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The Daily Tar Heel

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Different car, same rider

The Student Congress Rules and Judiciary Committee did a good thing last week. They voted unanimously to recommend to the full congress a bill that would remove the riders placed on the budgets of Bisexuals, Gay Men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity and Graduate Students United.

These riders state that the organizations can't use their funds to advocate, endorse or oppose legislation, government actions, candidates for public office or political action committees. They also require B-GLAD and GSU to submit copies of their publications to Congress's administrative committee.

Needless to say, these restrictions stink, and requiring the groups to submit their newsletters to a governmental body for review (read: censorship) is outright madness. If congress so fears the actions of these groups, it is their prerogative not to fund them. But if congress decides to allocate funds to the groups, it has no right to place virtual gag laws on their publications.

The bill to repeal the riders, presented by Andrew Cohen, is the only sane thing congress could do in this situation — basically, healing an old wound. But, true to form, things just can't go that easily in student government.

Student Congress Rep. Kevin Hunter has introduced a bill that would leave the riders intact. However, under Hunter's bill, the organizations no longer would have to submit their newsletters to congress. They also would be allowed to support or oppose University action.

Come on, Kevin. The real question is: Why have the riders at all?

With the full weight of the Rules and Judiciary Committee behind it, Cohen's bill stands a very good chance of passing the full congress. Hunter's motive, one might guess, is to make sure the riders stay on the organizations' budgets, even if they do loosen up the restrictions somewhat.

Discrimination, friends and neighbors. Why have riders placed on these organizations? To mark them. To make sure people remember that the organizations are different.

Hunter should definitely reconsider his proposal. Although his plan would improve things for B-GLAD and GSU, it still restricts their freedom of expression in an unfair manner, and it singles them out for no good reason. Cohen's bill offers the only fair action: eradication of the riders. Anything else, quite frankly, would stink.

Abnormal, unnatural and perverse ideas

In November, Oregon voters not only will decide who they want to run their country, but also whether homosexuals have minority rights.

The Oregon Citizens Alliance, a Christian fundamentalist-funded organization, is seeking to pass legislation that not only fails to recognize homosexuals in anti-discriminatory legislation, but insists on teaching schoolchildren that homosexuality, like pedophilia, is "abnormal, wrong, unnatural, and perverse."

Oregon isn't the only state with factions clamoring for such a bill. Colorado's November ballot also will include similar proposals. Intolerance has spread nationwide. Between 1990 and 1991, anti-gay crimes rose 31 percent in five major U.S. cities. Our home state of North Carolina boasted the highest incidence of reported homosexual assaults and harassments in the nation in 1990.

One might think, "But Chapel Hill is different. We're a liberal, accepting community." Wrong. Although Carrboro voted to add sexual orientation to the list of protected groups in the town's anti-discrimination ordinance, and Chapel Hill's Joe Herzenberg was the first openly gay elected politician in the state, intolerance festers right here in our

Birkenstock-clad village.

Last spring, the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association (now called B-GLAD) sparred with Student Congress over whether CGLA would receive funding. This followed former Speaker Tim Moore's attempt to place CGLA's funding on a student referendum last fall.

A homosexual educator at Chapel Hill High School had his car adorned with the word "faggot" and his windows shattered by rocks. More recently, CGLA announcements on the cube were crudely defaced twice this summer.

What can that be called but intolerance?

If passed, the implications of Ballot Measure Nine would devastate Oregon's homosexual community. Hate crimes against gays, lesbians and bisexuals virtually would be legalized by the legislation. Homosexual groups and AIDS organizations would be alienated from state funding. Oregonian children would be taught that homosexuals are abnormal and perverse and that homosexuality is a result of trauma during childhood.

What happened to visions of a kinder, gentler nation? If Oregon's children are taught to hate, will North Carolina's children be next?



'Big city' solutions for better campus security

Gary Rosenzweig
Staff Writer

Campus safety and security are in the process of changing at UNC. The most notable change has been the 24-hour lockup in the residence halls, but there also has been an increase in other safety precautions — lighting, patrols and awareness.

It's time the UNC campus looked to the big city universities to see how they handle security. Some of these colleges are years ahead of us in protecting their students.

Sure, some of these schools are located in areas where crime is more common, but some of their solutions could be used here to make this campus safer without spending too much money.

Look at the lock-up situation first. City colleges have had lockups for years. A common practice is to have only one entrance to a residence hall open with a desk worker there 24 hours a day. No key or security card is necessary. Students just walk in and show the desk worker their key which has a key ring that is color-coded to show that they live in that dorm. If you live in another dorm and want to visit friends or use the laundry facilities, just give the desk worker your key, and he or she will hold it until you exit.

This solves several problems UNC currently faces. First, students don't have to remember any special pass key

or card to get into their building — just their room key. Second, people can move freely from dorm to dorm as long as they have their key. Also, one person with a pass key can let several others into the building as they enter, but with a desk worker, everyone is responsible for themselves. Of course, guests also can be signed in and asked to leave identification with the desk worker if they want to enter.

Desk workers come cheap, too. Just offer some students a reduced price on their dorm room for the term in exchange for a few hours of work. Also, money can be saved by not renting electronic security card readers.

Another change that needs to be made if this campus is really serious about crime is automatically locking dorm room doors.

Some students are afraid that if the doors lock automatically they will constantly be locking themselves out. Believe me, after the first few times, you never forget to take your key with you again.

This measure, while it may seem drastic to some, is common on large city

campuses now. It will cut down on crime. It will prevent assaults. Need more be said?

Another safety tactic used elsewhere is a student "townwatch." This is very different than the student patrol UNC currently has. It more closely resembles the neighborhood watch that many senior citizen neighborhoods have set up.

Students are armed with cheap walkie-talkies. They take nighttime shifts walking around campus in groups of two. If they see anything suspicious, they radio back to a home base in one of the dorms, and a student there calls security.

This would be a strictly volunteer organization. Local police could give students the same brief training session they give to other townwatch groups. It also would be a good service project for fraternities, sororities and service organizations.

Student safety is nothing to take lightly. Sadly, it takes incidents like this summer's rape of a UNC student to make people concerned.

Well, city campuses already have had rapes, assaults and murders to wake them up. Let's learn from them instead of waiting for it to happen to us.

Gary Rosenzweig is a journalism graduate student from Philadelphia.

READERS' FORUM

Mack's back: Chat with Coach Brown again

To the editor:
I enjoyed speaking with you last month as part of the Carolina Athletic Association's "Chat with the Coach" program. The CAA has been kind enough to give me the opportunity to speak with you once again at 11:45 a.m. Wednesday in the Pit.

We have a big game against Virginia this Saturday, and we hope we can count on the great support you have shown so far this season. If you have questions about this weekend's game or about the season in general, please bring them to the Pit Wednesday.

See you in the Pit this Wednesday and in Kenan Stadium on Saturday.

MACK BROWN
UNC Head Football Coach

Black community: Love, understand one another

To the editor:
Today is truly a saddening time. Our city is in an uproar about the free-standing black cultural center at the University. This is an important matter; however, more importantly, we should ask ourselves how we can get along with one another without always seeking out racial discrimination.

Certainly prejudice and discrimination exist in this city and all over the country, but building one building that separates individuals will not solve the problem. We must look inward and try to create something that will bring people together. We are striving for unity among the races. To do this, we must create a place where individuals of different backgrounds, artistic abilities, disabilities and cultural heritages can come together. In this type of environment, we can begin sharing our feelings about issues, art and music and most importantly, love for one another. It is not important to go out as one race and prove to other races that we can get a building built, but more importantly to show by example that when loving people put their minds to it, they can achieve anything, including overcoming prejudice. I have faith in humanity; I believe that in spite of the decisions and verdicts that have not benefited the black community (for example, the Rodney King case, the conviction of Mike Tyson and the free-standing black cultural center) we can come together, and by educating one another about each other's culture, we can grow together, not apart. I call on my fellow brothers to be patient and understanding. Understand that to achieve change, we must be loving in our approach, understanding of all the problems that minorities face, not just ours.

It is my understanding that Spike Lee visited the University and a rally was

held to inspire us to keep fighting for our cultural center. I want us to ask ourselves one question: Where is Spike Lee now? I believe that if an individual is interested in helping his fellow man, then he stands by him and helps him fight. Spike Lee came and spoke, and now he is gone. Not so long ago, I remember another great individual by the name of Martin Luther King Jr. who inspired blacks to stand up for their rights, but the fundamental difference was that he marched with us, not came and fled. I ask my fellow brothers not to be hateful and spiteful. Many feel that the white majority race owes our race something, but I say to you that you owe you, and that is all. I do not believe that any black person wants anyone to say that they achieved a higher education because of a black person or any other person. I know I would like to take the credit for my own success. So, if no one gives you a handout, then you do not have to stand in their debt for the rest of your life.

As a former UNC student, both blind and black, I can safely say that I did not experience discrimination at the University. I know that being a double minority can bring about many discriminatory viewpoints of individuals. Some believed it would be difficult to make it through college; some believed I would never find employment; some believed a black person with no sight could only be a musician; yet despite all these preconceptions, I have not lost my faith in humanity. I will not hesitate to say that I had a lot of help along the way. Some of the people were white, some of the people were black, some were Asian, some were handicapped. This is why I am asking my brothers to believe in the power of people working together, because I am living proof that with all kinds of people with different backgrounds and cultural heritages together, you can achieve anything you want. Please take a little time and share your love and exert your patience, and just maybe we can benefit from a center where we can go and continue to grow together, not apart.

JOHN LEE
Chapel Hill

Support a free-standing BC... uh, BBC

To the editor:
After much discussion of the subject with our peers here at UNC, we have decided to give our full support for a free-standing BBC. Clearly, a BBC would be an excellent idea for campuswide unity. Quality programming such as Fawcett Towers, Dr. Who, The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Are You Being Served? and Monty Python's Flying Circus, among countless others, is an excellent method of encouraging camaraderie and general social well-being. Classic broadcasts

such as these have been bringing people together for generations. We firmly believe this will help us to understand the races around us, such as the Daleks, the Cyberman, the Vogons and any Ravenous Bugblatter Beasts of Traal.

Obviously, this subject is no laughing matter. When we became aware that the famous director Spike Lee was a proponent of the BBC in addition to his struggle for better race relations, we began to see that this subject was much bigger than we imagined. After seeing the controversy discussed in newspapers across the country as well as on "Nightline," we fully realized the enormous national importance of the cause. Keep up the fight for a free-standing BBC. And please keep in mind this quote from a somewhat famous author: "We are all friends at the end of the universe."

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JASON ADAMS
Freshman
Undecided

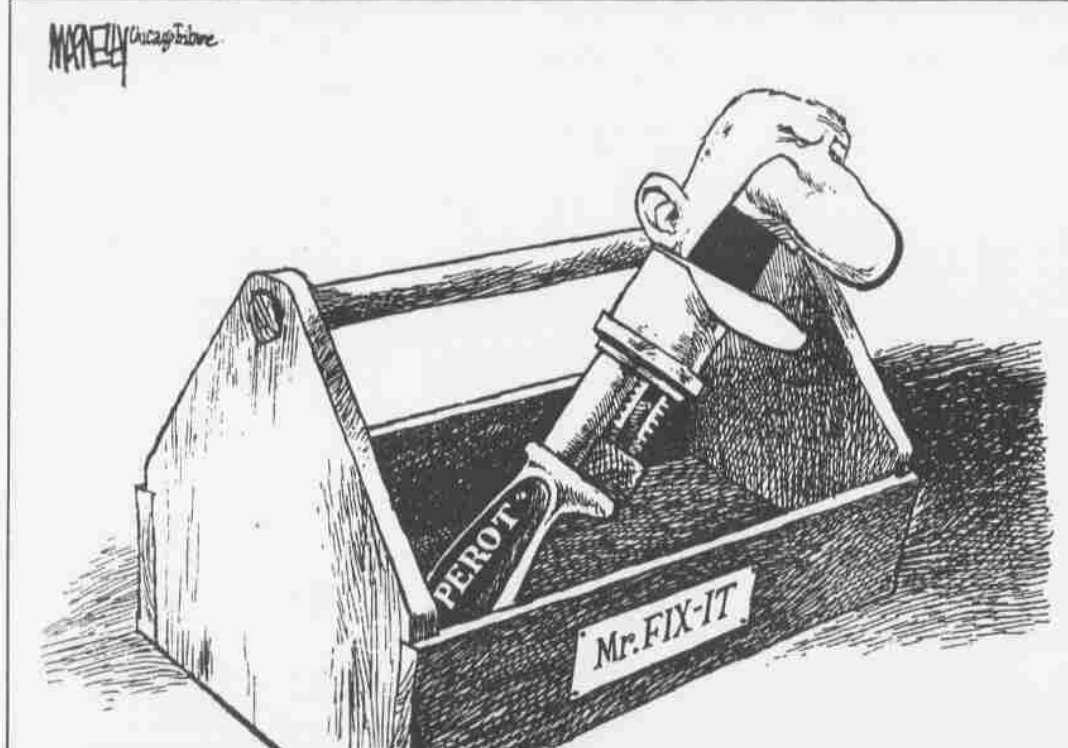
Perot forces candidates to focus on real issues

To the editor:
Give Perot a break! I am 18 years old and will be voting for the first time in November. I, like many others, am totally confused about whom to vote for. The campaigns are a whirlwind of biased advertisements and superfluous language that simply sway the unsuspecting and undecided voter into choosing someone they know virtually nothing about.

But what about Ross Perot? It seems as if he is confusing just as many people as George Bush and Bill Clinton are. By dropping out of and back into the race, Perot might have lost some supporters, but he has definitely proven a point. Without a third party to contend with, the two major party candidates lose sight of the issues and lower themselves to mudslinging and questioning of the other's character (but never their own). When Ross Perot was in the race initially, issues were discussed in depth, and the candidates were forced to talk about where they stand. Once Perot dropped out, the important issues were tip-toed around and the lesser issues, like who slept with whom, took the spotlight.

As a newcomer on the political scene, I would like to thank Ross Perot for re-joining the race — not because I want to vote for him (because I don't), but because he has made a difference in the quality of the race and has helped me to see things a little more clearly.

EMILY CURTO
Freshman
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The Daily Tar Heel

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