

# The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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## Republican ruckus College group embarrasses party

Last week, Arnaldo Ramos, a guest of the University and the Institute of Latin American Studies, got a chance to experience first-hand the political immaturity of the UNC College Republicans. Ramos was invited to UNC to give a presentation entitled "Prospects for Peace" to raise awareness of problems in Latin America, but when he arrived to give his speech, he was confronted by students with signs calling him a "communist pig."

**board opinion**

Ramos was a professor in El Salvador until he was forced to leave in 1981, when his life was threatened by Salvadoran death squads. Ramos' involvement with a political group that had ties to the Communist Party prompted the threats. His speech was supposed to increase understanding of the problems of El Salvador.

But instead of staying for the presentation and contributing to the discussion that followed, most of the protesters left. It is the right and duty of any group to speak out against injustice and corruption wherever it may exist, but the College Republicans' failure to engage in open political discussions seems to demonstrate close-mindedness.

This is not the first time this group, which should represent its parent party, has shown its unwillingness to accept anything other than the ultra-conservative party line. In September, the College Republicans distributed posters denouncing the CIA Action Committee (CIAAC). The posters said the CIAAC prevented stu-

dents from hearing the truth about the CIA, stopped student job interviews with CIA recruiters and vandalized private property. A representative of the CIAAC referred to the action as "juvenile" and offered the College Republicans an open invitation to publicly discuss these accusations. The College Republicans did not respond to this offer. It's interesting that a group so set on making certain the truth be heard would fail to take advantage of an open debate. Are they so insecure of their position that they fear any opposing viewpoints?

The Republican Party is an established and respected organization with a distinguished history, but the tactics of the UNC College Republicans are an embarrassment to this university and damaging to a legitimate political party. Many Republicans on campus refuse to work with the organization because it only reflects the radical, right-wing position and not the entire party.

Attending UNC should allow students the chance to experience opposing views that strengthen their understanding of life. But members of the College Republicans are more concerned with spreading their own dogma without reasons to back it up than with engaging in debate. The opinions of the College Republicans should be heard to ensure open exchange of ideas, but there is a difference between educated opinion and unfounded propaganda. How long will Republicans on this campus allow themselves to be represented by a group whose strongest weapons are strong-arm tactics, personal slurs and heckling?

## Don't blame victim Verdict reveals ignorance about rape

A verdict handed down in a Florida circuit court last week has left many people across the nation outraged — and rightly so. A jury of three men and three women acquitted drifter Steven Lord of raping a 22-year-old woman. Their reason: The woman, who at the time of the rape was wearing a tank top, a lace miniskirt and no underwear, was "asking for it."

Despite the woman's testimony that Lord abducted her from a Fort Lauderdale parking lot at knife-point and then raped her repeatedly, the jurors did not find Lord guilty. In the words of the jury foreman: "The way she was dressed with that skirt, you could see everything she had. She was advertising for sex."

This case makes it painfully clear that our society still does not comprehend that rape is a violent crime, not an act of sex. Jurors would never acquit a burglar on the grounds that the person who left her house unlocked actually wanted her property to be stolen. Nor would they acquit a thug on the grounds that an elderly man, looking vulnerable as he walked down the street with a cane, deserved to be mugged and beaten.

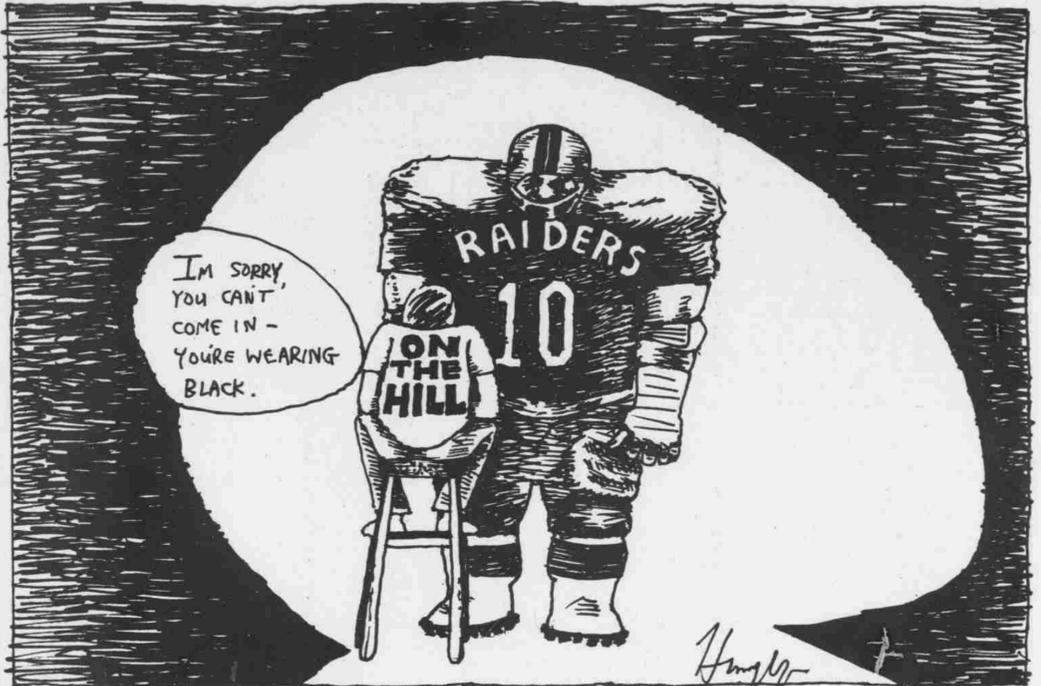
Unfortunately, too many people still equate rape with sex. Indiana basketball coach Bobby Knight reportedly once said that a woman being raped should just lie back and enjoy it. Such attitudes as this only serve to condone a brutal and humiliating crime. And that same crime becomes all the more brutal and humiliating for the victim when she is the one blamed for another's barbaric act against her.

It is also disturbing to note that many who disagree with the jury's verdict would still fault the woman for wearing revealing clothing. Does this mean that women who wear bikinis on the beach are at fault if they are assaulted? Perhaps American women should be kept under modest veils to "protect" them from the evils of society — an easier "solution" than actually refusing to accept rape as an inevitable evil of society. If our society is as free as we like to believe, a woman should be able to wear —

**A woman should be able to wear — without the fear of rape — what she wants to wear.**

without fear of rape — what she wants to wear. Is it any wonder, then, that only a fraction of rape victims actually press charges against those who have violated them? While the only way to raise society's awareness of and moral outrage against rape is for victims to come forward, no one wants to make accusations that are likely to be turned against her. The notion that "nice girls don't get raped" is outright fiction, yet its prevalence prevents justice from being served much more often than not.

The sick irony in the Florida case is that following his acquittal, Lord was ordered to return to Georgia to stand trial for other rape charges. This should send a strong message that rapists are not normal individuals who just get "turned on" by a little flesh. It is high time we started putting the blame for rape where it belongs, with no excuses. Let's hope justice will reign in Georgia — the beating it took in Florida is simply inexcusable. — Mary Jo Dunnington



## Wednesday's horoscope for a major

They call them the Big Three. That is, the three questions that supposedly bring you closer to interpersonal harmony here in college, the three questions that get indelibly stamped on our forehead for four years, the three statements that provide the countdown to the scamming launch pad. And you girls know them well.

"So what's your name?" "You're sort of cute. Do you speak in complete sentences?" "And where are you from?" "In fact, you're really cute. Perhaps by showing an interest in your rearing, I can appear sensitive and inquisitive."

Then we all know what question comes next. Girls know to beware the guy who goes this far, 'cause he's probably in it for a lot more than a bagel and a handshake.

"So ... what's your major?" And of course, now's the time to pause. Is this guy really interested in my cross-listed chemistry requirements, or is he trying to lull me into a false sense of gettin'-to-know-ya security? Good lord, would he like to know about my career intentions or does he want to put his tongue down my throat? Do I need a prerequisite to talk to this dude? Can I take him pass/fail?

Well, if what we major in is really that big of a social deal, perhaps it would be a good idea to know what it all means. So here is a playmate horoscope of majors, made for those people who are having trouble either selecting an academic goal or a mate.

**English** - Folks major in English because you can be artsy without having to be terribly creative. He doesn't walk, he saunters; she doesn't joke, she quips. The English major is the guy at the head of the table, holding his glass of wine (an elusive Eau de Cheveux 1967, flaccid yet poignant) aloft, entreating his guests to a cornucopia of witty banter.

**Turn-ons:** Cheap wine ("vino"), The Miller's Tale, angst and sunsets

**Turn-offs:** Stephen King, bowling, dangling modifiers

**Business/Econ** - These guys hate being lumped together, but they're both out for the same thing, no matter how well they articulate their defense. Sensual, caring women, beware the fast-talking econ major - for him romance is a graphed world of supply, demand, strategic inflation and indifference curves.

**Turn-ons:** Oldsmobiles, Roman numerals



**Ian Williams**  
Wednesday's Child

after names, continuously compounding certificates of deposit

**Turn-offs:** poetry, back rubs, Sanford and Son

**Favorite Breakfast Cereal:** Oat Bran Flakes (unsweetened)

**Foreign Language** - The gentle lass who makes her major a different one than the one she dreams in always has a story to tell. The side of the brain that gives us our ability to perform inflections and accents also houses emotion and passion, so don't take these folks lightly.

**Turn-ons:** amour, amore or liebe (depending on what floor Dey Hall)

**Turn-offs:** bad accents, bad grammar, the United States

**Breakfast Cereal:** Mueslix

**RTVMP** - So what if it's an easy major? These guys revel in the fact that while the rest of us are writing 10-page papers on political existentiality, they get to watch "Three's Company" for credit. Even when the going gets rough with film editing later on, they have the mental strength left to do it. So who learned more in college?

**Turn-ons:** M\*A\*S\*H, boom shots, FCC regulations

**Turn-offs:** AM Country radio stations, "Punky Brewster," Spring Break 3-D

**Breakfast Cereal:** Fruity and Cocoa Pebbles

**Chemistry** - Chemists may lack integral social skills, they may wear dark blue Wrangler jeans on the weekends, and they might stop at yellow lights and say stuff like "my kingdom for an Advil," but women, be on your guard - they can not only buy you dinner, but diagram your salad's molecular structure. "Are all nerds as good as you?" the ultimate sorority babe asks in *Revenge of the Nerds*.

"Yes," Gilbert replies. "All jocks think about are sports. All we think about is sex."

**Turn-ons:** cantharidin, isopropyl alcohol, four-color pens

**Turn-offs:** RTVMP majors  
**Breakfast Cereal:** Smurf-Berry Crunch (F.D. & C. Blue Dye No. 7)

**Journalism** - Besides the glamour gals of the television journalism track, the news and editing people have got a glare that can curdle milk across the room. Hopelessly anal, they're the ones who walk around campus with burning humorless intensity. Journalism majors will cut you off when you're trying to merge, steal your parking place and take the last glazed donut.

**Turn-ons:** the facts  
**Turn-offs:** USA Today, nebulousity, vagueness, waffling

**Psychology** - Some people become psych majors to help others, but most of them do it to help themselves. Unfortunately, enough classes on the abnormalities of the human psyche will make anybody think that they must be screwed up in some regard, so the psych major intellectualizes himself into a neurotic wad of Silly Putty. "Well," the psych major thinks at himself, "I'm making my bed, which must mean I'm anally retentive and my mother criticized me for my bowel movements as a child and I've been conditioned to project my id onto Piaget's 3rd stage of ink blots and ... and ... Jesus, where's my pillow?"

**Turn-ons:** mother ... No, no, I'm sorry ...

**Turn-offs:** low self-esteem, Pavlov's damn dog experiment, the smell behind David

**Breakfast Cereal:** What do you mean by that question?

**Other Deadly Combinations:**

**Folklore and Dentistry** - Could you imagine this guy around a campfire?

**Nutrition and Peace, War & Defense** - The girl who has this double major is definitely not going to grow up to be a Kool-Aid Mom. "No way I'm gonna have dinner at Joey's house ..."

**Religion and Chemistry** - Didn't Jim Jones already try something like this? I'm not sure if I like the sound of it.

**Music and Psychology** - This guy says he'll be able to play a wonderful sonata and then tell you why you liked it, but usually tends to be an egocentric, overgeneralizing, unmerciful critic on everyth ... wait a minute ...

*Ian Williams is a senior music and psychology major from Los Angeles, Calif., who advises freshmen not to choose a major until they're good 'n' ready.*

## Readers' Forum

**Congress deserves some praise, too**

To the editor:  
I feel compelled to respond to some comments in Matt Bivens' column "Student Congress: Time for change" (Oct. 5). I do not write either to refute or support his criticisms of individual congress members and recent issues, but rather to defend the institution of the legislative branch itself. Perhaps, as Bivens says, there is a need for some reforms — any governmental body that is not subject to evolution is bound to be ineffective — but there is no call to "ditch Student Congress entirely." Bivens correctly identifies that many congress representatives are deeply committed to working on behalf of student's interests, and they do so with little thanks. The vast amount of time put in by the individual members of congress goes unnoticed and certainly unheralded. As a former member of the congress, I am disheartened to see so little coverage or interest in the many positive initiatives and efforts being undertaken on behalf of the student body by the legislative branch of government.

The history of student government is a strong one of which we can all be proud. The Student Congress and its predecessors have provided a great service to its constituents that should not be ignored. Like any form of government, there may be flaws in its structures or its actions, but I would encourage any criticism to be constructive and any concerns to be voiced by constituents to their representatives. Students may feel that there is need for

change in congress, but that does not mean that the baby should be thrown out with the bathwater.

**BRIEN LEWIS**  
Senior  
Political science

**Beall's actions have legitimate reasons**

To the editor:  
Several recent letters have lambasted Jeffrey Beall for his efforts to achieve a new referendum on the Student Rec Center, his Student Congress resolution supporting a woman's right to abortion and his current drive to recall DTH editor Sharon Kechsull. One writer, Robert Brown ("Beall's crusades only to get him attention," Oct. 9), insists, as do several others, that Beall efforts are merely to get attention. The unfortunate truth is that Jeffrey Beall is a very shy person who is arguably very much unsuited for all the negative publicity he has recently received. Unlike a majority of Student Congress members, Beall does what he thinks is right, not what is simply popular. It stands to reason that if someone is going to seek publicity, they want positive publicity, not the petty insults and misleading accusations to which Beall has been exposed. Indeed, it seems that the best test of someone's sincerity is their willingness to take an unpopular stand, as Beall has done repeatedly.

Contrary to Brown's researched assertions, Beall had legitimate reasons for questioning the original SRC vote, from questions of the representativeness of the vote

to outright misinformation from the CAA. Unfortunately, the majority of Student Congress either didn't care, or considered only their personal feelings on the SRC rather than their constituents' interests. An excellent example of this group of off-campus representatives who voted against a new referendum even though a large number of their constituents were already paying for athletic facilities in their apartment complexes. Beall didn't think this was right, and he also didn't think that freshmen who didn't have a voice in the \$13 a semester fee increase should be overlooked. Although Brown, a freshman, says he has "no problem trusting those students" who voted away his money, it is very possible that a large number of freshmen who do have both brain halves might not be so willing to consent to taxation without representation.

Beall also has legitimate reasons to petition for a revote for Sharon Kechsull's office. During the recent debate over the SRC referendum, Kechsull refused to print a letter from a physical education faculty member that would have provided previously unknown information to students. A press release concerning the SRC that Beall left in Kechsull's box at the DTH was in CAA President Lisa Frye's hands within two hours. A DTH staff member, Will Spears, tried to steal a blank copy of Beall's petition from his box in the Student Congress office. Beall called for an investigation of this matter by Kechsull in his press release on the recall vote, and he named witnesses to the attempted theft. Somehow, in the midst of all their "unbiased" reporting, the DTH forgot to mention this.

All of these are legitimate reasons for Beall to seek a revote for Kechsull's position. Whether they are sufficient to replace Kechsull is debatable. Despite her hostility to past actions by Beall, she has, to her credit, made an effort to allow both sides of an issue to be heard. Whether her efforts as editor have been up to par for students is something only the students can decide. Attacking someone so unimposing and mild-mannered as Jeff Beall for doing what he sincerely thinks is right, however, is uncalled for. Furthermore, to mindlessly believe that the original SRC vote is unquestionable, and that the DTH is unbiased, is just plain stupid. I suggest that Robert Brown do some research before pontificating on matters of which he knows little, if anything at all.

**ANTHONY WOODLIEF**  
Senior  
Political science

**Letters policy**

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticisms. When writing letters to the editor, please follow these guidelines:

- All letters must be dated and signed by the author(s), with a limit of two signatures per letter.
- All letters must be typed and double-spaced, for ease of editing.
- Letters should include the author's year, major, phone number and hometown.
- The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.

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