

# The Daily Tar Heel

95th year of editorial freedom

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## Fordham sat out Crum affair

Addressing the NCAA convention last week, Chancellor Christopher Fordham spoke out strongly about values and sportsmanship in college athletics. While many of his points were valid, his speech lost much of its punch following the buyout of football coach Dick Crum.

Echoing sentiments he has expressed throughout his career, Fordham said sports are dictated by a distorted and confused sense of values. He pushed for freshman ineligibility and spoke of his concern over a growing lack of sportsmanship. He also said these distorted values are behind almost all of the economic considerations in college sports, and that this is a societal problem.

### board opinion

said prevented him from talking about personnel matters. This law, however, contains a clause allowing the head of a department to release any files or information, when the inspection of such a file is "essential to maintaining the integrity of such department." It would seem that Fordham could have asked athletic director John Swofford to do just that, since unsubstantiated speculation was obviously a threat to the integrity of both the department and the University.

But even if Fordham were unable to speak out at the time, he should be entirely able to do so now, since Crum is out and on his way to Kent State. Before he ends his term as chancellor, Fordham should tell his full story so this debacle does not drag on indefinitely.

As the head of the University, the chancellor should be more than capable of quelling such chaos and taking charge of the situation. If Fordham felt his hands were tied during the Crum affair, he should speak up — especially since a new chancellor is on the way, and needs a clearly defined role. The push for this clarification can come only from Fordham himself.

## Senators quash fair play

Across the nation a heated debate has been waging about a paragraph slipped into the 2,100-page, 30-pound Continuing Resolution passed by Congress and signed into law by President Reagan before Christmas. The main reason the paragraph has garnered so much attention is that it bears on the conflict between two public heavyweights: Sen. Edward Kennedy and media mogul Rupert Murdoch.

But the real issue is not the personalities of the two men. It is the gross state of the federal government in enacting laws, and it is, in this instance, an example of Congress' inefficiency allowing two men to set law for this country without debate.

can no longer waive the cross-ownership regulation. Now Murdoch must sell one news vehicle in both markets.

Certainly Murdoch is not the most sympathetic of victims. Few defend his style of journalism. But then Kennedy isn't the most honorable gentleman, either, with a past that includes cheating in college and Chappaquiddick.

Personality faults aside, Kennedy and Hollings pulled a political coup by flouting the ethics on which the government is based. They snuck the legislation into an omnibus spending bill which no one could read in its entirety before the year-end deadline and avoided a debate they would have lost.

They did this by enforcing the law — a bad law. The FCC had given Murdoch an extension on cross-ownership because the assumptions for the original law were no longer valid. When the prohibition was promulgated in 1975 there was greater opportunity for one media group to control all news outlets in a community. In today's world of satellite and cable this is no longer a worry.

In the words of New York mayor Ed Koch, Hollings and Kennedy mugged the city. They did it by exploiting the confused state of affairs that plagues the government at year's end — a state for which the two of them are very much responsible. — **Jon Rust**

Rupert Murdoch, a brash Australian who became an American citizen to buy newspapers and television stations at a rate that he was disallowed as a foreigner, owns a newspaper and television station in both Boston and New York City. This is supposed to be illegal under "cross-ownership" prohibitions. But the Federal Communications Commission had been permitting Murdoch to continue ownership.

And then Ted Kennedy stepped in. Kennedy doesn't like Murdoch much, especially since Murdoch's Boston Herald often refers to him as "fat boy." So, when no one was watching, he and Sen. Fritz Hollings wrote into the resolution that the FCC

## Readers' Forum

### Fraud infects society at all levels

Jon Rust  
 Editorial Writer

Like a lifeline, a strand of nouns, adjectives and a verb are tossed in the air. It is a tired phrase already. And classes have just begun. "How was your break?" A month ago the same thought was behind the salutations from those at home. Only then the focus was schools, small college towns or urban campuses, parties and the sexes.

The words are used in an attempt to connect separate realities — school life and home life — that coordinate in the individual consciousness. But outside of me and you the view is never whole. Lives retold are severed bits, foreign even to the speaker. And so the answer about my vacation, your vacation, can only hint at what has happened. Yet to be friends, to know each other, to understand the bonds between us of values and ideas, we must ask. And try to answer.

The problem is that the question is rarely uttered as to actually want an answer. Already we are too busy, and a mere response, "was a blast, super, relaxing," will do fine it seems. If more is offered the eyes, bright with friendly recognition at first, soon wander from the tales. The episode is uncovered. It is between dim acquaintances on different paths to success, who have forgotten or never known who the other person is, grabbing for words not as meaning but as symbols.

Trite words hold too many of us up. We pass the time in a social, verbal treading of water, taking rests against the line as needed, until moving on. I do not wish to advocate that we dismiss the line; only, that until we let it loose will we be able to take the plunge into friendship. It can be a scary dive. And a worthy goal for a new year.

There are other worthy goals for this new year, and I have heard friends tell of keeping up to date with their textbook reading, attending class and being more frugal. Others talk about writing a book. And then, the most ambitious one, perhaps, is the resolution to find one's self and focus on a career plan. For seniors this is a more immediate undertaking than for the rest of us. But we are all battling with the future's uncertainty in our own ways, trying to determine terms of success.

One way not to find success was displayed last week by David Bloom, a 1983 Duke graduate. At the beginning of the week Bloom was on top of the world, a success in almost everyone's eyes. Indeed, he seemed to have it all: a Manhattan condominium, a Long Island beach house, a Mercedes-Benz, an Aston Martin convertible, pearl, diamond and platinum necklaces.

Bloom also had art — roomfuls of art worth nearly \$5 million. And his \$1 million pledge in November to set up an endowment for Duke's art museum had made him the toast of his alma mater.

But last week David Bloom was arrested for fraud. His bank accounts were frozen. His reputation shattered.

The story is that he set himself up as a self-proclaimed money manager in Manhattan, convinced people to invest in his business savvy to the tune of \$10

million, falsified a couple records and then treated himself to a materialistic smorgasbord. His true love, art appreciation, led him to donate to Duke. But it was the obsession with being deemed successful by those around him that ultimately ruled everything he did.

Now that the bogus means Bloom employed to gather wealth have been illuminated his friends have become hard to find. Duke alumni whom he once associated with are quick to point out the years past and the distance between them. And they stress that Bloom was not really one of them.

In the words of one, a past president of the Duke fraternity whose members wore the right clothes, drove the right cars and were seen in the right company, "He wanted to live this lifestyle that wasn't really his. You can't be something you're not. I think people can see through that."

Yes, Bloom was vain. But the horror of it all is that the life he was aspiring to is the life of many. Bloom lost sight of those he was cheating to amass money. He was found out. Most are not. They play their games thinking that they are in, not hurting anyone, preening their egos, and living with false symbols.

It's convenient for bystanders to say that Bloom didn't make it, that he was a fraud in every way. But Bloom did make it. For a while he was the king. How disillusioning to think his material accomplishments are the symbols that our society values! And now that they have evaporated, society hopes that he will, too.

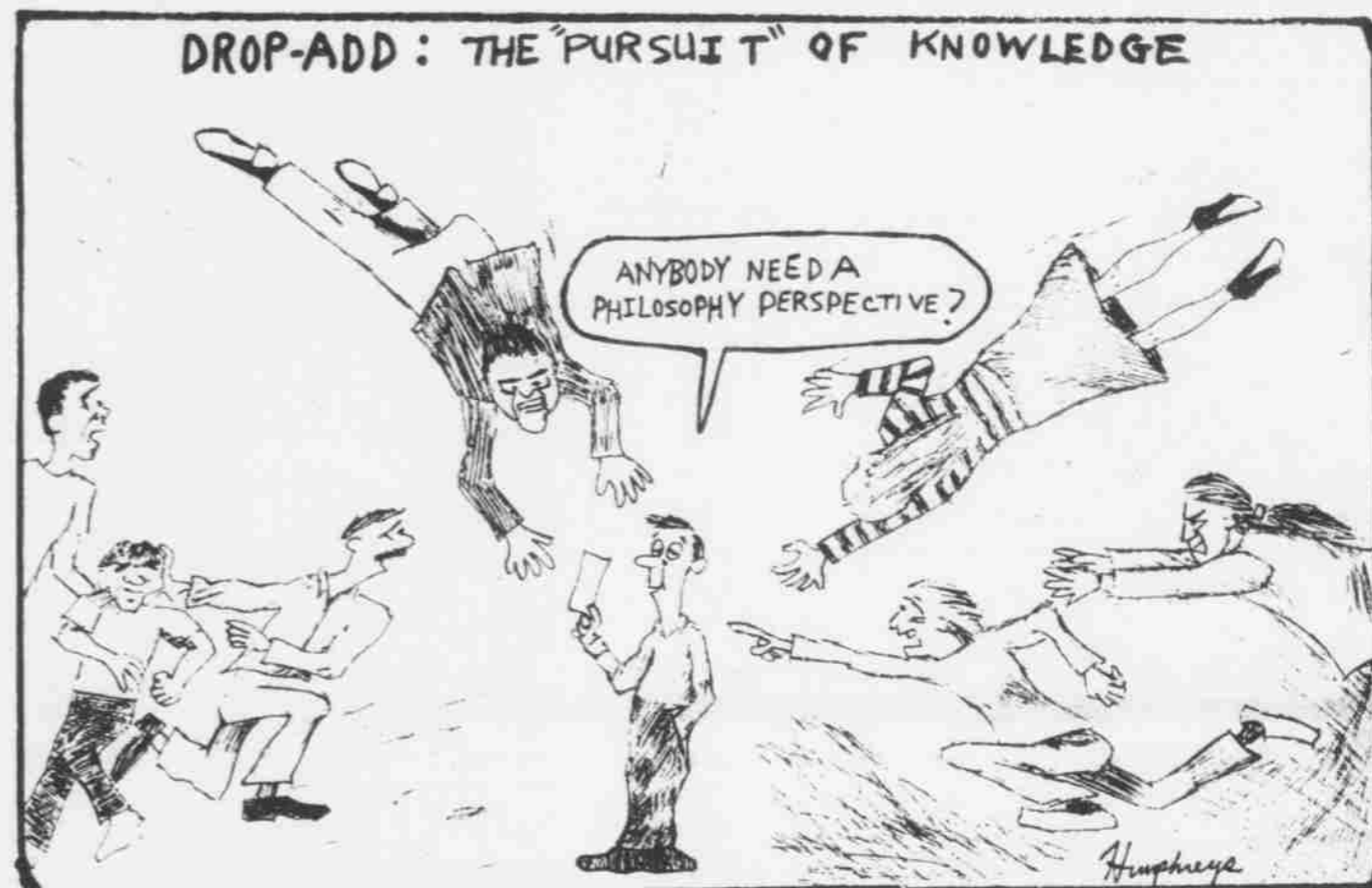
Jon Rust is a sophomore English major from Cape Girardeau, Mo.

### Activism begins at home

To the editor:  
 It saddened me to find Dale McKinley's picture on the front page of the Jan. 15 DTH celebrating either his "small victory" or his winning "in a big way," depending on which quote you choose in the story or how firm a grasp you have on reality. A victory? For whom? Over what? Did the CIA stop its clandestine activities? Is there a sudden severe shortage of manpower at the CIA? Has anyone's view of the CIA been changed? Has anything been accomplished?

I've been told that even if nothing were accomplished (and I've yet to encounter anyone who can show me something was), at least it was a moral victory. The CIA has been violating laws all over the world and causing untold numbers of people to suffer. If you confront the CIA and demand an explanation you will be told simply that it is permissible to break a law in order to prevent a greater crime, such as a country falling under a repressive dictatorship, turning communist, freeing itself from dependence on the United States, etc. When Dale McKinley appeared before District Court to explain why he broke the law, he successfully argued that it is permissible to break a law in order to prevent a greater crime, such as the CIA breaking laws in order to prevent a greater crime. Moral victory? At best, you can't tell the players apart, and at worst this "small victory" is a justification of the kind of fuzzy ethical thinking in which the CIA indulges.

The bitter irony in all this is



that our heroic protesters' commitment to the side of angels increases as their distance from the problem increases, and the likelihood of their making any meaningful contribution decreases. There is a score of local problems — illiterate adults, battered and abused children, people freezing to death on the streets — where active student involvement can make a measurable difference. Of course involvement would require more than chanting between classes to chant catchy slogans, and even worse, would require giving up the cheap publicity stunts. As the trend in campus activism can be characterized by the "victory" of style over substance, I doubt that will happen.

KEITH COCHRAN  
 Senior RTVMP

### Editorial lost in space

To the editor:  
 In reference to Jill Gerber's editorial of Jan. 13, "Put '80s in perspective," I sincerely question her qualifications to comment on the decade of the 1960s, since she apparently does not realize that the first manned lunar landing, Apollo 11, was July 20, 1969 — not "late '68" as the editorial claimed. The Christmas 1968 flight of Apollo 8, the first venture of humanity beyond Earth orbit, is also an important event in space history, and it may be that she confused the two.

I understand that she is probably one of the people she mentions without "any memory of the '60s at all." That gives her every reason to refer to a history book.

I also suggest that misleading hyperbole like "the single tri-

umph of a dark year for mankind" be avoided in future editorials. The Apollo program was a glorious achievement for humanity (one we have since thrown away, sadly), but scarcely the only positive activity of 1969 (or 1968, as she has it!).

JONATHAN LEECH  
 Graduate Computer Science

### Letters policy

■ All letters must be typed, double-spaced on a 60-space line, for ease of editing. A maximum of 250 words is optimal.

■ When submitting letters or columns, students should include the following: name, year in school, major, phone number and the date submitted.

## Fraternities' efforts deserve recognition

Editor's note: The author is president of the Inter-fraternity Council.

To the editor:  
 The Greek system has increasingly fallen prey to the censure of The Daily Tar Heel over the course of this school year. The bulk of these criticisms have fallen into four major categories: fraternity housing conditions, gambling, hazing and rape. Although the accusations made may contain some element of credibility, much of the reporting has been sensationalized and one-sided.

The condemnation of 12 fraternity houses has proved to be popular with the press since it was first reported in August. In fact, the fraternity condemnations are such newsworthy items that the DTH has insisted on recapitulating the same trite account for six months after the fact. Perhaps a more germane issue would be the tremendous amount of money and effort that fraternity members have devoted to the repair and renovation of their houses that have fallen into disrepair over years of use.

Gambling is a problem that has existed for years in the University community and has recently become a hot issue in the news due to the ongoing investigation by authorities into alleged student-run book-making operations. Although gambling

may be a serious problem that needs to be dealt with, it is ludicrous to characterize fraternity members as the sole orchestrators of some sinister gambling ring, as recent DTH articles suggest.

Hazing has existed at UNC longer than fraternities have. Although it is strictly forbidden by most fraternities' national charters, as well as by state law, some fraternities continue to practice hazing during the course of the pledge education period. Contrary to popular belief, the ongoing trend in the Greek system is to phase out hazing in all of its forms. Groups such as the IFC are acutely aware of the hazing problem and are working with the presidents of the fraternities to educate members and make them aware of the possible consequences of their actions.

Rape is a tragic crime that has, unfortunately, been committed on this campus a number of times over the years. The recent arraignment of two students charged with second-degree rape of an unknown female student has received a lot of publicity. The DTH seems to have tried the case already and found the fraternity system guilty! From the very first report, the DTH has emphasized the accused individuals' fraternal affiliation as if it may have played some role in the alleged crime. As if that is not enough, the paper has also been compelled to focus on the rape

charges in subsequent articles concerning the fraternity system. Whether or not the defendants will be found guilty is for the courts to decide. Fraternities themselves, however, should not be implicated in the process.

Finally, in all of its eagerness to report the shortcomings of the fraternity system, the DTH has overlooked the contributions that fraternity members make to the University and to the community. Members make significant contributions to many campus organizations and also constitute a large percentage of the volunteers for such causes as the Big Buddy program and coaching local youth athletic teams, not to mention the thousands of dollars which they have raised over the years for various charities. The good will of many fraternity members often continues even after graduation in the form of contributions to the University. A major source of alumni contributions has traditionally been former fraternity members.

Speaking on behalf of the IFC and the many fraternity members who have grown tired of the DTH's mistreatment, I invite you to spend more time looking at both sides of the coin in the future.

BRENT MILGROM  
 Junior Economics

### The Daily Tar Heel

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