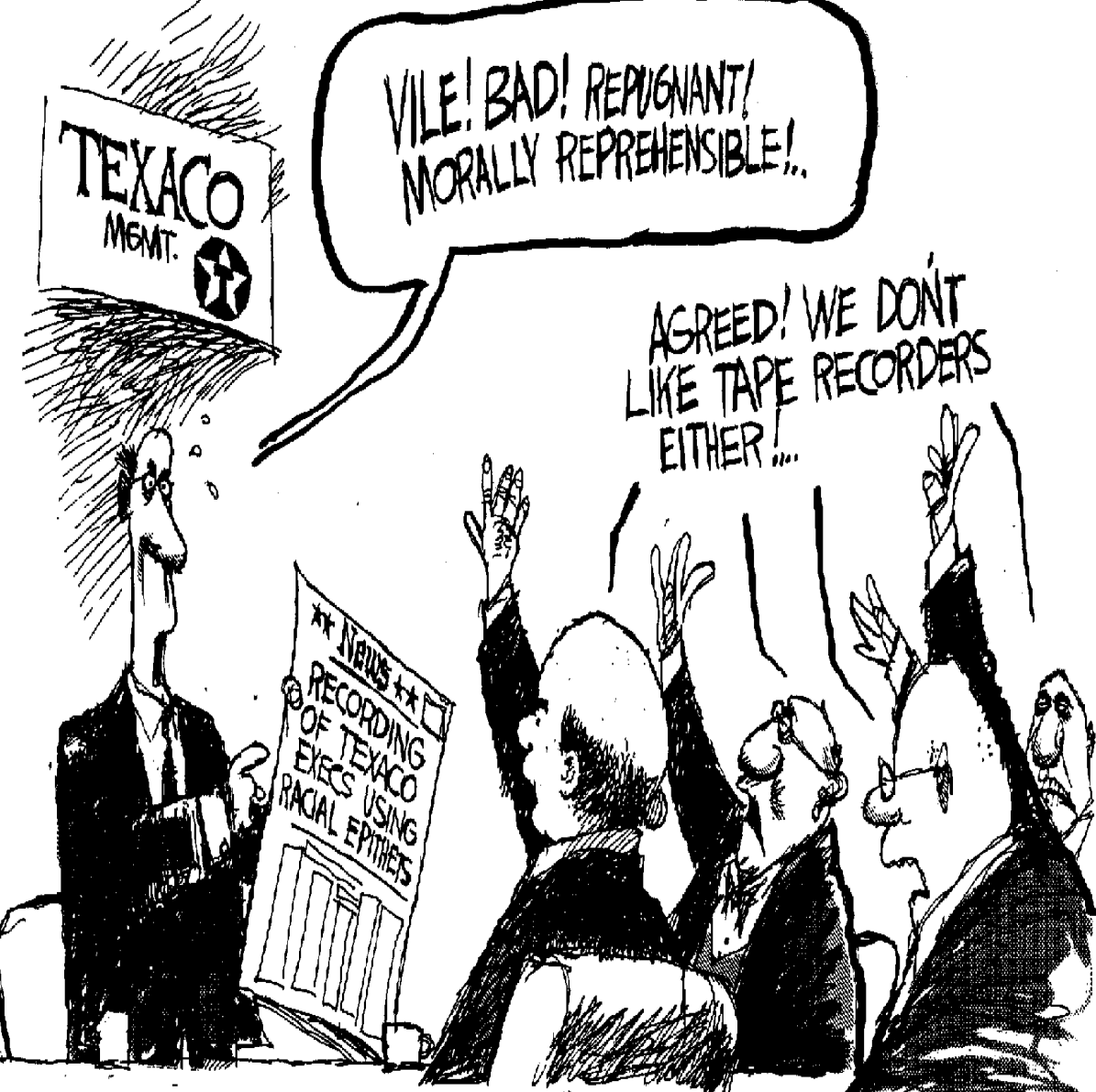


MIKE LUCKOVICH ILLUSTRATION



# Gambling infects all sports

The recent news about 13 Boston College football players caught gambling on sporting events shocked the nation. The players have consequently been shunned and portrayed as horrible criminals.

**AMY BARNETT**  
STUDENT COLUMNIST

But this type of incident is not new to the world of sports or to our society as a whole.

No, that does not make what these young men did right, but they are not the only bad apples in the bushel. They got caught for something that is going on everywhere — from locker rooms to living rooms.

Gambling is a socially accepted practice. Most of the time it is seen as harmless fun, and, athletes or not, many people get caught up in the excitement and prospect of making money that betting offers.

But the effect of the type of gambling that went on at Boston College strikes a nerve with America and threatens many people's favorite pastimes — the enjoyment of sports.

Even though the two Boston College players who bet against their team were cleared of any attempts to fix the game against Syracuse University because one was injured and one did not play much at all, would the case be the same if they had played a role in BC's loss to Syracuse?

upsets literally unbelievable? Anyone who has paid attention to the history of college and professional sports knows that gambling enters the playing field more than most people want to believe, as accusations consistently fly about point shaving and game fixing.

**Gambling is a socially accepted practice. Most of the time it is seen as harmless fun, and, athletes or not, many people get caught up in the excitement and prospect of making money that betting offers.**

And, although it is difficult to admit, most fans would agree that there are most likely many incidents that go unnoticed.

Through this admission, we are forced to question what goes on behind the scenes of every sporting event.

Forexample, boxing is a sport that is surrounded by an immense amount of betting. Can we be sure that this money never seeps into the ring?

Can we know for certain that the fight itself is immune to the amazing amount of acting that goes on before and after each fight by such prominent figures as Don King?

We have gotten to the point in our society where sports have three elements: the triumph of victory, the agony of defeat and the lure of money. It is a ridiculous expectation that our sports heroes are immune to such things as the desire for more money just because we want to see them in such a positive light.

No doubt thousands of college students placed money on the World Series in one form or another and their risk was merely a few bucks, but when an athlete does it, he risks expulsion from school and the end of his athletic career.

Neither act is less foolish than the other, so how can we expect more from a college student-athlete than we do from a college student?

The only thing that separates the two is an extremely high level of talent, not an increase in moral values.

The bottom line is that gambling will always go on, as a result of the emphasis our society puts on wealth, and we as fans cannot control that. So will we ever be able to fully enjoy athletic events?

Perhaps all we can do is hope that all the years of hard work that athletes invest into getting to where they are now will not be devalued by one moment of weakness.

# Boycotting gasoline will not end executive racism

I can honestly say that I was appalled when I opened the *New York Times* last week to read about the latest controversies regarding a discrimination suit at Texaco Inc.

**RACHEL AVON**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

The *Times* published excerpts now included in court records dictating the minutes of a meeting in August 1994, during which a group of senior Texaco executives discussed a request for information they had received in a lawsuit filed by company employees charging the company with racial discrimination.

The tape recording consists of conversations between Robert Ulrich, then the company treasurer, J. David Keough, Texaco's senior assistant treasurer, and Richard A. Lundwall, the senior coordinator of personnel services at Texaco's finance department. The tapes were provided to the *New York Times* by Lundwall after he was forced into early retirement in August.

The taped meeting revealed discussion of destroying documents demanded in a federal discrimination lawsuit and belittling minority employees with racial slurs. However, while the discussion of destroying evidence is a federal crime, the main publicity of the case has been focused on deciphering the racial metaphors and derogatory comments broadcast in the meeting.

Holding the most weight in controversy is the claim that Ulrich made a reference to minority employees as "black jelly beans." Texaco does not deny using that metaphor, however they claim that Ulrich was citing a variation of an analogy taught in a diversity program attended by Texaco executives, in which various colors of jelly beans were used as an analogy for different races.

However, the comments, "All the black jelly beans seem to be glued to the bottom of the bag ... You can't have just we and them. You can't have black jelly beans and other jelly beans. It doesn't work ..." are left uncontested even in Texaco's investigation.

I'll admit that my first thought was, "Well, I know I won't be getting any gas at Texaco ..." But after

thinking long and hard about that I wonder if that really impacts anything but my gas tank. Because I disapprove of the racism that ran rampant through the meeting among Texaco executives, does that mean that I should cease to give my business to the person working for minimum wage behind the counter of the local Texaco station?

Domino's Pizza supports Operation Rescue. Does that mean that pro-choice Americans should boycott buying pizza there? Maybe. Maybe not. But I'll bet that the high school delivery boy or girl is more concerned with delivering their pizza on time than the politics of the corporate officials.

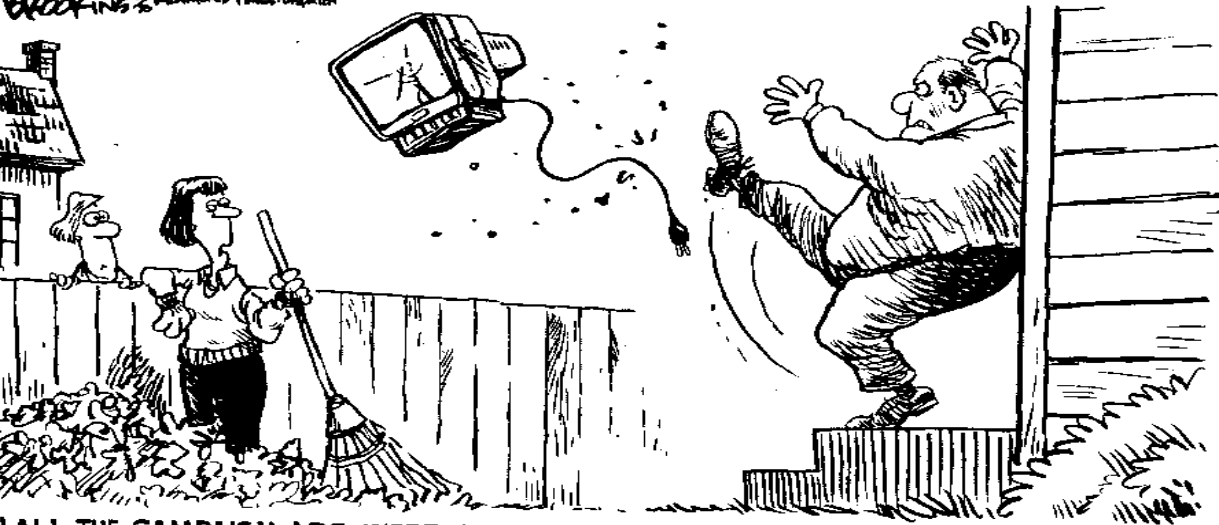
And what about Cracker Barrel? A few years ago they were charged with unfair hiring practices regarding homosexuality. But take a trip along Interstate 77 and you'd be surprised at how few your other options are.

And then there is Bayer, the company that makes aspirin, whose employees performed medical experiments on select ethnic groups during World War II. Does that mean that today people should opt for Tylenol instead? I guess it depends on your convictions.

In all honesty I am not making light of any of these issues. I regard them as serious and in most cases appalling. I just don't know that the correct answer lies in a boycott. Turning away from the problem seems to be facilitating its existence.

After all isn't silence perceived as compliance? And how substantial is your political stance if it only climbs the lowest rungs on the company's ladder? In the grand scheme of things I doubt that Texaco will feel my disgust of the rhetoric of the tapes through my not filling up my tank.

It might make me feel better, but is it really making a difference?



# Can't we all just get along?

Over the last couple of months I have been reading a lot of articles and editorials about the attitudes of Northerners and Southerners on this campus and throughout the nation. I have read all sorts of stereotypes and "let's set the record straight" columns. I read the first article with some interest, but as more people began putting in their two cents, I found it increasingly hard to hold my tongue. I can't take it anymore—I have to comment. Why is this such a big deal?

**KYLE HADEN**  
STUDENT COLUMNIST

As someone from the North, I really do not give much thought about the South at all. Honestly—it's not as if I sit up nights worrying how to hold the South down. Southerners seem to think that we think they are all gun-toting, pick-up-driving tobacco-spitting rednecks. That couldn't be farther from the truth.

ing that this is what Northerners are really called. Why? One of my friends, who happens to be from the Midwest, thinks that a lot of Southerners are annoyed that Northerners do not think about them every five minutes or something.

We are all Americans; can't we all just get along? I don't mean to stir up

The first thing that enters into my head when the South is mentioned is the phrase "warm weather." We realize that the South does have a rich and interesting history. Furthermore, I have no hatred for Southern people, as some seem to have for people from the North.

**I just think we should accept the fact that we all came from different places, and be proud of it, and just shut up and study.**

How can I hate someone that I've never even met? I hear all sorts of stories about southern kids learning the phrase "d\*mn Yankee" and think-

any controversy (although I probably have); I just think we should accept the fact that we all came from different places, and be proud of it, and just shut up and study. If I can do it, you can too.

Speaking of studying, I have noticed that many students use their work loads as an excuse for being anti-social. Now I realize that we do go to Work Forest, and there is some-

thing in the honor code about studying until your brain gets mushy, but apathy does not go hand in hand with higher education. I attended the Hip Hop Convention at North Carolina A&T, featuring Busta Rhymes, Outkast, Fugees, and A Tribe Called Quest a couple of weeks ago and I was surprised to see how proud these students are of their school.

I heard the chant of "Aggie Pride" so many times I thought I was going to vomit. Nevertheless, it was nice to see students showing such unity. This concert was also the major Homecoming event for their school, and they filled the Greensboro Coliseum. I think it's great if we get 50 percent turnout for one of our events. Of course, the high turnout may have had something to do with the fact that A&T was able to attract four top-flight music acts to its concert. Now, wouldn't it be nice if we could organize a big concert like that for our school?

Of course, it would mean breaking a lot of stereotypes to make that happen—taking a break from studying to do some good, working with someone from a different region of the country.

Can we handle it? I don't care what anyone else says. I think we can, and I think we should.