

the eastcarolinian

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Serving the ECU community since 1925, the East Carolinian publishes 11,000 copies every Tuesday and Thursday. The lead editorial in each edition is the opinion of the Editorial Board. The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor, limited to 250 words, which may be edited for decency or brevity. The East Carolinian reserves the right to edit or reject letters for publication. All letters must be signed. Letters should be addressed to: Opinion editor, The East Carolinian, Student Publications Building, ECU, Greenville, 27658-4353. For information, call 919.328.6366.

Our view

As we all know, summertime brings heat. The further we get into summer, the hotter it gets. Hot, hot, hot. The sort of hot that makes an ECU student dread walking to class, because even that brief walk, no matter how lightly one is clad in the thinnest and the lightest of cotton, will inevitably steam the skin, dry the mouth, and cause invasive sweat to roll down into the eyes. This energy-draining, motivation-sucking heat is what we get when summertime comes in North Carolina. However, there is redemption. Summer session students can conquer the oppressive heat because they know that when they finally reach class, where they must spend several hours, the sweat and the suffering will evaporate into crisply air-conditioned comfort.

Or maybe not.

On Monday, some students didn't have the benefit of a nice, cool classroom. In the Austin building, a malfunction in the air-conditioning equipment resulted in...what do you think? You got it. No air conditioning. And that was truly unfortunate, because on Monday temperatures reached higher than 90 degrees. Students who attended classes in Austin, even in the morning, complained that the classrooms were sweltering, hotter in fact than the outside temperature. One student even stated that it felt as if the heat was on.

And that's not all. Elsewhere on campus, in the General Classroom building, students felt as if they were freezing. This is entirely possible, because the temperature of every building on campus is regulated independently. Students have been complaining of cold GC classrooms for years. There have been rumors that the temperatures in these classrooms are kept colder than normal in order to keep drowsy students awake.

When questioned about the unsatisfactory temperatures on campus, Dr. George Harrell, vice-chancellor for facilities services, related that because every building on campus is cooled independently, there is no way to take some of the coolness from one building and direct it into another, less effectively conditioned building. A novel explanation, to be sure, but hardly a comfort to students who had class in Austin on Monday. He also related that facilities employees were skilled and efficient in maintaining the air conditioning systems, and that the important thing is that they were aware of the Austin problem and had rectified the problem. But when facilities maintenance was contacted, they stated that there was a malfunction in the Austin air conditioning, but mentioned nothing about having rectified it.

If not, it certainly should have been. We feel that the comfort and needs of students are paramount, especially in the summer, and that facilities should strive to keep our classrooms at least a little bit cool.

Otherwise...arriving to class is worse than going to class.

OPINION Columnist

Britt
HONEYCUTT

Remember what's important



*Staying up all night
to watch the sun
come up won't seem
so unimportant when you're
80 and you're looking
back on your life.*

This morning I woke up, swam through a sea of unwashed clothing, tried to fix myself some breakfast from the three bread crumbs in the bottom of an empty bag and the drippings from the ceiling, and realized that I could perhaps be a procrastinator. I base this idea partially on the fact that I woke up 10 minutes before class and tried to shower and do my homework before leaving.

I don't really know if I'm a true procrastinator. Right now I'm just way too busy to worry about grocery shopping or cleaning my room

or personal hygiene. You know, some things just have to be put before others. Naps and trips downtown come first, of course. I have priorities.

If this is how procrastination is done, then the majority of college students are probably grade A procrastinators. I'm right there with ya, guys. When do I study for a Friday test? Friday! If you look at that closely, however, you realize that the best way to retain the material is to study it as late as possible (don't argue with me — I'm unstable).

Take, for instance, this column. Had I been competent, I would have been thinking about it the entire week before and would have begun writing sometime around Saturday. However, being your faithless and unpredictable servant, I chose to sleep until two all weekend and follow that up with a couple of evenings full of — well, let's don't talk about what they were full of. But you get the picture. This is college. I'm not here to bathe. I'm here to get an education (sort of) and stay up all night discussing the problems of the world and how vegetarianism can cure them.

Sure, I have "responsibilities." Of course I have a "job." But what's being a few letters short of legibility compared with experi-

encing the true range of life? I'm not condoning slackerism. Okay, I'm kinda condoning slackerism. I know that there are those among us who don't believe in not putting 100 percent into everything they do. If you put that much effort into everything in your life, you don't really have time for the stuff that seems unimportant now. Staying up all night to watch the sun come up won't seem so unimportant when you're 80 and you're looking back on your life. Which do you regret more: not getting an A on that one test in the Principles of Mexican Line Dancing or missing the kind of conversation that only takes place at four in the morning — the kind where you can see the meaning of your life flash before you?

So my room is a little messy. My cupboard is bare. And I'm still putting off paying those damned parking tickets. But I'm happy. And I know that with my degree I'll be getting a whole lot more than just a symbol that I came and took classes. Some things are more important than others, no matter what your advisors tell you. Don't skip class to play on the internet or anything. But once in a while, I recommend cutting to hang out at the beach. Don't tell your mom I said that.

"Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim.

Accept no one's definition of your life; define yourself."

— Harvey Fierstein

"The only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing."

— John Powell

"Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved."

— William Jennings Bryan



OPINION Columnist

Jeff
BERGMAN

Church or state — not both

*Teaching one religion in
schools in a church-type man-
ner is akin to brainwashing.
... the inclusion of
Christianity without including
opposing viewpoints
is dangerous.*

I would first like to say that I have no problems with religion. If you want to worship your cat, go right ahead but respect myself and others like me who see most religions for what they are: an attempt to keep the ruling class in power and make others subservient to them.

The problem I have with religion, especially Christianity, is not one to explain easily, yet I will try. Religious followers throughout history have interpreted the Bible through whatever means suits them. I like to call this thought process religious rationalization.

Most people can rationalize anything and everything they do. The thief can rationalize the fact that he is stealing by saying the company can afford the loss and his family needs food. The marijuana smoker might believe that nothing is wrong with what he is doing because the laws infringe upon his personal freedoms. This belief is in spite of the fact that the drug is illegal. Religion is no different.

The Bible has been used throughout the ages for good and evil. Earlier in our country's history, biblical quotes were used in

defense of slavery, "[Slavery] was established by decree of Almighty God...it is sanctioned in the Bible, in both Testaments, from Genesis to Revelation...it has existed in all ages, has been found among the people of the highest civilization, and in nations of the highest proficiency in the arts," said Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America.

Recently the Bible has been used to keep homosexuals out of the church and women in their "proper" place. As to why someone who is gay would want to join an organization that wants him dead is beyond me. "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them," as written in Leviticus 20:13. If you are a true Christian and believe in the Bible like you claim, then go kill a homosexual.

A woman's place in society is neither behind nor beside her man. Women belong exactly where men are: wherever the hell they want to be — unless you happen to be a true follower of the Bible. "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence," as written in Timothy 2:11-12.

If you are a Christian how can you not follow the biblical sayings above? Some Christians will say that the Bible has been misinterpreted and translated wrongly, this is their reason for not following the entire Bible. To these people I ask was it divine intervention that allowed you such insight into the Bible or rather did you listen to the religious leaders, the Pope, Fallwell, Robertson, or Koresh?

The recent try by the religious wrong to make a constitutional amendment, putting for the first time in 200 years, God in the Constitution, Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments, has

scared me. Suppose we teach religion in school. Will this class be a thorough study of the Bible, arguing whether or not certain events happened, like how Abraham can have two sons in one passage and one son in another passage?

Believe it or not, I am in favor of this amendment, but not how the Republicans want it implemented.

Religions such as Islam, Buddhism, Christianity and other major religions should be taught in school. Those doing the teaching should not try and convert people, rather they should educate students. Intelligent discussions about the Koran, Talmud, Bible, etc. is what schools, if they chose to include religion into the curriculum, should focus upon.

The reason for teaching other major religions in school is one of understanding. The argument for teaching beliefs in this manner is to learn about other cultures. Think about how many of our laws are formed around Christians' beliefs. Some very good examples of "Christian laws" are the recent lawsuit about adultery and laws against sodomy (a type of homosexual sex).

Other Nation-States's laws are influenced by their respective religions. Learning about these beliefs will help in the understanding of the region.

Teaching one religion in schools in a church-type manner is akin to brainwashing. Young minds are very impressionable, and the inclusion of Christianity without including opposing viewpoints is dangerous.

Religion should be left at home or in church. Schools that set aside time for Christianity might find themselves allocating valuable classroom time accommodating other religions. If one person is Hindu, another Buddhist, Satanist, Druid, Witch, you get the idea, then time must be set aside for them to worship.

Got something to say????

Write a letter to the Editor and let your view be Heard

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