

The Daily Tar Heel

95th year of editorial freedom

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Shut the door on lax security

A UNC woman has reported that she was assaulted, robbed and almost raped last weekend at a fraternity house after visiting friends there. Although the details are still unknown, the incident should force fraternities across campus to review their security policies.

board opinion

Some members earlier this week said that security problems in their houses are rare, and they try to keep an eye on who comes to visit. But the fact that a woman has reported an assault by a non-fraternity member illustrates that security must be more than casual.

While it may be true that fraternity brothers know many of the people who come to visit, they can't know everyone. And it's hard to believe that they are able to question everyone who walks in, especially at parties.

Of course, security problems are not limited to fraternity houses. As public places with common areas, dormitories and apartment buildings also present a risk. But as sponsors of parties that attract large crowds, fraternities have an obligation to protect their guests.

At the least, they should lock as many doors as possible and keep their houses well-lit. Only residents should have access to remote areas such as basements. If fraternities are to be a social magnet, members should accept the responsibility that comes with their attraction.

At the same time, women attending the parties should take responsibility for themselves. This includes staying with the crowd and making sure friends get home safely.

The security problem is compounded by drinking, the main activity of such parties. Although there's nothing wrong with having a few drinks, fraternity members can't watch out for their guests when they're under the influence themselves. Greeks who claim their houses are safe should consider the effects of alcohol on their sense of responsibility.

Although the idea of a fraternity house assault is frightening, even more disturbing is some members' reluctance to admit there is a security problem. Until fraternities make a commitment to increase safety, students should think twice about going to their parties.

Misty, water-colored memories

There's no use denying it. UNC students, and college students all across America, are products of the '70s. They can try to convince themselves otherwise, that they are hip '80s kids, but eventually they'll have to face the music. Namely, the Bee Gees and Shaun Cassidy.

Sure, they've spent the last seven years wearing Benetton and listening to Madonna, but the fact remains — the formative years were lived in polyester hell. No matter how many pairs of straight-leg Levi's they now own, the wish-swish of bell-bottom pants still lingers in the ears. Or worse yet, Toughskins.

Now, thanks to the efforts of historians Dynamite Danny and The Electric Boogie Man, the latest lost generation has a chance to search out its roots and wallow in the pseudo-culture of its early years. These two brave DJs-cum-archeologists will take a trip down memory lane Saturday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on XYC's K-tel special. How could anyone forget:

■ Barry Gibb, whose carpet of chest hair and estrogenized voice gave the medallioned millions a case of "Night Fever."

■ Leif Garrett, a blond wig that passed for a human being that passed for a singer that passed for an actor.

■ Sonny Bono. Say no more. But the '70s were so much more than music. It's a safe bet that rummaging

around in the attic or garage would turn up dusty paraphernalia like:

■ Pop Rocks, Rambo candy that exploded in your mouth, just to show how tough you were.

■ Big collars. Really big. Like wings.

■ Macrame. Every little kid's worst fear was that his mother would macrame him a sweater.

■ Magic Eight Balls. Ask a question and the answer would swim up from inside: "Ask again later" or "It is certain."

The kids of this generation will spend the rest of their lives dealing with the emotional scars that eight-track tapes and mood rings have left. It is unhealthy to suppress these memories, to shove them into the back of the subconscious closet. The K-tel special is not just a silly radio show. It is free therapy, a golden opportunity for all '70s refugees to listen and remember without embarrassment or fear of ridicule.

Get some friends together and tune in on Saturday. Reminisce about Dynamite magazine and those old Judy Blume books. Hold hands and use phrases like "up your nose with a rubber hose." See how many songs people can remember from the "Saturday Night Fever" soundtrack.

And feel free to weep a little for the good old days. They won't be back again.

With any luck. — Brian McCuskey

Readers' Forum

Fee increase unfair to graduate students

To the editor:

It was particularly disturbing, although not surprising, to learn last week of the University's decision to increase student fees to purchase a telephonic registration system.

This news is disturbing for several reasons. First, I share the position adopted by some other graduate students that imposing a flat \$10-a-year fee is unfair. Contrary to the Nov. 9 editorial ("Share shorter lines, higher fees"), it has been my experience that very few graduate students use Woollen Gym to fix their schedules. Most graduate students know it's much easier to register or make scheduling changes within their departments. In fact, I've worked Woollen Gym for the math department before, and based on that experience, I'd say one out of every 50 students adding or dropping courses at Woollen is a graduate student. I seriously doubt that any of the DTH editors have ever worked drop-add at Woollen, and so

to suggest that graduate students significantly "exacerbate the chaos" of Woollen Gym by not pre-registering appears to have been pulled out of thin air.

Another and much stronger objection to the telephonic system is that the recent referendum on the issue failed to win approval. Why was this important fact conveniently ignored in the editorial? According to an earlier DTH report, since less than 10 percent of the student body voted in the referendum, the proposal failed. The justification for the 10 percent constraint is perfectly sound. It should be clear to any disinterested observer that a referendum rallying less than 10 percent of the voters has not gained the interest, or much less, the support of the people. Several flippant statements to the contrary made in the DTH by so-called student leaders and subsequent University actions indicate the powers-that-be in Student Government and the University adminis-

tration don't really care how a majority of the student body feels on this issue.

In addition, I'm somewhat puzzled by the lack of student outrage over these events, since UNC is reputed to be a very liberal university. That is, I thought that every principled liberal held as virtually sacred the public's right to honest and meaningful elections. Evidently, many students, including myself, misjudged this university when voting in the last student election.

I urge the University to reconsider the purchase of the telephonic registration system. If that is not practical, then a more equitable payment schedule should be used to take into account the special circumstances of graduate students.

FRED RICHARD
Graduate
Mathematics

Human rights multi-faceted

To the editor:

Thomas Jackson and Melissa Aduddell assert in their letter, "Protect rights of the unborn," (Nov. 10) that abortion is not a political, religious or women's issue, but strictly a human rights issue. That claim is utterly false.

Abortion is a political issue — witness strong pro-choice political lobbies and the repeated attempts by the Reagan administration to curtail spending for family planning organizations and to end legalized abortions.

Abortion is a religious issue — witness the Catholic Church's excommunication of members who perform or undergo an abortion.

Abortion is a woman's issue — it is a woman who must carry a fetus for nine months, bear the child and either choose to care for the child or give it up for adoption. Further, women represent more than half the population. Women's rights are human rights.

Jackson and Aduddell say that to decry human rights violations "while passively and quietly applauding (abortion) pushes to the extremes of hypocrisy." I wonder if they are working with child abuse prevention projects. Perhaps they have adopted several minority or handicapped children. What is an extreme of hypocrisy are those who claim to be such strong advocates of children by protecting the unborn and then turn their backs on these same children once they come into the world. Millions of children worldwide are born into horribly abusive, uncaring homes. Thousands are born with severe handicaps, rendering them unadoptable and uncared for. Beautiful minority babies are shuttled between orphanages and foster homes, lacking in parental love by virtue of the colors of their skins. As you read this, hundreds more are dying in disease, hunger and anguish, wondering why they ever had to live.

Human rights necessitate safe, legal abortions for women. Women will have abortions, regardless of the legality. Throughout history, women have given themselves abortions with knitting needles, coat hangers, butcher knives and lye douches. Not only did they destroy the potential for human life in the fetus, but they destroyed their lives as well. To



deny a woman her right to a safe abortion under sanitary conditions is to deny her human rights.

LISA BLIGHTON
Sophomore
Psychology

Winning isn't everything

Editor's note: The author is president of the UNC Young Democrats.

To the editor:

Jim Van Hecke, chairman of the state Democratic Party, recently attended a UNC Young Democrats meeting, where he candidly discussed Democratic campaign strategies for the upcoming election year. Garth Dunklin's letter "Democrats base party politics on winning" of Nov. 5 totally misconstrued and distorted the theme and purpose of his presentation.

Dunklin says that Van Hecke implies a three-step formula for putting Democratic candidates into office: Dwell on Republicans' past mistakes, avoid responsibility and "hope and pray for a weak, blameable or easily attackable (Republican) candidate." This ludicrous notion of a campaign strategy is not only short-sighted and ineffectual; it is morally bankrupt, and it is not what the leader of the Democratic Party in North Carolina advocates or even condones.

Van Hecke pointed out Democratic alternatives in domestic issues (i.e., welfare reform) and foreign policy concerns, including both a revised general attitude and

approach toward national security, and new policies on specific issues, such as U.S. involvement in Nicaragua.

Dunklin's letter suggests that Democratic candidates want to win solely for the purpose of getting into office. Any politician who takes this view of his job will not keep it for very long. Voters do not elect or reelect public officials of any party who have no new ideas to solve society's problems, or whose programs obviously do not work. Democrats want to win in 1988 because they do have new ideas, and they want to put them into action. The most innovative and effective solutions become completely worthless if no one takes the initiative and makes the effort to transform them into a reality.

SANDY RIERSON
Junior
Political Science/History
Program
needs work

To the editor:

Someone, obviously in a profound state of despair, once said that you can't have everything. That someone must have been a North Carolina football fan. Call me bitter, but I've had it. On countless football Saturdays for the past five years, I have felt an all-too-familiar, genuine hair-pulling, profanity-inducing emotion: frustration.

Maybe it's not that the football program here is so mediocre, but rather that all the other aspects of Chapel Hill life are too good. Consider the following: The faculty has been rated in a nationwide survey of

college deans as one of the 10 finest in the country; sports programs such as men's and women's soccer, field hockey, men's lacrosse, wrestling and others enjoy that same level of recognition in their respective polls; and finally, all one needs to do to appreciate the quality of Dean Smith's basketball program is to take a cruise down Manning Drive and see the multi-million dollar round-ball shrine built in his honor's honor.

There are those who would say my criticism is unjustified; that, after all, Dick Crum is the "winningest" coach in Carolina history. To those I answer: Look at the record. Carolina has not beaten a Top 20 opponent during the regular season since the Heels knocked off 13th-ranked Pittsburgh in September, 1979. Further, the combined record of the five opponents that Carolina has beaten this year is 13-31-1; you don't have to be a Marv Albert to figure out the quality of competition behind Crum's career win-loss record.

What really gets to me is not what is exhibited on the playing field, or what is reflected in the record books, but Crum's statements. For instance, he claims that he doesn't have to win a certain number of games to keep his job. He also says that winning key contests is not crucial to his remaining head coach. Based on those announcements, I find it difficult to understand what purpose he serves on the sideline.

GREGORY COURTER
Senior
Political Science

'Roaring weekend' upset patients

Editor's note: This is an occasional feature reprinting past Daily Tar Heel articles. The following editorial, from Nov. 3, 1937, shows that the issue of fraternity noise began long before last year's noise ordinance debate. The *Infirmary*, the predecessor to Student Health Service, was built in 1858.

Fraternity rollicking in the wee hours Sunday morning raided the perennial question of what are you going to do about the Infirmary's being located in such a din as it is, there between Swain Hall, the (Carolina) Inn, the main highway and the social hounds.

Administration authorities are pretty well agreed that moving the Infirmary is out of the question, that the proposed annex must be added to the present building, not to a still-unproposed new one.

The fraternity boys say they don't know what to do, say that they are not altogether responsible for the noise made by the alumni, visiting non-frat and other frat men who barge in upon them on such roaring weekends as the last one. And they add, in a sort of defense, that the University won't give them the electricity rates they

A Look Back Fraternity Noise

want.

You can grant much of the fraternity boys' position; and the Infirmary isn't in the world's best location, but nobody who made fuss last weekend ever once thought about the light bill and decided to wreak vengeance on the University by driving the pneumonia patients wild all night. It may be true that the light bill question is often used as a fraternity buffer when they are under fire, but they have been doing this all along, for years and years before the light rates were reduced 50 percent, and here a year since the Student Advisory committee pretty well disposed of the fraternity claims in the matter.

This is no slap at the fraternities for wanting things as cheaply as they can get them; we all want that. Fraternities would like to see their taxes abolished, too. But even so, their flaunting this in the face of the administration doesn't give them the free hand to do anything they so please.

Actually the discussion over last weekend's noise was a pretty well-entertained, cooperative, intelligent sort of thing, and the fraternity men seemed to leave with the idea that they would rather try to do something about the noise themselves rather than have anyone else come in and try it for them. This pleased the administration, although it knows the probability that the chapters will discuss the matter, and forget all about it until after Mid-Winters, or what have you.

The silver lining, whether it is true or not, is the attitude from the Infirmary officials that conditions are not intolerable all the time, that, even though the Infirmary cannot be moved, the situation isn't unbearable during the ordinary course of human events. These weekends are the only serious disturbances which spoil the doctors' work.

It would be a case for someone moving if the situation were absolutely intolerable all the time, during the week; that the matter is one which calls for vigilance only four or five times a year allows us all to hope that the frat men can watch it, or the sick patients stand it, which is asking a lot of the latter.

The Daily Tar Heel

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