

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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Unfair proposal won't curb crime

Chapel Hill has got a crime problem, and the task force on violent crime and illegal drug use is going to solve it. And they're not going to let reality get in the way.

At a task force meeting last month, some town residents thought the cause of the town's high crime rate was the fault of its homeless population, but at the Sept. 21 meeting District Attorney Carl Fox blamed something equally ridiculous. He thinks the town's high crime rate is due to local employers hiring college students instead of high school students, and that the way to solve this is to give high school students preferential treatment in hiring.

When did it become the district attorney's job to tell employers who to hire or not to hire? Employers should only have to consider one thing when deciding who to hire — who is the best person for the job.

Fox presented a number of reasons to hire high school students instead of University students, but few, if any, hold up to any serious examination.

College students have better transportation than high school students, allowing them to get jobs outside of Chapel Hill, Fox claims. This ignores the fact that very few on-campus students have cars, and most of the ones who do must keep them in off-campus lots that are hard to get to quickly. Most high school students, on the other hand, either have a car or parents with a car, and if they need to work, transportation is available. After all, the bus lines run for high school students as well as for college students.

Another reason to hire high school students, Fox says, is that college students are only temporary residents, while high school

students are here for good. This makes very little sense. Although Fox might see people who live here for four or five years as temporary residents, this is at least as long as many of the town's "permanent" residents have been here or intend to stay.

How long a person has lived in your town or when they will be leaving are ridiculous yardsticks for hiring in most jobs college students apply for, and a high school student who leaves for college is just as gone as a college graduate who moves out of town.

Fox is worried that high school students are getting only low-skilled jobs, but he ignores the fact that without the advanced training college students are receiving or the years of experience some college students bring to a job, that is all that is available. High school students angry that they can't run the cash register or the bar should realize that the college student doing these jobs today started out stocking the shelves or washing the pots in these same establishments. Good jobs are earned, not deserved.

One thing Fox forgot to mention is that most college students who work do not do it as a way to keep busy, they do it because they must work to stay in school. Most high school students have their rent, utilities and groceries paid for by their parents, and they receive a good education for free, but many college students must work to provide themselves with these basics.

It's good that Fox is trying to solve the town's crime problems, but blaming them on hard-working college students is no way to do it.

Political persuasion kills study

Funny how bullying doesn't stop when puberty ends — especially when it comes to politicians.

In June, the University of Chicago Dean of Social Sciences was told he would receive a \$1 million grant to conduct a study on what makes adults choose the sexual partners they do. The study, which received high ratings throughout its evaluation process, sought to examine how factors like child abuse, economic status and peer pressure affect why people have sex with one person instead of another.

Ultimately, the study's results would have helped health officials to learn enough about people's sexual habits so the officials might better target information about sexually transmitted diseases. Ultimately, the study could have saved lives.

That won't happen now, because the group funding the study became scared for its pocketbook and bowed to political pressure. Thanks to several ill-informed senators, including our own Jesse Helms, Dean Edward Laumann's grant was canceled two weeks ago.

Helms and his peers, in early September, made it clear they would not support any study focusing on human sexual behavior. The reasoning behind their disapproval? In Helms' own words, any such survey is intended solely to "legitimize homosexual lifestyles."

Please.

Although Helms' ignorance of the study's real merits is distressing in itself, the worst effect of his unwarranted criticism occurred when the national organization providing Laumann's grant heard about the senators' negative reaction to sexual behavior studies.

The leaders of this respected group, the National Institutes of Health, started feeling a little uneasy. Six days after Helms' speech, they called Laumann to tell him they would not recommend funding his study because it would be "political suicide."

The problem arises because the NIH gets its own funding each year from Congress. And should certain legislative members become displeased with the way the NIH is spending its monies ... who's to say what could happen in the appropriations process next year.

With the back-handed pressure of a few politicians comes the loss of a worthy study already lauded by respected scientists, health officials and study panels. No politician should be able to flex his or her muscles and intimidate a group like the NIH into changing its mind like it did with Laumann's study.

Playground or Capitol Hill — it's bullying all the same.



The DTH and N.C. State's Technician will periodically publish each others cartoons. This cartoon first appeared in the Technician.

Serving you a sample column for a study in style

Like most of frat court, I was at the Cradle Saturday night joining in the Reivers-mania that seemed to arise coincidentally with rumors that Peter Buck had been sighted at Sutton's. For those of you who missed the show, the opening band, REN, was incredible. Their play list included "Television Free Europe," "Please go back to Rockville," and the show's highlight, "Losing my Pretension." Who could forget the lyrics:

"My life/It's bigger/It's bigger than you/cause you are not me."
That brings me to my point: I've written for three weeks and haven't yet bored you with the details of my personal life, and, if history teaches us anything, it's that Daily Tar Heel columnists must talk about themselves. Perhaps it's the result of the dual influences of modern literary criticism and "behind the scenes" mania of the "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" and "The Making of Lethal Weapon 2" variety. That is, my humor column cannot truly be called art unless you understand where I'm coming from, the cosmic issues of why I write and who to ask to explain the private jokes I'll put in here.

The beauty of personal columns is that they require no effort. All you do is write down what happened to you last week, and, unless you lead a particularly boring life, funny stuff is bound to have happened to you. Even if it hasn't, you can always spice it up with the DTH humor column standards: a wacky title, zany phrases like "flaming _____ (unfunny detail) from hell" and "get real, cheese eater/head/ball/etc.," and agonizingly detailed descriptions of writer's block. Thus, the mundane details of how I'm unable to get a date, how my mom dressed me funny during the '70s and how I got a parking ticket become transformed into humor. The medium is the message.

Study the following sample column as a guide. Notice that the delivery is the most important element and can save even the dullest



David Ball
All You Can Eat

of plots. Use weird-sounding words (spatula, cornucopia), apostrophes/down-home dialogue (this here, fixin', highfalutin') and lots of self-aware "don't forget, it's me writing this column" parenthetical statements (like if I were to mention that I've used several parenthetical comments in this paragraph). Practice this here style and you, too, can regale your friends with witty banter (note vocab usage: banter, regale).

7:30 a.m. Yucky. I've got the flaming 8 o'clock from hell today, and, of course, I haven't done the homework, and my TA, who doesn't speak English, is going to collect it. Did I mention that I was hung over even though my fake I.D. was rejected at Spanky's? When will the hilarity end?

9:30 a.m. Wanted to ask a cute girl out for tonight; vomited on her instead. The last time I vomited was in fourth grade when my mom dressed me up in a sailor suit, but because I was fashion-blind, I didn't notice and was the subject of ridicule. During snack I was pelted repeatedly with half-empty Sip-ups boxes. Even though you've all heard every single story of my childhood in the Midwest, I'll continue to tell you more about getting carsick and wetting the bed. Keep on laffin'.

Noon. I'm eating lunch — isn't digestion weird? Seriously, though, Lenor food is so bad. Mystery meat city. This, of course, calls to mind yet another Wonder Years-esque elementary school dyspepsia story when I was dressed in yet another typical '70s costume. I think it was a Partridge Family jump suit. Wild!

5 p.m. My dorm burned down, all my home-

work was stolen and I went to Granville — cheese o' rama! I haven't yet mentioned my roommate problems, my never-understanding and square parents and how everyone around me is completely shallow and fails to realize that what seems like petulant whining is really (a) deep and (b) utterly hilarious. I know everyone says, "No one understands me," but no one understands that I really mean it.

8 p.m. I went to work in an information booth in James, and, believe it or not, people asked me questions! I mean, give me a break! When I lived in James my freshman year I, too, was miserable and clueless and had the standard authoritarian RA, more digestion problems and was always late to class, but now it's different. Who doesn't know how to get to the post office? Talk about know-nothing freshmen from hell. What total cheese-melters!

Midnight. I had writer's block as usual and decided to write a rambling, incoherent public diary so you could find me endearing and deserving of pity. I wrote this and was able to say absolutely nothing out of the ordinary, but the paper will publish it anyway. Thanks, Jen Wing.

This column isn't perfect, because it leaves out the usual dumb questions summary section ("Why is Caroline's voice female if it's a computer?") "Why aren't there more beers in a six-pack?"), but you have the rough idea. Now that I've explained myself, why don't you show me what you've learned? Write in, and tell me if you want me to go with the personal style, or, better yet, write your own. There are some changes coming in the world of humor, and, if Ganesh Gunasekaran will permit my saying this, the revolution starts next week.

David Ball is a senior history major from Atlanta who thanks Matt McMichaels and apologizes to Ian Williams.

READERS' FORUM

Center teaches reading skills to disabled people

To the editor:
Robin Lowe's article in the Sept. 18 Daily Tar Heel ("Volunteer agencies work to illuminate illiterate tunnel") presented a nice overview of some issues and local responses to adult illiteracy. I am writing briefly to inform you of another population that has been virtually unaffected locally and nationally by literacy agencies, programs, or policy, i.e., people with severe disabilities. Severe disabilities include deaf-blindness, multiple disabilities, autism, cerebral palsy, neurological impairments and mental retardation. Individuals with severe disabilities are less likely than any other population in America to receive education in mainstream classes, to complete a high school education or to find employment.

Literacy is not less, but rather more, important to these individuals. Literacy skills enhance communication, foster independence, broaden vocational opportunities and increase the likelihood that individuals with disabilities can successfully compete in mainstream America.

Why should students at UNC care? Enlightened self-interest. Unemployed persons with disabilities survive on government benefit programs (read your tax dollar). These costs will continue to increase throughout your working years. Education of persons with disabilities is almost twice as costly as educating non-disabled children, but it is much cheaper than supporting that person for life. Benefit programs are an expense. Education is an investment.

There is currently one organization addressing this problem, the Carolina Literacy Center (CLC) at UNC-Chapel Hill. The CLC is the

first and only center worldwide focused on literacy and disabilities. It was established in September 1990 with a grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Health Care Trust to address the literacy difficulties of children and adults with severe speech or physical impairments. The CLC engages in research and development of instructional methods and materials, trains parents and teachers, provides technical assistance to instructional programs and serves as an information clearinghouse.

DAVID A. KOPPENHAVER
Associate Director
Carolina Literacy Center
Use cameras, not rifles to shoot visual animals

To the editor:
I would like to respond to some of the pro-hunting rhetoric I've been reading in the Readers' Forum. Sounds like all the money the NRA is spending on brainwashing is paying off. Unfortunately, most of the arguments in favor of hunting are absolute rubbish.

Hunting does not promote wildlife "management." In fact, wildlife is "managed" by state and national agencies specifically for hunters, who make up less than 10 percent of the population. The money paid for hunting licenses and duck stamps does not even cover the cost of hunting programs and game wardens. By clear-cutting and burning thousands of acres of land, the populations of animals that hunters are particularly interested in are artificially inflated, creating the sort of overpopulation mentioned in some of the letters.

Classic marketing, right? Create the need and then fill it. Even without human-created overpopulation from hunting programs and overdevelopment, using hunting as population control is just bad

biology. If the number of animals in an area grows too large to be supported, the excess will either move on (if there is some place to move to), or the weakest will die. Basic biology, Charlie ("Gun owners, hunters care for wildlife, set up reserves," Sept. 23). Hunters, however, are less discriminating than Mother Nature and will, in fact, try to take the strongest and most fit (gotta get that rack). This is most definitely not sound management.

All of this rather begs the real question — do we have the right to hunt animals in the first place? Does the fact that we can take a high-powered rifle out into the woods and snuff out the life of another creature make it OK? I am quite certain that it does not and that the "sport" of hunting is nothing more than another way for a small segment of the population to satisfy some sick blood lust in a way that won't get it thrown into jail. If you have to watch something die to get your jollies, then you're a real sicko, babe.

If you want sport, try picking up a 35mm camera instead of a 9mm rifle, and get the same shot. It's a hell of a lot harder, but you can shoot the same deer over and over, and I don't have to worry about your plugging me as I walk behind my house to hang some clothes on the line.

TONY PATTERSON
Class of '82
The Carolina Critic welcomes Libertarians

Editor's note: The writer is publisher of The Carolina Critic.
To the editor:
I was incredibly pleased to read Dave Meesters' "Libertarians call for freedom in market, bedroom" in the Daily Tar Heel Sept. 26. Libertarianism is an ideology that many of us innately uphold, but

few consider to be a legitimate political camp in today's bipartisan America.

"Common Sense" seems to have great potential for increasing the quality of political debate on campus.

I'd also like to invite any student who identified with Meesters' column to consider joining the staff of the Carolina Critic student news and opinion journal.

Although we are open to submissions expressing a wide variety of political ideologies, the Critic emphasizes the "classical liberal" thinking that many libertarians espouse.

Anyone interested can feel free to drop by our office in Student Union Suite C or drop a note in our mailbox at 01 Steele Building.

ELLIOT FUS
Senior
JOMC

Theta needs support, empathy of Panhellenic

To the editor:
The support and warm thoughts extended by the sororities to the sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta were indeed a kind gesture; an integral trait of Panhellenic, as it definitely should be.

However, I am appalled by the callous nature of several members of Panhellenic in reveling in the demise of a sister chapter.

It frightens me that the future leaders of our society are being groomed in the art of "Taking Care of Number One" and "Let's kick him; he's down."

Once again, let me thank those for their love and caring. As for the others: "Do not ask for whom the bell tolls."

DOROTHY MAYER
House Director
Kappa Alpha Theta

The Daily Tar Heel

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