

Evidence of Civil War remains long after battles

Did the Civil War really end in 1865 back at Appomattox? Or has the age-old feud between North and South perpetuated itself on through the '90s?

The North and South can't even agree on what to call the Civil War, as the North calls it the "War of the Rebellion" and the South calls it the "War between the States."

Families were torn apart, brothers were fighting brothers, and lives were lost for reasons that, in the end, became blurred. Some will say that the Civil War was fought over slavery, while others firmly believe that it was all about states' rights.

Whatever the cause and no matter the name, the conflict between North and South seems to never have been resolved. Is it fueled by ongoing hostility which continually ferments in its geographic extremes? Both sides hold preconceived notions about the other which

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The big cities are just hotheouses for murderers and other devilish criminals. The North is the root of all evil — the home of the liberal. But the South is gentle, laid-back and conservative. Tradition and family are its highest ideals and life in the South is good.

On the other hand, when the South is mentioned to a Northerner, the same types of misconceptions apply. Rednecks and simpletons, fascists and Republicans, Southerners are stupid. They walk slow, they drive slow and they talk even slower. They say "y'all" and forget to put the "g" on the end of gerunds. Southerners resist change and live in the past.

Northerners, however, are dynamic. They are the future of this country and will take it to the turn of the century. Advanced and in touch with the future, the North is the seat of modernization.

Have you ever stopped to ask yourself where these ideas came from? Where did you hear these things? Are they written in the textbooks we study or are they merely the facts?

Chances are, you heard them from your parents, and your parents heard from their parents and so on right back to the days of the Civil War. That antagonism still remains somewhere buried deep in the fiber of our beings without our knowledge.

One can see the emergence of this intrinsic animosity in some of the most random situations. The World Series this year is a prime example.

A classic North versus South battle, the New York Yankees and the Atlanta Braves battled out a war of pride on a field quite different from those of Bull Run and Antietam.

Here at the university, a line was drawn between those from the North and those from the South. Even students who are not fans of baseball found themselves engulfed in the war that was the 1996 World Series. The outcome, as I'm sure I don't need to inform anyone, left the North victorious and the South the loser again. Has history in a way repeated itself?

Have we seen the last of the North/South conflict? I hardly believe so, for as long as the Civil War remains a part of our past, it will continue to resurface in our future.

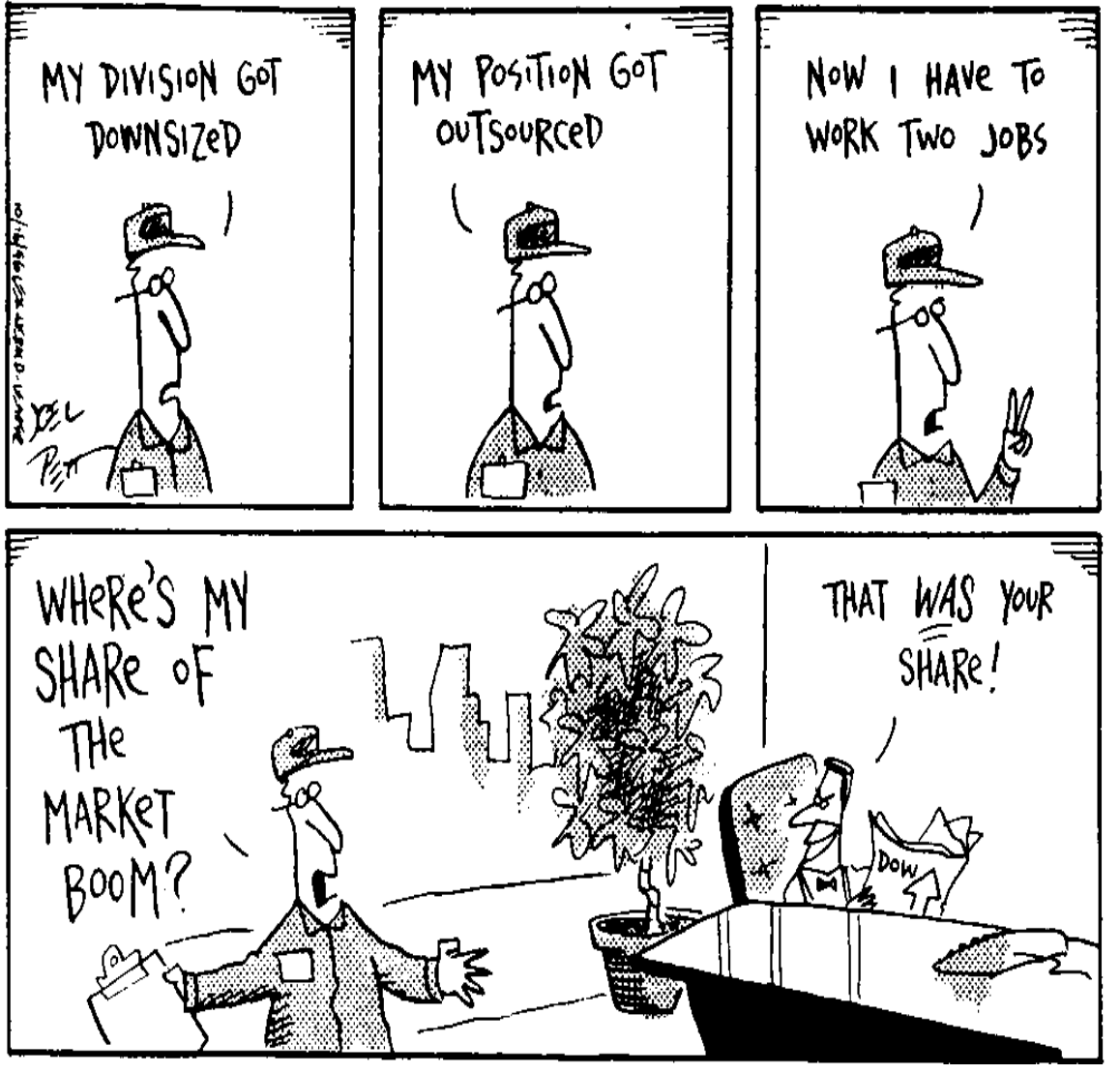
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seem to have no reasonable origin other than a war that ended over a century ago.

Though physical fighting is not nearly as prevalent as conversational conflict, Northerners and Southerners sometimes seem to have a hard time forgetting and forgiving the war.

It almost never fails that at one point or another, even friends from the two areas manage to rehash the old argument. As a Southerner, have you ever called a friend a "yankee?" As a Northerner, have you ever called a southern friend a "redneck?" Unintentional and often harmless, these slurs are generally overlooked and have become accepted in our culture.

In the South, Northerners are viewed as hard, callous individuals. When someone says "the North," the Southern mentality automatically brings thoughts of New York City. Cold weather makes for cold personalities and fast talkers.



Reality tackles football

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times — this has definitely been a tale of two seasons for the Demon Deacon football team. Or should I say, the tale of two games and a season.

For a season that began with such promise, with victories over Appalachian State University and, of course, Northwestern University, it has turned into a season reminiscent of the past, in which the Deacons try to merely cover the point spread and hope to avoid humiliation at the hands of their opponents.

With Saturday's thrashing of the Deacons, on Homecoming no less, by the run-crazy Midshipmen from Navy, the Deacons dropped to 2-6 with three games to play, eliminating any outside chance of a post season birth. This notion of a bowl bid seemed quite realistic several weeks ago on a warm summer night while storming the field following the Northwestern victory, at least to me.

Following the victory over Northwestern, called by many the biggest victory in school history, many people jumped on this bowl bandwagon. I am one of the most guilty of these people, as I leapt head first, with eyes shut, onto this bandwagon, in print no less.

With this expression, I boldly went where no one has gone before, or at least for several years, predicting a win on the gridiron. Before I had even settled into a comfortable seat on the wagon, all four wheels fell off outside of Atlanta.

I remained optimistic. I knew that the Deacons could overcome. Then

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came consecutive losses to North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Clemson, did I mention Maryland (what!)?

Even so I thought that maybe the Deacons could pull it together and win three more games, maybe. How-

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ever, after watching the Deacons debacle on Saturday against Navy, in which the Deacons appeared mystified by the aggressive running style of the Navy backs, the bandwagon I had been so comfortably seated on was now deserted. In fact, it had burst into flames as the ground opened up in Groves Stadium and completely swallowed it.

Now as I look at the season in retrospect, I realize that it may have been a little presumptuous of me to say the Deacons would go to a bowl game this year. OK, so it was a lot

presumptuous. It also was a bit clichéd of me to predict so boldly after only one victory.

This does not detract however, in the slightest bit, from the magnitude of the victory over Northwestern, which gave the university renewed confidence in the football team, even though it may have been short-lived.

I would like to at this point apologize to the entire school for my delusions of grandeur that I held so proudly earlier in the year. It was indeed wrong of me to draw the conclusions that I did.

Even though my prediction about the future of the football team was way off the mark (some might say idiotic), I stand by the fact that the team has shown improvement from last season's 1-10 showing, doubling the win total with three games left to play.

But all kidding aside, the Deacons are indeed improving. Maybe instead of predicting a bowl game this year, I think that I'll tone it down a little and predict a bowl by the year ... well one day I'm sure.

Good luck to the football team in the remainder of the season, and let us not forget that any woes the school may be experiencing will all be wiped away with the start of the basketball season.

Hey, I heard we are going to be pretty good this year and we looked formidable in that intra-squad game at Midnight Madness. Maybe even good enough to win a national ... no, I learned my lesson.



Race relations, football team among current problems

The following is a list of ideas that I thought of while sitting in my room, hoping an electrical fire doesn't start up under my seat.

- If Tribble Hall went up in flames, would it make a noise? Not if the power was out. For a school that is more safety conscious than Smokey the Bear, it seems somewhat ironic that a major academic building could possibly go up in smoke without as much as a peep from the fire alarm.
- Wow are we spoiled. Phone books by the last week of October. There goes that excuse for not calling people back.
- It is nice to see Student Government try to wrestle with the problem of race relations. People have been disliking those who are different since the beginning of time. Now, our little old SG officials think they might be able to help.
- If SG cannot create a suitable system to distribute basketball tickets, how could they ever effectively tackle race relations?
- In adhering to the golden rule of SG (when in doubt, take a survey so it looks like you are doing something productive), the SG Executive Committee on Race Relations recently published its findings. Believe it or not, they found that racial tensions *do* exist on campus.
- I'm not saying that SG should not be concerned with the racial climate on campus. It's just that there is very little they, or anyone else, can do about it. I know that still does not make it right, but that's just the truth.
- It is a good thing that the football team had a week off before the 52-0 loss to its close neighbor in the cellar of ACC football, Maryland. If they did not have the bye week

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the score may have been 104 - 0.

I'd like to meet the fool who put the eight point spread on the game. The chances of the Deacon football squad losing by less than eight points are comparable to Bob Dole's chances of losing the presidential race by less than eight percentage points.

■ Speaking of Bob Dole, is he still running for president? It is nice to see that the members of the outside world are just as apathetic as are members of the university community.

I remember when people used to really care about the presidential election. Then again, I can also recall when the candidates used to be somewhat more appealing.

■ I'm having a difficult time trying to understand this whole "intellectual climate" concept. I was always under the impression that 18 hours a week of classes plus a fair amount of time devoted to homework and studying was enough. Now this Kuh guy says that we need to do more?

■ It is kind of sad that in order for most students to find out about the governor's appearance on campus last week they would have had to shell out the money for voice mail. Apathy is not to blame for the poor student turn-out this time.