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The Daily Tar Heel

92nd year of editorial freedom

New grad students are strangers, too

By MARGARET RYAN

Sometime after being accepted into graduate school I received my first issue of *The Daily Tar Heel* at my Mass. home. "Daily Tar Heel? What kind of a name is that?" I mused, suppressing a smile. Not being a basketball aficionado, and after being out in the work force for 10 years, the name seemed quaint. I began to wonder about this UNC place where I'd be spending the best of the next two years.

My immediate reactions, I being a Yankee female grad student, to the people, the immense campus, the sobering reality of sharing one bathroom with eight other people in Craige Hall and the smooth and not-so-smooth registering processes at UNC were mixed.

Every university has its good and bad points. I know, having attended three of them in undergraduate school. The first lonely days at UNC, before classes started and studying would rule one's waking hours, impressed on me the realities of attending a large state school.

For all its good intentions, the orientation programs at UNC struck me as one disastrous bomb after another. The opening day barbecue, where approximately 100 people silently chewed on pieces of pork while watching 20 others happily play volleyball, seemed to underscore our individual isolation.

The Graduate Orientation, which was held in Chase Hall, proved to be a maze of arrows that ultimately directed us to an almost empty room and a small stack of mental health pamphlets. The other students who managed to find the room were laughing in disbelief.

By the time I got there, the ice cream social had dissolved into a mess of melted pink and brown gook, surrounded by a rubble of



crushed cones. A poor RA with a broken arm, who attempted to scoop out the glop, presided over the ghastly scene, while small groups of people who seemed to know each other already stood talking.

Later in my room, I realized the unadvertised square dance that sprang up directly below would keep me awake until the last guitar chord sounded, so I ventured down to where 50 people stood around while those lucky Southerners already acquainted with the intricacies of the Virginia Reel demonstrated their skills.

I was happy the beer didn't run out until 1 a.m. Unfortunately, I had an 8 o'clock the next morning, of which I remember little.

That day at my dorm floor meeting, which consisted mainly of our two RAs underscoring the

house rules, my floor mates mostly sat around quietly, waiting to receive their packets of free samples (pink for girls, blue for boys) so that they could return to their rooms. The bottles of Coke and bags of chips set on a small table surrounded by couches did little to compel me to socialize. All anybody wanted to do was get out of that hot, cramped room.

Speaking of food, it took my two suite mates and I an hour of futile wandering the first day to find, by trial and error, that the dorm snack bar wouldn't be open until that afternoon (which was just as well unless you wanted Twinkies for breakfast).

My department orientation, a Dutch treat lunch for the 10 new grad students, was a happier occasion, but the only real kudos should

go to a thorough and personable gentleman who conducted the library tour. He found my classmates and me after we had been misdirected to stand in the lobby.

The point here is that graduate students, just like new undergrads, are also strangers in a strange land. I watched my roommate, who is from France, go off to one International Center-sponsored event after another while I stumbled around campus alone with my map. Apparently, if you're not from a foreign country, you're expected to quickly and easily acclimate yourself to UNC. My experiences proved otherwise.

Margaret Ryan is a first-year graduate student in the School of Journalism from Provincetown, Mass.

All above board

A 50-year tradition of lying has been laid to rest. Instead of writing "potato chips" or "party supplies" next to \$50 on their expense reports, dorm treasurers can now come right out with it: Yeah, we spent the 50 bucks on a keg of beer. No longer will they be forced to disguise alcohol purchases as had been required in the past because of University protocol.

The cause of all this soul-baring is the recently adopted campuswide alcohol policy. The two-page document specifies where on campus — at Ehringhaus field and in the immediate areas around residence halls — students of legal drinking age can possess and drink beer. It also spells out certain provisions that sponsoring organizations must follow.

In its explicitness, the document also removes doubt as to official campus policy, which did not exist previously. Instead, the University's unwritten policy simply had been to advocate compliance with federal, state and local laws. As subject as laws are to the whims of personal fancy, it makes sense

that the University boil them down into plain English.

So, besides squashing the practice of, er, shading the truth, the policy clarifies state alcohol-related laws. In doing so, it helps ensure compliance with those laws. This, we hope, will promote sensible drinking.

None of this does much to help absolve the University of liability if a student goes to a dorm party, gets drunk and later drives his car head-on into another. As Donald Boulton, vice chancellor of student affairs puts it, the only way to that would be for the University to shut down. No, the policy's primary help is that it demonstrates an attempt on the part of the University at responsible control of student drinking.

We do not expect that the policy, in all its wisdom, will alter UNC's typically excessive drinking habits. What it does, as Dean Fred Schroeder puts it, is strike "a happy medium between personal freedoms, the enjoyment of life and necessary social constraints."

Does God need politicians?

With elections still two months away, voters could not be faulted for invoking the Almighty to spare them from the thickening political rhetoric. But from what certain politicians and their supporters are saying, God is too busy with campaign work to give ordinary citizens some relief.

There's a disturbing tendency on the part of some office seekers and their backers to talk as if God were their running mate. This politicization of God is not only unseemly, it may strike some believers as bordering dangerously close to taking the Lord's name in vain.

One of the most blatant examples of the "God is in my corner" politics is a recent fund-raising letter issued by the campaign of Sen. Jesse Helms. The letter, signed by singer Pat Boone, states in part: "As God-loving Americans, you and I need Jesse Helms in the United States Senate." But the letter goes still further, contending that the Lord is solidly in the Helms camp: "You and I need Jesse in Washington. America needs him. God needs him."

The letter leads readers to assume that liberal groups working to defeat Helms are heathen. Charging opponents with spreading "Un-Godly" lies about Helms, the letter criticizes groups including the National Organization for Women, the NAACP, the American Civil Liberties Union, "the ultra-liberal national news media", Planned Parenthood, the National Education Association and

"militant homosexual groups" for attempting to "destroy" Helms.

The theme of conservative piety is being sounded from the top of the Republican ticket. Not only has President Reagan said that religion and politics are inseparable, he has questioned the faith of opponents of a school prayer amendment, suggesting they are "intolerant of religion." Reagan's view insults those devout Americans who fear the amendment could lead to the persecution of school children who do not care to join their peers in prayer.

The Democrats, although more subtle in their references to God, are not blameless either. Vice presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro said Reagan's budget priorities were un-Christian. Referring back to her catechism lessons, Ferraro suggested that social programs advocated by the Democrats are more firmly rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition than the Republican programs.

But politics is not a battle between the godly and the ungodly. Office seekers of both parties are often deeply religious men and women who differ only over how to provide maximum prosperity and justice for our citizens. They would do best to heed the words of Abraham Lincoln when looking to heaven for support: "We trust that God is on our side. It is more important to know that we are on God's side."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Enough already, point taken,' we say

To the editor:

After reading *The Daily Tar Heel* last Thursday and Friday, I have to question the qualifications and/or the motivations of the so-called journalists who write for the paper.

In Mike DeSisti's Thursday article ("Is East Carolina for real? Tune in Saturday," Aug. 30), he implies that the UNC-ECU football series was discontinued because ECU coaches were found watching the Heels practice shortly before their last meeting in 1981. As a sportswriter for the

DTH for some time now, DeSisti should already know that UNC's football schedule is etched in stone many, many years in advance, thus rendering his implication an irresponsible waste of a sentence.

In Friday's DTH, the "Week in Review" section contained a reference to East Carolina University as "Eastern Carolina University." Maybe your editor(s) cannot help being so ignorant, but someone should prevent them from blatantly making their ignorance public in the

name of journalism and at the expense of a fine school. Also, referring to ECU as a "veritable tower of academia" is a good example of the pseudo-elitist, institutional snobbery that prevails on the campus. Please print this letter so that those that are not already brainwashed into thinking UNC is inherently better than any other school may made aware of the mindless propaganda in your newspaper.

David C. Clark
Chapel Hill



RONNIE, LISTEN... THAT CRICKET NOISE... IT FINALLY STOPPED...

What, no 1st!

To the editor:

As an American, I hold my constitutional rights in high regard. Imagine my shock, then, to learn from a front page article in *The Daily Tar Heel* that the First Amendment has vanished! ("UNC Christian groups differ," Aug. 31) Someone is quoted in the article to the effect that the principle of separation of church and state is not in the Constitution or the Bill of Rights. I beg to differ.

The First Amendment to the Constitution begins, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

To me, that means that the government can neither tell me what religion to exercise, nor prevent me from exercising the religion of my choice — the very essence of separation of church and state.

I think we should consider very carefully the possible consequences before we give up that religious freedom. Do we really want the government to endorse one form of religious expression over another?

Patricia Anthony
Carrboro

DTH editorials this week

Tuesday: The Campus Governing Council has made it clear it wants to raise the Student Activities Fee, but it doesn't want to work to do it. Instead of trying to convince the holdouts and no-shows the need for a fee increase, council members have voted to change the rules.

The CGC voted to make a simple majority (with at least 20 percent of the student body voting) sufficient to raise the fee. Council members seem to believe the old rule of requiring a two-thirds majority is too tough a task.

However, we believe that the two-thirds majority rule should be returned and made a part of the Student Constitution. That will ensure that there will be overwhelming support if such an important referendum as the fee increase is to be passed.

Wednesday: UNC's lack of coherent guidelines or objectives on campus parking has unfortunate consequences on students and faculty each year as more parking permits are denied and people find it almost impossible to park near campus.

Building a multi-level parking deck in the Bell Tower lot sounds like a quick-fix solution to the problem, but right now too many questions surround the proposal to make such an expensive commitment.

An extensive and open investigation into the parking situation must be conducted before any proposals for improving the situation can be seriously considered.

Thursday: The plan this year to have sorority rush only on weekends should be applauded for allowing the rushes and the sisters more time during the week for their studies.

World and nation

"Our special thanks to the ice-busters."

— Mission Control in Houston, responding to the news that the astronauts aboard the space shuttle Discovery had succeeded in knocking off a block of ice that had formed on the side of the orbiting ship. The block, which never posed a threat to the astronauts, did cause some discomfort by taking the shuttle's toilet out of commission.

"Every day we fail to open negotiations with the Soviets is another day we slip toward Armageddon. World War III will be nothing like WWII. There will be no winners; we will all lose."

— Walter Mondale, speaking to the American Legion convention Wednesday on the need for "sensible" arms control.

"I can't think of anyone who favors the government establishing a religion in this country. I know I don't."

— President Reagan, defending his view of the religion and politics in a speech before the American Legion convention.

"The postponement of an individual's death is becoming a federal affair and one whose implications we cannot ignore."

— conclusion of the federal report, "Death and Taxes: The Public

Week In Review

Policy of Living Longer." The report urged the government to anticipate the economic burdens caused by increased life span.

"I have decided to make this statement based on the injustice of these allegations and the far-reaching trauma those who feel close to me are suffering."

— Singer Michael Jackson, denying allegations he takes hormones. In the statement, Jackson also denied having cosmetic surgery on his eyes and cheeks. Jackson said he hopes to marry and have children some day.

State

"The problems are worse than we thought. Not only is the lighthouse unsafe for visitors, but we have a serious concern about its overall stability."

— Thomas Hartman, superintendent of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, announcing Wednesday that the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse will be closed indefinitely because of the discovery of severe cracks and other structural problems.

"My guess is that they (the state Supreme Court) will try to have these opinions issued before the legislature gets back into sessions, or at least before they get too deep

into the session."

— Supreme Court clerk Greg Wallace, commenting on the status of several cases challenging the state's 1983 Safe Roads Act.

Campus

"We can't force fraternities to clean up, but we can make suggestions."

— Student Body President Paul Parker, after sending a letter to Interfraternity Council President Ellis Zaytoun expressing concern that hazing and racism were prevalent in the fraternity system.

"I could have just shut up, said they (the bills) had gone by consent and let it be fine and dandy. I'd rather be out in the open, find my mistakes and take steps to correct them."

— Patricia Wallace, chairman of the Campus Governing Council's Rules and Judiciary Committee, commenting on a bill that she authored that requested the approval of Honor Court members although the acceptance would have been illegal under CGC bylaws. She had attached an article to the bill, which was to be approved in a meeting Wednesday night, that said the approval would not be permanent and therefore did not violate the bylaws. Student

Body President Paul Parker and Attorney General Keith Johnson learned the bill was illegal just two hours before the meeting and it had to be called off.

Sports

"I was very pleased with Gary's performance. I felt he had that kind of game in him. We're blessed to have two good quarterbacks."

— Dallas Cowboys football coach Tom Landry, speaking about quarterback Gary Hogeboom's performance against the Los Angeles Rams Monday night. Hogeboom completed 33 of 47 passing attempts for 343 yards in directing the team to a 20-13 victory. Danny White, who was replaced last week as starting quarterback, rode the bench.

"We hope to accomplish a couple of things — first, to find out in a confidential manner if any of our athletes have problems with drugs. We then provide rehabilitation through the Student Health Service. Second, that it will serve as somewhat of a deterrent to experimenting with drugs."

— UNC Athletic Director John Swofford announcing that the University will begin voluntary and confidential urinalysis testing of athletes. UNC is one of four Atlantic Coast Conference schools that will begin testing athletes for drug use.

Opinions from News and Observer

Monday: Whether Reagan or Mondale is elected, strong action must be taken to bring federal income and outgo into better balance, bring down "real" interest rates and make American wares more competitive against those of other industrial nations.

Tuesday: The Federal Election Commission has taken much too long providing answers to the questions that hang in the air about the political organization of Jesse Helms. The voters of North Carolina deserve to know the exact nature of the relationship of the National Congressional Club to its sister organizations and how this relates to Helms' campaign.

Wednesday: Reagan has shown, by the endorsement of the powerful International Brotherhood of Teamsters, that he is just as prepared as Mondale to wear a union label.

Thursday: With the election of Progressive Conservative Party leader Brian Mulroney, Canada has a new government. The United States should mark this new beginning by establishing a stronger trade relationship with our prosperous neighbors to the north. American government and industry has taken Canada for granted too long.

The climate for the recent violence in South Africa was created by the nation's white minority government. While the United States has condemned apartheid, the Reagan administration has not acted to condemn the adoption of a new, discriminatory South African constitution.