

The Daily Tar Heel

96th year of editorial freedom

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Closed rape hearings needed

No one knows exactly how many sexual assaults occur each month — on this campus or any other. Campus police say only one to three rapes are reported each year. And only nine rapes were reported to Chapel Hill police in 1987.

But a campus survey conducted by the UNC School of Journalism shows that one of every seven women is raped during her college years. That means an average of 450 rapes occur on this campus each year. These numbers indicate that the vast majority of sexual assaults, especially cases of date/acquaintance rape, are never reported.

In an effort to encourage victims to report rapes, students and faculty are trying to secure private student court trials for rape victims.

The proposed changes to the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance — the document that governs the student judicial system — would guarantee closed hearings for sexual assault victims. Victims would also be permitted to have a "personal supporter" present during all hearings, since they often suffer emotional stress, flashbacks or breakdowns during testimony.

Student Congress approved the proposals Wednesday night, and they now must be approved by the Faculty Council and the chancellor.

Under the present student court rules, a defendant on trial may request an open hearing. In a hypothetical sexual assault case, if the chair of the Honor Court allowed an open hearing,

the victim would be forced to give testimony in front of anyone who chose to attend. However unlikely that scenario may be, it could be keeping victims silent.

Newly-appointed Student Attorney General David Fountain and Bob Loggenbaard, deputy chairman of the Health Policy and Administration Department, have spearheaded the drive to amend the student court rules.

Their proposal is directed at the incidence of date-rape. Victims are less likely to report rapes if they know they would have to stand trial in a public hearing. Particularly in cases when the victim knows the assailant, she may not want the assailant to face prison.

By guaranteeing confidentiality to victims, Fountain and Loggenbaard hope to accommodate students "who wish some recourse, in a setting which is not open to the public, (where they) can make their point with the support of the University community." Also, possible offenders may be less likely to commit assaults if they can expect their would-be victims to report them.

Fountain, Loggenbaard and those who have helped them should be commended for their efforts. Sexual assault is a destructive crime, one that occurs far too often on this campus. Guaranteeing closed hearings sends a message to would-be assailants that they are more likely to be prosecuted. It also reassures victims that the University will support their efforts to fight back against this violent crime. — **Stuart Hathaway**

Leave P/F option open to all

As students pore over the fall 1988 class schedules and scribble potential schedules in their notebooks, the Faculty Council's Educational Policy Committee has recommended changes in the target grade proposal for the pass/fail system.

Under the latest proposal, students would still select target grades; if a student earns the target grade or higher, the grade earned would be recorded with a special notation — such as "P/A" or "P/B" — on the student's transcript. If they don't earn those grades, they would receive the traditional "P" or "F."

Receiving credit for good grades without risking bad ones is a student's dream come true, but the original proposal made things a bit too easy. Encouraging students to register for courses they would otherwise avoid is one thing; allowing them to receive the same grades as students who are putting themselves under more pressure is another.

The new proposal refutes the "you can't have your cake and eat it too" argument. Students can still set target grades, but their transcripts will note that those grades were received in pass/fail courses. Thus, they have incentive to do well in such courses, but aren't given an unfair advantage over students who take courses for regular letter grades.

Under the new plan, students must carry 12 academic hours for regular letter grades to qualify for the pass/fail option. The committee recommends that exceptions be granted only for seniors in their last semester.

It makes sense to prevent a student from taking four pass/fail courses at once and ending up with four "P/A's." However, the proposal would keep a substantial number of students from taking courses pass/fail. In fall 1987, more than 40 percent of students taking a course pass/fail registered for less than 12 hours of regular grades, according to the committee's report.

The committee doesn't consider a course-load "full" unless it includes at least 12 hours for regular letter grades. However, circumstances vary greatly from student to student. A student involved in extra-curricular activities or working to pay for school is carrying a full load with 12 hours — even if three of those hours are declared pass/fail.

The committee members should not eliminate pass/fail as an option for students who don't meet the 12-hour requirement. These students should be allowed to declare courses pass/fail without setting target grades. This would permit them to experiment academically without jeopardizing their grade point averages. — **Jean Lutes**

Clip-n-Save

The coming of spring brings birds singing anew in the fresh gentle breeze; blossoms peeking through their bright green buds; the smell of an earth reborn in the timeless splendor of the seasons; and another semester of superficial banter and suppressed urges to do serious physical harm to your beloved roommate.

By now, the treasured relationship you and your roommate have nurtured is wearing quite thin. How thin? As thin as you would be if you were left in Lenoir for lunch with only \$10. What can you do? Add some spice to that relationship with one or any number of the following delightful pranks. So, without further ado, from the home office in Bughill, N.C., the Top 10 Stupid Roommate Tricks for 1988:

10. Use your roommate's student ID to check out library books and don't return them, leaving him/her unable to pre-register due to library fines.

9. Wrap your roommate in wet toilet

paper during the night.

8. Place a personal to your roomie from a "hot, hungry babe/stud" that tells him/her to meet at the Old Well wearing only a blue ribbon.

7. Tie-dye his/her underwear.

6. Call your roommate's parents and tell them that you're from the Registrar's Office and that their child is in serious academic trouble. Then, leave a message telling your roomie to call home.

5. Replace your roomie's shampoo with hydrogen peroxide.

4. Leave a batch of Ex-Lax-chip cookies out while you're gone.

3. Order pizzas for Hinton James — the whole dorm — using your roommate's name.

2. Write in your roomie for your district's Student Congress seat.

1. Put vodka in your roomie's contact lens solution.

War or graham crackers: an easy call

Most of my childhood experiences have been lost to time, the once-sharp edges of specific adventures blurred into a memory of use-to-do's. I remember kickball, the sweet smell of two-by-fours and the tetanus shots that went into our clubhouse, and morning swims in a pool freshly sprinkled with crabapples. Above all, I remember the neighborhood's terrain, vague and complete in my mind like the painter's first color wash on the canvas. I see myself with friends playing army-like games of search and destroy, and capture the flag.

But in the color wash, a dozen or so moments stand out with compelling clarity. In one of these moments, I am four years old and in kindergarten. I sit at a veneer-topped table with three friends, all of us in minuscule wooden chairs. We are sharing an afternoon snack of graham crackers, which we are eating off brown paper towels. We also have juice.

As I break my graham cracker in half along the perforated line, we begin talking about the war, and the cracker breaks unevenly. The war is Vietnam and, since my protective parents prevent me from watching the news clips, I know it only as an everpresent, foreboding darkness that threatens my colorful wash of childhood. One voice asks if we will have to fight. Another says no, the war will be over by the time we are old enough. The last voice says, knowingly, that we will have our own war to fight when we get older.

Though I cannot honestly say which of these voices was mine — I wager the second — the scene itself has stuck with me and, like all such memories, become a point of self-definition frequently recalled, chewed like cud until it is finally digested and its essence absorbed. Here in this moment, in calamitous conflict with the wondrous pleasure of the graham cracker, I tasted gnawing fear and the foul-smelling breath of war.

Large for my age at four years old, I ruled the playground and took a great but

Louis Corrigan From the Womb

friendly pleasure in swinging other boys around like a windmill. No doubt it was my utter confidence in my physical strength and agility that caused this sudden realization of war to strike me so forcefully. I enjoyed my life so much that I could not bear the thought of combat, of encountering a force that could easily destroy me.

I come to these thoughts by way of two recent events: President Reagan's ordering 3,500 American troops to Honduras and a recent Rolling Stone survey of the baby boom generation.

Since registering for the draft four years ago, I have faced the fact that there is no possible situation that would compel me to fight for my country. I will fight with my lover, my friends and my parents, but I simply won't fight for a foreign policy conceived in idiocy and executed with profound indifference for the civilized values I do my best to maintain.

If a thief entered my home, I'd throw a paperweight at his head and clobber him with a wine bottle. If Chapel Hill were attacked by blue demons or State students wielding pitchforks, I would empty my bookcase to build a bunker and contribute my futo to the barricade on Franklin Street. If the Mexicans invaded Texas, I'd write a clever letter to their president asking if he planned to finance the war with American bank loans.

Seriously, the domino theory about Central America has done as much good as has funding the contras in their ridiculous attempt to oust the popularly-backed Sandinista government. After all, the last genuine threat to American soil came 25 years ago with the Cuban Missile Crisis. With significant reforms under way

in both the Soviet Union and China, our nation is more secure than in recent memory. Despite uncertainty in economic markets, the nation is still enjoying its longest peacetime economic expansion ever. Global economic interdependence, if viewed properly, can serve as a source of good will, rather than a cause for protectionism. And we would enjoy this security, were it not for the peculiar wisdom of foreign affairs that suggests America must make symbolic gestures that irritate foreigners and U.S. citizens alike to protect so-called national interests. (Greenpeace, by the way, reports that Middle East oil costs \$170 rather than \$17 a barrel if U.S. military costs incurred there are included. That money would do wonders for the Texas economy.)

To my pleasant surprise, Rolling Stone's recent poll found that 27 percent of the men surveyed could not think of any situation that would lead them to enlist in the military. Only about 20 percent would enlist to keep a Third World country from falling to the communists or to protect America's strategic interests. Two-thirds of male baby boomers would sit out an attack on a close European ally. Only in the case of war in Mexico or Canada would a majority (73 percent) enlist in the cause.

Such numbers illustrate continued repercussions from the Vietnam War and the prevailing anti-interventionist sentiment. Yet, Reagan's decision last week highlights the continued failure of American leadership. If the lack of popular support for the Vietnam War was so crucial to American military failure, why does Reagan insist on a Central American policy the American people so oppose?

If Nicaragua is the issue, I'll stay home and eat graham crackers with the growing number of my non-interventionist compatriots.

Louis Corrigan is an Evening College student from Atlanta, Ga.

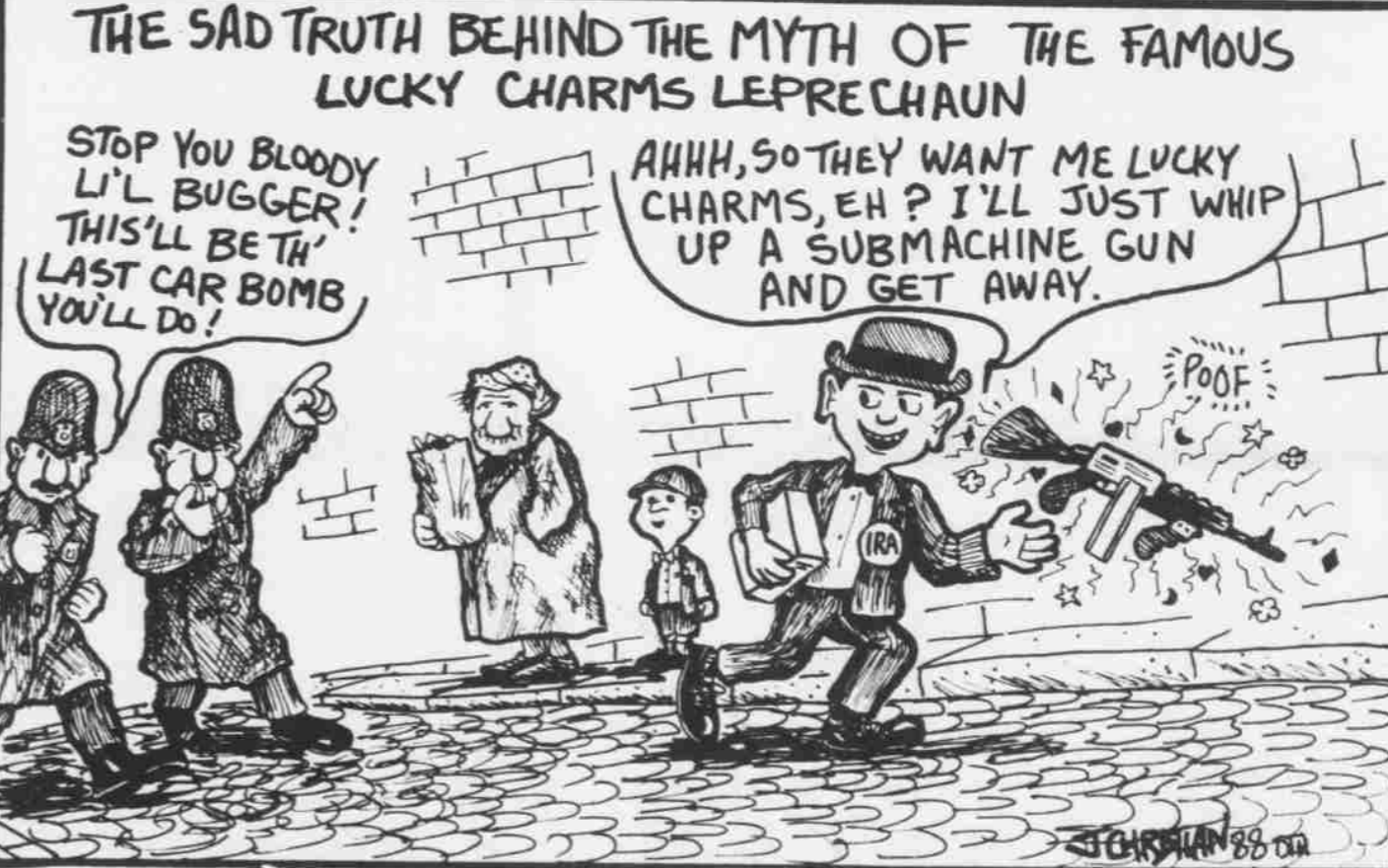
Readers' Forum

No longer Eden for minorities

To the editor:
 The Alma Mater of our great University glorifies Carolina — UNC, that wonderful, priceless gem whose luster and brilliance is incomparable. Our University is, in effect, paradise: the "Southernmost part of heaven," as it is called by both those who have left its ivy-covered walls and by those who wish to breach them.

And yet, there lurks within our University an apathy that subtly biases our illustrious administration against its minority population. This apathy, personified in the administration's refusal to listen to minority students' concerns over the Office of Student Counseling, renders UNC a paradise lost. The minority population has been quietly expelled from the marvelous paradise enjoyed by their non-minority counterparts. Unless this indifference toward and failure to hear the minorities is curbed, and curbed soon, Carolina, "the brightest star of all," will rapidly diminish to nothing more than a dying ember, and the beautiful Alma Mater will be a simple lie.

WILLIAM JOHNSON
 Junior
 Political Science



Just a laughing matter

To the editor:
 I am writing in response to Danielle Nieman's letter of March 22. The Israeli problem she points out is one of media coverage, but the same case can be made about South Africa. The majority of the apartheid problems are confined to the black "nations," with the rest of the land being fairly "civilized." However, the press is always looking for wars, murders, beatings and other such things to hold the mindless populace in thrall. Anyway, what could all the

bleeding-heart liberals complain about if the press portrayed an accurate and unbiased picture of life in these countries? No more anti-apartheid screaming, no more anti-CIA frenzies and no more "Kiss-ins." How depressing that would be for those individuals who have nothing better to do than complain about problems in other peoples' countries.

That's another thing: why are they getting so steamed about a country that they have never been to, will never go to and probably would never want to live in anyway? I have formed a theory that it is just the "in"

thing to do nowadays — like add-a-beads and driving your Mom's BMW. How would they feel if another country formed fanatical student groups protesting the "Great Satan" of the United States while burning American flags in the street? They would do exactly what everyone does when they see Iranian students — they'd laugh.

Come to think about it, if you listen to the countries these protestors attack, you can hear them laughing. I know I am.

RICHARD POLLARD
 Medical Student

Sinners shouldn't stone Swaggart

Michael Andrews Guest Writer

In response to the March 16 letter, "Up in arms about hypocrisy," I address Smyth and Hooper.

Gentlemen, first you say that it is not Jimmy Swaggart's sin that the world is "up in arms" about, only his hypocrisy. You are incorrect in two senses. I am a Christian, and unfortunately I know many people who have rejected Christ. Many of my non-Christian friends and family are upset simply because of the fact of Jimmy Swaggart's sexual immorality. Secondly, hypocrisy is a sin — it would behoove you to look into the 23rd chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. The entire passage is not quite a page long, yet you will find that Christ specifically condemns the hypocrisy of men six times. Christ saw hypocrisy as a sin before this "nation," or, as you would say, "anyone with morals" was outraged by Jimmy Swaggart's sin.

You say that "only Christians are outraged that Swaggart was with a prostitute." Gentlemen, the Christians that you refer to are simply being hypocrites themselves. To see a fallen Brother in Christ, and not have mercy for him, is a sin of omission; likewise, by acting as if they have never sinned, these Christians are committing the sin of hypocrisy. To verify this, read the 23rd verse of the passage already mentioned. You will see that Christ castigates men who are without mercy. Also see 2 Corinthians 2: 5-11, in which the apostle Paul writes that we should forgive and comfort those struggling with sin. One final point about "outraged Christians": some people are

very religious, and some people talk about their own righteousness, but this does not mean that these people have made Christ their Lord. I am simply saying that anyone can talk Christ — even those that do not know Him.

In your third paragraph, you say that because of his character flaws, the public can no longer trust Swaggart in a position of power. Gentlemen, when did "the public" ever trust in Jimmy Swaggart? More importantly, when did Jimmy Swaggart ever say, "Trust in me?" Jimmy Swaggart's ministry has not been without flaw. By no means, he is just a man and, therefore, is not perfect. But gentlemen, if the "public," as you say, had trusted in Swaggart — and by that I mean trusted in the fact that what he is professing is the Truth — then the same "public" would know what Christ is all about: love, grace and mercy. So once again you incorporate a false premise. The public never did trust Swaggart; if they had, they would not have put faith in him, but in Jesus Christ, who is perfect. Putting faith in Christ, the public would have applied to this situation one of the teachings of Christ. It is found in the Gospel of John. The Lord is speaking to a group of hypocrites with high rank in the Jewish community (they are called

Pharisees). These hypocrites are about to murder a woman for committing the sin of adultery (a sin of sexual immorality). This is what the Lord says: "If any of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her" (John 8:7). In pointing fingers at Swaggart hypocrisy, are you not guilty of the same? For who on this earth has never sinned? Who has never been a hypocrite? Not you, gentlemen, and certainly not I. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

You men are paragons of pride and hypocrisy; you stand in proud judgment of Swaggart while one who is greater than you righteously judges you for your own hypocrisy. Ultimately, gentlemen, you are guilty of the greatest hypocrisy ever to exist; you propagate ignorance within yourselves and others. You totally reject the one who came to this world, lived a perfect, holy, sinless life and then died that we, I and you, could have Life through faith in Him and Him alone; not by trusting in ourselves, for we are all sinful. Jesus Christ lived a perfect life in this world and is perfect on his throne in Heaven — trust and faith in Him are well-founded. Rather than judge men by your own faulty means, I challenge you both to disregard your ill-begotten concern with Jimmy Swaggart and learn the Truth of Jesus Christ. His is the only perfect standard.

Michael Andrews is a sophomore English major from Matthews.