

Two documents describe Citadel hazing

By The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. -- Five Citadel upperclassmen have told investigators the reason they dressed up like Ku Klux Klansmen and entered a black cadet's room was so they could "motivate" the freshman into trying harder, a Citadel disciplinary board recently reported.

The board's report also said no racial slurs were made during the Oct. 23 hazing of cadet Kevin Nesmith, who said he thought the hazing was a typical prank until he found a burned paper cross one cadet had carried into his room.

A report by the state Human Affairs Commission drew the same conclusions.

The Citadel's report is based on testimony from Nesmith, who left the state-supported military college and has planned a lawsuit because of the incident; his roommate, Michael J. Mendoza, who also was in the room at the time; and the five white cadets who were disciplined for their actions.

The five, all juniors, are Jimmy M. Biggerstaff of Spartanburg, S.C., Maurice F. Bostic of Lexington, S.C., Paul L. Koss of Leesburg, Fla., Jeffrey D. Plumley of Fort Mill, S.C., and Steve A. Webb of Sevierville, Tenn.

At about 12:45 a.m., Webb suggested that the five pay Nesmith a visit. He also suggested they wrap sheets around their bodies "to give the appearance of Klansmen," the Human Affairs Commission report said. Other forms of dress, such as raincoats, were considered by the cadets but dismissed.

Each cadet went to his room to prepare. While in his room, Plumley got the idea to construct a small paper cross and singe the

edges of it to make it appear to be burned, the commission report states.

"The cross was an afterthought, and it was not even seen by every member of the group in its final state," the Citadel report said. "Mr. Plumley made the cross, singed it and carried it into the room. The cross was not burning, it was burnt in Mr. Plumley's room prior to the incident."

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Beauty Talk

BY JEAN FORD



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Ms. Ford is Beauty & Public Relations Manager, Special Markets for Avon Products, Inc.



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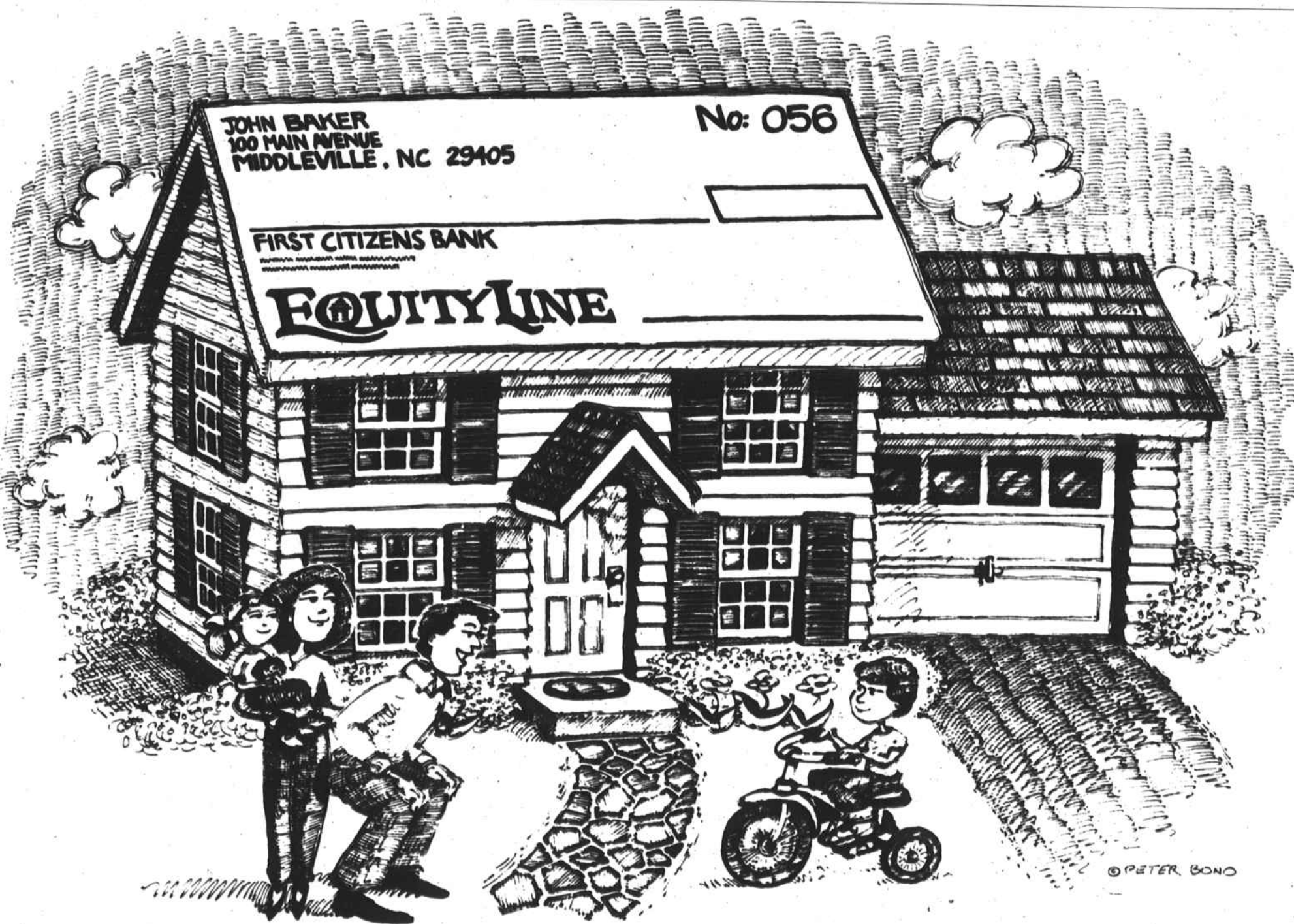
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