

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A chance to see champions

For the seventh consecutive year, UNC is playing in the Final Four.

"Wait a minute," you say. "Basketball just started. And we lost to Arizona in the regional finals last year." Well, we're not talking basketball. This is soccer.

UNC women's soccer, to be exact, and to say that the program is good would be a gross understatement. If Dean Smith or Mack Brown could boast the record of the women's soccer team, they would be gods on campus. Yet few people recognize the name of Anson Dorrance. (He's the soccer coach).

Consider the numbers. More national championships than Notre Dame. Seven straight Final Four appearances. Sixty-eight straight games without a loss. An 18-1 record in post-season play. A 16-0-2 record this year. Number one in the nation. Again.

That's success by any standard. Even better, that's excitement.

And students can see the team play tomorrow. At 1 p.m. on Finley Field, UNC will take on Wisconsin in the national semi-finals. If they win, they will play the winner of the California-N.C. State game for the national championship. That game will be Saturday, also at 1 p.m. on Finley Field. Both games will be nationally

televised by ESPN.

Don't think that student support won't be needed or appreciated, either. Non-revenue sports on this campus, despite their success, suffer from abysmal attendance. It is a distinct possibility that more people will travel to Duke to watch a 1-9 football team than will walk across campus to see the women's soccer team play for a national championship.

These women, however, deserve your support. They have worked hard to get where they are, and raucous, enthusiastic support can only motivate the players. The team may be great, but that doesn't exclude the possibility of close games in which a good crowd can make a difference. In the regional finals, UNC squeaked by Central Florida by a 2-1 score. Last month, the Tar Heels played State to an overtime tie, and if they meet again in the finals, expect a nerve-wracking afternoon.

Besides, the weather's nice, and it will be a chance to spend some time in the sun. So come out to Finley Field tomorrow and show the team, ESPN and the nation that the University takes its greatness seriously. If we win, then come out Saturday, too. After all, with women's soccer at UNC, a national championship only comes once a year. — David Starnes

Justice Department misnamed

There have been so many reports of deceit and corruption among high-level Reagan officials that close political observers eventually become numbed by each new admission or allegation. However, the most recent case, as reported in Thursday's Washington Post, is particularly noteworthy.

The Justice Department's ethics division exonerated former Criminal Justice Division Chief Charles Weld from charges of marijuana use. Weld, who, along with Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns, resigned from his post in March in protest over the ethical misconduct of Ed Meese, apparently was set up by a fellow employee at the Justice Department.

The charges were made by Boston lawyer Frank McNamara, who knew Weld from Weld's tenure as federal prosecutor in Boston. McNamara, who eventually was hired to succeed Weld, claimed that he saw Weld lighting a joint at a party following a wedding.

The ethics division's ruling — which came in a report that was not meant for public release — centered around confessions by James Byrne, a Justice Department aide. Byrne asserts that

he was ordered by the aforementioned Burns to "dig up some dirt" on Weld. Byrne then spoke to McNamara, who later made the erroneous accusations. McNamara ironically confessed during investigations to having used marijuana in previous years, and he has already been placed under investigation by the ethics division for his acts.

This latest scandal is particularly damning because it once again strikes at the heart of the U.S. system of justice. Justice Department officials are responsible for upholding the law; thus, they have a duty to rise above petty office conflicts and unite to fight injustice and control crime. Their assignment calls for both impartiality and fairness.

By allowing itself to be corrupted, the Justice Department has clearly failed to meet this responsibility, for each new scandal rightly decreases the respect that citizens have for the law. Reagan was able to divorce himself from these scandals with his grandfatherly charm and scripted platitudes. The Bush administration, already under attack from many, would be wise not to tolerate such rampant indiscretions. — Dave Hall

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Taking a tremendous trek toward turkey

It is almost that time of year again. The signs are everywhere. The weather has gotten just a bit colder. The McDonald's "give gift certificates instead of real presents in the kids' stockings" commercial has been on for at least three weeks. The department store aisles have been transformed into paths through tinsel forests. It's almost Christmas! No, wait a minute. That's more than a month away. Oh, that's right — it's time for that little holiday known as Thanksgiving.

Next Tuesday, my sister and I will hop in the car with two other wayward children of Connecticut and begin the annual quest for turkey. Round trip, the quest will take almost a full day of driving, covering a distance of more than 1,000 miles. There are people who question making this gargantuan effort simply to eat some poultry. On the surface it appears to be a valid question.

On our interstate odyssey we will face real challenges. We will have packed the essentials for the trip: the nice outfit for the actual night itself, a selection of good music so we can avoid the Christmas carols already dominating the radio and a stack of books to impress the parents. Two of the above items will actually be used during the weekend. Even with term papers and finals hanging over our heads, the books will remain in the corner of our rooms, unused and unloved.

For the first few hours, the trip will be fun. The tension will start to build around Washington, D.C. Where to stop for dinner, Roy Rogers or Pizza Hut? Can we listen to something other than Bruce Springsteen's "Born to Run," as good as it is? Why did we agree to give a ride to

Bill Yelverton Notes from the Abyss

that guy from Duke who happens to live in our hometown?

The road to Connecticut is a long one. After a greasy dinner at a Shoney's in Olney, Md., the crew will settle in and brace themselves for New Jersey, the state that never ends. I look forward to arriving in beautiful Newark, because it means we are almost out of the state.

And getting there is only half the fun. After unpacking the car, I always look forward to the pleasures of home. All I can think about is climbing the stairs to my room and falling into my comfortable old bed. Mom will have made it up with clean sheets; maybe she'll even have put a plate of chocolate chip cookies on the bedside table.

Last year I turned on the light and found that my cozy room had been transformed into that suburban creation known as the den/office. My bed was still there, only now it was covered with accumulated bills and minutes from a year's worth of PTA meetings. As I carefully moved aside the debris, I was still hoping to find the crisp, clean sheets that had always greeted me in the past. But the sheets I had left on the bed in August were still there, pressed flat by the weight of office work. I dealt with it as best I could. I'll be fine this year as long as they haven't turned the den/office into the entertainment/media center. I'm not fond of sofa beds.

The grandparents will arrive home the

day after we do this year. It's always a lot of fun to see them. In the past there have been some fireworks between the parents and the grandparents, but now that everyone is getting a little older, it's easier. Before they arrive, Mom will be running around the house in an attempt to eradicate filth from the Earth. The family is enlisted as her sanitation army. Most of the things she asks us to do are reasonable, but this year I'm going to balk at vacuuming the dog so that dog hair doesn't get the chance to fall onto the carpet.

Once the house is clean, the day-long preparation of the feast begins. Mom is responsible for the big ticket items, such as the turkey, mashed potatoes and brussel sprouts. Grandma makes the wild rice and the gravy. Suzanne and Michael bake the pies, pumpkin and pecan. Christine and I whip up the cranberry-orange relish and set the table. Dad and Granddad tear the bread for the stuffing while they watch bowl games.

As night falls we are ready to begin. Everyone has washed behind their ears and gotten into their fancy clothes. The food lies before us in the glow of candlelight. We wait to eat until everyone has gone around the table in turn and taken a moment to reflect on what we have to be grateful for. This is what Thanksgiving is all about.

Even if you aren't going anywhere next Thursday, take a few minutes to think back on the past year. Chances are there were a few good things in it.

Bill Yelverton is a senior English major from Darien, Conn.

Readers' Forum

Hatcher is a hypocrite

To the editor:

Come on folks, be serious. This Eddie Hatcher story in the Nov. 16 DTH ("U.S. should cease own abuses first, activist says") surely was meant for the April 1, 1989, edition. After all, Eddie Hatcher advocating civil rights is much akin to Adolf Hitler holding forth on the righteousness of racial equality. Besides killing or raping somebody, how much more devastatingly can you violate an individual's civil rights than by holding him or her hostage at gunpoint? Some Palestinians try to draw attention to the plight of their people by hijacking airplanes, and we call them terrorists. What are we to call Hatcher and Jacobs? Surely not civil rights activists.

What about the civil rights of the 20 employees of The Robesonian who were told by the two "activists" to prepare to die that very day in February of this year? In addition, where is all the "evidence" the two "activists" promised to reveal? To date it seems to exist in their imaginations only, for they have not presented an iota of the material they pledged. Lastly, I would seriously question the mindset of anybody, most of all a professor of law, who calls the armed kidnapping of 20 innocent bystanders a media stunt. If anybody had been killed, Nakell probably would classify the offense as jaywalking.

I do not doubt that Robeson County has its share, or perhaps even more than its share, of official corruption. Poverty, racial violence and discrimination are probably to be found there as well. That does not negate the fact that Hatcher and Jacobs behaved like criminals, and that the verdict rendered in their case was a sick joke and a clear travesty of justice.

If Hatcher and Jacobs have advanced the cause of civil rights by means of their "media stunt," think what they should be able to accomplish with a live hand grenade in a kindergarten class. That really would teach us what civil rights are all about.

NORBERT MAYR
Assistant professor
Department of History



A Mideast history lesson

To the editor:

An otherwise sensitive editorial by Dave Hall ("The lessons of the Holocaust") on Nov. 11 about the historical significance of Kristallnacht was marred by major mistakes about the ancient and recent history of the Middle East. First, Hall is incorrect in stating that "Palestinians were there first." He seems to have forgotten that Israel existed as a nation in its current location from the time of Joshua until its destruction as a political state by the Romans in the first and second centuries A.D. Even then, while many Jews unwillingly left Israel, many Jews remained there.

Second, the 1948 partition under the U.N. plan did not displace Palestinians. Rather, it split British Palestine into two states as a political matter, one Jewish and the other Arab. The Jews that followed — wars triggered by Arab determination to destroy Israel — caused the displacement of many Palestinians. I agree with Hall that the displacement was unfortunate, but it is important to remember that it resulted from Arab aggression. I favor a negotiated settlement based on trading land for peace. But I am disturbed by Hall's failure to mention that from 1948 to 1967, the Arab government of Jordan, which then controlled the West Bank, did nothing to create a Palestinian state in accord with the U.N. partition

plan.

I also agree with Hall's criticism of the Israeli government's oppressive treatment of Palestinians in recent months. Yet Hall should recognize that it is the efforts of Arab governments and Palestinian terrorists for 40 years to destroy Israel and their continuing and violent refusal (except recently for Egypt and possibly Jordan) to accept its existence in peace that fuel understandable Israeli fears of Palestinian goals and also, unfortunately, undue Israeli intransigence and harshness.

BENJAMIN SENDOR
Assistant professor
Institute of Government

Equal rights for the unborn

To the editor:

Abortion is a very sensitive topic, as Julie Gammill demonstrated in her column ("Anti-abortion a selfish ploy for votes, support," Nov. 14). However, Julie's arguments are the same that the pro-choice advocates have been presenting since the *Roe vs. Wade* decision, and they are just as faulty now as they were then.

First, just because the rich will always be able to afford abortions does not mean that we should legalize abortions and fund them for everyone who wants one. If that is so, then let us also legalize drug dealing, first-degree murder, prostitution, kidnapping and child pornography. Won't the

rich always be able to afford these illegal services? How then can we justify denying these services to those without the financial means to obtain them? The fact is that people will continue to have abortions, murder people, do drugs, sleep with disease-ridden prostitutes and steal children no matter how illegal these acts are. This is no justification for legalization.

Second, her argument that the Republicans have a plot to cause "a population explosion in poverty-ridden areas" borders on paranoia. Surely, there are always some evil criminal minds who want to take over the world, but Lex Luthor is in the comic books, not in America. A population explosion doesn't help the economy at all, and supposedly, Republicans and Democrats all profit when the economy is doing well.

Her third argument of personal choice over her body is the only one with any common sense behind it. Yes, you do have a right to personal choice concerning your body. But read that again. Your body is what you have a right of personal choice over. Not anyone else's body, but your own. There is a slogan I've heard somewhere, "Equal rights for unborn women!" Do what you like to your own body, but don't murder someone else while you do that.

CHARLES BALAN
Senior
Interdisciplinary studies

Hatcher acquittal encouraged terrorism

To the editor:

Human Rights Week on this campus lost a lot of its credibility on Tuesday, Nov. 15, when Eddie Hatcher, enjoying his recent publicity to its fullest, spoke in Gerrard Hall. Does Hatcher realize that he is as guilty of human rights violations as anyone he is condemning?

Being a native North Carolinian, I followed with interest the trial of Hatcher and Jacobs. However, I was completely baffled and astounded by the acquittal handed down in this specific case. Did the end result really justify the means? Obviously not, because as Hatcher himself stated there have been 15 "questionable" murders in Robeson County since his terroristic takeover of the newspaper office

in February.

I am not denying that deplorable conditions exist in Robeson County; what I am saying is, how can anyone listen to a terrorist like Hatcher condemn others for human rights violations? I suppose holding the newspaper staff hostage at armed guard did not violate anyone's human rights. Just think about the lasting emotional effects on the people involved in that incident. Can anyone not believe they were scared to death, not knowing whether they would live or die? I know if a loved one of mine had been involved, the outrageous acquittal verdict would have incensed me.

To me, Hatcher is as two-faced and hypocritical as is humanly possible. He

lives by the motto "Do as I say, not as I do." Hatcher has no place on the campus of this fine university, much less to speak on human rights.

In conclusion, I would like my readers to consider what kind of precedent Hatcher's acquittal sets. It basically opens the door for anyone not content with a situation to take hostages, under the reasoning, "Eddie Hatcher did it and was not punished; why should I be punished?" It might not be a bad idea to try at the DTH office.

JULE BANZET
Senior
History/Political science