

Poster depicts fraternity as racist, stirs controversy

By LORRY WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

The appearance of a controversial poster has caused dispute about the purpose of the Kappa Alpha fraternity's annual Old South party.

The poster, which appeared in several campus buildings Wednesday, advertises the Old South party at the "Kappa Alpha plantation." The poster depicted the white fraternity as racist and invited anyone interested in celebrating "good ol' days" with the "good ol' boys" to show up at the Kappa Alpha house Wednesday night.

John Hughes, Kappa Alpha vice president, said the fraternity was not responsible for the posters. "I'm appalled that it was made," he said.

Several student leaders on campus said they did not believe Kappa Alpha was responsible for the posters. James Exum, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha and the Black Student Movement, and George Wilson, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi and the executive boards of the Black Greek Council and the Interfraternity Council, said they did not think the fraternity was involved in the appearance of the posters on campus.

Hughes said that as soon as he saw the posters, he called people in the University administration and leaders of the BSM to assure them the fraternity was not responsible.

Responsible or not, the appearance of the posters and their depiction of the Kappa Alpha

fraternity, has brought attention to the organization of Old South Week.

Both Hughes and Kappa Alpha President Lou Baldwin stressed that their organization was not a racist fraternity, despite some controversial issues that have happened in the past. They say there are misconceptions about the fraternity that need to be made clear. The poster, they said, only adds to the misconception.

The misconceptions they refer to are linked to events, some of which still occur, that used to happen during Kappa Alpha's Old South Week.

Old South Week is a national Kappa Alpha tradition. During that week, parties and the Kappa Alpha formal dance, the Old South Ball, are held. A Confederate flag is also displayed at the Kappa Alpha house during the week.

A symbol of the South during the Civil War, Baldwin says the flag does not symbolize the Confederacy during Old South Week. Instead, the flag is a symbol of the traditional week and the Kappa Alpha formal dance, Baldwin said.

"In no way is it advocating the Civil War and slavery," he said.

Exum, however, disagrees. He said the waving of the flag did have a symbolic nature, because it subtly showed support for the old slave South.

"It represents a period when whites were thought of as superior, and blacks were thought of as

inferior," Exum said.

The Sharecropper's Ball was once a part of Old South Week. During the ball, some pledges would attend wearing blackened faces. Baldwin said that did seem racist, but that was not the idea behind the dance and the blackening of faces. The dance was a costume ball. Because it was a sharecropper's ball, blacks and whites were needed. As a result, Baldwin said, some people would come with their faces painted black.

The Sharecropper's Ball was canceled because the event began to gain attention as a racist event. "The black face is in the past," Baldwin said.

Hughes said the fraternity had been working to clear up misconceptions that surrounded it.

Hughes said that Kappa Alpha was based on the idea of trying to uphold the ideals and principles of Robert E. Lee — not Lee the Confederate soldier, but Lee the southern gentleman, who espoused such ideals as honesty and trust.

"We're really trying to tone down our image," he said. Baldwin said participating in the Interfraternity Council's program that promoted visits with the Black Greeks and canceling programs that appeared racist were ways the fraternity had tried to clear up the misconceptions.

"This poster could destroy everything we've

been working on," Hughes said.

Wilson, who attended the Kappa Alpha house visit in the fall, said he believed the fraternity was concerned with improving its image.

"They do seem to be concerned about their image and disassociating themselves from the Klan and the red-neck image," he said.

Wilson added, however, that they should be able to find a better way to celebrate the old South and the traditions connected with it.

Wilson called it a slap in the face to have a week celebrating what he considered one of the worst periods in history.

"The person who wrote this (poster) had to have something to base it on," he said. "He didn't just pick KA."

Regardless of who was responsible, the poster's content has the potential of affecting race relations on the entire campus, Exum said.

"Whether or not the fraternity was responsible," he said, "things like this tear down good interactions in race relations."

Recent efforts have been made to improve race relations between the black and white fraternities. Kappa Alpha was one of the fraternities to participate in the visitation program in which members of the two Greek systems met to discuss organizational differences, problems and ways to improve relations.

Wilson said just when progress took two steps

forward, something like this happened and sent things back a step.

Possible damage to the work put into improving race relations was also a concern of Kappa Alpha.

"I think it looks bad upon the fraternity and the entire black student population," Hughes said.

Exum said relations on campus looked like they were starting to improve and that once it started in the Greek system it would spread to the whole campus.

"Programs such as the integrated social functions will be very positive for race relations," he said.

Exum said overt racism was not in vogue anymore, but covert racism still existed and examples of it could be found at the University.

Exum said there were still people on campus who would not support a qualified minority as a candidate for a campus office.

"Without a doubt, racism is still very prevalent," he said. "It plays a very strong role with our lives here as students."

Exum added he was sorry for the person who made the poster and who tried to hurt race relations. "Regardless of the intent, the effect was to make people more acutely aware that there are some racial problems on campus."



William Dorsett's dairy farm in Efland may not operate much longer. His son is not interested in continuing the family business.

DTH/Larry Childress

N.C. farmers bending under financial strain

By KATHY NANNEY
Staff Writer

N.C. farmers, like farmers nationwide, are suffering financial strain, and many are leaving farming to go to more secure businesses.

"Farmers are in the worst financial situation since the depression of the 1930s," said Linda Clapp, a Chatham County dairy farmer and one of four chairmen of the North and South Carolinas' United Farmers Organization.

Only farmers who work outside of farming and receive money from other sources are not suffering in today's economy, Clapp said.

"Farmers trying to do it full time or trying to build up their operation to something they could farm and make a living from are in real trouble," she said.

William Dorsett, an Orange County dairy farmer for 29 years, said that anyone beginning farming today had little chance of success.

"The only way a man can make it now is if he has money to pay cash for 75 percent of his needs," Dorsett said.

Agriculture in Orange County is in trouble, particularly dairy and grain farms, Dorsett said. Tobacco farmers have troubles of their own, trying to battle attacks on federal price support programs.

Unlike the rest of the state, the land value of Orange County farms is not decreasing, because there is demand for land for other developments, he said.

Around the state, however, creditors are foreclosing and requiring farmers to sign away farms or liquidate. In Chatham County the number of farms on the market has increased substantially, she said.

North Carolina is losing about 3,000

farms per year. Some closings can be attributed to retirement, but others are the result of financial problems, said Frank Bordeau, economist for the N.C. Department of Agriculture.

Farmers often borrow money to get crops planted in the spring, counting on those crops to carry them until the next season, Bordeau said. Because of worsening financial situations, creditors are hesitant to lend to farmers, and many farmers are unable to get financing for spring planting, he said.

Devine said North Carolina had not been as hard hit as other states because it was not dependent on one crop. But he added that no area of agriculture is doing very well.

Clapp said North Carolina's agricultural sector was not in any better condition than the rest of the nation.

"North Carolina is the No. 1 state in the nation in the loss of family farms," she said. "If we're losing more farms than anybody else, how can we be better off?"

"The last two areas you can hope to make a decent living in were tobacco and dairy, and those strongholds are now going by the wayside also."

In a state where the average yearly farm income has dropped from \$13,000 to \$9,000 in the last three years, farmers and economists say agriculture has not benefited from an improving economy.

"Farmers never did get out of the last depression that we had before (President) Reagan took office," Clapp said.

Some farmers have benefited from an improving economy. Bob Rhodes, an apple grower in Henderson County, said consumers bought more fruit when economic conditions improved.

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Talk show confronts Fordham with meal plan

By JANET OLSON
University Editor

WXYC's late night talk show, *North-ern Hemisphere Live*, is known for its late night surprises, and after Wednesday's episode, nobody knows that better than Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham III.

Co-host Wynston Smyth gave the chancellor an unexpected wake-up call at about midnight Wednesday, asking him to comment on the recently released "Report to Patricia Wallace, Student Body President, On the Mandatory Meal Plan."

The show's guests this week were Fetzter Mills, Tom Terrell and Sherrod Banks, co-authors of the report.

Smyth made the call after discussion heated up about why Fordham had not responded publicly to the report, which alleges that University administrators deceived students about the need for a mandatory meal plan on campus.

The discussion started when Walt Boyle, Carolina Union president, called in to the station to ask why the administration had not responded to the accusations in the report. "It's very confusing to me to see this (lack of response)," Boyle said. "I'm not sure if they're waiting for the issue to die or just what's going on."

Terrell then accused Fordham of not taking a stand on issues of student concern. "I have dealt with Chancellor Fordham for well over a year now, and his style angers me more than any other person on this campus..." Terrell said. "He is one man on this campus who should be able to tell you where he stands, but he refuses to."

Mills said he thought the administration hadn't responded to the report because it was so well documented. "I just don't think it's possible for the administrators to refute anything we've got in our report," he said. "I believe they're looking for ways to do it, and they just can't find any ways."

Smyth called Fordham later in the show and asked him to comment on the report's allegations that University administrators had misled and deceived students about the need for the meal plan.

Fordham said, "I think that if we should go back into the past, you can find disagreements, and there were disagreements. But they were finally dealt with, and plans were made for future students. No one was trying to mislead or mistreat anyone. It was all (done) . . . to improve the food service."

But Terrell said the report proved administrators had deliberately misled students.

"I won't grant that, Tom," Fordham responded. "We're (talking about)



Sherrod Banks, Fetzter Mills and Tom Terrell discuss the meal plan on WXYC's talk show.

DTH/Larry Childress

people who . . . I would trust with virtually my own personal holdings. They're very fine people, and to make irresponsible charges against them, of course, is unfortunate."

Terrell asked Fordham to investigate the possibility that the administrators had made negligent misstatements and to tell students his conclusions. Fordham said the Office of Student Affairs is working closely now with Student Government on the meal plan issue.

At that, Mills interrupted. "Chancellor Fordham, the people that made these misstatements and the people that made the deceptions were the people in the Office of Student Affairs. Are you telling me that you're asking them to investigate themselves?"

Fordham responded, "I'm not asking them to do anything except to determine the facts for me."

Fordham said he could not predict

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Winstead pleads innocent to charges of harassment

By RANDY FARMER
Staff Writer

Frank T. Winstead, wearing a noose made of phone cord, denied making harassing phone calls to area directors and pleaded innocent to a Student Code violation in his Honor Court case Thursday.

Winstead has been accused of violating a section of the Code that prohibits "disorderly or obscene conduct on institutional premises or at University-sponsored functions."

Cynthia A. Wolf, area director of Hinton James, and Maxine Frumkin, area director of Henderson Residence College, the two who requested Winstead's arrest, testified they both received similar harassing phone calls.

But the two did not learn of each other's harassing phone calls until Frumkin complained to Wolf about the harassment, Frumkin said. They then compared the approximate time, duration and type of harassing phone call and found they were similar, she said.

"I never thought it was Frank at the beginning," Frumkin said. "But then the trace found Frank's name on the (phone) connection."

The undercover officer who served Winstead his warrant Jan. 24, said he noticed a number of electric wires running between Winstead's room and the room of Winstead's suitemate when he came to serve the warrant for Winstead's arrest.

On further investigation, the officer found that the wires were

telephone wires connecting Winstead's telephone to his suitemate's phone.

"All that is known is that Southern Bell traced the phone calls to the phone of Winstead's suitemate which was connected to his room," the officer said.

Winstead admitted connecting the wires, but he denied making harassing phone calls, the officer testified.

Frumkin said she received her first harassing phone call on Sept. 19. Wolf received her first call on Nov. 17.

The phone calls were a disturbance because both Wolf and Frumkin are area directors, and they need to be able to be reached around the clock, Frumkin said.

"I need to be available to assist the students or the resident assistant at any time," Frumkin said.

Both Wolf and Frumkin said they had never had such trouble with a resident before. Wolf has been an area director for 2-1/2 years, Frumkin for five.

"I have disciplined a lot of people," Wolf said. "But I have never had this type of behavior before."

In a flurry of emotion, Frumkin said she had been unable to receive information about her sick father and grandmother because she had taken the phone off the hook because of the harassing phone calls.

The testimony lasted more than eight hours, and the trial was adjourned until Thursday.

Signatures of all things I am here to read . . . — James Joyce