

Opinion

{ Your Procrastination Destination }

Election Day right on time

ANDREA ROBERTSON
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Last week, a 17-year-old boy in Ohio was shot and wounded in the arm by a man who feared that the boy was trying to steal his McCain/Palin sign. This is absolutely insane. When did it become acceptable to shoot at a person because you think that they are going to steal or vandalize your campaign sign?

According to Kenneth Rowles, the shooter, the youth jumped out of an SUV and yelled, "This is for Obama." Rowles then proceeded to fire three warning shots in order to scare the youth away. One of these shots ended up in the minor's arm. Whether Rowles was aiming for the boy or not, it is completely unacceptable to shoot a gun at or around a person because of a campaign sign.

I agree with standing up for a cause and supporting what you believe. One way of showing your support is to post campaign signs in your yard. However, it is common knowledge that kids do dumb things, such as stealing signs from yards. So why would a person think that shooting a rifle, even as a scare tactic, is acceptable retaliation?

Rowles' behavior is only reinforcing the stereotype of the gun-loving Republican, and the stigma attached to people labeled this way. His behavior only supplies fuel for the argument about how guns are bad. His behavior reflects poorly on those who support McCain, because it says that McCain's supporters are willing to take a chance at wounding people over minuscule things.

It was only a sign. People need to get a grip on reality. You don't fire a gun at another person, unless that person is threatening your life or livelihood.

This election is a pivotal one, and we all need our voices to be heard, but that doesn't justify the fact that a man shot someone over his campaign sign. Instead of allowing the police to do their job by detaining the teen for vandalism, Rowles took matters into his own hands and ended up shooting him. Now Rowles is facing felony charges – what good does that do McCain?

If convicted, Rowles will lose all voting rights for future elections. Good job, Rowles. I hope his fanaticism will teach everyone that enough is enough. There is a line that should never be crossed, and shooting someone because you fear that your campaign sign is going to be harmed is not in any way acceptable.

All I have to say is; I am so glad this election will be over today. The faster we find out who won, the faster people can get mad or get glad and get over it!

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It's time to take action now

MARY DIXON
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

When you hear people discuss genocide, odds are you envision the holocaust. But sadly, genocide is not a thing of the past. Case in point: Darfur.

Darfur has been completely neglected. The people in this region had very little food, and even less water. When these people saw they had nothing else to lose, they attempted to save themselves, and their fellow neighbors, by fighting back.

In February of 2003, two local rebel groups from the Darfur region of Sudan incited an uprising against the mainly Arab government in Khartoum, the Sudanese capital. The government was accused of oppressing non-Arab people, as well as completely neglecting Darfur. When the uprising began to take hold, the government feared that other regions of Sudan would take a cue from them as well, so they hired the Janjaweed militia privately to erase the problem altogether. The government has denied ties to the Janjaweed militia; however, records show that on several occasions they provided them with large amounts of money. The militia is comprised of locally recruited Arab men, along with the Sudanese military. The militia members go from tribe to tribe, employing a scorched-earth campaign. Women and children are raped, tortured and killed on a daily basis. They steal anything of value, poison the water supply and burn villages to the ground. To date, approximately 400,000 people have been killed, and nearly 2 million people have been displaced from their homes.

Yet, how often do you hear about this? A few commercials here and there have been aired on TV, and a tribute CD has been produced. However, this small amount of attention is not enough to truly address this issue. I've sat through hours and hours of history classes that have expressed the dire need to always remember history so it does not repeat itself. So, why has nothing been done to help the millions of people who not only need, but WANT, our help? As a nation of educated people I feel it's our duty as human beings to do whatever we can to learn from past mistakes and help the nation of Sudan.

I am certainly not the first person to have thought of this idea. STAND is an umbrella organization made of over 600 colleges and high schools who hope to stamp out genocide, specifically in Darfur. They conduct various activities in order to raise money to donate to this cause, and are always doing what they can to spread awareness.

The crisis in Darfur is not going to correct itself. The groups conducting the genocide in the country are paid by the government, and literally have complete control over all the civilians. These people witness things that our sheltered eyes have never laid eyes upon. Kofi Annan, the former United Nations Secretary General, has called it "a little short of hell on earth." So instead of looking the other way, get active and help your fellow man!

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THE CANDIDATES SUM UP THEIR POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES OF PRESSING CONCERN TO AMERICANS....



PIRATE RANTS

The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding Rants can be directed to Elise Phillips, Editor in Chief, at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com. Log onto theeastcarolinian.com to submit a Rant of your own.

I hate the "know it alls" in class, but I love it when I beat them on a test!

To the person that hates Greenville drivers: it's not the residents that can't drive. It's the out-of-state residents that come to live here that can't drive.

As long as you're humiliating your pit bull, why don't you put some lipstick on it and have it run for office?

It must be them Yankees that think a Southern accent sounds stupid. Last time I checked we're in the South; if you don't like it then maybe you should go back up North!

To the girl that sits in the back on the right side of my Sociology class at 2 p.m.: I love your eyes. They are beautiful!

I know my roommate is having fun because the house is shaking!

To the boy who thinks he's playing me: I'm playing you better.

To the guy that was standing on the top floor of Campus Walk last Saturday night in a top hat and a Speedo: Thank you! You definitely made my day!

While riding in a crowded elevator that is as silent as death, I often have an overwhelming urge to hum the Jeopardy theme song... is that weird?

This is college. You don't have to set a building on fire to get out of class. Just skip!

To all those girls who say they're looking for the nice guy: There are still some out there. We are overlooked and told all the time that we are too nice and should be ruder. If you ask for a nice guy, we are right in front of your faces; you just have to look around a little more!

They call it a window for a reason, if I wasn't supposed to look out of it, IT WOULDN'T BE THERE! So, get over it and get over yourself; you're not all that!

I used to get high on life, but eventually I built up a tolerance.

I think the people who hate on Uggs are too fat to pull them off! Sorry if you have cankles and I don't!

I just want to plunder all this booty around campus. Is that so much to ask for?

Why can't we curse in Pirate Rants? We're PIRATES.

The only thing I want to do is sing. Too bad every time I do, somebody loses their hearing!

Surprise! Not all guys like sluts!

My jock roommate watches The Hills so he can talk to girls about the show. He doesn't understand why it isn't working.

Guys only want one thing: bacon.

Let go of her already: She broke you. And you know that I want to put you back together!

You are head over heels for me. Why is that such a bad thing? I just want to feel the same.

I hate when my cell phone doesn't send or receive texts when they are sent. Texting is my main way of communication.

I wish your personality was as hot as you are on the outside.

To the guy who constantly interrupts the instructor in language class: Everybody is tired of listening to you; shut up already.

Why is it that the garbage trucks only bang around the dumpsters in the morning when I'm trying to sleep?

So I'm getting in my car at Umstead and look behind me to back up and who do I see? Parking and Transportation writing me a ticket for expired time on the meter! WTF? I was leaving!

Thank you. I found my missing piece.

I am seriously considering putting all the dirty dishes and coffee pot with old coffee in my roommates shower so maybe she will get the hint to actually clean her crap.

Next time you stand directly in front of the bathroom door, don't look so surprised when it swings open and hits you in the head!

None of my frat brothers liked my cowgirl costume this year.

Why is it so hard for me to be friends with guys?

Kudos to the quick-thinking RA in Fletcher who called the cops and got everyone inside safely when someone pulled a gun on Fifth Street.

What's the best way to tell a friend that I hate her when she's drunk? Through a Pirate Rant, of course.

I didn't consider myself poor until I didn't have the funds to buy beer. Now I'm screwed.

Where did all the grungy boys go?

Chris Johnson just picked up mad yards!

To the girls on the corner of Fifth and Lewis who threw that amazing party on Halloween, I'm sorry I broke your kitchen table.

I got hit with a dodge ball downtown on Halloween. I turned around and it was a bunch of girls as the Globo Gym Purple Cobras.

Girls are not complicated... seriously! How hard is it to say, "You're pretty," and give us chocolate?

I've never been so stoked as I was when the Phillies won the World Series!

To the girl in the FBI costume that walked into our apartment and into my roommate's room thinking you lived here: HAHA, I wish my Halloween was as good as yours.

Whoever pulled the fire alarm in my building at 3 a.m. in The Landing: next time I will chase after you, tackle you and hold you down until the cops come to arrest you. You're annoying.

I met the NCC Ninja on Halloween!

I went to see Pactolus Light and the only thing to scare me was the deer!

I knew we won Sunday night by all the people screaming on the Hill, PURPLE...GOLD!

ECU football: No. 1 in bringing people back to Jesus. You have to pray every time they hit the field. GO PIRATES!

I want to be on cash cab!

Why is it that I cannot stop thinking about this girl even though she's already told me she just wants to be friends?

To the NCC Ninja: I'm having your lovechild. Congrats.

Don't come a-knocking if the vans a-smoking...

I want to date one of the RAs in my dorm.

Hardcore dancing is funny to watch as it's the dumbest thing ever.

I am just excited to see people's reactions when the next President is announced.

If my ECU professors don't start e-mailing me back, I'm going to drop out.

Dear roommate, I'm NOT sorry I don't keep my side of the room as clean as yours.

I'm afraid I won't have learned anything by the time I graduate.

Bangs are sexy.

I really love closets now...

Embrace change, no matter the outcome

If your candidate loses... then what?

LARA OLIVER
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

I've got some bad news. It's about your candidate.

Let me put this gently: there's a very good chance that whoever you're voting for this year might not win.

I know, it's scary. That other guy? He totally opposes everything you stand for. He might even put those people in charge. You know the ones I'm talking about. The ones who give you mean looks whenever you're driving around and they see your bumper stickers. Yeah, those people.

Does it really matter who I'm talking about? Depending on which dude you're voting for in the coming weeks, you probably took that paragraph with a grain of salt.

Like most people, I'm getting pretty sick and tired of all the negativity being thrown around in this campaign. On one side, we hear jokes making fun of how old McCain is and how it Depends® whether or not he'll be a good leader. On the other, jokes about how Obama makes a better cocktail companion than a leader are being slung around.

Either way, it's just a lot of trash talking or an attempt to hide everyone's fears of "the other."

Back in 2000, I was too young to vote in the election, but I supported Al Gore. When he lost, he fought to prove the Electoral College swayed the vote away from what the people and the government both wanted. Supporters of Bush coined the phrase "Sore/Loserman 2000," suggesting that there was no truth to the accusations and portraying Gore and Lieberman as a muttering bunch of sour grapes.

In the 2004 election, worries over being seen as another Al Gore caused Kerry and Edwards to immediately concede the election to Bush instead of fighting for recounts in swing states.

But this year, it seems we're not even waiting for polling to be over to begin the polarization that usually occurs after Election Day.

From slashed tires at Obama rallies and a made-up charge of assault from a McCain supporter in Pennsylvania, to accusations of racism and thievery against McCain supporters-- it seems impossible for either side to admit that the other side might, just might, support their candidate for reasons other than race.

I encourage readers to try a little exercise I've been doing the past couple weeks. Close your eyes, take a few breaths and think, "My candidate might not win."

It's scary at first – you imagine cities burning, women and children lamenting in the streets, aliens attacking us in our most vulnerable state. Let me assure you: that won't happen.

What can, and has, happened, is: you'll be disappointed, you'll probably have to scrape your McCain/Obama '08 sticker off your car the next morning with a bit of a chip on your shoulder.

So, in the spirit of this great "democracy" thing I keep hearing so much about: Don't let this election keep bringing out the worst in us

What can win is our ability to think, feel and act in a sympathetic manner. If you don't like your new President, then get more involved in local and national politics. Amazingly enough, we elect more than just the President in November, and casting your vote for a politician who represents your ideals can be done every year, from members of the local school board to justices.

So, as I've been trying to do myself, I think it's important that we all take a deep breath and remember, "It's not the end of the world."

That is, unless Palin ends up being President. Just kidding.

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