

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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Giving the town a voice

Let's set the scene: As the University continues to grow within Chapel Hill's limited area, town officials and residents are becoming more resentful and afraid of the ever-expanding campus. Much has been made recently of the obvious tensions affecting town-gown relations, but until last week neither side had done much to ease them.

The Chapel Hill Town Council's unanimous vote to allow council members to take active roles in the review process of proposed University developments should do much to relieve some of that tension by ensuring better communication between the town and University.

The resolution passed by the council will allow that body to give comments on the environmental aspects of University development in town.

The resolution stems from the N.C. Environmental Policy Act, which requires all state agencies to go through a review process to see if there are environmental impacts of development.

The act requires that an environmental assessment be prepared for any project that either will use public monies or will have a potential environmental effect. This could include practically all University developments.

While the resolution provides the town some insurance in its struggle against the expanding campus, it in no way threatens future University developments—the resolution gives the town a voice but not necessarily a vote in the University's development proposals. The town can now rest assured that its concerns about campus

expansion will be heard, and the University can rest assured that town officials will not be able to veto its new development plans.

The resolution also serves to improve communication between the town and University. A lack of communication has been at the heart of past disputes, most notably the council's decision earlier this year not to include the University's proposed South Loop Road in the state-funded Chapel Hill-Carrboro thoroughfare plan. The council voted not to include the South Loop proposal because council members had not been involved in its planning process. With the new resolution, such a scenario will not occur again—the town will be aware of University plans in their early stages and will be able to comment on them as they develop.

While this is a good first step in improving town-University relations, more needs to be done. Council member Roosevelt Wilkerson has proposed a liaison between the town and University who will consider the interests of both in the development process. The town and University should take up Wilkerson's proposal; the creation of a liaison position could impact town-gown relations more forcefully than the resolution.

It is obvious that the town and the University would both like their relationship to be more harmonious. This resolution will give the town some assurance that its voice will be heard, and it does not threaten future University developments. This is the first step, let's hope that more will follow.

Paying a high price for safety

It's a tragedy whenever another person tests positive for the HIV virus, but the recent announcement of basketball great Magic Johnson's infection has had at least one result that should have happened long ago. Fox TV has announced that it will be the first television network to accept advertisements for condoms.

It has been common knowledge for years that the only effective ways to stop the spread of sexually transmitted diseases are abstinence and the use of condoms, and abstinence is too much to ask of some people. With the recent spread of STDs, most notably AIDS, it seems reasonable that condom advertising would have blanketed television sets for most of the past decade, but this has not been the case. Instead, networks gave in to misinformed fears that advertising condoms would only increase society's promiscuity and refused ads from condom manufacturers.

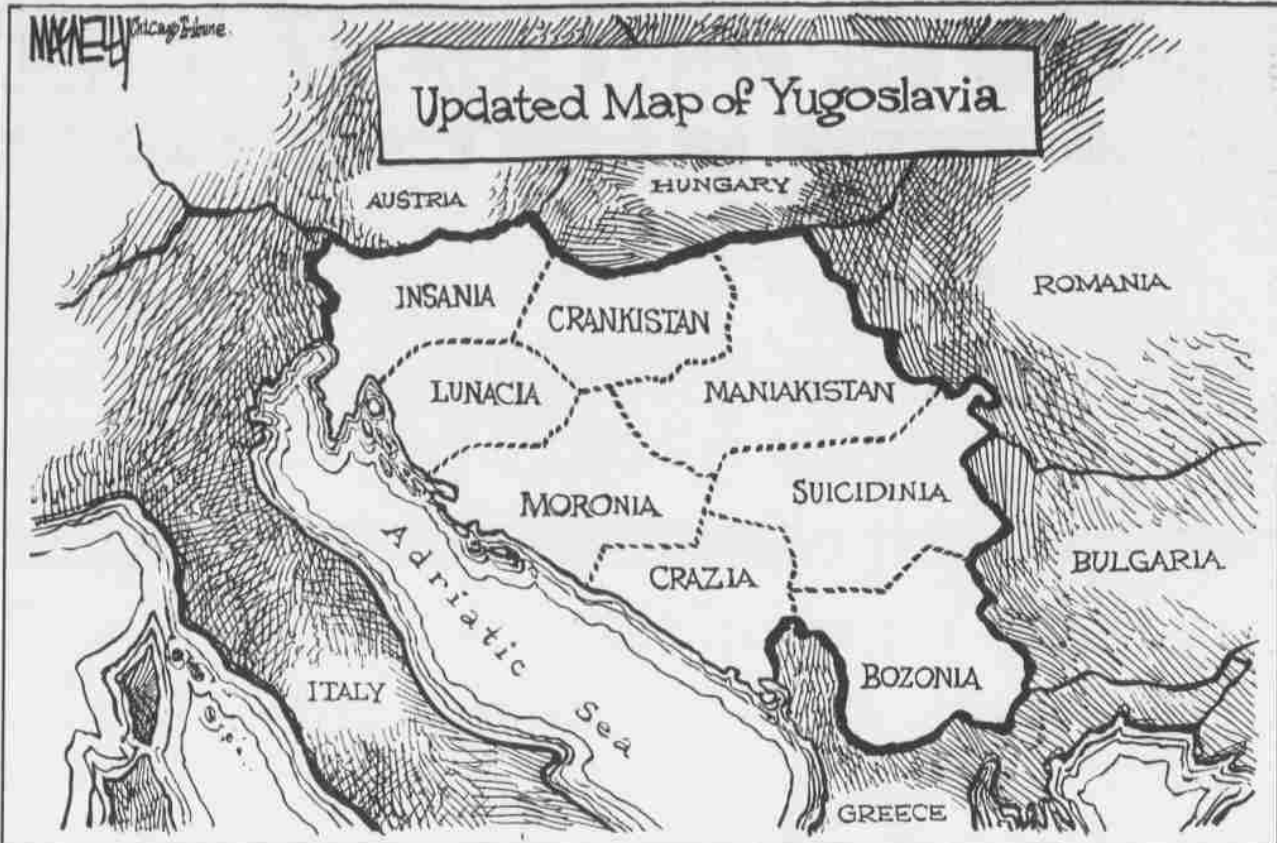
Fox TV, which has made a name for itself by going one step further than other networks have dared, finally found the courage to say, "Enough!" and to give common sense greater weight than the fears of the uninformed. It realized that the best preventive steps amounted to nothing if people were not informed of them, and it

finally opened the nation's most-used medium—television—to educate people about how to protect themselves.

Ads will be aired only if they advocate the use of condoms for disease prevention; advertisement of condoms as contraceptives will not be accepted. Although this ignores a major use of condoms, it does make some sense. Birth control is often a question of personal morality and religious views, but prevention of often-fatal diseases is a universal issue about which all members of society should be equally well-educated.

So far, no other networks have chosen to follow Fox TV's lead—instead of doing that which will improve public awareness of STDs, they have chosen not to hurt their Nielsen ratings. That's too bad, but even if they are unwilling to accept ads for condoms, perhaps they at least will run public service announcements stressing the need for safe sex.

Fox TV, which has been criticized for its risqué programming, has used the same principles with this decision to step ahead of the other networks in fulfilling its responsibility to viewers. It's just too bad that it took another HIV-positive celebrity for them to make it.

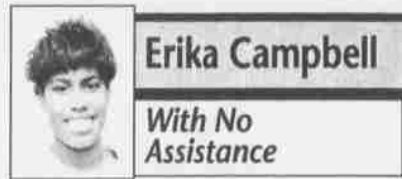


Arm yourselves with information about safe sex

It's acceptable to advertise that it's not a woman's fault that her maxi or tampon leaks. It's even OK to tell the world that women often have that "not so fresh feeling" and to display a product that supposedly will cure it. However, condoms, a product both men and women need to maintain not only personal hygiene but maybe even life, get hush-hush treatment from everybody.

Yesterday I read in USA Today that people in Los Angeles, Magic Johnson's city, were fighting over whether condoms should be hush-hush in the school system. Some residents are pushing the Los Angeles school system, the second largest in the United States, to follow New York, Philadelphia and San Francisco in approving proposals that would make condoms available to the 135,000 students who attend the city's 49 public schools. Others, however, are arguing that giving students access to condoms not only promotes sexual promiscuity, but also increases the risk of catching AIDS. The more they think about sex, the more likely they will be to have it, and as Beverly LaFaye, president of Concerned Women for America, said in USA Today, "Condoms have failed to stem the tide of gonorrhea and herpes; it is unrealistic to assume they will do any better for AIDS."

Condoms aren't the problem, people are. Salk's polio vaccine would not have virtually wiped out polio if we had left it in the vial and hadn't used it. Condoms can't even put a dent in the spread of sexually transmitted diseases if we refuse to use them or fail to make them available to all people who are sexually active. LaFaye goes on to argue that safe sex is not what kids truly want and that "young people want truth and guidance from adults on how to respond to their developing sexuality." If kids



Erika Campbell

With No Assistance

are really begging adults for guidance on how to respond responsibly to their developing sexuality, I suggest they look elsewhere. In this world in which the sexually active adult population is, by and large, pretty ignorant about its own sexuality and how to act responsibly regarding it, teenagers are left out on their own with "wait until you're married" as guidance.

Many American adults are uneducated or undereducated at best about their own sexuality and the sexually transmitted diseases that might threaten not only their lives, but also those of family members. If the public school system would take on the responsibility of completely educating its students about the sexuality that we have been trying to hide so desperately, the school system possibly could educate not only its students, but also the masses of ignorant or semi-ignorant adults who are parents of these students. For years we have placed sexuality behind closed doors and have pretended that premarital sex does not exist, especially among teens. Today's parents were yesterday's teenagers, and many of them, though they seem to have forgotten, also had premarital sex.

However, in 1991 the consequences are a bit different. Instead of resulting in a shotgun marriage, premarital sex could get you into an even worse situation—death. To keep our heads in the sand and pretend that preaching "Just Say No To Sex" will be enough to keep teens, and others for that matter, from having unprotected

sex is to play Russian roulette with teenagers' lives.

I am very grateful I did not have parents who treated my sister, brother and me as imbeciles. In my house there was never, "Don't have sex until you're married, just because." Instead my parents, especially my mother, told me that they felt that teenagers were not ready to have sex because they were not ready to take responsibility for their actions. My mother warned me of the consequences of having sex, pregnancy and STDs included. However, she also took into account that I might, as many teenagers often do, choose the infinite intelligence of 17 rather than the obsolete knowledge of my mother and elders. She set about possibly protecting me from myself and insisted that I become knowledgeable about birth control, condoms included.

If our society is going to be serious about protecting the lives of every person, teens and young adults included, then we are going to have to take a realistic, intelligent approach toward our own sexuality. To deny that people are having sex—even unprotected sex—for reasons other than procreation is to be ignorant. Wishing that people will wait until they marry and will stay in monogamous relationships will not make it happen. People are going to choose a variety of ways to express their sexuality, and they are going to choose various times in their lives to express it.

If we are going to be a truly humane people insistent on the protection of life and health for all people, then we must arm our people with as virulent and powerful a weapon as we have available.

Erika Campbell is a senior history major from Chattanooga, Tenn.

READERS' FORUM

U.S. veterans' sacrifices deserve more respect

To the editor:
On Monday, Nov. 11, 1991, I was hurt and disgusted by the shortsightedness of the American public, primarily students of this university.

The Veterans Day ceremony held in Polk Place was attended by only 50 students, if that many. This is ludicrous considering the student population of our University is 23,000!

Where were all the "supporters" of the recent military action in Southwest Asia? Have they all found better causes to be involved with? Or were these "supporters" following a fad last year, heaven forbid, wrapped up in the vogue of yellow ribbons!

Last year at this time, I was knee deep in the sand of the Omani Desert, training for the planned amphibious assault of Kuwait (which thank God never hap-

pened!). It is difficult to explain how scary and emotionally taxing that time was: not knowing whether I would see my family again, touch green grass again, enjoy decent food again or simply live through the next few weeks.

Most frightening of all the questions was WHY? Why were we going to fight in this war? Why us? These questions were merely semantics.

No matter what my personal feelings, I gave an oath to defend this country against all enemies foreign and domestic. Unlike others who shirked their oaths, I answered the call and served my nation, along with five good friends (and brothers in arms) who gave their lives for it.

By disregarding this simple ceremony that lasted only a few minutes, you disrespected me, my friends who died for you and all veterans living and dead who have sacrificed a part of themselves for something most of us will never

understand.
WILLIAM C. BORDEAUX
HM3, USNR-IRR
Freshman
International Studies

Truth shouldn't suffer for trashy satire's sake

To the editor:
From reading the Nov. 14 editorial, "Quayling at a little satire," I think you should stop running "Doonesbury" and replace it with more of these editorials.

You said that "Doonesbury is a political cartoon—it is satire, not literal truth." Satire uses irony and wit—not blatant falsehoods or smear tactics (or, as you say, "not literal truth").

I think most of us are getting a little bit tired of this kind of trash. Trudeau knew the accusations were false. He showed that he was not above using these kinds of tactics against those that don't agree with his own political philosophy.

This is all too prevalent in the media, and it is keeping a lot of people out of government service. Do the responsible thing and drop Doonesbury until Trudeau cleans up his act.

NED KRAUSHAAR
Graduate Student
Health Policy and Administration

Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticisms. We attempt to print as many letters to the editor as space permits. When writing letters, please follow these guidelines:

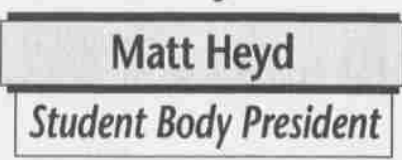
- Letters should be limited to 400 words, although longer letters are accepted. However, the shorter the letter, the better chance it has of running.
- If you want your letter published, sign and date it. No more than two signatures.
- If you have a title that is relevant to your letter's subject, please include it.

Student input is necessary for caring government

A couple of years ago a group of students announced that they wanted to abolish student government. I don't remember what they called themselves, but they got a lot of people to sign a petition, which they passed out the day of campus elections. It was in reaction to a prolonged (three-month) race for student body president and perceived problems within the Student Congress. That seems like a long time ago now, but the group said something I haven't forgotten because it seemed logical: "I'll care about student government when it cares about me."

I'm pleased with what we've been able to accomplish this fall. A lot of our focus has been toward reconnecting regular students to the University. By December, we'll have completed all of the projects that I promised to undertake during the election last spring. Meredith Rentz, Jennifer Ravenel and I are planning our activities for the remainder of my term. As we do so, I come back to what the students protesting student government said in 1990.

I'm going to spend the next month going out and listening to students. It's not that I think we've been inaccessible this year. Through Pit forums, these columns and attendance of group meetings, we've done as much as others have in the past to make ourselves available to students. But our emphasis has been on doing what we promised to do. As we finish this semester and begin the next, I want my emphasis to be on listening. Going to dorm meetings, more group meetings and going door-to-door seem simple



Matt Heyd

Student Body President

things to do, but I can't find any record of past student body presidents doing any of those things after they were elected. We just want to know what you're thinking and how you feel about what's going on on campus and what we're doing to address your problems.

It's more than just listening, too. There are a couple of issues on which I want your opinion. Jim Copland wrote a column two weeks ago explaining our Higher Education Bill of Rights, which hopes to establish a guideline for state funding priorities of the University. Often, we complain about budget cuts without offering a comprehensive idea of how we think the state should fund the University. It's extremely important that we get your approval so that we can carry that forward to the legislature next spring. Second, the committee planning the diversity requirement is almost done with its work, and it's crucial that students understand why the requirement is important to our curriculum. Finally, there's the mission statement we hope to revise. (UNC-system) President (C.D.) Spangler's mission review committee reported that, for the most part, Chapel Hill should continue with the graduate and undergraduate teaching that has been its foundation. That's good news. A revision in our own mission

statement to further integrate student support into the mission would be consistent with what the outside consultants who evaluated the University thought were our strengths.

We also want to talk to you about the issue of the housekeepers' working conditions. Right now, student government is only playing a very minor support role. You probably know what's at issue; there are several state salary grades that pay workers below the poverty level. Many of the housekeepers and groundskeepers at Chapel Hill are affected. It seems to me it's fundamental that students support a movement to make their working conditions better, not only through a more reasonable pay scale, but also through improved educational opportunities and a better grievance procedure. It's time that North Carolina moved into the 20th century.

"I'll care about student government when it cares about me." It makes sense. We're never going to make everybody happy. There's always somebody who thinks that student government is a bunch of loons. They're not alone in that thought. Sometimes I think we're crazy, too. We've tried our best this year to keep politics and politics out of this part of student government. All we want now is your opinion. It's time we got out and listened again. I'd like your feedback. Call me either at home (968-2577) or at the office (962-5201) or come by Suite C.

Matt Heyd is a senior history major from Charlotte.

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The Daily Tar Heel

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