

The Daily Tar Heel

96th year of editorial freedom

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Dial-A-Knight in shining armor

Knights in shining armor don't need to be named Arthur or Lancelot any more. Some truly chivalrous people are on this campus even now. They are the SAFE Escort service volunteers.

Everyone likes to feel safe and secure — unfortunately, women (and sometimes men) do not feel secure walking across the UNC campus alone at night. In light of past attacks on campus and the very recent rapes at Duke University, SAFE escorts are really needed.

The SAFE system is also convenient. With a single phone call, students on campus can quickly be met by a volunteer who will accompany them to their destinations — dorms, cars or wherever. The number is not hard to remember: 962-SAFE.

The operation is running fairly smoothly this year. Al Calarco, associate director of the Department of University Housing, said new SAFE director Bill Craver, a sophomore, brings much energy and dedication to the office. Craver wants to make the service the best it can be.

But Craver has said the program needs more publicity, and he has suggested changing the name of the service — to RAPE.

The acronym RAPE (Rape and Assault Prevention Escort) was the name when the service was first established in 1980. It was changed, however, because of the obvious

negative connotations. Craver has said participation has not been as great as before the acronym was changed to SAFE (Students Averting Frightening Encounters).

Why Craver thinks changing the name yet again would relieve confusion is confusing in itself. And what would make the word RAPE any less offensive to potential callers now? RAPE escort makes it sound like the caller wants to be accompanied to a rape!

If the problem lies in publicity and awareness, then publicize. Plaster the phone number not only next to the doors of the libraries, but on courtesy phones all over campus — in the Union, in classroom buildings, residence halls, cafeterias, everywhere. Put it on the front of next year's student directory. Etch it into the memory of every freshman and junior transfer during orientation.

But don't change the name; that would mean changing the phone number and the posters already up on campus and contributing to the confusion surrounding a very worthwhile program.

The key to making our community safer is prevention. Prevention can be accomplished by making everyone aware of the services available and encouraging them to use them — not by changing what those services are called. — Sandy Dimsdale

Revitalization — at a price

It's a rare thing for citizens to approach government officials and ask for a tax hike. However, that's exactly what members of the Downtown Commission, a branch of the Public-Private Partnership dedicated to improving the downtown economy, has done.

The Chapel Hill Town Council and the Carrboro Board of Aldermen are considering the commission's proposal, which would levy a new tax on businesses by establishing a special service district in downtown Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Revenue from the tax, which the commission estimated at about \$65,000 yearly, would be used to operate a free trolley to run between both areas and other downtown revitalization programs.

Commission leaders have said downtown merchants support the plan; they projected the cost for the average downtown business at between \$10 and \$15 a month. However, some Chapel Hill Town Council members have expressed concern that small businesses oppose the plan, and others said the tax could cost some businesses much more than the commission's figures show.

The commission, which includes representatives of the Chapel Hill Town Council, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and merchants from both towns, wants to use the extra revenue

to spark more interest in downtown areas. If the group succeeds, all businesses could end up gaining much more than they lose from paying the extra taxes.

But if officials aren't careful, the extra tax could spell trouble for small businesses already struggling to cope with spiraling rent and declining patronage. Forcing businesses to pay even more money for the privilege of operating downtown could push them away from the downtown area, producing the exact opposite of the commission's goal.

And Chapel Hill Mayor Jonathan Howes brought up another important point at the council meeting this week. He asked if the tax proposal would require an arrangement between Chapel Hill and Carrboro governments. Although Joe Hakan, commission president, said he hadn't planned for such an arrangement, it's obvious that the tax won't be effective unless both Chapel Hill and Carrboro choose to impose it. Making merchants in only one area pay the extra tax would hardly be equitable.

This plan deserves serious consideration, but officials should make sure the tax will be fair to everyone. And the revenues should be used to benefit all merchants equally, from the well-established, profitable ones to the new kids on the block. — Jean Lutes

Wednesday's guide to graphic seduction

Scene: An old fraternity house foyer during an all-campus party. The floors and walls reek of the tantalizing combination of beer and urine, and the glass in the windows is broken and jagged, screaming for some unsuspecting drunk freshman rushee to stumble and administer himself a sloppy prefrontal lobotomy. Two players, James and Sarah, stand apart from the crowd, under an "Exit" sign sloppily erected to appease the wrath of the Fire Marshal. James wears khaki pants and the sweater from a highly prestigious and expensive preparatory high school. Sarah wears a colorful pullover and a little too much eyeliner.

James: What's up? My name's James.
 Sarah: (smiles) I'm Sarah. I think you're in my psych class.

J: You are. I've sat behind you for about three weeks now.

S: Are you serious? I'm so sorry I've never said hello to you. Where are you from?

J: Outside Philadelphia. How about you?

S: Wilkesboro. It's near Boone. You know where that is?

J: In North Carolina.

S: Yes, I'm an in-stater. And I'm not even in a sorority. Can you handle it?

J: I'll do my best. Perhaps I should hire a translator.

S: You're pretty sarcastic, aren't you? Is that a prerequisite for you fratboys?

J: It's a prerequisite for life around here, dear . . . In order to have any kind of romantic success, you've got to have a caustic and bitter attitude about these frat functions, yet attend every last one of them religiously.

S: Well at least you're being honest.

J: I'll be completely honest. I'm trying to seduce you right now.

S: Excuse me?

J: Basically, the whole point of our conversation is based on the unspoken agreement that we may end up being physical with each other pretty soon. Why do you think all these people are here?

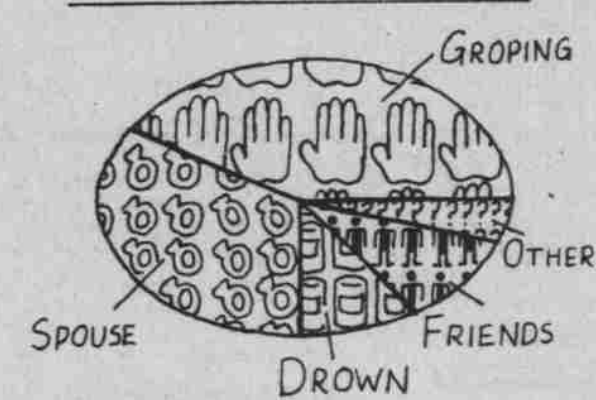
S: I'm . . . I'm not real sure.

(James pulls out a large posterboard graph and sets it on the frat composite easel.)

S: What the hell is that?

J: It's a pie graph. It shows what all these people are doing here (takes out long wooden pointer). Forty percent are interested in a meaningless mutual groping session, 35 percent hope to find their eventual spouse on the stairwell, and 10

WHY ARE WE HERE?



percent either want to drown their sorrows or bond with their same-gender friends.
 S: Where on earth did you get that stupid graph?

J: It didn't take a lot of research. Actually, most of this stuff is fairly self-evident.

S: So?

J: So I figure you have a 75 percent chance of ending up with me tonight, in varying degrees of meaningfulness.

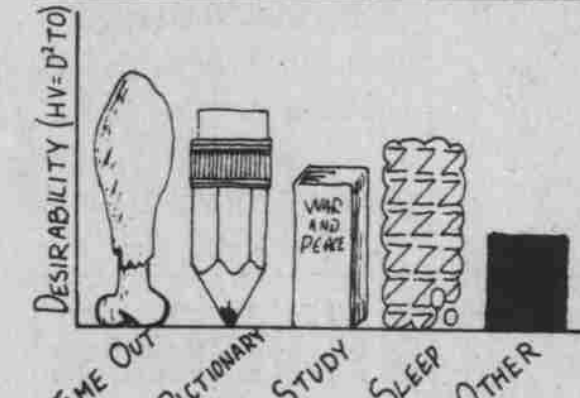
S: I can't believe you're telling me this stuff. Believe me, I've got plenty of better things to do than grope or husband-shop, especially in this condemned urine hut.

J: You actually haven't got anything a whole lot better to do.

S: What do you mean?

(James pulls out another posterboard.)

WHAT ELSE COULD YOU DO?



J: Here are the major choices. You could go to Time Out and caker your arteries with saturated fats, you could go back to the dorm and play Pictionary with the gals . . . You could hop on your bed and read 70 pages of your Quantitative Chemical Analysis textbook, then slip under the covers and sleep, alone and silent — or else you could "other."

S: What do you mean, "other"?

J: You know, alone — it's only natural.

S: (suddenly horrified) Oh my god! I'll have

you know I have never "othered" in my life!

J: Nonetheless, I'm much better company than Billy at Time Out or your chemistry homework.

S: I'm not so sure. In fact, this may be the worst conversation I've ever had.

J: You want me to be upright and honest, so here I am. I even have visual aids.

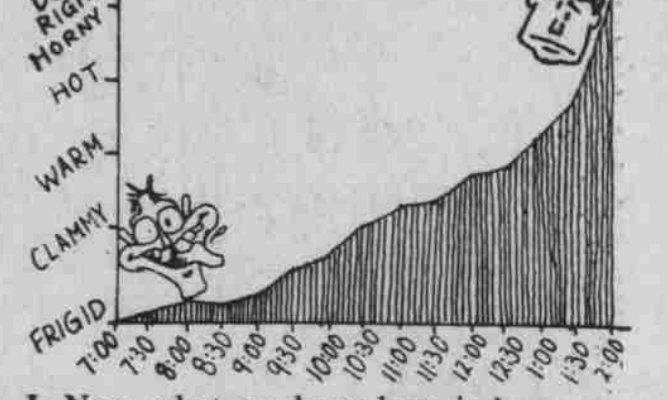
S: And you still expect me to go home with you tonight?

J: Well, statistically, by now you should be fairly attracted to me.

S: I suppose you have a graph for this too.

(James pulls out another posterboard.)

AROUSAL CHART



J: Now what we have here is known as "Closing Time Syndrome;" the later it gets, the lower the requirements for a partner become.

S: Oh, cute drawings. And I suppose I'm "downright horny?"

J: No, it's only 12:30.

S: So I'm merely warm.

J: Well, these descriptions are pretty non-scientific. So what do you think?

S: Let me tell you, James — you've got a real nose for research, and I appreciate you being so up front and honest with me — but I have to say I find you the most insensitive, egocentric, boneheaded cheese-dog fratboy I have ever had the misfortune to be trapped into talking to.

J: (pauses) I see. Well, I'm going upstairs now. Are you coming with me? (extends his hand to hers)

S: (sighs in defeat) Promise me you'll burn those damn graphs?

(They intertwine fingers and slowly disappear into the crowd. Exeunt.)

Ian Williams is a music and psychology major from Los Angeles who occasionally takes these trips to Happy Fantasyland.

Election Forum

Endorsements for RHA candidates

Liz Jackson

To the editor:
 It takes a special talent to work for the Residence Hall Association. Some call it craziness, but I would like to call it the three E's: energy, enthusiasm and experience. The three E's are hard to come by, but this year's RHA candidate Liz Jackson has them.

Liz has the energy to make sure RHA represents your concerns. She wants to make sure your voice is heard on the Traffic and Parking Advisory Committee and on the Building and Grounds Committee. She wants to involve the Black Student Movement with the RHA Governing Board to make sure minority concerns are not only heard but confronted. Liz also has the energy to speak with your voice in housing department policy and budget decisions.

Liz also has the enthusiasm to provide better services to you, the resident. She is pushing for more computers in the dorms so we can do our papers in the comfort of our homes. Liz wants to draw South Campus Outreach into RHA so that the concerns of residents on South Campus are dealt with more effectively. Also, she is concerned with safety, and intends to support the SAFE Escort program so that you are not afraid to set foot outside your home. Liz has the enthusiasm to work for the installation of cable in dorm lounges within the year.

Lastly, and most definitely, Liz has the experience needed to be RHA president. During her sophomore year, she was the 10th-floor president of Morrison; her hard work, energy and enthusiasm earned her the Robert White Linker Award for the most outstanding sophomore in dorm government campuswide. She broadened her experience this year by serving as the Morrison governor and as a member of the RHA Governing Board, which directly informed and trained her in all aspects of RHA.

With Liz Jackson and her three E's — energy, enthusiasm and experience — you can expect representation, service and dedication. Vote Liz Jackson for RHA president on February 21!

STEPHANIE HARDY
 Junior
 Political science/
 advertising

JEFF PERKINSON
 Senior
 RTVMP

David Smith

To the editor:
 David Smith.
 Experience. Leadership.
 Hard work.

David Smith.
 Experienced in RHA. David has been a floor senator and is today an area governor in RHA. With this working knowledge of RHA, he has developed a better system of representation for residents that he will implement as your RHA president.

David Smith.
 Proven leadership. David has continually proven his leadership in such important issues as parking by working with student government in organizing parking forums. You see, David Smith starts with a vision, and then he takes well-thought, active steps to ensure that the student needs are effectively met.

David Smith.
 Working hard to make your residence hall the best that it can be because it is your home. David sees our campus as a community in which all members should have equal opportunity and access to facilities. As your RHA president, he will fight long and hard to ensure cable in dorms, student parking, safety and security, improved food services and physical campus improvements.

This is your home — don't waste your vote.
 Vote David Smith.

JONATHAN MARTIN
 Freshman
 Chemistry/economics

To the editor:

Looking over the platforms of this year's candidates for RHA president, one is struck with the similarity of certain points. Both candidates are interested in expanding the Residence Hall Association's representation on the Traffic and Parking Advisory Committee, improving communication with the housing department without sacrificing RHA's autonomy, improving safety on campus and attempting to make more conveniences available to resident students. The crucial differences between the candidates, however, are ideas and initiative. In both of these areas, David Smith has shown that he is the most capable candidate.

For each of these problems, David has a carefully consid-

ered, workable solution. He has developed a proposal for a new government structure, with executive assistant positions for parking, safety and security, food services and minority affairs. Each of these appointees could actively represent student needs both within student government and on the advisory committees which make recommendations to the chancellor. Especially attractive is David's plan for an executive assistant for Campus Outreach, which would coordinate attempts from North, Mid and South campuses as well as Granville Towers to obtain physical improvements in and around the dorms.

In order to improve relations with the housing department, David has already begun to take steps to increase the frequency and quality of communication through discussions with Dr. Kuncel, director of University housing. RHA will never be able to prevent decisions which are insensitive to the wishes of residents until it gains the respect of the housing department, and David's request that the RHA president be allowed to attend central staff meetings is a step in the right direction. By working with the central staff on a weekly basis, RHA could obtain two advantages: a better understanding of the department's plans and needs, and an institutionalized channel for student input into housing decisions.

The striking thing about David's ideas is that they do more than identify problems. They also suggest solutions — solutions which are ambitious, yet attainable.

Perhaps even more important than the detailed and realistic plans David has developed, however, is the attitude and initiative with which he approaches them. As a senator and later governor of Hinton James, and as a member of the RHA Governing Board, David has never hesitated to attack problems he felt that dorm government needed to address. He has shown that he is willing to go to the source of the problems rather than attempting to react after they have already arisen. These are the characteristics that make David Smith the best candidate for RHA president.

BARRY COBB
 Senior
 Political science

The Daily Tar Heel

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