

The Daily Tar Heel

90th year of editorial freedom

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The IFC's challenge

Heard any good jokes about the Interfraternity Council lately?

The IFC, once one of the most powerful and respected organizations on campus, reached its lowpoint in member participation and respect in the late 1970s. Now the organization is beginning the difficult and often slow process of trying to reestablish itself as a respected force on campus. To do that, the IFC must first prove to UNC's fraternities that it is serious in its dedication to serving the needs of fraternities and the University community.

New IFC president Brian Hunnicutt appears to have more ambition for the organization than any IFC president in years. He's going to need it. Hunnicutt inherits an organization that suffers from a lack of participation and respect from many of its 28 members.

Hunnicutt, though, seems to understand the IFC's problems with its members. For years, to most fraternities the IFC has been the organization that regulated rush and occasionally sent them a mimeographed newsletter. Hunnicutt realizes that the IFC must do more, especially in the area of communication. Hunnicutt and top IFC officials need to send themselves — not just newsletters — to fraternities to tell them what they can be doing for each other and the community.

Hunnicutt also appears willing to move in two areas in which the IFC has long lagged behind: alcohol abuse and race relations. A 1980 Campus Alcohol Education Service study found that 40 percent of fraternity members were heavy drinkers, consuming more than 55 drinks per month. Alcohol abuse in fraternities is often a cherished tradition. The IFC held an alcohol seminar this year; it can do much more in attempting to deter alcohol abuse, especially in the area of educating fraternities as to their legal responsibilities in serving alcohol to minors and intoxicated persons.

The IFC also needs to begin addressing the racism in its system. A good place to start would be by increasing the interaction between the 24 white or predominantly white fraternities and the four black fraternities. Hunnicutt has in mind service projects involving pledge classes of the various fraternities.

The IFC has a long way to go before it will become a strong, effective organization, but it is encouraging to see the organization confront the problems both it and fraternities have had. It has a good role model in the PanHellenic Council, the sorority organization that has long attracted the top leadership of sororities. The bottom line is that the IFC must first get the active participation and support from its members. Gaining that respect will be Hunnicutt's biggest challenge.

E.T. for president?

UNC is not the only place plagued by election apathy. In Wheaton, Ill., for example, they've really got problems, says *The Wall Street Journal*. When voters go to the polls in April they won't find anyone's name in the mayor's slot on the ballot, making the election a write-in candidates' bonanza. Mickey Mouse and E.T., sure to be top contenders in Chapel Hill on Feb. 8, probably have a good shot at winning in Wheaton as well.

The non-election took shape when Robert Martin, a councilman in the Chicago suburb, withdrew his name when the current mayor, Ralph Barger, decided to run again. Then Barger withdrew after being appointed to the Illinois Legislature. The deadline for filing had passed, leaving the ballot blank.

Martin, who really does want the job, needs at least 48 write-in votes to win the non-paying office. Barger, however, may want to reconsider his change in positions. He had run for the legislature in last spring's primary but lost to Gerald Weeks. Before the election Weeks died. Kenneth C. Cole became the new candidate. Cole won, but died last December, so Barger got the seat. Barger, as you can see, had pretty stiff competition.

If there are any UNC students out there who missed the filing deadline here but who are still dying to run, Wheaton provides the perfect opportunity. If you can beat E.T.

Abortion letters — pro and con

To the editor:

Pro-abortionists have sunk to new lows of moral obtuseness judging from the recent crop of letters to the editor on abortion. I offer the following thoughts for their consideration:

T.D. Champion insists that a preborn child is not alive until she is able to survive outside the womb on her own in "Abortion letter — hardly a modest proposal" (*DTH*, Jan. 24). Does he mean that the child is dead or inanimate before she becomes viable, whereupon she magically comes to life? Viability is merely a measure of our current artificial life-support systems, a standard which is being pushed back to the moment of fertilization by our constantly improving medical technology. It is at fertilization that life begins, when a new human being is endowed with 46 chromosomes from two human parents, resulting in a unique genetic identity which will never be repeated. Twenty-four days after she is conceived, a baby's heart starts beating, and by two months gestation all her internal organs are formed, long before she is viable. All of us started life in this same way.

Dayna F. Deck questions the right of men to participate in the abortion struggle and thereby reveals herself as a sexist in "Men and abortion" (*DTH*, Jan. 24). Her misconceptions of what motivates men to fight the senseless slaughter of defenseless preborn babies are shared by many in the UNC School of Public Health. I am a man, and I will never experience the sorrow of an unwanted pregnancy, but I can help women who are so burdened. I support local agencies such as the Pregnancy Support Services and Birthchoice which provide housing and medical care to women in need of alternatives to abortion. While most pro-lifers do not possess the vast wealth enjoyed by the abortionists — myself included — we offer our help free. Abortionists charge dearly for their execution services.

Charles A. Murphy Jr. calls anti-abortion

constitutional amendments "silly" in "Abortion philosophical too" (*DTH*, Jan. 26). There is nothing "silly" about wanting to stop the American abortion holocaust. You see Charles, every abortion kills a living human being, and that situation leaves no room for compromise. On Jan. 22, 1973, the Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* allowed for abortion-on-demand up to birth. Since then we have legally murdered about 15 million babies. What kind of compromise do you call that?

Perhaps the ugliest side to this controversy involves present-day abortion methods. Because a preborn baby's nerve endings develop early in the first trimester of pregnancy, she can experience pain before her unnatural death by abortion. In a suction abortion, the baby feels her body being sucked out and shredded into a bloody mass. In a D & C, the baby suffers terribly as the abortionist slices and removes her in pieces with a sharp, curved knife. In a saline abortion, the baby swallows and breathes a lethal salt solution which kills her after an hour of agony, leaving her skin burned off. Second and third trimester techniques such as prostaglandins and hysterotomies often expel babies alive who then face death by either strangulation or starvation, depending on the customary practice of each hospital. What an uproar there would be on campus if these methods were ever used on dogs and squirrels.

Chris Kremer
Carolina Students for Life

One-sided street

To the editor:

One of the problems with editorials is that they are often extremely closed-minded. Letters which attack other letters for ignoring the issues propound one-sided views themselves. I am referring to T.D. Champion's letter for abortion. Cham-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Interview sign-up explained

To the editor:

University Career Planning and Placement Services appreciates the *Daily Tar Heel's* article on the new interview sign-up system ("Sign up system tries to cut lines," *DTH*, Jan. 28); however, I wish to correct some errors in the story regarding the mechanics of the system: 1) Students are not limited to choosing the three employers with whom they wish to interview. They may list as many employers as they wish, but they must rank order their list according to their preferences. 2) Assignments for interviews will not be based on a pure lottery but a combination of chance and a systemized method for insuring that every student has at least one week of every four during which he or she will be in a group given their first preference.

Since it is difficult to fully explain the new procedure in this limited space, I encourage all who are interested in understanding it to pick up a set of instructions in 211 Hanes and attend one of the meetings which will be held to explain it in detail. The meetings will be on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 from 3 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. in 209 Hanes Hall.

Marcia B. Harris
Director
University Career Planning &
Placement Services

We're ready, Ralph

To the editor:

The ticket office tries to avoid Tuesday and Thursday distribution whenever possible because the hourly check-ins cause students to miss entire classes. There have only been a few distributions on these days in the past, and no special provisions have

ever been made to adjust the check-in schedule.

The Virginia game distribution has been set for Tuesday, Feb. 1. Obviously, these tickets will be in great demand, and people will be willing to make great sacrifices to receive one; however, mid-term examination season is approaching, and it is not the feeling of those in the CAA office that students should have to risk their academic standing just to watch UNC beat Virginia.

Therefore, numbers will be checked at 8 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4 p.m. Tickets will be distributed at 5 p.m. There will be no check-ins at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 p.m., and 1 p.m.

Perry Morrison Jr.
President
Carolina Athletic Association

BSM controversy

To the editor:

During the past several months, I have read with considerable interest, concern and yes, some alarm, the articles and editorials about the problems which plague the Black Student Movement. To suggest that the BSM has not had to deal with a number of internal problems would be an astounding assertion. However, I do want to point out that it is not unusual for student organizations to experience such difficulties. After serving as Faculty Adviser of the BSM for almost 10 years, I know that the BSM has had to resolve some internal problems in the past that were of more consequence than the charges which have been leveled at the present leadership.

I am writing to comment on two aspects of the present controversy: the reporting of various internal problems of the BSM

and the implications of a recall election for all student organizations. It is important to state at the outset that I would never question the right of a newspaper to cover the ongoing activities and problems of an organization. I am concerned because, in the reporting of the BSM matters, sufficient attention was not given to the personal motivations of the persons bringing the charges against the leadership of the BSM. I am convinced that full and balanced reporting would require that some attention be given to the question of motivation. Reporting which does not give attention to the question of motivation, especially when there is such a clear relationship between the charges and motivations of the accusers, leaves the reader with only half of the story.

Now there are occasions when some members of an organization will go outside of the organization to seek to have their goals for the organization forced upon the organization. When this is done, it ought to be done above board and with some notion of the consequences of such an action. To request that an outside agency, the Elections Board in this instance, conduct a recall election to resolve the internal problems of the BSM creates a constitutional conflict between the constitution of the Student Government and the BSM constitution. The BSM constitution requires the support of the BSM Central Committee before the process of removing an officer can begin. This requirement provides some protection against impeachment efforts which are motivated by personal considerations. This protection and many others are sacrificed when outside agencies are called in to conduct or supervise the affairs of an organization.

I call upon the members of the BSM to consider if they are willing to have their internal affairs controlled by an external

agency and thereby give up their own constitutional protections. In addition, I call upon the members of all student organizations to consider what this recall effort portends for their organizations and their constitutional protections.

Finally, I want to comment on one of the human tragedies involved in the present controversy. Wende Watson, BSM chairperson, has had to endure several months of personal attacks upon her integrity, leadership abilities, and commitment to the BSM. For someone who has served the BSM faithfully and effectively as vice chairperson, interim chairperson, and chairperson, she deserved better treatment. At the beginning of her term as BSM chairperson, Watson launched an ambitious program which stressed organizational efficiency and unity. The accomplishments of her administration have gone unnoticed because of the lingering controversy. Watson should be commended for her restraint in the face of unceasing personal attacks. She has represented the BSM well during a difficult period.

Harold G. Wallace
BSM Faculty Adviser

SWAD forum today

To the editor:

Sorority Women Against Discrimination (SWAD) will be holding an open forum in Gerrard Hall at 8 p.m. today. At this forum, we hope to share our efforts and intentions with the public. By opening the floor to the public, we hope to gain greater understanding of the issue at hand. Anyone interested in sharing comments or asking questions is invited to attend. We welcome your input.

Constance Barkley
SWAD Council Representative

Twelve hours in front of the TV

By RANDY WALKER

vegetate, v. to lead a passive existence without exertion of body or mind.

—Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary

It was late afternoon in Carr Building. In the TV room, the Booking Phenom sat reading a German book; the Freshman sprawled on the sofa, staring at the television. It was the part of the day when small-timers gathered to talk, laugh, eat Hector's fries and bask in the cathode ray.

Smalltime walked in and sat on the Freshman just to irritate him.

"So, Freshman," he said, "getting into a little video whack action?"

"More than a little," said the Booking Phenom, looking up from his book. "He's been down here since *Last Boat* this morning."

Smalltime nodded. "Man, doing your cabbage imitation again?" he said to the Freshman. "Somebody put some fertilizer on this boy."

The Freshman took his eyes off the TV. "Man, this ain't nothing," he said. "When I'm at home sometimes I veg-out 12 hours straight."

"No way man," Smalltime said. "Not even a cathode king could do that."

"Yeah?" the Freshman huffed. Smalltime picked on him all the time — now he was getting pissed. "I can watch TV for 24 hours straight without even trying."

Smalltime snorted. Who did this Freshman think he was?

"A case of Black Label says you can't," Smalltime said.

"You're on," said the Freshman. He shoved Smalltime away and strode to the door. "I begin at 7 o'clock tonight. Be there."

All that evening the Freshman lay on the sofa, staring at the TV. He said nothing. He did not even do any caffeine hitters.

During *Charlie's Angels* (or *Charlie's Hosebags*, or the *Hosebags*, or the *Bags*), Smalltime called the Booking Phenom into the hall.

"You don't think he's really gonna make it, do you?"

"Man, I heard A&P was having a sale on Black Label," the Booking Phenom said. "Freshmen may be stupid, but they have endurance. Old timers like us can't compete."

Multiple Choice

By RANDY WALKER

Smalltime sighed. "Phenom, man, what happened to us? Seems like just yesterday we were freshmen."

"I know it, man." The Booking Phenom listened to the laughing voices of the TV room. He smelled spaghetti cooking in the kitchen. "But man," he said, "if it wasn't for us, who would teach the freshmen which pizza is best — how to flick bottle caps — how to nuke popcorn in the microwave? Who would teach them the dorm secrets?"

A bottle cap sailed out of the TV room, barely missing Smalltime.

"Good point," he said.

By 6:30 the next day Smalltime was getting worried.

"So, Freshman," he said, "anything good on TV?"

The Freshman lay there, comatose, his eyes glassy but undeniably open. He had not made a sound since he had suddenly laughed at the wrong time during *Family Feud*.

pounds for the fetus will extend beyond to the woman and the entire complex situation which entwines her life. For as history has demonstrated, to turn back the clock and make abortions illegal again will only bring back the return of the lethal self-induced abortions, the deadly coat hangers, the unsafe back-alley abortions. This is the sinister reality of a world where abortions are illegal, a reality that men will never experience.

With this in mind, I am grateful for the "sheer audacity of our modern day U.S. lawmakers" who show enough compassion for women to prevent this sinister reality of the abortion dilemma from resurfacing by keeping abortions safe and legal, and keeping us from returning to the "dark ages" of fear and hypocrisy.

As there are so many differing views in this complex issue, such as when life begins, the varying situations of each woman and her family, and the certain reality of unsafe, illegal abortions, the pro-choice position appears to be the most realistic way of handling this harrowing dilemma.

Sylvanne Beck
UNC-CH
National Abortion Rights Action League

Abortion a tragedy

To the editor:

What gives you the right, Phillip Parkerson, to pass absolute judgment on those whose lives you do not understand? You, being a very righteous person, are of course without sin. You either do not sleep with women, or in the eventuality of an intimate relationship, participate fully in the necessary birth control measures. And, of course, in the event of failure of those measures, would participate fully in the pregnancy, delivery, and raising of the

tion begins by denouncing Phillip K. Parkerson's anti-abortion letter as being "truth distorting," "sick," and "disgusting," and makes a valid inference about pro-choicers wanting to "knock up our girlfriends so they can have an abortion." I, too, found Parkerson's letter strong and distasteful, but he made his point well. Champion's letter has more loopholes: He claims that he is no doctor, then proceeds to define a live fetus as one which could survive outside of the womb without artificial aid. True, this point is not reached in three months; the infant's oxygen and blood supplies, for example, are dependent upon the mother until birth. But I would not say that life begins at birth: If Champion heard the heart beat of a three-month-old; felt it turn in the mother's belly; observed an amniocentesis; or realized the dependency of a 2-year-old on its mother/caretaker (lack of "artificial aid" — infanticide?), I think that he would reconsider his definition of life.

Champion continues, again travelling down a one-sided street. He admits good fortune in being born to a family that wanted him, but says that he would "rather not have been born (i.e. aborted?) than to be born to parents who didn't want me." Point well taken, but he ignores the major alternative: adoption. He advocates abortion for all the wrong reasons: because anyone who is irresponsible enough to have an unwanted pregnancy is not mature enough to raise a child; because some children are unplanned; because life doesn't really begin until after three months anyway. Often, abortions are necessary. I believe that they should be safe and legal, but only used as a last resort. If a woman is responsible for becoming pregnant, she should seriously consider being responsible enough to carry her child to full-term and allow adoption by parents who can care for and love the baby. My biological mother was a nursing student; my biological father, a medical student at Berkeley. Convenience said

abort. They said adopt. I am as lucky as Champion: "I am fortunate in that I have good loving parents who [adopted] me, wanted me, raised me, and eventually sent me to college."

Lauren Gray
Chapel Hill

No compassion

To the editor:

Although Parkerson expounds a vehement compassion in identifying with the fetus in his letter, "A Modest Proposal" (*DTH*, Jan. 24), he apparently lacks compassion for the woman, reducing her to an obligatory womb upon which he heaps moral condemnation. If Parkerson is as intensely sensitive and compassionate to the needs of women as he is to the needs of the fetus, he would be touched by the suffering inflicted upon unwed teen-agers, upon poor women who, pushed to the end of their limits, must resort to dangerous, illegal abortions to survive; of how a woman forced to bear an unwanted child may never know the joy of having a wanted child.

His strong moral condemnation of women who seek abortions, assuming they do it for "mere convenience," is the product of a long line of male moral authorities from St. Augustine to Jerry Falwell. Being males, they personally will never undergo the dilemmas pregnancy entails. As Mark Twain stated, "It is easy to bear adversity — another man's I mean." Perhaps this should be changed to "another person's — particularly a woman's."

Abortion is a very difficult personal decision for most women to make. To be condemned, in addition, by self-righteous moral authorities, especially if they are males, is callous and cruel.

I hope the compassion Parkerson ex-

child.

My friend, you have obviously not seen the world as it is. Have you ever sat with a woman facing the dilemma of an unplanned pregnancy? In a university community there are many cases in which the woman is financially dependent on others in order to complete the training for her career. Though the world has softened in recent years, many parents and friends are not supportive financially or emotionally of a woman who produces an "illegitimate" child. She sees her life and that of her child as one of a struggle far beyond that which life normally deals us. Will she be able, without the support of those around her, to offer her child not only the necessities of life, but far more importantly, an atmosphere of love and security she knows it must have to develop fully? The prospect is very grim in such a world as we live in. But what is offered by the alternative? No, Phillip, not escape and freedom, but the prospect of stopping a life before it has begun. Yes, it's a life. No pregnant woman I've met would deny that. It is with a great feeling of grief and sadness that a woman must face the decision to have an abortion. Only a very strong person can face the prospect of ending the hope that a new life brings. Many shut off the reality in a private corner of their minds, but they suffer nonetheless.

Phillip, what you don't realize is that abortion is a tragedy of our lives. Many, if not most, women would greet a pregnancy with joy if they knew a world where their child could grow and face happiness. You have lived in a very protected world where decisions are cut and dried, where right and wrong are well defined. In a way I envy you, but in another, I pity you, for life is not like that. Please, go out and really talk to people, see what life is really like, then tell me what you think.

Deborah A. Adams
Carboro